

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 22, 2006/Sharada 31, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(I) Re: Controversy over singing of National Song 'Vande Mataram' in schools.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir it is the centenary year of the 'Vande Mataram' song. On September 7, we will complete 100 years of adopting the 'Vande Mataram' song. This song has created a sense of Patriotism, independence and nationalism in the entire country since it was written by Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee ...(Interruptions) Thousands of revolutionists kissed the gallows singing song. Here, the most surprising thing is that ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Vande Mataram is very dear to everybody. I do not know, what is the problem.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir what has happened is that Shri Arjun Singh, who is

Human Resource Development Minister, has announced that singing this song is optional. If one wishes to sing this song then one should sing and who does not want to sing this song, then he need not sing ...(Interruptions). It is disrespect to national song and the nation ...(Interruptions) It must be made mandatory to sing this song in all schools on 7th September. Those who are opposing it are opposing the national song. They are anti-nationals ...(Interruptions) Whatever Shri Arjun Singh said yesterday cannot be tolerated. Disrespect to national song in this country will not be tolerated. Those who do not want to sing the national song are free to leave this country ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your submission is complete.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to say something, Shri Dasmunsi?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Yes Sir ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

What is happening? Please let me speak?(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned it without authority; let him mention now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Long before the BJP was born, it was the Indian National Congress which recited Vande Mataram song. We do not like to be taught by BJP as to what is the meaning of Vande Mataram.

*Not recorded.

This Parliament sings Vande Mataram and, at that time, irrespective of religion, everybody gets up and salutes. They are trying to build a communal divide which we condemn strongly(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you showing respect to Vande Mataram? Is this the way to show respect to Vande Mataram?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1130 hours.

11.05 hours

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

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at thirty minutes past Eleven of the clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Re: Controversy over singing of National Song 'Vande Mataram' in Schools-Contd.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised the question of 'Vande Mataram' here. Mr. Arjun Singh is sitting here. I want to know from him whether singing of this song in the schools will be made compulsory or not? Vande Mataram is our national song. I want to know whether singing of national song will be voluntary or not? Mr. Arjun Singh is sitting here, he should explain(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I cannot force the hon. Minister to respond.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do some business. That will be paying reverence to *Vande Mataram* itself.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He should apologize.

MR. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Where had he gone when it started ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, he has stood up. In think, he wants to respond. It is entirely for me. Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir it is a matter of great regret that we are turning national song into controversy...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are not turning it into controversy ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have patience to hear. The Hon'ble Minister is responding to you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: First, you wanted him to speak; and when he speaks, you do not allow him to speak. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate what he should speak. Nobody can dictate to any other member.

Mr. Minister, it is entirely for you.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the Prime Minister had constituted a committee comprising Members of all political parties. The Presidents and Leaders of all parties were nominated to it. Meeting of the committee was held. The objective of it was to start celebrating from the next year several important events in the country like mutiny of 1857, when first freedom struggle was fought and then we were to celebrate Bhagat Singh ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): It is not mutiny of 1857, but it is first struggle of independence ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: What is their objection to celebrate the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh *(Interruptions)* They did not celebrate Ram Prasad Bismill's birth centenary. Let us celebrate the birth centenary of, at least, Bhagat Singh ...*(Interruptions)* we will celebrate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not listen to the hon. Minister, I would ask him not to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody has patience to hear others. It is unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have, not allowed anything else to go on record. Please take your seats. Let the hon. Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Do these people only have a right to display patriotism ? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would earnestly request all the hon. Members to please take their seats. It is a matter relating to *Vande Mataram*. I have myself observed.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, they are not allowing their own Minister to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: They have to apologize. What right do they have and how do they dare, they cannot call us traitors. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said, it is one of the precious songs of our country. Everybody knows the structure.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper. Please do not disturb. Please take your seats. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only, the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow anything. Only the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, Md. Sallim, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats. You wanted the Minister to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: They will be deleted. All those words will be deleted. Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. Let us not be impatient of each other. All are hon. Members of this House. All of us have taken the pledge of upholding the Constitution which is the highest law of this country. That means, we have accepted it. Every one of us has accepted it. All of us, who are worthy and hon. Members of this House, have accepted it. Let us not be disrespectful to each other.

You have raised an issue. The hon. Minister is responding. Let him respond. Please listen to him. If you want to say anything, there are methods of raising it. You give notice. If you want to have a discussion, I will allow it. But if you do not listen to each other, we cannot proceed.

*Not recorded.

Now, the hon. Minister will speak. Only his statement will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I was submitting that hon. Adwani ji had also attended one meeting of all parties that was held under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He want to dictate to Minister. What will you say?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to the hon. Minister. What can I do if you don't know.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If he is not speaking the truth, you can pull him up for contempt.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Over all these issues it was decided in that meeting that when any centenary or sixtieth anniversary of any occasion comes that be celebrated by the country. In the meeting the matter of Vande Mataram was discussed and it was decided to celebrate the centenary year of Vande Mataram. As per that decision, this matter was put up before the Department of Culture as to what to do on 7th September when it completes 100 years. They informed me that the best way to celebrate the occasion of Vande Mataram is that all people of the entire nation sing this song collectively. Therefore I have written to all Chief Ministers that such ceremonies should be organised at all places on 7th September. What is wrong in it? *...(Interruptions)* Now the question is that I have not asked anybody to force anybody to join it, who wishes to sing it, he should join and who objects to it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, now let us take up the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us go on with the work. Question Hour is very important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, you give notice for any discussion. You give a notice. You give some notice and I will see it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What has been said is that Centenary of *Vande Mataram* is going to be observed this year on the 7th of September.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir where is the question of forcing any body for it? Tomorrow, he will say about National Anthem and about the constitution of the country(Interruptions) In protest we oppose the statement of Shri Arjun Singh. He should apologize. He has insulted the country, and action should be taken against it. In protest we stage a walk out from the House.

11.41 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do like that. This is not the time for discussion on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am unable to hear you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let us take up Q. No. 361. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You one speaking Mr. Speaker. What Mr. Speaker will do?

Mr. Speaker has nothing to do. You do not listen to anything. I said that

[English]

if you want to discuss it, then you give notice. If you do not like the hon. Minister's statement, you have a proper discussion. I have never stopped it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said from the Chair that *Vande Mataram* is part of India's ethos, India's struggle for freedom. Everybody respects *Vande Mataram*. There is nobody who has not done it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. There are very important Questions. You matter has been raised and the hon. Minister has responded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, please go to you seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate that even *Vande Mataram* is made a matter of confrontation. This is very unfortunate..

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot hear anything.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, *Vande Mataram* is our National Song. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, they are defying the leadership of Prof. Malhotra! ...(Interruptions) They have not responded to his walk-out call! ...(Interruptions) Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's leadership has been defied by them!(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have more than once today ...

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker Sir, *Vande Mataram* is symbol of the Constitution In of India. He is insulting it(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have always been requesting that in an important matter, certainly it is my duty to give you an opportunity to raise it. Here, I had requested that you will be allowed to raise it at 12 o'clock, but you have raised it now. I have already observed more than once that nobody can diminish the importance of *Vande Mataram* in this country.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has done it.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has not done it. It is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You raised the matter. You wanted the Minister to respond. I did not ask him. He himself volunteered to respond. He has responded. He has said that *Vande Mataram* centenary will be observed throughout the country. The Government has taken a decision. There

*Not recorded.

is no question of disrespect to Vande Mataram. Please allow the House to function now. What more do you want?

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, please allow me for one minute only(Interruptions)

Sir, I am also grateful to the Government that they have nominated me as a member of the Committee, but I was not informed about the venue of the meeting.

Sir, I only wanted to add that Vande Mataram is our National Song. It does not matter who has written it(Interruptions) Sir, you control your Members first. This is too much.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is controlled! I will put you in the Chair to control the House!

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, Vande Mataram is our National Song(Interruptions) Our Rashtra Gaan is written by Rabindra Nath Tagore. Sir, we respect it and everybody respects it. I think, there should not be any controversy.(Interruptions) When Iqbal has written Saare Jahaan Se Achchha Hindustan Hamara, we do not think who has written it, whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim. We love this song. We love Vande Mataram. We love Jana Gana Mana. We love Saare Jahaan Se Achchha Hindustan Hamara. So, there should not be any controversy about this. We have the highest regard for our National Song, National Anthem and Saare Jahaan Se Achchha. I will request the House not to divide like this because we have to respect the sentiments, the emotions, the integration, the unity and the secularism of our country(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, this cannot be prolonged.

11.50 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 361—Shri Sugrib Singh. Put your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have no right to disturb the proceedings of the House. A notice does not enable you to disturb. Sorry, I have called an hon. Member.

Put your question.

...(Interruptions)

Sale of Tribal Products

*361. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED);

(b) if so, the achievements made by the TRIFED during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the TRIFED provide assistance for the sale of products made by the tribals;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government with a view to ensuring that the tribals get remunerative prices for their products?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) engaged a firm of private consultants in the year 2002 for conducting a diagnostic study and preparing an operational plan, including restructuring of the organisation for improving its functioning and performance. On the basis of the diagnostic study, the consultants had recommended a change in the role of TRIFED from an agency for procurement and trading in minor forest

produce to marketing development activities. TRIFED accordingly reoriented its activities in the year 2002-03 to play the role of a service provider and marketing developer of tribal products.

TRIFED has started shifting the focus of its activities from mere trading of tribal products to actual market development activities after July, 2002. The Bye-laws of TRIFED were also amended accordingly. The new Bye-laws clearly define its objectives and role as a service provider to its member societies.

(b) to (d) The details of assistance given by TRIFED, State-wise for purchase of tribal products in the last three years and the sales made by TRIFED year-wise are at *Annexure*.

(e) In order to ensure that the tribals are benefited by way of fair purchase procedures, TRIFED has issued strict guidelines to its field offices for purchase of products only from individual tribal artisans/tribal groups, NGOs, Cooperative State Federations etc. at a remunerative price. The main objective of this mechanism is to ensure maximum benefit to the tribal artisans without involving middlemen.

TRIFED is also acting as an agency for expanding the market for tribal products by obtaining bulk orders for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items. These items are supplied after ensuring remunerative prices to tribal producers.

Annexure

Value of purchases made by TRIFED of Tribal Products during the last three years and the current year

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Prov.)	2006-07 (Apr.-Jul.)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	0.43	2.14	15.86	
Chhattisgarh	5.13	7.77	36.19	
Gujarat	2.91	4.82	21.98	
Himachal Pradesh	4.60	7.11	24.87	
Karnataka	0.57	0.00	2.31	
Maharashtra	0.19	0.52	2.30	
Madhya Pradesh	0.25	0.84	9.08	
Assam	6.10	1.47	13.90	
Manipur	0.72	1.73	4.41	
Meghalaya	0.00	0.01	0.10	
Tripura	0.00	0.01	0.10	
Nagaland	0.15	1.53	3.32	
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.96	
Sikkim	0.42	0.74	1.18	

1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	0.05	0.19	0.60	
Orissa	3.55	5.89	33.34	
Rajasthan	0.32	1.46	4.93	
Tamil Nadu	0.07	0.30	0.01	
Uttaranchal	0.21	0.71	3.71	
West Bengal	0.02	0.07	0.09	
Jharkhand	0.79	1.12	7.20	
Kerala	0.20	0.00	0.00	
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	1.22	0.59	
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.38	3.16	
Total	26.69	40.03	190.19	100.00*

*Statewise break up not available.

Value of sales made by TRIFED of Tribal Products during the last three years and the current year

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Prov.)	2006-07 (Apr.-Jul.)
Value of Sales by TRIFED	39.75*	50.86*	165.87*	55.99*

* Statewise break up not available.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is disrespect to Vande Mataram and freedom struggle(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. Not one word will be recorded except Shri Sugrib Singh's supplementary on Q. No. 361.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you doing justice? Are you showing respect to Vande Mataram by doing this?

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats. Shri Sugrib Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do you want the House to run or not? If you do not wish the House to run, then let us go back home.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The people of this country will decide.

...(*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[English]***Vocationalisation of Education**

*362. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the National Working Group on vocationalisation of education has reviewed the vocational education programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the said group;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to implement these recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the combination of the subjects available at senior secondary level do not match with the subjects available for higher education; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to ensure that the students are not deprived from taking admission for higher education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) To formulate the concept of vocationalisation at different levels to meet the challenge of unemployment and to reduce the overcrowding in higher education, a National Working Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.C. Kulandaiswamy. Based on the recommendations of the Group contained in its Report of August, 1985, and also on the National Policy on Education, 1986 a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at + 2 level was formulated and introduced during 1987-88. The State Governments were consulted while considering the recommendations for formulating the scheme. The implementation of the scheme was reviewed by

- (i) Working Group under the Chairmanship of Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)—1998; and

- (ii) Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Director, NCERT, 2001.

The major recommendations of these Groups include:

- (i) Policy Change in approach and attitude towards the vocationalisation programme in education.
- (ii) Changes in the features of the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- (iii) Integration and consolidation of all ongoing Vocational Education Programmes (VEPs) at different levels.
- (iv) Improving linkages with trade, industry and business.
- (v) Evolving a suitable mechanism for testing skills and competency certifications.
- (vi) Providing facilities for upward mobility.
- (vii) Making available vocational education after Class VIII.
- (viii) Provision for multi skill training to enhance employability.
- (ix) Curriculum design to be on multi entry and multi exit pattern.
- (x) Provision for lateral entry and vertical mobility to advanced levels of competencies.

(e) and (f) 79 vocational and skill based courses are being offered at the senior secondary level by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Several similar courses are offered in different States. Whereas matching degree level courses are not available for all these, there are more than 300 Career oriented courses offered at the undergraduate degree level under the auspices of UGC. The existing combination of subjects available at Senior Secondary level under the mainstream as well as vocational education gives choice to the students to opt for any combination of subjects in either stream. Some State Governments have introduced flexible courses/ curriculum to enable the students of vocational stream to go for higher studies in various disciplines including engineering, medicine etc.

Self Help Groups

*363. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) functioning for the empowerment of women in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether the SHGs have been successful in achieving the desired results;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the initiatives taken by the Government to universalize the SHG movement;

(d) whether the Government regularly sends team to evaluate the performance of the SHGs;

(e) if so, the details of the visits conducted by the Central teams during each of the last three years and the current year;

(f) whether the Central teams have reported about the problems being faced by these SHGs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The State-wise number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed for empowerment of women under the two programmes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development *i.e.*, Swayamsidha and Swa-Shakti given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A Statement II indicating the achievements under the schemes of the Ministry is enclosed.

The Swa-Shakti Project approved by the Government of India for a period of six years only successfully culminated on 30-6-2005. The ongoing scheme of Swayamsidha initially approved by the Government of India for the period 2000-2001 until 31-3-2006 has been extended up to 31-3-2007.

(d) and (e) Under the Swa-Shakti Project, Supervision Missions comprising of World Bank representatives and Officers of the Central Unit of the Project visited the States twice each year till the end of the project. In addition, the Central Project Officers visited the projects in the States regularly to monitor and guide the project. Under Swayamsidha, monitoring is done mainly through Quarterly progress reports and Quarterly review meetings.

Both the projects were evaluated by external agencies.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The monitoring reports and evaluation reports indicated that the problems faced by SHGs pertain mainly to:

(a) Inadequate training inputs

(b) Release of funds at State level to project implementing agencies, and

(c) Marketing of SHG products.

The following action was taken to address the problems:

(a) Issues related to training were addressed by enhancing training inputs.

(b) In order to facilitate smooth flow of funds to the project implementing agencies, letters were addressed to States at various levels,

(c) In order to address problems related to marketing of SHG products, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on 9-9-2005 mainly for marketing of SHG products through the KVIC network.

Statement I

Number of Self Help Groups Formed

Sl. No.	States	SHGs formed	
		Swayamsidha	Swa-shakti
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3874	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	263	—
3.	Assam	2400	—
4.	Bihar	6324	441
5.	Chhattisgarh	1713	560
6.	Gujarat	2772	2706
7.	Himachal Pradesh	800	—
8.	Haryana	1300	1550

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1250	—	21.	Rajasthan	3000	—
10.	Jharkhand	2427	1687	22.	Sikkim	572	—
11.	Karnataka	2992	2149	23.	Tamil Nadu	5452	—
12.	Kerala	2390	—	24.	Tripura	327	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3667	2462	25.	Uttar Pradesh	8466	5530
14.	Maharashtra	3885	—	26.	Uttaranchal	1100	571
15.	Manipur	300	—	27.	West Bengal	5184	—
16.	Meghalaya	531	—	28.	A & N Islands	149	—
17.	Mizoram	301	—	29.	Delhi	175	—
18.	Nagaland	600	—	30.	Lakshadweep	228	—
19.	Orissa	3600	—	31.	Pondicherry	300	—
20.	Punjab	1823	—	Total		68,163	17,647

Statement II*Achievement under the schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development*

Sl. No.	Component	Swayamsidha	Swa-Shakti
1.	No. of SHGs formed	68,163	17,647
2.	No. of Members	9,94,492	2,43,962
3.	No. of Clusters formed	8,216	1,213
4.	Amount saved (Rs. in lakhs)	8663.20	2575.38
5.	No. of SHGs inter-loaning	55,649	16,846
6.	Amount inter-loaned (Rs. in lakhs)	6387.96	6145.75
7.	SHGs linked with Banks	61,060	12,256
8.	Amount loaned by Banks (Rs. in lakhs)	8653.18	3659.37
9.	No. of SHGs linked with Government schemes	30,617	14,743
10.	No. of Community Assets created	2,540	1,934

ICDS for North Eastern States

*364. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made by the Government from the various programmes launched under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in the various States of the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to modify the ICDS in the North Eastern States;

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

(d) whether these modifications are also proposed for the scheduled areas in the country; and

(e) if so, the time by which these modifications are likely to come into effect in the North Eastern States and other scheduled areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme which, *inter-alia*, aims at improving the nutritional and health status of children below 6 years of age. The Scheme is being implemented in all the States/UTs, including North Eastern (NE) States and Scheduled Areas, in the country.

Out of the 5652 ICDS Projects sanctioned till 31.3.2003, 4531 Projects were in rural areas, 763 in tribal areas and 358 in urban (slum) areas of the country. North Eastern States account for 440 of these 5652 projects. Government has sanctioned 466 more ICDS Projects in the year 2005-06, out of which 257 are in rural areas, 46 in tribal areas and 163 in urban areas. Out of these 466 projects, 72 are in the North Eastern States. Similarly, out of 7.58 lakh AWCs sanctioned by the Government of India upto 31.3.2003, 42999 AWCs were in the North Eastern States and out of 1.88 lakh AWCs sanctioned by the Government in 2005-06, 11502 AWCs are in NE States.

Also, in view of the special needs of the North Eastern States, the Government sanctioned construction of Anganwadi Centres out of Ministry's budget earmarked for NE region, even though the Scheme does not, generally, provide for this activity in other parts of the

country. Further, population norms for sanction of ICDS Project and AWCs in sparsely populated tribal areas, are also lower than those for other areas.

Thus the Government has taken necessary measures to ensure adequate coverage of North Eastern States and Scheduled/Tribal Areas under the ICDS Scheme.

A number of initiatives have also been taken by the Government in the last two years or so to improve the effectiveness of the scheme. Salient amongst them are :

- (i) Doubling of financial norms for Supplementary Nutrition.
- (ii) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/UTs.
- (iii) BPL is no longer the criteria for selection of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition.

A number of Projects and Anganwadi Centres sanctioned before 31.3.2003 have become operational during the last two years or so resulting in increase in number of beneficiaries as indicated below:

	No. of operational projects	No. of operational AWCs	No. of beneficiaries of Supplementary nutrition	No. of pre-school education beneficiaries
31.3.2004	5267	649307	415.08 lakh	204.38 lakh
31.3.2005	5422	706872	484.42 lakh	218.41 lakh
31.12.2005	5653	745943	548.71 lakh	237.64 lakh

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks

*365. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI P. S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been formulated by merging the existing schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new scheme is detrimental to the interests of the public sector; and

(d) if not, the manner in which it is likely to benefit the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH YAGHELA): (a) Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks was launched in the year 2005-06 by merging the erstwhile Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES) and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS).

(b) The SITP is based on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, where Industry Associations/Group of Entrepreneurs would be the main promoters of the Textile Park by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The Scheme provides for funding of project through a mix of Equity/Grant from the Government of India (GOI), State Government, State Industrial Development Corporation, and Loan from Banks/Financial Institutions. However, the combined equity stake of GOI/State Government/State Industrial Development Corporation, if any, should not exceed 49%. The remaining 51% of the equity will have to be retained by the SPV so that it shall have operational autonomy. The Government of India's support under the scheme by way of Grant or Equity is limited to 40% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 Crore.

So far 26 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated project cost of Rs. 2428.23 Crore, out of which Government of India Grant would be Rs. 866 Crore. The estimated investment in these parks is Rs. 13,445 Crore and estimated annual production is about Rs 19,200 Crore. Estimated employment generation is about 5.29 lakh (1.93 lakh direct & 3.36 indirect).

(c) No. Sir.

(d) The public sector can have equity participation in the Textile Parks.

Review of CRF/NCCF

*366. SHR: ANANTH KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the intended objectives of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are being achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted an Expert Group to review the guidelines existing for extending the relief for natural calamity relief work under CRF and NCCF; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Financial assistance in the event of natural calamities is provided to the States from the Schemes of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). These Schemes are reviewed and revised after every five years by successive Finance Commissions. The present Schemes of CRF/NCCF have been notified by the Government of India, based on the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC), which are in operation during the years 2005-06 to 2009-10. The TFC have defined the natural calamities eligible for assistance from CRF/NCCF viz. cyclone, drought, earthquake/Tsunami, fire, flood, hail storm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst and pest attack.

As per the Scheme, a CRF has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the concerned State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Central share of the CRF is released to the States in two instalments, the first instalment is released in June and the second in December. In the event of a calamity of a severe nature, assistance from NCCF is also provided to the States, after following the laid down procedure. The expenditure from the CRF/NCCF is required to be incurred as per the items and norms approved by the Government.

The objectives of the two Schemes of CRF and NCCF are to meet the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of defined natural calamities and for the repair/restoration of damaged infrastructure of an immediate nature to facilitate rescue and relief operations. The basic objectives of CRF and NCCF, are being met through the implementation of these Schemes.

In the States, a State Level Committee has been constituted under the Chief Secretary, which is empowered to decide on all matters connected with the financing of the relief expenditure and to ensure that money drawn from the CRF account is actually utilized for the purposes for which the CRF has been set up and expenditure is incurred as per the items and norms of assistance

approved by the Government of India. The Accountant General of the concerned State is required to maintain the accounts in respect of these Funds.

The items and norms of assistance from the CRF/NCCF are generally revised after the Award of every Finance Commission. Subsequent to the Award of the TFC, the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs constituted an Expert Group to review and revise the extant items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF. The Group comprised representatives from the concerned Central Ministries/Departments and some State Governments.

In order to facilitate a comprehensive review of the extant items and norms of assistance, the Expert Group solicited the views/suggestions of all the States and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organisations. The Group also had a series of meetings and consultations with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

The Expert Group has since submitted its report to the Government. The Government of India is examining the recommendations of the Expert Group. Thereafter, a proposal for revision of items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF will be placed before the High Level

Committee, shortly, for its consideration. After the approval of HLC, the approved revised items and norms will be notified and circulated to all States and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments for implementation.

Growth Rate of Industrial Exports

*367. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the growth of the export of the industrial goods for the last two years and the current year;

(b) the impact on the employment opportunities in the country particularly in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to help the export-oriented industries to achieve and sustain a higher growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The details of value and percentage growth in exports of industrial goods (by some major sectors) during the last two years are given below. Sector-wise information for the current year is not available.

Commodities	Exports (US \$ Million)		Percentage Change over previous year	
	2004-05	2005-06(P)	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
Ores & Minerals	5079	6189	114.4	21.9
Leather & Mfrs.	2422	2626	12.0	8.4
Gems & Jewellery	13762	15547	30.2	13.0
Sports goods	102	132	3.0	29.4
Chem. & Related prdts.	13164	15514	32.2	17.9
Engineering goods	15383	19169	46.3	24.6
Electronic goods	1890	2244	4.7	18.7
Projects goods	75	135	-10.7	80.0
Textiles	12918	15206	5.8	17.7
Handicrafts	377	410	-24.6	8.8

1	2	3	4	5
Carpets	636	829	8.5	30.3
Petroleum Products	6989	11515	95.9	64.8
Unclassified Exports	2263	3011	20.3	33.1
Total exports including non-industrial goods	83536	102725	30.1	23.0

(P)-Provisional data.

(b) No firm estimates are available of employment generated through exports. However, according to the findings of a study conducted by the Research & Information System for Non-Aligned Countries (RIS), the total employment in the export sector was 16 million in 2004-05 of which 9 million was direct employment and 7 million was indirect employment. There are no estimates of employment opportunities created through exports State-wise, including in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Export Promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government. A number of initiatives have been taken recently to further boost exports. These *inter-alia* include bringing into force the SEZ Act, 2005 with effect from 10th February, 2006, giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage. Besides, a number of fresh initiatives have been taken in the Foreign Trade Policy (2006-07), which include, Focus Product scheme, Focus Market scheme, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna, Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme and a number of measures for Gems & Jewellery sector. The Government also provides assistance to exporters for development of new export markets.

Indo-China Trade Through Nathula pass

*368. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Nathula Pass has been opened for trade with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the items that have been permitted to be traded between India and China through Nathula Pass;

(c) whether the commercial impact of the Indo-China trade was assessed prior to opening of the Nathula Pass for trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact particularly on the Sikkim economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nathula Pass has been opened for border trade with China with effect from 6th July, 2006. The import and export of the following locally produced commodities by the people living along both sides of the India-China border as per the prevailing customary practice are allowed freely:

Imports

- Goat skins, 2. Sheep skins, 3. Horses, 4. Sheep, 5. Goats, 6. Wool, 7. Silk, 8. Yak Tails, 9. Yak Hair, 10. China Clay, 11. Borax, 12. Szabelyita, 13. Butter, 14. Goat cashmere (Pasham), 15. Salt.

The above items are exempted from duty when imported into India from China through border trade vide notification No. 158/9-Custom dt. 29th July, 1994.

Exports

- Agriculture implements, 2. Blankets, 3. Copper Products, 4. Clothes, 5. Textiles, 6. Cycles, 7. Coffee, 8. Tea, 9. Barley, 10. Rice, 11. Flour, 12. Dry Fruit, 13. Dry and fresh vegetables, 14. Vegetable Oil, 15. Gur and Misri, 16. Tobacco, 17. Snuff, 18. Cigarettes, 19. Canned Food, 20. Agro-Chemical, 21. Local Herbs, 22. Dyes, 23.

Spices, 24. Watches, 25. Shoes, 26. Kerosene Oil, 27. Stationery, 28. Utensils, 29. Wheat (Ua & Buck)

(c) and (d) The border trade through Nathula has commenced in pursuance to the Memorandum signed between India and China on Expanding Border Trade. No study for assessing commercial impact was carried out before opening Nathula Pass for trade.

[*Translation*]

Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana

*369. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of women benefited under National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation sponsored Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether AMSY is being satisfactorily run all over the country particularly in Jharkhand;

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

(d) whether the allocated amount under AMSY is being properly utilized and distributed among the needy people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN

REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) The Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) is an exclusive concessional scheme for the economic development of eligible ST women. This scheme was launched by the NSTFDC in the year 2002. Under this scheme, concessional financial assistance is made available to eligible ST women for undertaking income generating activities.

The State Channelizing Agency-wise details of amount of loan sanctioned, funds disbursed and utilization reported thereof till 31.07.2006 under the AMSY scheme for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07 along with the number of women beneficiaries, are given in the statement enclosed. The State of Jharkhand has not made any proposal for financial assistance under the AMSY to NSTFDC so far.

NSTFDC allocates its funds to all the States/UTs which have tribal population on the basis of the proportion of the total population of the State/UT to the total ST population of the country and no specific allocation for the AMSY scheme is made. However, NSTFDC advises its Channelising Agencies to avail maximum funds for providing highly concessional financial assistance to the eligible ST women under AMSY. Based on the need of eligible women identified by the Channelizing Agencies, during the period 2003-04 to 2006-07, Rs. 3367.15 lakh have been sanctioned out of which Rs. 2354.00 lakh has been disbursed by the NSTFDC and Rs. 992.83 lakh has been reported as utilized by the Channelizing Agencies. Further release of fund depends on proper utilization of funds by the Channelizing Agencies for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and disbursed.

Statement I

Year-wise details of sanctions for the year 2003-04 to 2006-07 (as on 31.7.2006), fund disbursed and utilization reported under the Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY) - as on 31.7.2006

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the SCA/State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (upto 31.7.2006)		Cumulative sanctions		Cumulative fund disbursed	Cumulative fund utilization
		NSTFDC's Share	No. of beneficiaries	NSTFDC's Share	No. of beneficiaries	NSTFDC's Share	No. of beneficiaries	NSTFDC's Share	No. of beneficiaries	Amount	No. of beneficiaries		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	A.P. Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corpn. Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	72.00	300	433.48	2088	427.70	2187	—	—	933.18	4575	833.28	165.82
2.	Chhattisgarh State Antayavasyee Co-op Fin. Dev. Corp. Ltd. Chhattisgarh	—	—	42.75	95	—	—	—	—	42.75	95	42.75	19.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Dev. Corporation, Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.00	150	54.00	150	—	—
4.	Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Dev. Corp., Karnataka	—	—	18.00	100	90.00	500	—	—	108.00	600	—	—
5.	Kerala State Development Corpn. For Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Ltd., Kerala	—	—	8.75	25	—	—	—	—	8.75	25	8.75	1.32
6.	Shebani Adivasi Vitta Va Vikas Nigam, Nask, Maharashtra	20.00	400	100.00	250	140.00	350	—	—	280.00	1000	3.55	—
7.	Rajasthan SC & ST Fin. & Dev. Co-op. Copn. Rajasthan	28.25	70	75.00	200	72.00	192	22.50	150	195.75	612	125.49	22.87
8.	Sikkim Scheduled Castes, Tribes & Backward Classes Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Sikkim	—	—	—	—	30.07	67	—	—	30.07	67	30.07	—
9.	Tripura Scheduled Tribes Co-op. Development Corpn. Ltd., Tripura	3.50	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.50	10	3.50	3.50
10.	West Bengal SCs & STs Dev. Fin. Corp., West Bengal	538.12	5412	546.50	5300	646.53	6400	—	—	1731.15	17112	1306.61	779.82
Total		659.87	6192	1224.48	8058	1406.30	9696	76.50	300	3367.15	24246	2354.00	992.83

Export of Services

*370. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether there is growth in the exports of services during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite sufficient and skilled manpower, the export of services is much behind several other countries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to promote the export of services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. A substantial growth in the export of services has been witnessed during each of the last four years. In fact, there has been three fold increase in the export of services during this period. The details of sector-wise services exports in the last four years are as under:

(US \$ million)				
Sector	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
(Total)	60610	48031	26868	20763
(i) Travel	7789	6495	5037	3312
(ii) Transportation	6277	4798	3208	2536
(iii) Insurance	1042	909	419	369
(iv) #G.n.i.e.	305	328	240	293
(v) Miscellaneous	45197	33501	17965	14253
	*(23600)	*(17200)	*(12800)	*(9600)

Source: RBI

Government not included elsewhere.

*It indicates the portion of Software Services in the 'Miscellaneous' Sector.

(c) to (e) Export of services is relatively a new and upcoming sector of exports in India as compared to the developed countries, where export of services has been in existence since many decades. India is likely to match the exports of services of the developed nations in the ensuing four years if the present rate of growth is sustained.

The Government has taken the following initiatives with respect to Services Exports while announcing the Foreign Trade Policy on 1st April, 2006:-

- (i) An Export Promotion Council for Services is being set up with the mandate to map opportunities for key services in key markets and thereafter to develop strategic market access programme, to coordinate efforts for intensive brand building and marketing programme in target markets and to make necessary interventions with regard to policy, procedure and bilateral/multilateral issues.
- (ii) There is a 'Served from India Scheme' administered by the Department of Commerce under which all service providers including Healthcare and Educational Service Providers as well as Engineering Process Outsourcing (EPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) service providers are entitled to duty credit scrip equivalent to 10% of the foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding financial year and the scrip can be redeemed for import of any capital goods.
- (iii) Consultancy exporters can also seek financial assistance under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) schemes. Under these schemes, export promotion activities like participation in Exhibitions, printing publicity materials, Market Studies etc. are encouraged.

Special Economic Regions/Investment Regions

*371. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Special Economic Regions/Special Investment Regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for selection of the regions;

(c) whether the Government proposes to merge Special Economic Zones with Special Economic Regions/Special Investment Regions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The proposal for Special Economic Regions (SERs)/Special Investment Regions (SIRs) is at conceptual stage and criteria for selection of the regions have not yet been evolved.

(c) and (d) Special Economic Zone Act/Rules do not provide for merger of SEZs.

[English]

Ban on Export of Marine Products

*372. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of marine products from India has been banned by some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, country-wise;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to the manufacturers of marine products for the manufacturing of the product of international quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Saudi Arabia has banned import of fresh marine products from India on the ground of Cholera in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Specifications for Fresh, Frozen and Processed Fish and Fishery are:

(i) National standards of the importing countries; or

- (ii) Contractual specifications agreed to between the foreign buyer and the exporter provided the same is satisfying the health and other requirements of the importing country;
- (iii) In the absence of (i) or (ii) above, the minimum general specifications for shrimps/prawns are that appearance and colour shall be characteristic to the particular type/form of fresh/freshly cooked shrimps/prawns as the case may be. The

material shall be reasonably free from dehydration, discolouration and black spots. The material shall not show any sign of deterioration and shall be free from off odour and foreign odour. The texture of meat shall be soft and consistent and shall have characteristic flavour of Fresh/Cooked Shrimps/Prawns. The products shall be free from extraneous matter. The Bacteriological specifications for Shrimps/Prawns are as under:

Bacteriological	Fresh/Chilled/ Frozen	Cooked/ Bottled
Total plate count at 37 C per gm. maximum	5,00,000	1,00,000
E. coli count per gm. Max.	29	Nil
Coagulase positive staphylococcus per gm. max.	100	100
Salmonella and S. arizona per 25 gms.	Nil	Nil

- (iv) In the case of any fresh, frozen and processed fish and fishery products for which no standard is available (i, ii and iii above), the standard formulated by an Expert Committee would be made applicable.

Welfare Schemes for Textiles Workers

*373. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated in the budget for the various welfare schemes during the last three years were not fully utilised due to which workers interest has been adversely affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to protect the interest of these workers;

(c) the number of dwelling units constructed under workshed-cum-Housing Scheme during each of the last three years and the extent to which these units have helped in improving the quality of life and earnings of artisans especially women, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has started Bima Yojana Scheme for handicrafts artisans to extend medical facilities to the artisans; and

(e) If so, the details thereof alongwith the achievement made under these schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to textile workers rendered unemployed due to the permanent closure of any particular portion of or the entire textile unit. The funds allocated and their utilisation during the last three years is given in Statement-I enclosed. Under the scheme, no targets for financial and physical progress are set and funds are utilised purely on a need basis. Besides, the Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of artisans, weavers, shepherds, farmers etc. where the funds allocated during the last three years have been well utilized.

Statement I

(In Rs. lakhs)

S.No.	Year	Funds	
		Allocated	Utilised
1.	2003-04	126.00	111.43
2.	2004-05	800.00	799.86
3.	2005-06	800.00	799.97

(c) The Government is implementing the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for the welfare of handloom weavers. The number of dwelling units constructed under the Workshed-cum-Housing scheme during the last three years is given in Statement-II enclosed. It is not possible to quantify how these units have helped in improving the quality of life and earning of artisans or women, State-wise.

Statement II

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	No. of Units sanctioned
2003-04	21,718
2004-05	12,008
2005-06	17,971

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

FDI in Small Scale Sector

*374. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been received to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling for the small scale sector from 24% to 49%;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) According to the existing policy, an entity, whether domestic or foreign, without any subsisting industrial interest can invest upto 100% in the equity of a small scale industry (SSI). However, to prevent mushrooming of small scale industries owned or controlled by larger entities, the policy also prescribes a ceiling of 24% in equity participation by an entity, whether domestic or foreign, in case it already has an industrial interest. If the equity investment by such an entity exceeds 24% of that of a second SSI unit, the resultant entity ceases to be an SSI unit.

(c) Government has not taken a decision on the issue of permitting investment (whether foreign or domestic) in equity beyond 24% in micro and small enterprises by entities having an interest in other enterprises.

Ban on Export of Raw Materials

*375. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban export of selected raw materials in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the commodities identified for the same;

(c) whether the ban is aimed at promoting exports of only value added products and to generate employment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of raw materials for accelerating industrial production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Management Courses

*376. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to divest AICTE from the responsibility relating to regulation, grant of approval and recognition of management courses;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a separate regulatory body exclusively on the lines of AICTE to regulate, promote and develop management education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Security of Taj Mahal

*377. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved any plan for tightening of the security of Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned in this regard;

(c) whether the responsibility of Taj Mahal security is proposed to be handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any plan is under consideration of the Government for protecting all such religious sites/places in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had formulated a proposal in August, 2005 for strengthening the existing security scheme of Taj Mahal. This proposal consisting of procurement of security equipments and construction of certain security works of Taj Mahal was approved involving an expenditure of Rs. 77.21 lakhs. As Taj Mahal is a national monument maintained by Archaeological Survey of India the above proposal had been referred to that organization.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Security of Taj Mahal is provided as per scheme approved by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed in the inner cordon while outer security is

provided by the Uttar Pradesh Police as per the security scheme.

(e) and (f) "Law and Order" and "Police" being a State subject, security of religious sites/places is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. Ministry of Home Affairs keeps the concerned States fully briefed about the threat perception about these places. Ministry of Home Affairs also issues necessary advisories for strengthening the security of religious sites/places to the concerned State & U.T. on receipt of specific threat inputs. Assistance is also provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening and modernization of their police forces under the Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) Scheme.

Women Teaching Centres

*378. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up women teaching centres in various States;

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

(c) the total number of women benefited from these centres, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to increase such centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) As per the information given by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, 48 Mahila Shikshan Kendras have been set up under the Central Sector scheme of Mahila Samakhya so far against 55 sanctioned. The State-wise position of the number of Mahila Shikshan Kendras operational and the number of beneficiaries, are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The State-wise number of Mahila Shikshan Kendras approved to be opened during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement-II

Statement I*Number of Mahila Shikshan Kendras (MSKs) and Beneficiaries for the last three years, State-wise*

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of MSKs	No. of Beneficiaries		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	483	422	478
2.	*Assam	6	—	—	270
3.	Bihar	7	1251	1272	1981
4.	Gujarat	4	104	175	114
5.	Jharkhand	2	177	282	246
6.	Karnataka	1	44	50	49
7.	*Kerala	2	—	—	60
8.	Uttar Pradesh	12	414	636	514
9.	*Uttaranchal	3	—	—	76
Total		48	2473	2837	3788

*Mahila Shikshan Kendras were started in Assam, Kerala and Uttaranchal in 2005-06.

Statement II*[English]*

State-wise Details of New Mahila Shikshan Kendras Approved to be Opened During 2006-07 under the Mahila Samakhya Programme

Survey on Children

*379. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on children by a panel of experts and journalists as reported in the *Hindu* dated July 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has been judged as the sixth most dangerous country for children;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Sl.No.	State	New MSKs to be started in 2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	0
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Gujarat	1
5.	Jharkhand	0
6.	Karnataka	0
7.	Kerala	2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	0
9.	Uttaranchal	1
Total		7

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) An Article appeared in The Hindu on 19th July, 2006 under the title "A Controversial Survey on India". It is reported therein that Reuters foundation has conducted a poll survey involving more than 100 aid experts and journalists to highlight the world's most dangerous places for children.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Survey has taken into account the children in armed conflict, the children affected by psychological trauma, the working children, malnutrition in children, etc. The Government do not agree with the findings of the survey as the survey has taken only limited facts into consideration and has not taken into account the other services and facilities being made available to children in India in the field of education, health, water and sanitation and other services which are the basic requirements.

(e) The Government is taking all necessary steps for improvement of the overall status of the children of the country. Apart from the implementation of the constitutional provisions, legislations and policies there are several schemes and programmes being implemented by different Ministries and Departments for children which include Integrated Child Development Services, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Reproductive and Child Health, National Rural Health Mission, Pulse Polio Immunization Programme, National Programme for education of girls at elementary level, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Integrated Programme for Street Children, Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice, Childline services, Shishu Greh Scheme, National Child Labour Projects, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the children of working mothers and others.

Closure of Tea Gardens

*380. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens lying closed/abandoned by the management alongwith the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has chalked out a plan to reopen such gardens by utilizing the Rs. 1 00 crore package announced for the plantation sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per available information, 39 tea gardens are presently lying closed of which 20 are in Kerala, 17 in West Bengal and 2 in Assam. The approximate number of workers affected are 31,110 of which 10,050 are in Kerala, 18,960 in West Bengal and 2,100 in Assam.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Special Incentives to Agro-Based Products

*381. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the special incentives for export of agro-based products;

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

(c) whether the Government has received representations from various exporters in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A special Scheme to promote exports of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minor forest produce and their value added products was announced on 31.08.2004 as Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana. The Scheme was revamped and has been renamed as Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojana and continues to be in operation for a wider range of products. However, benefits for cashew, pepper and sesamum seed were withdrawn for not being in consonance with the framework of the scheme. Moreover, exports by EOUs have been made ineligible for the benefits for exports from 01.04.2006 as EOUs are in any case set up primarily for exports, with a special package of incentives.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from Cashew Export Promotion Council, Shellac Export Promotion Council, Mehta Exports, Reitzel India, Sterling Agro Product Processing Pvt. Ltd., Rhodia, Indian Gherkins Exporters Association etc. These have been

considered and were not found feasible for restoring the withdrawn benefits.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana to promote Indian handicrafts by developing artisans clusters into professionally managed and self-reliant community enterprise on the principles of effective member participation and mutual cooperation;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to NGOs, apex societies, Handicrafts Development Corporations, trusts and others under the Yojana during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check proper utilization of the financial assistance given under the scheme;

(d) if so, whether the Government has come across/received any complaints regarding misutilisation of funds provided under the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes sir.

(b) The detail of financial assistance provided to NGOs, apex societies, Handicrafts Development Corporations, trusts and others under the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana during each of the last three years, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Yes Sir. The monitoring is done through the field offices of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts). Any proposal under Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana is considered for sanction only on the recommendations of Screening Committee which includes officers from State Governments. Regular inspection of the ongoing events is made through the field offices and reimbursements are made on receipt of these reports. Systems have also been put in place to identify the deserving NGOs having good track record through grading them on the basis of various parameters.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Nine such instances have been reported. Enquiries have been ordered to establish the facts in all the cases and all financial assistance has been stopped.

Statement

(Amount of Rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2003-04 Details of financial assistance provided in rupees	2004-05 Details of financial assistance provided in rupees	2005-06 Details of financial assistance provided in rupees
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,47,19,882	1,77,42,483	2,67,74,169
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27,15,572	27,70,751	27,56,467
3.	Assam	1,51,53,420	3,26,39,754	3,42,24,013
4.	Bihar	5,45,000	15,63,000	13,76,500
5.	Chhattisgarh	17,91,867	19,33,600	11,24,000
6.	Delhi	32,56,192	33,60,318	16,31,376

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Goa	2,50,000	—	1,00,000
8.	Gujarat	69,40,979	1,08,03,579	3,29,61,000
9.	Haryana	25,14,058	31,71,519	36,56,551
10.	Himachal Pradesh	53,91,622	1,25,02,753	96,79,853
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	40,61,168	54,18,259	1,15,14,111
12.	Jharkhand	6,46,000	10,91,040	17,99,500
13.	Karnataka	38,70,896	40,95,909	65,36,785
14.	Kerala	74,63,947	44,31,514	94,17,669
15.	Madhya Pradesh	66,23,241	69,73,483	70,72,925
16.	Maharashtra	23,64,716	33,04,386	18,78,430
17.	Manipur	20,01,220	17,73,514	76,37,276
18.	Meghalaya	4,57,870	000	1,50,000
19.	Mizoram	15,82,250	16,58,500	37,500
20.	Nagaland	30,11,325	12,03,500	40,06,000
21.	Orissa	79,13,837	76,78,523	2,07,47,866
22.	Pondicherry	—	16,905	—
23.	Punjab	41,61,579	15,12,250	56,96,700
24.	Rajasthan	64,69,404	88,01,206	58,59,061
25.	Sikkim	—	—	—
26.	Tamil Nadu	33,44,689	31,14,809	93,75,986
27.	Tripura	34,97,284	49,08,529	36,76,317
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1,64,25,535	2,61,06,197	3,63,47,707
29.	Uttaranchal	59,78,205	21,13,500	40,12,521
30.	West Bengal	78,14,680	1,66,41,449	1,20,16,684
Total		14,09,66,238	18,73,31,230	26,20,66,967

Absenteeism of School Teachers

*383. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank's Development Policy Review for India has said that the nationwide presence of teachers in schools is found to be 50% only and that 50% of the children living in urban areas in eight major States are dependent on private schools;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The World Bank Report of February 2006 entitled Development Policy Review for India etc. covers a wide range of topics including infrastructure, health, agriculture, accountability and governance structures among others. Elementary Education, *inter-alia*, has also been covered. The survey has stated that less than half of teachers were both present and engaged in classroom activity and that in the urban areas of eight major States, more than half of the children in elementary school are in private schools. The data given by the survey does not distinguish between private aided and private unaided institutions.

Elementary School Education is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, emphasis has been given on the role of Village Education Committees or Local Bodies in the monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers. State Governments have also exhorted to ensure teacher presence during school hours. As far as the schools run by the Ministry of Human Resource Development like Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Central Tibetan Schools are concerned, there is no such report of teacher absenteeism.

Integrated Tribal Development Agencies

*384. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA) in the country for implementing Tribal Development Programmes in the Tribal areas, State-wise;

(b) the performance of ITDA during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen these ITDAs;

(d) whether the Union Government has made any review about the proper utilization of grants released to ITDAs in all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are 8 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in Andhra Pradesh and 21 Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) in Orissa. These ITDAs are registered under the Societies (Registration) Act, 1860. The details of ITDAs in these two States are given in the enclosed Statement. Other States have established Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs), which are field offices under the State Governments.

(b) The ITDAs function under the administrative control of the State Governments. State Governments entrust implementation of various schemes relating to tribal development to ITDAs/ITDPs and also to the various line departments. The various tasks mainly administrative, regulatory and developmental in nature as assigned by the State Governments have been carried out satisfactorily by the ITDAs during the last three years.

(c) The Ministry has started ITDA/ITDP-wise earmarking of funds under the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). The Ministry is also making efforts for direct funding of ITDAs/ITDPs. Out of the grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, an amount up to a maximum of 2% of the grant can be used for project management, training, MIS, administrative expenses and monitoring & evaluation.

Since 1986, Government of Andhra Pradesh has introduced the policy of single line Administration in ITDAs and the same has been reiterated in 2002. The Project Officers of ITDAs have been delegated with the powers of the District Collector, Joint Collector and District Revenue Officer to the extent of Tribal Sub Plan area.

The State Government of Orissa have taken steps for posting of young professionals in the ITDAs so that the benefits of value addition, processing and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) accrue directly to the tribals.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs from time to time reviews the implementation of various programmes/schemes of the Ministry with State Governments and requires submission of Utilisation Certificates of the funds released and spent which *inter alia* includes funds utilized by these ITDAs/ITDPs. Further, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has entrusted the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission to

evaluate the implementation of the schemes relating to Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and grant-in-aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, under which funds are made available to these ITDAs through the State Governments.

Statement

List of ITDAs

Andhra Pradesh (Name of the ITDAs)

1. Seethampeta
2. Parvathipuram
3. Paderu
4. Rampachodavaram
5. K.R. Puram
6. Bhadrachalam
7. Etumagaram
8. Uttoor

Orissa (Name of the ITDAs)

1. Nilgiri
2. Baripada
3. Rairangpur
4. Karanjia
5. Kaptipada
6. Sundargarh
7. Panposh
8. Bonai
9. Kuchinda
10. Keonjhar
11. Champua
12. Parlakhemundi
13. Phulbani
14. Balliguda

15. Th. Rampur

16. Koraput

17. Jeypur

18. Malkangiri

19. Nawarangpur

20. Rayagada

21. Gunupur

Marketing of Rural Products

*385. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for marketing the products produced by rural industries at national level;

(b) whether the rebate allowed on such products is being disbursed promptly to the eligible beneficiaries;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints on the alleged irregularities committed in determining the rebate and distributing the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against guilty persons;

(f) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into this matter;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the inquiry; and

(h) the action taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The steps taken by the Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for marketing of products of khadi and rural industries include grant of rebate on sale of khadi products and polyvastra, organising exhibitions at national and sub-national levels, setting up Confederation for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (CPKVI) for strengthening the marketing networks of the khadi and village industry

(KVI) products, modernisation of selected sales outlets of KVIC, implementation of schemes for brand promotion, quality assurance and technology upgradation, assistance to institutions/village industry units for product development, improved design and packaging, etc., launching "Mission Khadi" for promoting marketing of ready-to-wear garments of latest designs, etc.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
 (c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.
 (d) No, Sir.
 (e) to (h) Do not arise, in view of (d) above.

Assessment of Tall Claims made by Private Educational Institutions

2787. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to verify and assess tall claims made by private educational institutions imparting higher education in the print and the electronic media to entire admission seekers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Verification of standards of higher and technical education is an ongoing process. University Grants Commission (UGC) is responsible for the coordination and determination of standards in universities. Similarly the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) monitors technical institutions recognized by it. As per the UGC Act, 1956 the right of conferring and granting degrees shall be exercised only by a university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, or a State Act or an institution deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the Act or an institution specially empowered by an act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees.

As per the norms of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), all AICTE approved technical

institutions have to submit compliance report alongwith the mandatory disclosures in the prescribed format giving details about the facilities available by August 31 every year to seek extension of approval for the next year. Besides, this mandatory disclosure is to be hosted on the institution's website, thus enabling the various stake holders to make informed decisions about the institutions. These compliance reports are assessed by Committee of Experts for grant of extension of approval.

[Translation]

Mahila Samakhya Programme

2788. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
 SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

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

(a) the names of States where Mahila Samakhya Programme is being implemented presently;

(b) the criteria for selection of the States for the said programme;

(c) whether a proposal has been received by the Government to merge Mahila Samakhya Programme of Madhya Pradesh with National Mahila Samakhya Programme; and

(d) if so, the time by which Mahila Samakhya Programme will be sanctioned in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Based on State Governments requests, the Mahila Samakhya Programme is operational in nine States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, and has been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

[English]

National Plan for Empowerment of Women

2789. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any National Action Plan for Empowerment of Women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the possibility of implementation of the said Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The draft Plan of Action for operationalising the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 is yet to be approved by the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities of Handloom/Handicraft Board

2790. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularity has been reported in the Handloom/Handicraft Board;

(b) if so, whether any nexus has been found between the Handloom/Handicraft Board and the middlemen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the responsibility fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) No reports of irregularities between the All India Handloom/Handicraft Board Members and the middlemen have been received.

Bilateral Agreements

2791. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government intends to enter into bilateral ties with other countries and form regional groupings to meet its trade target on the failure of Doha round WTO talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries with which the Government is likely to enter into bilateral ties;

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the effect of the present impasse at WTO talk on trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India's engagement in Regional Trade Arrangements (RTAs) is not predicated upon the suspension of negotiations under the Doha Round in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and its trade policy continues to uphold a rule-based multilateral trading system, with complementary Regional Trade arrangements which serve as building blocks and which aim to achieve India's development imperatives.

(c) and (d) Implications for India's trade are assessed as required by the exigencies of the negotiations under the Doha Round. The effects of the suspension of negotiations on trade are not readily amenable to quantification without making assumptions on a number of parameters, including the period of delay and the likely nature of final convergences.

In order to ensure that the WTO negotiating process and the outcome of the Doha Round embody the development imperatives of developing countries articulated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July 2004 Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December 2005, India has intensified its outreach to other developing countries, like-minded Members of the WTO and the trade majors. The Government has also been engaged in consultations with stakeholders in order to evolve its position and strategy in the negotiations so as to safeguard India's interests and concerns across all the negotiating areas of the Doha Work Programme.

National Police Commission

2792. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestion from National Police Commission/Experts to increase police-population ratio of 1:500;

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

(c) the details of directions/advise given to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the details of the police-public ratio during the last three years, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) National Police Commission did not make a specific recommendation for achieving police-population ratio of 1:500. However, in view of recommendations of various experts regarding increasing the police population ratio to at least 1:500, Government has advised the State Governments to create new posts, fill up substantial number of existing vacancies and outsource of some of non-core police duties.

(d) The details of police population ratio (number of policemen per lakh of population) in the respective States/ Union Territories during 2003-2005, as provided by National Crime Records Bureau are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Police Population Ratio During 2003-2005*

Sl.No.	States/UT	Ratio (No. of Policemen per Lakh of Population)		
		2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95	99	98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	506	500	493
3.	Assam	188	184	181
4.	Bihar	61	56	57
5.	Chhattisgarh	94	92	103
6.	Goa	260	242	235
7.	Gujarat	109	108	106
8.	Haryana	137	171	159
9.	Himachal Pradesh	194	182	178
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	550	535	572
11.	Jharkhand	75	74	85
12.	Karnataka	96	97	98
13.	Kerala	136	132	129
14.	Madhya Pradesh	96	113	113

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	139	134	132
16.	Manipur	552	531	535
17.	Meghalaya	363	379	364
18.	Mizoram	770	760	854
19.	Nagaland	567	567	566
20.	Orissa	93	92	90
21.	Punjab	272	279	276
22.	Rajasthan	108	100	102
23.	Sikkim	555	602	609
24.	Tamil Nadu	126	138	130
25.	Tripura	512	550	542
26.	Uttar Pradesh	90	88	84
27.	Uttaranchal	148	136	131
28.	West Bengal	100	97	94
	Total (States)	119	119	118
29.	A & N Islands	720	723	707
30.	Chandigarh	411	402	407
31.	D & N Haveli	93	94	91
32.	Daman & Diu	148	142	139
33.	Delhi	371	360	344
34.	Lakshadweep	514	506	420
35.	Pondicherry	217	219	211
	Total (UTs)	367	357	343
	Total (All-India)	123	123	122

*[English]***De-recognition of BCA/MCA Programme by IGNOU**

2793. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has de-recognised the BCA & MCA programmes of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for delay in developing study material for the programmes by IGNOU under the guidelines of Distance Education Council; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the students, who have passed out BCA & MCA since 1995, do not suffer because of IGNOU's inaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University Grants Commission and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) have recognized degrees/diplomas/certificate programmes of IGNOU. MCA programme of IGNOU has been recognized by AICTE. The degrees earned by students in these courses of IGNOU, since 1995, have merit at par with other Central Universities.

(c) The University is providing materials produced in house for all 23 courses offered for BCA and all the courses for semesters 1 to 4 of MCA (new version). The materials for semesters 5 & 6 are under development.

(d) The study materials developed by IGNOU are of high standards and recognized internationally. The students are given the best education possible through distance mode and are accepted by the employers, educational institutions and peers.

Commerce Sector in NER

2794. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any plan to boost the commerce sector in the North East Region with focus on horticulture, agriculture, handloom and handicraft industries;

(b) if so, the details and broad features thereof, indicating the areas to be covered thereby, State-wise;

(c) the Central aid/participation proposed to be provided thereunder; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) As per the information received from the Department of Commerce, financial assistance is provided to all the States, including NE States, under the Scheme of Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE). Further, following the announcement made by the Prime Minister in Shillong on January 21-22, 2000, an Export Development Fund (EDF), has been setup with the objective of using the resources for the development of exports from the Region. So far 42 projects have been sanctioned under EDF.

As informed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the NE States, sanctioned in 2001-02, *inter alia* includes value addition, processing and marketing of horticulture produce. An amount of Rs. 565 crore was allocated for the NE States under the Scheme during X Plan against which Rs. 445.60 crore were released till 2005-06. A number of markets have been established under Mini Mission III of this Scheme. The State-wise details are as under:

State	Whole Sale Market	Rural Primary Market	Apni Mandies	Grading Lab.	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	2	25	—	7	2.17
Arunachal Pradesh	6	24	—	2	2.91
Mizoram	10	87	—	2	8.79
Nagaland	8	82	43	—	8.16
Sikkim	1	14	—	3	0.85

1	2	3	4	5	6
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	11	—	2	0.95
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—
Total	29	243	43	16	23.83

As regard handloom and handicraft sectors, the Ministry of Textiles has informed that a number of Schemes are being implemented for the development of these sectors in the NE States. The funds released for NER under various Schemes during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Amount Released	
		Handlooms	Handicrafts
1.	2003-04	22.58	7.13
2.	2004-05	27.08	14.74
3.	2005-06	31.34	18.03

New Courses by Deemed Universities

2795. SHRI E. G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain problems are being faced by the deemed universities for getting UGC's nod for new courses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC), has informed that keeping in view of the problems being faced by the deemed universities, the UGC has decided that institutions declared as 'Deemed to be Universities' will be empowered to start degree courses

covered under general education in sciences, social sciences and humanities and specified under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956, without any prior approval of the Commission, provided that such general courses of study are offered by them on a regular basis only through class-room teaching at their approved campus, subject to the condition that deemed universities would follow the UGC's Regulations issued from time to time in this regard.

UGC has further informed that in respect of professional courses to be offered by deemed universities through the conventional class-room mode at their approved campuses, no prior approval would be required if they are already on offer elsewhere, yet, the Institutes will be required to maintain the norms and standards laid down by the respective professional/statutory councils, and shall be open for verification by the UGC and the appropriate Council, as the case may be. The above said decisions have been communicated to deemed universities by the UGC vide its letter dated July 15, 2006.

C.B.S.E. Curriculum

2796. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether North East India has not been adequately represented in the text books of CBSE curriculum in respect of its History, Culture and Geography;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken to incorporate the contribution of 16th Century Vaishnava Saint Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev in the CBSE curriculum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be materialized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, sir. North East India History, Culture and Geography is adequately represented in the textbooks of CBSE curriculum.

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), the new History textbook for class XII being prepared by NCERT, which would cover the broad theme, "Religious Histories: The Bhakti-Sufi Tradition" is scheduled to be introduced from the academic session 2007-08.

Disinvestment of BALCO

2797. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the modality of disinvestment adopted between the Ministry of Disinvestment and Sterlight Company on BALCO;

(b) the views taken by the Ministries concerned including the Ministry of Mines on the proposal mooted by the Ministry of Disinvestment;

(c) the present position of agreement for strategic sale signed with the strategic partner of BALCO;

(d) whether the nodal Ministry and Ministry of Finance have arrived at the decision for sale of 49% equity of BALCO to Sterlight Company; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) On 2nd March 2001, Government of India disinvested 51% of its share holdings in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) to the Strategic Partner (SP), namely, M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL). A Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) and a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) were also signed between the Government of India and the SP. Modalities of disinvestment and acquisition of remaining 49% shares held presently by the Government of India are provided in the SPA and the SHA.

As per the provisions of the SHA, the SP had sent a Call Notice to acquire the remaining shares of BALCO.

After the Call Notice was received, Ministry of Mines, in consultation with Department of Disinvestment and as per the recommendations of the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD) started the process of valuation of remaining 49% shares as per the provisions of SHA.

The Learned Attorney General for India has opined that the provisions of Call Option and the valuation date under the SHA do not survive, being ultravires the Companies Act.

(d) and (e) No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

Report on Killing of Tribals

2798. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought report from the Chhattisgarh Government on the killing of Tribals as reported in the *Times of India* dated July 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the State Government; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government for development of Tribals ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had sought a report from the State Government of Chhattisgarh. The State Government has reported that during the night of 16/17 July, 2006 a group of five hundred unknown armed naxalites attacked the relief camp of the "Salwa Judum" movement situated at Village-Errabore in Dantewada District. In this incident, 31 persons were killed and 20 persons injured. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of the deceased persons. The State Government has also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 30,000 each to four persons who were seriously injured, Rs. 20,000 each to 13 other persons injured, and Rs. 2,000 each to 3 persons who suffered minor injuries. In addition to the above, the State Government has also decided to provide a residential house, worth Rs. 1 lakh and a Government job to one of the dependants of the deceased persons. The State Government has increased the security of the "Salwa Judum" movement camps.

(c) In addition to the development programmes of the State Government and the schemes implemented by various sectoral Ministries of the Government of India which cover tribals as well as other people, this Ministry also implements a number of central sector/centrally sponsored schemes for the development of Scheduled Tribes in the country. The details of these schemes are available in the Annual Report of this Ministry for the year 2005-06.

Production of Tobacco

2799. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of Tobacco alongwith volume, value, land size and number of farmers engaged during the last five years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of Tobacco in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The details of the volume of tobacco produced, value, Area planted and the number of registered growers during last five years, State-wise is given below:

Crop year/ State	No. of growers registered	Area planted (ha)	Crop Produced (Volume) (Million Kgs)	Value in Rs. (crores)
1	2	3	4	5
2001-02				
Andhra Pradesh	44029	87753	120.04	398.82
Karnataka	18751	47699	57.68	220.97
Total	62780	135452	177.72	619.79
2002-03				
Andhra Pradesh	44782	93209	127.67	444.71
Karnataka	19351	56365	63.26	275.82
Total	64133	149574	190.93	720.53
2003-04				
Andhra Pradesh	45583	109373	147.97	516.48
Karnataka	19702	69159	73.69	298.09
Total	65285	178532	221.66	814.57
2004-05				
Andhra Pradesh	45387	113334	153.00	553.26
Karnataka	39702	69701	90.34	428.41
Total	85089	183035	243.34	981.67

1	2	3	4	5
2005-06				
Andhra Pradesh	46551	117244	145.34	673.99
Karnataka	40544	73980	82.91	398.51
Total	87095	191224	228.25	1072.50

(b) The Tobacco Board provides assistance to tobacco farmers through various Extension & Developmental schemes for improving the quality and production of tobacco in tune with the changing international demand and quality. The Board extends subsidy from 25% to 50% to the growers under various schemes such as Farm Mechanization, Integrated Pest Management, Energy conservation measures like fixing venturi furnaces to Bams and Roof Insulation to the Bams etc. The Board also helps farmers in construction of mini check dams/farm ponds for irrigation of tobacco crops and arranges input loans and crop loans.

[Translation]

Hike In Foreign Direct Investment

2800. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hike FDI in manufacturing sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof sector-wise and extent to which it is likely to benefit this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in all the manufacturing activities except:

- (i) Defence (where there is an equity cap of 26% and entry route restriction);
- (ii) Cigar & Cigarette manufacturing (where there is an entry route restriction);
- (iii) Where provisions of Press Note 1 (2005 series) are attracted *i.e.* where the foreign investor has an existing joint venture in India in the same field (where there is an entry route restriction);

(iv) Where more than 24% foreign equity is proposed to be inducted for manufacture of items reserved for Small Scale Sector (where there is an entry route restriction).

The review of FDI policy is undertaken on a continuous basis with the objective to liberalise/rationalise/simplify both policy and procedures so as to optimise benefits for the industry and entrepreneurs. The policy was last reviewed in January 2006.

[English]

Recruitment of Teachers in KVS/NVS

2801. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is not allowing 5% concession in marks to SC/ST candidates in minimum eligibility criteria for recruitment of teachers in Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present position in this regard in other organisations;

(d) whether it will amount to violation of Government instructions/constitutional provisions for SC/ST in Government jobs including educational institutions; and

(e) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to rectify this position for the welfare of SC/ST?

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

(b) As per the existing policy of the Government of India on Reservations and Concessions to SCs and STs,

where an educational qualification has been prescribed in the Recruitment Rules, SC and ST candidates should satisfy the said qualification. Similarly, when a minimum number of marks or a minimum grade is also prescribed as part of the educational qualification, the minimum marks/grade so prescribed shall also uniformly apply to all candidates including SC and ST candidates.

(c) Other organizations are expected to follow the provisions of reservation policy of the Government of India.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Patriotic Feeling Among Citizens

2802. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to ingrain the patriotic feeling among the people of the country to counter cross Border Terrorism through All India Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to involve the people residing on the borders of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan by patronizing their local aspirations; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati is telecasting a number of programmes on national integration and communal harmony to promote a general feeling of unity and patriotism. Specific programmes are also being telecast on Kashmir Channel/North East Channel and DD-1 National Channel and All India Radio stations to counter cross border terrorism.

(c) The Prasar Bharati is telecasting programmes patronizing the local aspirations and cultural heritage of those people especially in Gojri, Dogri, Balti, Sheena, Pusto etc. in J & K and regional languages/dialects of North Eastern States.

Moreover, the Government is implementing the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) as a part of

comprehensive approach to Border Management with focus on socio-economic development of border areas and to promote sense of security among the people living there. 345 blocks of 94 districts of 17 States along the entire land border with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh are covered under BADP.

(d) Does not arise.

Food and Nutrition Board

2803. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities undertaken by the Food & Nutrition Board (FNB) during 2005-06; and

(b) the success achieved by the FNB as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Details of activities undertaken by the Food & Nutrition Board are included in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (2005-06) which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Nutrition advocacy and sensitization of policy makers and Nutrition Education and Training Programmes undertaken by FNB have contributed significantly to the following:

- Reinstatement on ban of sale of non-iodized salt w.e.f. 17.11.2005.
- Use of iodized salt in ICDS and Mid Day meal schemes.
- Inclusion of iodized salt in the Public Distribution System.
- Fortification of wheat flour with iron and folic acid and its distribution through PDS on a pilot scale in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- Distribution of candies fortified with micronutrients to ICDS beneficiaries in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- Awareness Generation on Nutrition at different levels.

TRIFED

2804. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether voluntary organizations have been involved in implementing the Schemes relating to Adivasis through TRIFED in West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of funds provided to each voluntary organization till July 31, 2006, Scheme-wise;

(c) the details of funds granted but not released so far alongwith the reasons for non-release of the funds;

(d) whether any review of implementation of each Scheme has been carried out; and

(e) if so, the details of funding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) has involved voluntary organizations in West Bengal, in formation of self-help groups of tribal artisans, skill upgradation training, holding of design and technical development workshops and production of handicrafts. No voluntary organizations from Bihar have been involved. The scheme-wise details of the funds provided by TRIFED to voluntary organizations involved in implementing the schemes relating to Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal till 31.7.2006 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No funds are pending for release.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. TRIFED undertakes periodical monitoring and review of the schemes. Moreover, TRIFED's own representatives pay visits to the projects to ensure adherence to the guidelines of Babasaheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY).

Statement*Funds Provided by TRIFED to Voluntary Organisations (VOs) of West Bengal*

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the V.O.	Activity	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2003-04	Institute of International Social Development (IISD), Kolkata	Baseline survey Mobilisation and formation of 24 Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 300 tribal handicraft artisans.	1.50
2.	2003-04	Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD), Bolpur, West Bengal	Baseline survey mobilisation and formation of 16 Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 200 tribal handicraft artisans	1.00
3.	2003-04	Prembazar Initiative, Kharagpur, West Bengal	Baseline survey mobilisation and formation of 25 Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 262 tribal handicraft artisans	1.25
4.	2003-04	KALYAN, Ramakrishna Mission, Purulia, West Bengal	Baseline survey mobilisation and formation of 19 Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 261 tribal handicraft artisans	1.25
5.	2005-06	Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD), Bolpur, W.B.	Skill Upgradation Training for 180 artisans in 5 crafts.	3.08

1	2	3	4	5
6.	2005-06	Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD), Bolpur, West Bengal	Design and Technical Development Workshop (DTDW) for 150 artisans in 5 crafts	3.99
7.	2005-06	Sanjibani Unnayan Sansthan (SUS), Purulia, West Bengal	Skill Upgradation Training for 120 artisans in 3 crafts.	1.43
8.	2005-06	Sanjibani Unnayan Sansthan (SUS), Purulia, West Bengal	Design and Technical Development Workshop (DTDW) for 90 artisans in 3 crafts	2.88
9.	2005-06	Sanjibani Unnayan Sansthan (SUS), Purulia, West Bengal	Conduct of training for Leaf Cup Plate making	0.04
10.	2006-07 (till July 2006)	Birbhum Society for Community Development (BSCD), Bolpur, West Bengal.	Supervision and execution of handicraft Production through artisan trained above	1.65

[Translation]

**Allocation of Funds Under Modernisation
of Police Force**

2805. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the States are categorized for allocation of funds under modernization of police force;

(b) whether some States have demanded to re-categorise the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Allocation to States under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme) are made on the basis of population, sanctioned strength of police force, number of police stations and crime per lakh of population. Initially this scheme was operated on 50 : 50 sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Subsequently, in 2005-06, 8 States were categorized as Category "A" with 100% Central funding on account of problems of insurgency, militancy or terrorism faced by them. The

remaining 20 States were categorized as category "B" with 75% Central funding under the Scheme in view of the inability of the States to provide 50% matching share. Even in category "B" States, naxal affected districts have been provided full Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 2.00 crore per affected district per year. Similarly, provision has been made for Rs. 1.00 crore Central assistance per district per year for the districts situated on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders within the over all outlay of the State for MPF Scheme.

(b) and (c) Categorization of States is based on specific criteria as laid down by the Government.

[English]

Cotton Production

2806. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton imported during the current year;

(b) the names of the countries from where the cotton was imported during each of the last three years alongwith the quantity imported from each of the country; and

(c) the arrangements made to meet the likely increase in exports in the textile industry in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The quantity of cotton imported during the current year (information available for April, 2006 only) is 10783 quintal.

(b) The figures of cotton imported from various countries during last three years, quantity-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Various steps taken for the benefit of textile sector are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Cotton Imported from Various Countries during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Figures in quintal)

Countries	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
Australia	2910	3182	1402
Austria	410	—	—
Bangladesh PR	1198	11645	12084
Belgium	13	—	—
Benin	11030	8042	100
Brazil	912	8614	1113
Brunei	7	—	—
Burkina Faso	5360	5660	296
Cameroon	6096	3804	900
Canada	43	19	—
Chad	2690	1154	—
China P RP	558	287	16
Costa Rica	—	79	—
Egypt A RP	33893	20466	24425
Ethiopia	460	375	—
Eritrea	60	582	—
France	384		
Georgia	16		
Germany	281	40	133
Ghana	120	134	—

1	2	3	4
Greece	24150	2639	237
Hong Kong	—	—	14
Hungary	—	16	—
Indonesia	1963	1469	1559
Iran	1270	285	368
Israel	913	298	2233
Italy	2	—	30
Cote D' Ivoire	5294	4847	1634
Japan	17	25	21
Kazakhstan	703		
Kenya	191	112	46
Korea RP	66	121	—
Latvia	99	218	—
Madagascar	—	552	—
Malawi	—	63	—
Malaysia	278	316	59
Mali	20883	9170	1421
Mauritius	—	34	—
Mozambique	667	711	190
Namibia	25	—	—
Nepal	4		1342
Nigeria	912	1031	1338
Pakistan IR	1	4318	—
Paraguay	—	1833	—
Peru	46	12	20
Poland	17	—	—
Senegal	282	1174	—
Singapore	200	59	40
South Africa	1079	490	—

1	2	3	4
Spain	50	639	—
Sri Lanka DSR	8	97	72
Sudan	10644	3716	7211
Sweden	—	17	101
Switzerland	91	1970	18
Syria	1695	1161	270
Tajikistan	2541	1262	3127
Tanzania Rep	6351	23444	3020
Thialand	204	37	159
Togo	691	101	—
Turkey	409	908	540
Turkmenistan	4912	6396	6182
Uganda	408	3459	435
U Arab Emts	265	226	26
U.K.	161	3	97
Ukraine	47	5	—
U.S.A.	92823	45690	22432
Uzbekistan	5715	4281	3353
Vietnam Soc Rep	—	—	156
Wallis F IS	—	116	—
Zambia	—	1951	—
Zimbabwe	—	2733	—
Unspecified	381	90	20
Total	252899	192178	98240

Statement-II*Important Measures Taken by the Government in the Recent Past to Help the Textile Sector*

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive

downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing its productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.

- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) For small scale textile and jute industrial units, Government has enhanced, the rate of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) from 12% to 15% w.e.f. 13.01.05.
- (v) In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced.
- (vi) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (vii) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (viii) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (ix) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (x) In the Budget 2006-07 the following announcements for the textile sector has been made:
- Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent. Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
 - Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
 - Enhancing the allocation from Rs. 435 crore to Rs. 535 crore for the year 2006-07.
 - Enhancement in the provision for the handloom sector from Rs. 195 crore to Rs. 241 crore for the year 2006-07.
 - Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP).
 - Launching of the Jute Technology Mission in 2006-07 to harness the potential of the golden fibre along with establishment of a National Jute Board.
- (xi) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (xii) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centers (ATDCs).
- (xiii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xiv) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

- (xv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xvi) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:
- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

[Translation]

Funds under Education to All Campaign

2807. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount demanded by the State Government of Bihar in its proposal under Education for All Campaign sent to Union Government for providing drinking water and toilet facilities in Government primary and high schools in the financial year 2005-06;
- (b) the amount allocated by Centre to Bihar under this head;
- (c) whether the amount has been fully utilized; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which covers elementary stage of education, Bihar was sanctioned Rs. 3396 lakhs for drinking water and toilet facilities in schools in 2005-06, which was higher than the demand of Rs. 2280 lakh

made by SSA, Bihar. The SSA programme in Bihar utilized Rs. 2165 lakhs upto 31.3.2006, with the balance adjusted to the financial year 2006-07.

[English]

Raising of Special Force

2808. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought central assistance to raise special forces to meet the naxal challenge in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Fund for Talented Students

2809. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a fund for nurturing the unnoticed talents of the schools/colleges so that talent of students is tapped;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the fund has been established;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Government is implementing the 'Bal Shree Scheme' through National Bal Bhawan, to identify the creative talent of children and to find out ways and means of nurturing their

creativity. Ministry of Human Resource Development is also implementing National Merit Scholarship Scheme, under which financial assistance is provided to the States/UT administrations for awarding scholarships to meritorious students of rural areas studying in Classes IX and X and also to meritorious students studying at post matric to post graduate levels in schools and colleges.

[English]

Human Development Index

2810. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether study carried out by the Institute of Human Development shows a difference of 32 percent between the Human Development Indices at the National level and those of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for the large differences between development indices; and

(d) the measures proposed to bring down this difference?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. A study carried out by the Institute for Human Development (IHD), a private research institute, has observed that there is a difference between the Human Development Index (HDI) of the general population at the National level as pointed out in the National Human Development Report, 2001 of the Planning Commission and that of the Scheduled Tribes for the year 1991 as calculated by the IHD with the HDI for Scheduled Tribes (STs) being shown as 32 per cent lower.

(b) While the HDI for the entire population is based on the National Human Development Report (NHDR) prepared by the Planning Commission in 2002, that of the tribals has been estimated by the IHD. The methodology of the former has been spelt out in the National Human Development Report, 2001, the details of calculations for the HDI of the tribals are not clear from the paper of IHD. It is a study carried out by a non-government institute and is not strictly comparable with the NHDR. It is well known that the HDI is a

composite index representing the three dimensions of human development *viz.*, economic, educational and health. A number of studies have suggested that the attainments of tribals in respect of these three dimensions are lower than that of the population in general. This is clear from the indicators on consumption expenditure by NSSO, education related indicators from Census and health related indicators from National Family Health Surveys.

(c) and (d) The reasons for the low HDI of the STs and the steps that need to be taken to address this, have been analyzed in detail in the draft National Tribal Policy brought out by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

GDP Growth in Export of Services by IT Sector

2811. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projected annual GDP growth rate of eight per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan depends largely upon achieving substantial growth in export of services by the Indian Information Technology sector;

(b) if so, whether a deep rooted international conspiracy to discourage Indian IT professionals and entrepreneurs from harnessing the global market is manifested in the treatment of harassment meted out in Malaysia/Indonesia in the recent past and in the Netherlands and England recently; and

(c) if so, the details of the initiatives taken, to deal with such indirect violation of the spirit of WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The projected annual GDP growth rate of 8% during the Tenth Five Year Plan does not depend on the performance of any one sector, but on the balanced development of the entire economy.

(b) There does not appear to be any deep rooted international conspiracy to discourage Indian IT professionals and entrepreneurs from harnessing the global market.

(c) Liberalisation of visa and other procedures for visits of professionals for supply of services in WTO member countries is one issue which India has been taking up actively during the WTO negotiations on Trade

in Services presently underway in the WTO under the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

[*Translation*]

Problems of Textile Industry in Jharkhand

2812. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile industry lying closed at present, State-wise;

(b) whether problems are being faced by the textile industry in Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a): The State-wise Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) closed as on 30-06-2006 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of (b) above.

Statement

The State-wise Cotton/Man-made fibre Textile mills (Non-SSI) closed as on 30-06-2006

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41
2.	Assam	7
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Delhi	1
6.	Gujarat	63

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	26
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9.	Karnataka	20
10.	Kerala	9
11.	Madhya Pradesh	13
12.	Maharashtra	64
13.	Manipur	1
14.	Orissa	14
15.	Pondicherry	1
16.	Punjab	16
17.	Rajasthan	21
18.	Tamilnadu	123
19.	Uttar Pradesh	39
20.	Uttaranchal	3
21.	West Bengal	14
Total		483

MNC Involved in Industrial Sector

2813. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries being run by Multinational companies in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to invite more MNC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL OF POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) (a) The information is not maintained centrally in this Department. It is therefore not possible to state in exact, the number of Industries "run" by Multinational Companies, in the sense of control by them.

(b) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted, on the automatic route, in most sectors.

The policy is revised on a continuous basis for further liberalisation/rationalisation. Besides putting in place an attractive and investment-friendly policy with a high degree of automaticity, the Government has also renewed thrust on the investment promotion front through informative publications on investment opportunities and organising various investment promotion events in India and abroad in association with industry associations.

Children Died Due to Malnutrition

2814. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that child deaths are taking place in large numbers due to malnutrition in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the steps taken by the Government to check the incidents of such child deaths in tribal dominated districts have proved to be a failure;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to fix responsibility and take action against the guilty;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to check the incidents of child deaths due to malnutrition in tribal dominated districts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Malnutrition is not a direct but an underlying cause of death as it increases morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. As per the periodic reports received from the State Government of Maharashtra under ICDS Scheme there has not been any increase in deaths of children in Vidarbha region over the last two years.

As per the provisional data of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2005-06, the percentage of underweight children under 3 years has declined from 50% in 1998-99 [NFHS-2] to 40% in 2005-06.

Similarly, as per data of Sample Registration System (SRS) released by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Infant Mortality Rate in Maharashtra has

declined from 42 per thousand live births in 2003 to 36 in 2004. However, district-wise data is not released in NFHS or SRS.

(d) and (e) Measures taken by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the children, including those in the tribal areas, are as under:

1. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.
2. National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
3. National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
4. National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
5. Reproductive & Child Health Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);
6. Janani Suraksha Yojana (M/o Health & Family Welfare).

Additionally, the programmes being implemented by the Government of Maharashtra are as under:

1. The Raj Mata Maternal Child Health & Nutrition Mission established in March 2005.
2. Nav Sanjivani Yojana is being implemented with the following schemes in the tribal areas:
 - a. Pada Volunteer Scheme
 - b. Mobile Medical Squad
 - c. Maternity Benefit Scheme
 - d. Dai meeting Scheme
 - e. Establishment of Pediatric ICU in CH Centre.

Higher Education

2815. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission to increase fee for the higher education so that the educational institutions are in a position to mobilise resources;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan for students of lower and middle income group families so as to accommodate them in reputed technical institutions in which tuition fee for the post graduate level studies amounts to lakhs of rupees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to work out any scheme for such students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Schemes of scholarships as well as bank loans already exist for students belonging to the weaker section in higher education.

Conference on Integrated Value Education

2816. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Art of Living had organized a 3-day International Conference on Integrated Value Education from 26th June, 2006 with other internal agencies like UNESCO, WB Institute, Ministry of HRD etc. at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the objective behind holding such a conference;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the meet;

(d) whether educationists from foreign countries and from all over India were invited to attend the education conference;

(e) if so, whether Speakers from foreign countries participated in the conference; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. UNESCO and the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO also participated in this Conference.

(b) According to the organisers, some of the objectives of the Conference were to promote "Integrated Values" in Education as the primary channel for holistic development, to provide a platform to discuss how "Integrated Values" can deal with challenges in learning environment etc.

(c) No expenditure on the organisation of the Conference was borne by Government.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Speakers from Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa and several other countries spoke at the various sessions of the Conference.

[English]

Reduction in Gender Gap

2817. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed targets to reduce gender gaps in literacy and wage rate, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in the current plan period;

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

(c) the details of the achievements made so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the remaining targets of plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The monitorable targets for the 10th Plan and beyond are as under:

- Reduction in gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by at least 50 per cent by 2007;
- Reduction in infant mortality rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012; and
- Reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 1 by 2012.

(c) The available figures are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The information is given in the Mid-term Appraisal of the X Plan. The Report is posted in the Planning Commission's website www.planningcommission.nic.in.

Statement

1. Maternal Mortality Rate, 1991, 1998 (Sample Registration System) (Number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births)

1991	1998
437	407

(Extract: MDG India Country report, 2005)

2. Literacy rates, 1998-2001 (Census)

(in percentage)

Census year	Person	Male	Female	Male-female gap
1981*	43.6	56.4	29.8	26.6
1991*	52.2	64.1	39.3	24.8
2001*	64.8	75.3	53.7	21.6

*aged 7+

3. Average wage earning of casual labourers

Average wage earning received per day by casual labourers during 2004

(NSSO, 60th round, Jan-June, 2004)

(in Rs.)

	female 2004	male 2004	Gender Gap 2004
Rural	36.15	56.53	20.38
Urban	44.28	75.51	31.23

4. Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Total	Male	Female
1991*	80	81	80
1995*	74	73	76
2000	68	67	69
2004	58	58	58

*Excludes J & K due to non-receipt of returns.

Setting up of Equal Opportunity Commission

2818. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up an Equal Opportunity Commission to bring under its purview all reservation policies related to women, SCs, STs, OBCs, religious minorities and physically challenged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not set up any such Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Price Spectrum Band for Tobacco

2819. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether price spectrum band has been announced for rubber, coffee and tea whereas no price spectrum band has been fixed for tobacco;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The price spectrum band is fixed under the Price Stabilization Fund Scheme. As no tobacco grower has joined the Price Stabilization Fund Scheme, no price spectrum band has been fixed for tobacco by the Price Stabilization Fund Trust.

Misuse of Calamity Relief Funds

2820. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 191st Law Commission has recommended setting up of an authority to check misuse of calamity relief funds;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of Law Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Law Commission in its 191st Report has recommended, *inter-alia*, "enacting a Law and setting up of a Contributions Regulatory Authority to regulate the collection of funds including contributions and donations in cash and kind, collected or raised for the purposes of providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of natural and manmade calamities or for welfare and rehabilitation of soldiers or their family members, who are killed or have become disabled in war or war like operations and also to monitor the proper utilization and distribution of such contributions so collected".

Inter-Ministerial consultations are in progress to study various other similar existing Regulations/Acts, which are in operation, so that an appropriate mechanism to check the misuse of calamity relief funds, may be recommended to the Government for a final decision in the matter.

Acid Attacks

2821. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of acid attack particularly on girls are on increase in the country in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the present provision in the relevant laws are not sufficient to deal with such incidents; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to amend such laws to deal with these incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Such information is not maintained centrally, as "Police" & "Public Order" being State subjects, it is the responsibility of the State Police to prevent, register & investigate cases of such crime and prosecute the offenders.

(c) and (d) The Indian Penal Code (IPC) already provides stringent punishment for causing grievous hurt. There is no proposal under consideration to amend any of the provisions of the IPC to deal with acid attacks.

Unemployed Youths

2822. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to check the increasing number of unemployed youths in the last financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the survey and the States covered under such survey and also the actual amount spent during the survey; and

(c) the number of unemployed youths in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has informed that the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has not conducted any survey on unemployed youths during the financial year 2005-06. However, the National Sample Survey conducted employment and unemployment survey vide its 61st round quinquennial survey during July, 2004 to June, 2005. The report of the Survey has not been released. The Survey (61st round) covered the whole of the Indian Union except (i) Leh (Ladakh) and Kargil districts of Jammu & Kashmir (ii) interior villages of Nagaland situated beyond five kilometres of the bus route and (iii) villages in Andaman and Nicobar islands which remain inaccessible throughout the year. As these surveys were conducted on quinquennial basis routinely no separate amount was allocated for the survey.

Opium Cultivation

2823. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of hectares of land in the Kashmir Valley have been brought under illicit opium cultivation under the patronage of terror groups as reported in 'Times of India' dated 9.6.2006;

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

(c) the steps taken by Narcotics Control Bureau to destroy such crop; and

(d) the other steps taken by Government to stop illicit opium cultivation in Valley of J & K future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Information available with the Government do indicate illicit cultivation of opium poppy plants in a few places in the Anantnag and Pulwama Districts of Jammu and Kashmir. There is, however, no report to suggest that the cultivation of poppy plants is on a large scale or that it is under the patronage of terror groups.

(c) and (d) The Narcotics Control Bureau conducts operations periodically for the destruction of illicit cultivation of poppy plants in coordination with agencies like Customs and Central Excise, State Police and Revenue authorities. Further, the Chairman of State Level Apex Committee on drug issues constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir Government has given directions to the State Excise Department, concerned Police and Divisional level Anti-Narcotics Task Force to take necessary preventive measures in coordination with various other departments of the State Government and Narcotic Control Bureau to stop the illegal cultivation/growth of poppy plants in the State.

Coir Industry

2824. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Coir Industry in the country is deteriorating;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reintroduce various assistance schemes which existed earlier for the assistance of this industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. In the coir industry, all major growth parameters like production, employment generation and export have been showing an increasing trend during the past several years, as detailed below:

	(Production, Export in Metric Tonnes) (Employment in lakh)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Production	353700	364000	385000	410000
Export	84183	102253	122927	136027
Employment	5.78	5.88	6.06	6.22

(b) The Government has not recently withdrawn any scheme of financial assistance that was in operation to assist the coir industry.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the reply at (b) above.

[Translation]

Study on Agro and Rural Industries

2825. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding promotion of agric and rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the issues pointed out in the study?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Studies have been undertaken, from time to time, by the Government to assess the status of implementation of various programmes in the khadi, village industries and coir industry with a view to further strengthening and promoting such industries. New schemes for product development, designing intervention and packaging (PRODIP), setting up Rural Industries Service Centres and Scheme of Fund for Traditional Industries (SFURTI) have been introduced. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 has been amended in May 2006 and Khadi and Village Industries Commission reconstituted by including expert members to bring in improvement in the overall performance. Government has been providing support to this sector to help it remain competitive through assistance for technology upgradation, research and development, quality control of products, marketing, etc.

[English]

Sale of Land

2826. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land belonging to some of the Textile Mills under the National Textile Corporation (NTC) was recently sold;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the price realized therefrom;

(c) the purpose for which this money is likely to be utilised;

(d) whether there is an allegation that these lands were sold at less than the market value;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the method used for valuation of the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Textile Corporation (NTC) has sold the lands of following mills from 1st January, 2006 to 28th July, 2006:

	Name of the Mill	Area (in acres)	Price (in Rs. Crores)
1.	Mysore Mills, Bangalore (Bunglow)	1.88	37.01
2.	Natraj Mills, Nirmal	59.00	1.98
3.	Vidarbha Mills, Achalpur	1.81	0.75
4.	RSRG Mills, Akola	1.27	0.41
5.	Model Mills, Nagpur	1.49	6.32
6.	Akola Mills, Mumbai (Bunglow)	1.28	170.01
7.	Nanded Mills, Nanded	91.42	33.33
8.	Rajkot Tex. Mills, Rajkot	8.72	18.20

(c) The money realized from sale proceeds of these lands is being utilised as per the directions already laid down by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), *i.e.* revival/modernization of viable mills, repayment of bonds, settlement of claims of secured creditors and payment to workers under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) For valuation, three methods are considered, *i.e.* (i) valuation at the time of approval of Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (ii) Private valuer's present valuation and (iii) Current Circle rate. The highest of these values is fixed as the Reserve Price of the respective land.

[Translation]

WTO Textile Agreement

2827. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and America has signed textiles agreement under WTO; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Indian textiles industry is not affected by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. China and USA have signed an agreement on textiles and clothing in November, 2005 in order to limit Chinese exports of textiles and clothing to USA over the period 2006-08. The agreement is a bilateral one signed under the China's Protocol of Accession to WTO.

(b) The Indian exporters have been advised to take advantage of the available opportunities arising out of temporary restrictions imposed by the USA against Chinese supply in specified categories of products before the agreement comes to an end at the end of year 2008.

[English]

SEZs for Bio-Technology

2828. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out the norms for establishing Special Economic Zones for the bio-technology sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the norms on 10th August, 2006 for setting up of the sector specific Special Economic Zone for Bio-Technology under the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006, in terms of sub-rule (2) of Rule 5 as under:

"the area shall be ten hectares or more with a minimum built up area of forty thousand square meters in case of a Special Economic Zone proposed to be set up exclusively for bio-technology"

Higher Education to Minority Students

2829. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Council for Technical Education was asked to relax minimum marks for giving admission to minorities in engineering colleges;

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

(c) whether the AICTE was also asked to prepare a special package to impart basic education to minority students entering technical educations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The periodic report (November 2005 — June 2006) of the Standing Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education (NMCME) was discussed and submitted to Government in the meeting of the NMCME held on 11-12 July 2006. The said Report, *inter alia*, contained suggestions that AICTE should give relaxation in the case of minimum marks to be scored by minority community students as in the case of SC/ST students and those who have scored minimum pass marks be allowed to take admission in engineering colleges and the AICTE should prepare a special package for this purpose.

According to AICTE, the admission process in various engineering colleges comes under the purview of respective State Governments/affiliating universities, therefore relaxation of minimum marks to join engineering colleges does not come under their purview. The admission tests are conducted by State Universities and/or Affiliating Universities.

Appointment of Chief Advisor/ Chairpersons by NCERT

2830. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chief Advisors and Chairpersons of Text Book Advisory Committee appointed from among the NCERT's academic staff and NGOs for developing the new text book of the NCERT; and

(b) the expenditure so far made or likely to be made on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No one from amongst the

academic staff from National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been appointed as Chairperson or Chief Advisor of any Textbook Advisory Committee for developing the new textbooks. Only one person from NGO was appointed as Chief Advisor for development of Class I mathematics textbook during 2005-2006.

(b) Approximately Rs. 19,200 was spent on TA/DA and honorarium for the Chief Advisor from NGO during 2005-06 under the first phase for development of textbook. There will be no Chairperson and Chief Advisor from NGO for development of textbook under Phase-II.

New Industrial Policy

2831. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring the new industrial policy by bringing key stakeholders into the equation;

(b) whether the industry association have approved the Government's new action plan for a more sustainable manufacturing lead growth strategy;

(c) whether the new policy underlines shifting from capital subsidy schemes to providing incentives to the industry for investing in areas that are distant from regions;

(d) the criteria for selection of districts and the districts identified on the basis of national sample survey; and

(e) the other main features of this policy and the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring any new industrial policy. However, Government has set up the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) to provide inputs for policy making and to suggest measures for enhancing the Competitiveness of Indian industry. NMCC has finalized the National Strategy for Manufacturing, in consultation with stakeholders including industry associations which *inter-alia* aims at stepping up the rate of growth of manufacturing to 12% per annum.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Mother's Name in School Certificates

2832. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to include mother's name in school certificates of children on the lines of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this practice is likely to be adopted;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued some guidelines to State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Board has already provided for recording mother's name in all its important records such as Certificates, Marks-Statements, Provisional Certificate and Migration Certificate etc.

(c) and (d) No, sir. No such guidelines have been issued.

(e) Since State Boards are under the control of respective State Governments, it is for them to take a decision in the matter.

[English]

Shifting of Research Institute

2833. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Karnataka for shifting of premier Sericulture Research Institute, Japan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Medical Facility in Islands

2834. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities available for the people of Lakshadweep in medical emergency and in the absence of concerned specialities in the Territory;

(b) the total number of patients evacuated to mainland by special sortie helicopter and the total amount involved for such medical evacuations during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide medical emergency services in remote islands from the amount involved on evacuation of patients; and

(d) if not, the measures taken/to be taken by the Government to make specialized Medical facilities available in Lakshadweep/remote islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) In case of any medical emergency in remote islands, the patients are brought to the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti if concerned specialists are available. If doctors of the particular speciality required are not available in Kavaratti, the patients are evacuated to recognized hospital at mainland by helicopter/Indian Airlines flight.

(b) Total number of patients evacuated to mainland and from other islands to Kavaratti by special sortie of helicopter and the total amount involved is as follows:

S.No.	Year	Number of evacuation sorties	Approximate cost (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2003-04	156	335.40
2.	2004-05	135	295.65
3.	2005-06	166	370.18
Total		457	1001.23

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is deputing specialists (Pediatrician, Gynaecologist, Surgeon and Anaesthetist) to Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti for duration of 90 days each against vacant posts. The Union Territory Administration is trying to get services of specialists from hospitals in the mainland.

Post Matric Scholarship for ST Students

2835. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing Post Matric Scholarships to the ST students to prevent dropouts and help them in pursuing their studies in the higher level;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated for this category of students during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the funds allocated are not disbursed on time to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as a result the ST students face much difficulties to continue their studies;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa has not received the funds till date despite their fulfilling the criteria fixed for the release of the funds for these years;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes Sir. This Ministry implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students.

(b) The State-wise/UT-wise allocation of funds since 2004-05 to 2006-07 under the scheme of PMS is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Keeping in view the hardship faced by students if scholarship are not received in time, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has taken a decision with effect from 2004-05 to release 'on account' payments to the State Governments to the extent of 50% of the Central Share of the previous year without waiting for the proposal from the State Governments.

(d) No Sir, during the year 2005-06 an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs as adhoc grant was released to the State Government of Orissa. The status of release of grants during the year 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given as under:

Year	Amount released	Remark
1	2	3
2004-05	Nil	Rs. 216.70 lakh of Central share was available with the State Govt. by way of unspent balance.

1	2	3
2005-06	Rs. 100.00 lakh	Rs. 100.83 lakh of Central Share was available with the State Govt. by way of unspent balance in addition to release of Rs. 100.00 lakh during the year 2005-06.
2006-07	Nil	More than Rs. 100.00 lakh of Central Share is still available with the State Govt. by way of unspent balance.

(e) and (f) Does not arise

Statement

State-wise/Union Territory-wise allocation under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2009.68	2700	2700
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59.33	300	200
3.	Assam	1506.64	1500	1200
4.	Bihar	25.49	30	30
5.	Chhattisgarh	75.21	2000	1200
6.	Gujarat	227.05	2000	2000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	24.42	15	10
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.89	200	500
9.	Jharkhand	44.28	1600	900
10.	Karnataka	19.83	1500	1500
11.	Kerala	7.59	150	300
12.	Madhya Pradesh	125.74	1000	800
13.	Maharashtra	261.73	700	1000
14.	Manipur	1001.23	1500	1500

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	982.99	1900	1900
16.	Mizoram	426.41	900	900
17.	Nagaland	802.10	2000	2050
18.	Orissa	29.55	85	600
19.	Rajasthan	181.13	2000	2300
20.	Sikkim	14.18	20	10
21.	Tamil Nadu	4.16	50	40
22.	Tripura	182.78	200	200
23.	Uttar Pradesh	3.78	100	50
24.	Uttaranchal	23.41	150	100
25.	West Bengal	173.40	300	300
26.	Goa	0	15	10
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.00	20	5
28.	Daman and Diu	6.00	10	3
29.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3.00	10	0
30.	Lakshadweep	0	10	0
Total		8250	22965	22308

[Translation]

Strike in NALCO

2836. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of NALCO smelter plant in Orissa went on strike;

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

(c) whether the production of aluminium was affected by the said strike; and

(d) if so, the details and financial loss suffered to NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. After the publication of the news item during third week of June 2006, regarding Government's decision on disinvestment of 10% shares of NALCO, there were protests against the decision from all the Unions and Officers' Associations of the Company. The Trade Unions and Officers' Associations of the Company formed Coordination Committee at respective Sectors *i.e.* Angul, Damanjodi and Bhubaneswar. As per the decision taken by the said Coordination Committee, there was strike for 24 hours on 23.6.2006 and on 30.6.2006 at Smelter Plant at Angul.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Due to the work stoppage on 23.6.2006 and 30.6.2006, the production of aluminium at Smelter Plant, Angul was affected. The quantum of aluminium metal production loss was to the tune of 1908 MT and the approximate net financial loss on this count is Rs. 6.46 crores.

*[English]***Sick Small Scale Industries**

2837. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick small scale industries in the country particularly in Bihar as on March, 2006;

(b) the number of SSI closed down and the number of persons rendered unemployed, State-wise;

(c) the number of small scale industry revived under the different schemes of Government till 2005-2006, State-wise;

(d) the amount of NPA money in small scale industry sector in the country particularly in Bihar, State-wise; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government for recovery of NPA amount, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) (a) As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units in the country as at the end of March, 2005 (latest available) was 1,38,041. This includes 7,596 sick SSI units in Bihar.

(b) As per the results of the Third All-India Census of the small scale industries (SSIs) with reference year 2001-02, out of 22,62,401 SSI units registered up to 31.3.2001, 39 per cent (numbering 8,87,427) units were found closed. The State-wise distribution of these closed SSI units is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The information on number of persons unemployed due to closure of SSIs is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The State-wise number of sick SSI units, loan outstanding against them and the number of viable sick SSI units put under nursing as at the end of March, 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement-II

(e) The following measures have been taken for revival of sick SSIs/recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) from sick SSIs:

(i) In January 2002, the RBI circulated detailed guidelines on rehabilitation of sick SSI units to all scheduled commercial banks for implementation. These guidelines include, inter alia, change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding their viability, concessional finance, etc., with a view to helping the banks in detecting sickness at an early stage and taking corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units;

(ii) In September 2005, the RBI has issued fresh guidelines to the banks on debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs - including SSIs) to ensure debt restructuring of all eligible SMEs. These guidelines include, inter alia, viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance, time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation, etc.;

(iii) In September 2005, the RBI issued guidelines to all public sector banks on a One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) of the SMEs with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crore and below. The guidelines provide a simplified, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism for settlement of chronic NPAs in the SME sector.

Statement-I

State-wise distribution of closed SSI units as per the Third All India Census (2001-02).

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of closed SSI units
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	22709
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6509
3.	Punjab	82731
4.	Chandigarh	1405
5.	Uttaranchal	12100
6.	Haryana	27546

1	2	3	1	2	3
7.	Delhi	8357	22.	Chhattisgarh	27830
8.	Rajasthan	36847	23.	Madhya Pradesh	65649
9.	Uttar Pradesh	122282	24.	Gujarat	39159
10.	Bihar	20525	25.	Daman & Diu	454
11.	Sikkim	155	26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	454
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	248	27.	Maharashtra	54243
13.	Nagaland	129	28.	Andhra Pradesh	38582
14.	Manipur	1226	29.	Karnataka	46611
15.	Mizoram	1313	30.	Goa	2327
16.	Tripura	1077	31.	Lakshadweep	16
17.	Meghalaya	1908	32.	Kerala	74832
18.	Assam	10338	33.	Tamil Nadu	127185
19.	West Bengal	26080	34.	Pondicherry	2586
20.	Jharkhand	13822	35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	515
21.	Orissa	9708		All India	887427

Statement II

State-wise number of sick SSI units, loan outstanding against them and the number of viable sick SSI units put under nursing as at the end of March, 2005

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of sick SSI units	Loan outstanding (Rs. in crore)	Viable sick SSI units put under nursing
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	2954	48.11	4
2.	Meghalaya	104	0.60	1
3.	Mizoram	76	0.67	—
4.	Bihar	7596	106.12	104
5.	Jharkhand	3419	67.14	3
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	0.03	—
7.	West Bengal	38612	440.15	912

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Nagaland	154	174	1
9.	Manipur	786	2.01	—
10.	Orissa	7384	84.71	8
11.	Sikkim	13	0.89	—
12.	Tripura	1734	2.20	—
13.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	12085	341.10	417
15.	Uttaranchal	353	9.80	—
16.	Delhi	1488	281.31	13
17.	Punjab	2506	162.81	82
18.	Haryana	1000	84.97	4
19.	Chandigarh	770	76.57	4
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	2630	33.98	18
21.	Himachal Pradesh	332	9.38	6
22.	Rajasthan	2241	44.42	1
23.	Gujarat	3461	350.64	38
24.	Maharashtra	6939	1094.18	47
25.	Daman and Diu	42	1.08	—
26.	Goa	130	12.57	—
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	48	4.07	—
28.	Madhya Pradesh	7640	179.87	12
29.	Chhattisgarh	3058	63.00	20
30.	Andhra Pradesh	5508	222.37	53
31.	Karnataka	4093	292.62	23
32.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
33.	Tamil Nadu	9938	1033.07	76
34.	Kerala	10873	318.81	2030
35.	Pondicherry	70	9.14	—
	All India	138041	5380.13	2080

Free and Compulsory Education

2838. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is borne by the Centre and States at present;

(b) whether the Union Government plans to make the Centre and States share 50:50 from the 11th plan; and.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) envisages funding pattern between Central and State Governments/ Union Territories at 85:15 during 9th Plan period, 75:25 during 10th Plan and 50:50 thereafter with a view to commit the States/UTs towards universalisation of elementary education.

Raid by CBI on MCD Officials

2839. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has recently raided the officials of the MCD and their residential premises as reported in Hindustan Times dated July 29, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the MCD officials whose premises were raided by CBI and the seizure made;

(c) whether the nexus between MCD and builders mafia have been exposed during their raids; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/likely to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches on 28.07.2006 at the official/residential premises of some of the officials of Municipal Corporation of Delhi Names and designations of these officials are given in the enclosed Statment. Since the case is still under investigation, disclosure of details of seizers made

during these searches is likely to adversely affect the investigation.

(c) and (d) The matter is under investigation and depending upon outcome of investigation, appropriate action will be taken against guilty officials as per law.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the official	Designation
1.	Shri A.C. Garg,	Executive Engineer
2.	Shri S.A. Khan	Assistant Engineer
3.	Shri Nazrul Islam	Executive Engineer
4.	Shri Rajeev Narang	Junior Engineer
5.	Shri N.K. Goyal	Junior Engineer
6.	Shri B.P. Rathore	Junior Engineer
7.	Shri Rohtash Chauhan	Mate
8.	Shri Birender Singh Yadav	Assistant Engineer
9.	Shri Jagveer Singh	Junior Engineer
10.	Shri Piar Singh	Executive Engineer
11.	Shri Shiv Dutt	the then Assistant Engineer
12.	Shri M.M. Kaushik	the then Junior Engineer
13.	Shri Vijay Kadyan	Executive Engineer (dismissed)
14.	Shri Vijay Kumar Jain	Assistant Engineer (dismissed)
15.	Mohd. Ahmed	Junior Engineer
16.	Shri Moti Lal Sharma	Head Clerk
17.	Shri Mukhwant Singh	Lower Division Clerk
18.	Shri A.P. Sharma	Assistant Engineer

Promotion of Ornamental Fisheries

2840. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy given to the ornamental fish farmers by MPEDA has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received representations from the farmers to reintroduce the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken to promote ornamental fisheries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In order to reorient the subsidy scheme to the ornamental fish farmers to contribute more effectively to the export of ornamental fishes from the country, the subsidy is being linked with the export obligation by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The linking of subsidy with export obligations is desirable in order to promote exports.

Indian Exports

2841. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether India has overtaken China in exports to US and the European Union markets in the last quarter of the 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to maintain this status during this fiscal; and

(c) the details of exports made by India as compared to China in the first quarter of 2006 to US and EU countries percentage and value-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) (i) During the last quarter of 2005-06 (Jan. to March, 2006), India's exports to USA stood at US \$ 5266.82 million (1.14% of Total US Imports) whereas China's exports to USA was US \$ 59,857.56 million (13.4% of total US Imports) during the same period.

(ii) China's total exports to EU in the last quarter of 2005-06 was 43.5 billion euro and represented 13.2% of total imports into EU in terms of value and 2.9% in terms of volume. India's exports to EU during the same period were Euro 5.9 billion euro and represented 1.8% of total imports in terms of value and 0.8% in terms of volume. India has not overtaken China as exporter to the EU.

(c) Exports from India and China to EU are given in the enclosed Statement-I. India's exports to the US is given in the enclosed statement-II. China's exports to US in the first quarter of 2006 is US \$ 42099.86 million.

Statement I

Details on total exports made by India and China in the first quarter of 2006 compared to 2005

Exports from India and China to EU

		Jan-Mar 2005	Jan-Mar 2006	% Share Jan-Mar 2005	% Share Jan-Mar 2006	Growth Jan-Mar 2006
Extra-EU	Value	262250	329594			25.7
	Volume	424083	434420			2.4
China	Value	33919	43545	12.9	13.2	28.4
	Volume	13084	12710	3.1	2.9	-2.9
India	Value	4672	5936	1.8	1.8	27.1
	Volume	2991	3475	0.7	0.8	16.2

Value: in million euros

Volume: in 000 tons

Source: Eurostat

Statement II

(Millions of US \$)

HS	Description	Jan-Mar, 2006
1	2	3
	India's exports	5266.82
71	Precious Stones, Metals	1349.02
62	Woven Apparel	670.60
61	Knit Apparel	298.60
63	Misc Textile Articles	282.01
84	Machinery	243.05
85	Electrical Machinery	229.24
29	Organic Chemicals	221.73
73	Iron/Steel Products	155.13
57	Textile Floor Coverings	152.40
72	Iron and Steel	132.54
27	Mineral Fuel, Oil etc.	126.46
87	Vehicles, not Railway	123.70
39	Plastic	86.04
30	Pharmaceutical Products	84.24
68	Stone, Plastr, Cement, etc.	84.00
94	Furniture and Bedding	74.30
03	Fish and Seafood	73.92
42	Leathr Art: Saddlry; Bags	50.49
13	Lac; Vegetable Sap, Extrct	49.88
08	Edible Fruit and Nuts	48.38
64	Footwear	45.71
90	Optic, NT 8544; Med Instr.	41.72
40	Rubber	36.43
32	Tanning, Dye, Paint, Putty	34.37
83	Misc Art of Base Metal	29.54

1	2	3
76	Aluminum	28.48
99	O Specl Impr Provisions	25.96
82	Tool, Cultry, of Base MTLs	25.36
98	Special Other	25.15
50	Silk; Silk Yarn, Fabric	25.08
35	Albumins; Mod Strch; Glue	24.92
09	spices, Coffee and Tea	22.32
33	Perfumery, Cosmetic, etc.	22.11
52	Cotton + Yarn, Fabric	19.77
12	Misc Grain, Seed, Fruit	19.40
97	Art and Antiques	18.88
38	Misc. Chemical Products	18.84
74	Coper + Articles Thereof	17.50
10	Cereals	14.74
20	Preserved Food	13.97
54	Manmade Filament, Fabric	13.95
58	SPCL Woven Fabric, etc.	13.79
70	Glass and Glassware	12.66
55	Manmade Staple Fibers	11.20
34	Soap, Wax, ET; Dental Prep	10.09
96	Miscellaneous Manufact	9.66
21	Miscellaneous Food	8.72
44	Wood	8.48
16	Prepared Meat, Fish, etc.	8.37
28	Inorg Chem; Rare Erth MT	8.18
79	zinc + Articles Thereof	8.01
53	Other Veg Textile Fiber	6.71
86	Railway, TRF Sign EQ	6.62
07	Vegetables	6.59

1	2	3
56	Wadding, Felt, Twine, Rope	6.25
15	Fats and Oils	6.06
04	Dairy, Eggs, Honey, etc.	5.93
48	Paper, Paperboard	5.87
60	KNIT, Crocheted Fabrics	5.28
95	Toys and Sports Equipmt	5.20
19	Baking Related	5.06
25	Salt; Sulfur; Earth, Stone	4.41
49	Book + Newspaper; Manuscript	4.22
59	Impregnated Text Fabrics	4.15
26	Ores, Slag, Ash	4.15
17	Sugars	3.94
46	Straw, Esparto	3.03
88	Aircraft, Spacecraft	3.03
06	Live Trees and Plants	2.95
41	Hides and Skins	2.89
69	Ceramic Products	2.73
24	Tobacco	2.64
51	Animal Hair + Yarn, Fabric	1.48
91	Clocks and Watches	1.10
65	Headgear	0.99
23	Food Waste; Animal Feed	0.98
11	Milling; Malt; Starch	0.89
22	Beverages	0.86
92	Musical Instruments	0.85
93	Arms and Ammunition	0.79
36	Explosives	0.61
05	Other of Animal Origin	0.60
66	Umbrella, wlk-Sticks, etc.	0.54

1	2	3
81	Other Base Metals, etc.	0.52
67	Artif Flowers, Feathers	0.44
75	Nickel + Articles Thereof	0.37
37	Photographic/Cinematogr	0.28
80	Tin + Articles Thereof	0.20
14	Other Vegetable	0.13
18	Cocoa	0.10
89	Ships and Boats	0.10
31	Fertilizers	0.06
45	Cork	0.04
43	Furskin + Artificial Fur	0.02

Source of data: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census

FDI in Natural Rubber Sector

2842. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow 100% FDI in the production of Natural Rubber;

(b) if so, whether the Government has evaluated its impact on the existing processing units run by cooperative societies and the individuals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the decision of 100% FDI in rubber sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The extant policy does not permit FDI in rubber plantations.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, in order to help better technology infusion, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% under the automatic route has been permitted

in the processing and warehousing of coffee and rubber vide Press Note 4 (2006 Series) dated 10.2.2006.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Security of Delhi Metro Rail

2843. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to depute CISF for the security of Delhi Metro Rail;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of CISF personnel likely to be posted at all metre stations;

(c) the time by which the said exercise is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government proposes to install any special X-ray machines in metro railway stations to check passengers and their baggage; and

(e) if so, the details in regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Six Coys, of CISF are already deployed. This will be further strengthened shortly.

(d) and (e) The number of X-ray baggage scanners proposed to be installed is 100 (92 for installation at checking points and 8 to be kept as reserve).

[Translation]

Closure of Saw Mills

2844. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some saw mills have been closed in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact of closure of saw mills on handicrafts industry in Rajasthan;

(c) whether quantum of exports have decreased on account of this; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government to put in order the said saw mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), New Delhi has reported that they have received representations from various Association of Artisans and Exporters about the closure of un-licensed saw mills thereby affecting thousands of artisans and their families. However, no specific survey has been carried out to assess the number and its impact on handicrafts sector.

(c) Quantum-wise and State-wise export data is not maintained. However the data on value of handicraft exports is maintained for the country as a whole. The export of wooden handicrafts has been showing an increasing trend which can be seen from the export figures registered during the last three years from the country including the State of Rajasthan:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Years	Export of wooden handicrafts
1.	2003-04	Rs. 609.07
2.	2004-05	Rs. 721.18
3.	2005-06	Rs. 853.06

(d) Based on the representations received from the Association of Artisans and Exporters, the issue for exemption of Saw Mills (up to 24") from the definition of Saw Mill has been taken up with Central Empowered Committee.

[English]

Legal Protection of Indian Companies

2845. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of FDI allowed in different sectors;

(b) the status of Indian promoters/Indian companies open for 100% FDI and legal protection taken against foreign investors/MNCs;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact a law to protect the ownership rights of Indian companies and Indian promoters against foreign investors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed in most sectors. FDI is prohibited in Retail trading (except Single Brand Product Retail), Lottery, Gambling and Atomic Energy. FDI is restricted in some sectors. Some of the major activities attracting equity cap for FDI include the following:

- (i) FM Radio Broadcasting (upto 20%)
- (ii) Print & Electronic media—news & current affairs (up to 26%)
- (iii) Defence Industries (upto 26%)
- (iv) Insurance (upto 26%)
- (v) Broadcasting (upto 49%)
- (vi) Investing companies in infrastructure/service sector (upto 49%)
- (vii) Domestic airlines (upto 49%)
- (viii) Single Brand product retailing (upto 51%)
- (ix) Telecommunication services & ISP with gateways, radio-paging, end-to-end bandwidth (upto 74%)
- (x) Establishment & operation of satellites (upto 74%)
- (xi) Atomic minerals (upto 74%)
- (xii) Private sector banks (upto 74%)

(b) to (d) Vide Press Note 1(2005 Series), FDI in an activity qualifying for the automatic route, requires prior Government approval for new proposals for foreign investment/technical collaboration if the foreign investor has an existing joint venture or technology transfer/trademark agreement with an Indian company in the same field. The FDI policy is incorporated in the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) Regulations, 2000

notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. The policy permits FDI only in incorporated entities and is subject to Indian laws. The provisions of the Indian Companies Act are applicable for determining the ownership rights of the promoter of an Indian company.

CBI Investigation In Gujarat Riot Cases

2846. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gujarat riot cases handed over to the CBI;

(b) the status of such cases as on date; and

(c) the time by which the investigation of such cases is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) One case relating to the Gujarat riots has been handed over to the CBI. Details of the case are as under:

Limkheda Police Station (District-Dahod) Crime Register No. 59/2002, investigated by local police and tried by JMFC, Limkheda and closed accepting the 'A' final report, was handed over to CBI and registered as case No. R.C./S/2004-Mum in the CBI SCB on 1.1.2004 under orders dated 16.12.2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Criminal Writ Petition No. 118/2003 and Criminal Misc. Petition No. 8850/2003. Investigation of the case has already been concluded and charge-sheet has been filed by the CBI on 19.4.2004. The case is pending trial,

[Translation]

Atrocities on Women

2847. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARAN REDDY:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA.
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sexual harassment and atrocities on minor girls and women have increased in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether some IAS/IPS officers have been found involved in these atrocities;

(c) if so, the details in this regard for the last one year, State-wise; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government to check atrocities against women and punish the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The state-wise and year-wise data relating to crime against women maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the years 2003 to 2005 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Such details are not maintained centrally.

(d) 'Public order' and 'police' are State subjects and as such prevention, detection and investigation etc. of cases relating to atrocities against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take necessary measures to prevent crimes against women and other

weaker sections of the society. The measures suggested include:

- Identification of crime prone areas and establishment of a machinery to monitor cases of violation of laws in schools/colleges in order to ensure safety and security of girls;
- Registration of FIRs in all cases of crimes against women;
- Prominently displaying at public places helpline numbers of crimes against women cells;
- Establishment of women's cells in police stations, and where necessary, women's police stations;
- Comprehensive training of police personnel dealing with crimes against women in the special laws.

Government has also enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 to deal with violence occurring within the family or matrimonial relationship. Ministry of Women and Child Development has also been impressing upon all Ministries, Departments, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations the need to ensure compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines on the prevention and redress of sexual harassment of women at workplaces.

Statement

Cases registered under rape, molestation, sexual harassment, procurement of minor girls, buying of girls for prostitution and selling of girls for prostitution during 2003-2005.

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Rape (sec. 376 IPC)			Molestation (Sec 354 IPC)			Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)			Procurement of Minor girls (Section 366A IPC)			Buying of girls for prostitution (Sec. 373 IPC)			Selling of girls for prostitution (Sec. 372 IPC)		
		2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	946	1016	935	4128	3817	3595	2286	2310	2508	46	60	48	0	0	9	1	0	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31	42	35	43	61	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1095	1171	1238	878	883	899	6	11	19	12	8	0	0	0	0	1	2	
4.	Bihar	985	1390	1147	688	704	451	11	13	13	1	7	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	898	969	990	1481	1661	1450	105	131	132	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	31	37	20	19	23	30	7	15	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	236	339	324	722	757	802	92	164	104	2	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8.	Haryana	353	386	461	344	403	380	1302	850	597	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	126	153	141	250	284	286	18	16	29	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	211	218	201	875	990	830	376	264	371	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	712	797	753	424	411	293	2	3	38	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	321	291	343	1585	1435	1585	84	57	71	1	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	384	480	478	1947	2280	2339	68	133	175	7	20	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2738	2875	2921	6848	6690	6426	705	804	792	13	2	4	0	0	1	25	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	1268	1368	1545	2661	2831	3228	682	882	919	20	14	5	5	11	6	3	3	1
16.	Manipur	18	31	25	44	30	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	40	54	63	13	34	44	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	54	20	37	88	66	49	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	14	18	17	4	3	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	725	770	799	1669	1811	2238	188	170	184	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	380	390	368	346	281	308	199	38	43	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
22.	Rajasthan	1050	1038	993	2715	2825	2503	33	41	28	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
23.	Sikkim	10	3	18	25	40	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	557	618	571	2022	1861	1764	881	1081	685	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	114	160	162	127	134	161	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	911	1397	1217	1098	1900	1835	4970	2682	2881	28	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	107	115	133	136	143	100	98	110	89	7	32	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	1002	1475	1686	1186	1566	1572	71	84	54	12	13	20	18	9	2	6	12	44
	Total (States)	15327	17641	17651	32366	33884	33305	12187	9620	9723	171	205	145	24	21	19	36	19	50
29.	A & N Islands	2	10	4	9	6	11	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	18	19	33	11	20	31	4	18	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	D & N Haveli	1	7	5	4	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	5	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi (UT)	490	551	658	489	601	762	105	130	225	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	2	4	6	56	50	60	27	30	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (UTs)	520	592	708	573	683	870	138	181	261	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
	Total (All India)	15847	18233	18359	32939	34567	34175	12325	10001	9984	171	205	145	24	21	28	36	19	50

Objectionable Language for Hindu Gods and Goddesses

2848. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) whether the objectionable Language has been used for Hindu gods and goddesses specially Lord Vishnu, Lord Krishna and Ma Durga in books of IGNOU;

(b) if so, the details of references about Lord Shiva and Ma Durga that have been included;

(c) whether Government propose to delete these objectionable references from the books; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), some objectionable portions came to notice in the study material of Module-3 (known as "Religious Traditions and Philosophy of Bhakti" in English and "Dharmik Paramparayen aur Bhakti Darshan" in Hindi) of an elective course, MHI-07 ("Religious thoughts and Beliefs in India") of the above mentioned M.A. History programme in April 2006.

(b) Objectionable portions regarding Lord Shiva were noticed on page 29 and objectionable portions against Goddess Durga were noticed on page 31-32 of Module - 3 of the study material mentioned in para (a).

(c) and (d) The University has decided to edit and amend such portions and to constitute an Expert Committee to review the entire course and make suggestions/modifications. It has also decided to discontinue the course for future candidates till it is reviewed and finalized by the Committee.

[English]

Revival of Sick Industrial Units

2849. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industrial units that have been revived during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the main problems that the sick industries are facing in the country as per BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) considers revival of sick industrial units registered with the Board under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision), Act 1985 (SICA). As per the information received from BIFR, the names of industrial units revived during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005, State-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Generally it has been observed that the sick industrial companies attribute change in Government policies, managerial problems, production and technical problems, marketing problems, financial problem, lack of adequate infrastructure, delay in sanction and disbursement of Term Loan by Financial Institutions and Banks and high interest costs as the reasons for their sickness.

Name of Industrial Units registered with BIFR that have been revived

1-Year 2003

Andhra Pradesh

1. Reliance Cellulose Products Ltd.
2. AROS Breweries Ltd.
3. NCC Bluewater Products Ltd.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1. Blossom Industries Ltd.

Gujarat

1. Speciality Papers Ltd.
2. Gujarat Cycles Ltd.
3. Ranuka Silk Mills Ltd.

Haryana

1. Hisar Cements Pvt. Ltd.

Kerala

1. Premier Tyres Ltd.

Karnataka

1. Safepack Plastics
2. Vignayan Industries Ltd.
3. Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd.
4. Kaveri Steels Ltd.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Reliable Food Industries Pvt. Ltd.
2. Wesman Halverscheidt Forging Ltd.

Maharashtra

1. Sharada Synthetics Ltd.
2. Eagle Iron & Metal Ind. Ltd.
3. N.R. Brothers Roller Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd.
4. Shivaji Works Ltd.
5. Be Delft Electronics Ltd.
6. Vora Packaging Pvt. Ltd.

NCT Delhi

1. Rahul Dairy and Allied Products Ltd.
2. Alpha Woven Labels (INDIA) Ltd.

Punjab

1. Capsugel India
2. Homeland Specialty Oils Ltd.
3. Didar Steel Complex (P) Ltd.
4. Agro Chem Punjab Ltd.

Tamil Nadu

1. Asian Bearings Ltd.
2. Chrome Leathers Co.
3. Kumar Malleables (P) Ltd.
4. Trichy Steel Rolling Mills Ltd.
5. Pradeep Drug Co. Ltd.
6. Sri Ranilakshmi Grg. Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Shivalik Rasayan
2. Amrit Banaspati Co. Ltd.

West Bengal

1. Everest Paper Mills
2. Kamarhatti Company Ltd.
3. Damodhar Cement and Slag Ltd.
4. Krypton Industries Ltd.
5. Teesta Agro Industries Limited

*Names of Industrial Units registered with BIFR
that have been revived*

II – Year 2004.**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Telengana Paper Mills Ltd.
2. VDR and Co. Nylon Pvt. Ltd.
3. Merven Drug Products Ltd.

Chattisgarh

1. Modi Cement Ltd.

Goa

1. Arlem Breweries Ltd.

Gujarat

1. K.A. Malle Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
2. Gujarat Borosil Ltd.
3. Torrent Cables Ltd.

Haryana

1. Forgings Ltd.
2. Samsons Paper Industries Ltd.
3. GTM Synthetics Ltd.

Kerala

1. Uniroyal Marine Exports Ltd. .

Karnataka

1. Karnataka Silk Industries Corpn. Ltd
2. SSS Engineering Co. Ltd.

Madhya Pradesh

1. National Information Technologies Ltd.

Maharashtra

1. Standard Drum & Barrel
2. New Standard Engg.
3. Devagiri Textile Mills
4. Shree Precoated Steels Ltd.
5. Chimanlal Vijay Kumar Steel Pvt. Ltd.

Pondicherry

1. Venkatraman Food Specialities Ltd.

Punjab

1. Trident Alco-chem Limited

Rajasthan

1. Lamps & Lighting
2. Rajasthan Polymers & Resins Ltd.

Tamil Nadu

1. Comtex Components Ltd.
2. Jaimurugan Textiles Ltd.

Uttaranchal

1. Ester Industries Ltd.

West Bengal

1. Vegetable Products Ltd.
2. Shankar Gas Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Names of Industrial Units registered with BIFR that have been revived.

III – Year 2005.**Andhra Pradesh**

1. Telangana Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.
2. Madanapalle Spinning Mills Ltd.
3. Sulakshana Circuits Ltd.
4. Vajra Granites Ltd.
5. Nutrine Sweets Pvt. Ltd.
6. Srivathsa Power Projects Ltd.

Gujarat

1. Gujarat Sitco Clutch
2. Torrent Gujarat Bio-Tech Ltd.
3. Core Emballage Ltd.
4. Gopi Synthetics Ltd.
5. Gopi Synthetics Pvt.Ltd.

Haryana

1. Laural Organics Ltd.

Kerala

1. Rashtra Deepika Ltd.
2. Kerala Electrical & Allied Engg. Co. Ltd.
3. Traco Cable Company Ltd.

Karnataka

1. Bhoruka Steel Ltd.
2. Glittek Granites Ltd.
3. Annamalai Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd.
4. Bhoruka Gases Ltd.
5. Zircast Ltd.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Cordinal Drugs Ltd.

Maharashtra

1. Sigma Paints
2. Autofield Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
3. Hickson and Dadajee Ltd.
4. B.C.L. Forgings Ltd.
5. Naiknavare Chemicals Ltd.
6. Asia Fab Ltd.
7. Amitabh Bachchan Corpn. Limited
8. Viraj Alloys Ltd.
9. M.J. Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
10. Eurisko Agor Ltd.
11. Pradeep Metals Ltd.

12. Ruby Coach Builders Ltd.
13. Innotech Polyfabriks Ltd.
14. SU-VI Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals Ltd.
15. Maharashtra Elektrosfalt Ltd.
16. Devagiri Textile Mills Ltd.
17. Drillco Seco Limited

NCT Delhi

1. Prakash Industries Ltd.
2. Precision Electronics Ltd.
3. Enexco Teknologics India Ltd.
4. Stencil Apparat Brands Ltd.
5. Mindia Instruments Ltd.
6. Tanuk Pharma (India) Ltd.

Orissa

1. Mangalam Timber Products Ltd.

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry Papers Ltd.

Punjab

1. Dalmia Biscuits
2. Mohan Fibre Products Ltd.
3. Nasa Agro Industries Ltd.
4. Nijjer Agro Foods Ltd.

Rajasthan

1. Rajasthan Explosives & Chemicals
2. Multi Metal Ltd.
3. Asia Pack Ltd.
4. Asil Industries Ltd.

Tamil Nadu

1. Pullicar Mills Ltd.
2. Gee Granites Ltd.
3. Ideal Expo Fabrics Ltd.
4. Quantum Digital Vision (India) Ltd.
5. Nagaraj and Company Pvt. Limited.

6. Automotive Coaches & Components Limited**Uttar Pradesh**

1. Speciality Aluminium Grills Pvt. Ltd
2. Rama Paper Mills Ltd.
3. Rathi Graphic Technology Ltd.
4. Rimjhim Ispat Ltd.

West Bengal

1. Anglo India Jute Mills
2. Jayshree Chemicals Ltd.
3. Shree Badrinarain Alloys & Steel Ltd.

Exhibition of REGP

2850 SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-allotment of 25% of stalls in each exhibition of Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) to disadvantaged section beneficiaries as prescribed in the guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the disadvantaged section beneficiaries get their allotment?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Participation of units set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) in the exhibitions is to the extent of 40 per cent of the total units/institutions participating in the exhibition. The participation of units/institutions is decided by the Local Committee based, inter alia, on the availability of stocks for sale in the exhibitions. For REGP entrepreneurs/institutions belonging to the North-Eastern Region, travelling expenses, 50 per cent of the transportation cost and 50 per cent of the stall rent are borne by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in respect of exhibitions anywhere in the country.

ADB Grant for Tsunami Victims

2851. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved grant to help fishing communities and others affected by the December 2004 Tsunami in various States/UTs;

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

(c) the name of the authorities executing such projects in each State/UTs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a financial assistance of US\$200 million (US\$ 100 million as grant and US\$ 100 million as loan) for the "Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project". The project covers the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and is to be implemented over a period of three years from 2005-06. The project focuses on rehabilitating and reconstructing damaged infrastructure and restoration of livelihoods.

(c) Tamil Nadu Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and the Department of Disaster Management, Government of Kerala are the executing agencies for the Project for the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala respectively.

Indo-Pak Trade

2852. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether informal trade between India and Pakistan has reduced;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether a trade delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has also put off its visit to India which was earlier scheduled to be held at the end of July, 2006;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any next date has been fixed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There are no accepted estimates of informal trade between India and Pakistan and therefore it cannot be said that informal trade between the two countries has declined.

(c) Yes Sir. A trade delegation from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) was scheduled to visit India on invitation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) from 31 July-4 August 2006 but has postponed its visit.

(d) The FPCCI has informed FICCI that the visit was being postponed due to some unavoidable circumstances.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Readymade Garments

2853. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether black-marketing of readymade garments in the names of fake companies is being done and exporters are causing huge loss to the Government by availing of duty draw-backs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies and persons booked by the Government for being involved in such activities so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Government is not aware of black marketing of readymade garments in the names of fake companies. However, export of inferior quality readymade garments in the names of fictitious companies at overinvoiced prices to avail of unintended drawback has been noticed.

(b) During the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto 31st July, 2006), 63 cases of wrongful claim/availing of drawback in respect of readymade garments exported/shown to have been exported in the names of fictitious companies involving Rs. 55.76 crores were detected.

(c) and (d) Majority of the cases detected are at various stages of investigation. In some cases, show cause notices have been issued to disallow the unintended benefits. An amount of Rs. 0.97 crores has been

recovered, a sum of Rs. 1.47 crore lying in bank accounts of exporters has been frozen and disbursement of Rs. 1.64 crores has been stopped. Further, 15 persons have been arrested and two persons detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

[English]

Employment Generation in Mining Sector

2854. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the annual employment generated/likely to be generated in mining sector by new National Mining Policy wherein domestic and foreign direct investment has been permitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): National Mineral Policy (NMP) was last enunciated in 1993 and no new mining policy has been formulated after that.

[Translation]

Grants for Development of Tribals

2855. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some proposals from the State Governments for providing grants for tribal development;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes for the socio-economic development of tribal people in the country. Receipt and sanction of the proposals from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the schemes of this Ministry is an on-going process. Funds under the schemes of the Ministry are released to the State/UT Governments based on the percentage of ST population in the State/UT, the proposals submitted by them, fulfilment of the eligibility conditions of the relevant scheme, subject to the availability of funds and utilisation of the previously released funds. The State-wise allocation to various States/Union Territories under different schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is given in the enclosed Statement. Against Budget Estimates of Rs. 1656.90 crore for various Plan schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2006-07, the Ministry after considering the proposals of the States/UT Administrations under the respective schemes/programmes has till 31.7.2006 released a sum of Rs. 524.60 crores to various States/Union Territories.

Statement

The indicative allocations made to various States/UTs under the Schemes of Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the Schemes																
		GIA to NGO for STs including Coaching and Allied and award for exemplary service			VTC in Tribal Areas		Scheme of PMS, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST students				Grants under Art. 275(1) of the Const.				Total*			
		% of STs	Assistance to Vol. Orgns.	Coaching & Allied	State	NGO	Educational complex	Boys/ Girls in low Literacy pockets	Hostel	Ashram School	Dev. of PTGs	PMS	Upgradation merit of ST students	Res & Trg.		SCA to TSP	Infra-structure	Minor Irrigation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.96	142.00	9.00	23.84	3.00	252.00	125.00	100.00	374.00	2700.00	8.91	27.45	2912.00	1044.00	895.00	1939.00	8616.20
2.	Arun. Pradesh	0.84	20.00	1.00	3.34	3.00	35.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	1.25	0.00	0.000	147.00	126.00	273.00	554.59
3.	Assam	3.92	94.00	6.00	16.68	14.00	0.00	82.00	70.00	0.00	1200.00	6.45	18.08	3136.00	688.00	580.00	1278.00	5821.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4.	Bihar	0.9	21.00	1.00	3.60	3.00	38.00	19.00	35.00	0.00	30.00	1.20	0.00	658.00	158.00	135.00	293.00	1100.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	7.85	188.00	12.00	31.20	14.00	325.00	165.00	115.00	293.00	1200.00	11.68	36.16	4769.00	1378.00	1179.00	2555.00	9715.04
6.	Delhi	0.00	15.00	6.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	1100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1124.00
7.	Goa	0.001	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.08
8.	Gujarat	8.87	102.00	13.00	35.43	3.00	368.00	187.00	120.00	168.00	2000.00	13.50	40.88	4251.00	1555.00	1333.00	2888.00	10189.81
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.29	50.00	1.00	34.08	3.00	0.00	6.00	40.00	0.00	10.00	0.45	7.50	890.00	70.00	60.00	130.00	1172.03
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.31	65.00	2.00	1.80	3.00	0.00	27.00	35.00	0.00	500.00	2.11	0.00	1088.00	230.00	197.00	427.00	2150.71
11.	Jharkhand	8.4	202.00	10.00	5.24	7.00	356.00	177.00	115.00	483.00	900.00	11.85	38.73	6131.00	1473.00	1263.00	2736.00	11172.82
12.	Karnataka	4.11	98.00	6.00	16.43	7.00	174.00	86.00	50.00	59.00	1500.00	6.88	18.93	1242.00	720.00	617.00	1337.00	4601.24
13.	Kerala	0.43	30.00	1.00	1.72	3.00	30.00	7.00	40.00	22.00	300.00	0.87	7.50	277.00	78.00	65.00	181.00	880.89
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14.51	294.00	18.00	57.00	7.00	500.00	305.00	170.00	586.00	800.00	21.00	66.85	8817.00	2543.00	2180.00	4723.00	18364.85
15.	Maharashtra	10.17	244.00	13.00	40.00	7.00	30.00	214.00	135.00	457.00	1000.00	16.50	46.87	3888.00	1783.00	1528.00	3311.00	9402.37
16.	Manipur	0.88	21.00	1.00	3.48	7.00	30.00	18.00	35.00	12.00	1500.00	1.32	7.50	796.00	154.00	132.00	296.00	2718.30
17.	Meghalaya	2.36	57.00	4.00	9.45	12.00	0.00	49.00	0.00	0.00	1900.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	414.00	365.00	789.00	2804.45
18.	Mizoram	1	24.00	1.00	4.00	7.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	1.49	0.00	0.00	175.00	150.00	325.00	1283.49
19.	Nagaland	2.1	50.00	3.00	8.00	3.00	0.00	44.00	0.00	0.00	2050.00	2.22	0.00	0.00	369.00	316.00	685.00	2845.22
20.	Orissa	9.66	232.00	12.00	38.60	7.00	350.00	203.00	125.00	76.00	600.00	14.48	44.51	6701.00	1893.00	1451.00	3144.00	11547.59
21.	Rajasthan	8.42	202.00	12.00	33.67	3.00	356.00	177.00	90.00	77.00	2300.00	11.72	38.79	4214.00	1476.00	1265.00	2741.00	10256.18
22.	Sikkim	0.13	3.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	6.00	35.00	0.00	10.00	0.20	0.00	118.00	23.00	20.00	43.00	220.20
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.77	19.00	1.00	3.08	7.00	33.00	16.00	35.00	255.00	40.00	1.20	7.50	327.00	135.00	116.00	251.00	995.78
24.	Tripura	1.18	28.00	2.00	4.88	3.00	30.00	25.00	40.00	145.00	200.00	2.35	7.50	1080.00	207.00	177.00	384.00	1951.53
25.	UP	0.13	3.00	1.00	0.50	3.00	12.00	7.00	40.00	0.00	50.00	0.18	7.50	41.00	22.00	19.00	41.00	206.18
26.	Uttaranchal	0.3	60.00	1.00	1.20	3.00	30.00	6.00	35.00	47.00	100.00	0.45	7.50	100.00	53.00	46.00	99.00	490.15
27.	West Bengal	5.23	125.00	8.00	21.00	3.00	221.00	110.00	90.00	89.00	300.00	7.50	24.08	2270.00	916.00	785.00	1701.00	4989.58
28.	A & N Islands	0.03	5.00	1.00	0.14	3.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	5.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.02
29.	Dadra & NH	0.16	4.00	2.00	0.65	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.87
30.	Daman & Diu	0.017	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	3.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	53.10
31.	Lakshadweep	0.07	2.00	1.00	0.27	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.37
Total			2404.00	155.00	406.00	157.00	3208.00	3209.00	1610.00	3161.00	22320.00	163.00	467.83	53719.00	17518.00	16017.00	32518.00	123512.83

*Does not include the non-divisible portion.

*(English)***FDI Inflow**

2856. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment in India has decreased during the last two years and the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India is lagging far behind in the field of FDI inflow in comparison to other developing countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and India's rank among the developing countries in terms of FDI inflow; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. As per the database maintained by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in the country have increased in the last two years, since 2004-05, as under:

Year	FDI inflows (in US\$ billion)
2004-05	3.2
2005-06	5.5
2006-07 (up to June 2006)	1.7 (increase of 47% over the same period last year)

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The FDI inflows into developing economies during the year 2004 and the inter-se rankings as per United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s World Investment Report (WIR) 2005 are in the enclosed Statement. India ranks 11 out of 162 developing economies.

(e) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy on FDI according which FDI up to 100% is permitted, under the automatic route, in most sectors. The policy is reviewed on a continuous basis for further liberalisation/rationalisation. Besides putting in place an attractive and investment-friendly policy with a high degree

of automaticity, the Government has also renewed thrust on the investment promotion front through informative publications on investment opportunities and organising various investment promotion events in India and abroad in association with industry associations.

Statement*FDI Inflows, by Host Region and Economy, 2004**(Millions of dollars)*

S.No.	Region/economy	Y 2004
1	2	3
	Developing countries and territories	233 227
1.	China	60 630
2.	Hong Kong, China	34 035
3.	Armenia	24 119
4.	Brazil	18 166
5.	Mexico	16 602
6.	Singapore	16 0620
7.	Tajikistan	11 672
8.	Albania	10 778
9.	Korea, Republic of	7 687
10.	Chile	7 603
11.	India	5 335
12.	Serbia and Montenegro	5 174
13.	Belarus	4 769
14.	Malaysia	4 624
15.	Kyrgyzstan	4 269
16.	Argentina	4 254
17.	Bermuda	3 800
18.	Cayman Islands	3 000
19.	Colombia	2 739
20.	Turkey	2 733
21.	Croatia	2 488

1	2	3
22.	Nigeria	2 127
23.	Angola	2 048
24.	Taiwan Province of China	1 898
25.	Saudi Arabia	1 867
26.	Peru	1 816
27.	Uzbekistan	1 715
28.	Equatorial Guinea	1 664
29.	Vietnam	1 610
30.	Venezuela	1 518
31.	Sudan	1 511
32.	Egypt	1 253
33.	Ecuador	1 241
34.	Syrian Arab Republic	1 206
35.	Czechoslovakia (former)	1 076
36.	Thailand	1 064
37.	Indonesia	1 023
38.	Panama	1 012
39.	Trinidad and Tobago	1 001
40.	Yugoslavia (former)	966
41.	Pakistan	952
42.	Congo, Democratic Republic of	900
43.	Algeria	882
44.	Bahrain	865
45.	Morocco	853
46.	United Arab Emirates	840
47.	Qatar	679
48.	Congo	668
49.	Jamaica	650
50.	Dominican Republic	645

1	2	3
51.	Tunisia	639
52.	Jordan	620
53.	Costa Rica	618
54.	Macao, China	600
55.	South Africa	585
56.	Myanmar	556
57.	Ethiopia	545
58.	Iran, Islamic Republic of	500
59.	Kazakhstan	499
60.	Bulgaria	497
61.	Chad	478
62.	United Republic of Tanzania	470
63.	Philippines	469
64.	El Salvador	466
65.	Bangladesh	460
66.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	426
67.	Cote d'Ivoire	380
68.	Zambia	334
69.	Gabon	323
70.	Uruguay	311
71.	Mauritania	300
72.	Iraq	300
73.	Honduras	293
74.	Lebanon	288
75.	Namibia	286
76.	Turkmenistan	272
77.	Nicaragua	250
78.	Uganda	237
79.	Azerbaijan	235

1	2	3	1	2	3
80.	Sri Lanka	233	109.	Gambia	60
81.	Bahamas	206	110.	Togo	60
82.	Mali	180	111.	Seychelles	60
83.	Belize	170	112.	Zimbabwe	60
84.	Georgia	169	113.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	56
85.	Guatemala	155	114.	Sao Tome and Principe	54
86.	Romania	151	115.	Lesotho	52
87.	Russian Federation	151	116.	Barbados	50
88.	Ukraine	150	117.	Guyana	48
89.	Mongolia	147	118.	Botswana	47
90.	Ghana	139	119.	Kenya	46
91.	Mozambique	132	120.	Madagascar	45
92.	Cambodia	131	121.	Grenada	42
93.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	131	122.	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	40
94.	Aruba	131	123.	Burkina Faso	35
95.	Paraguay	119	124.	Djibouti	33
96.	Bolivia	177	125.	Eritrea	30
97.	Saint Lucia	111	126.	Samoa	25
98.	Antigua and Barbuda	106	127.	Puerto Rico	24
99.	Anguilla	104	128.	Wallis and Futuna Islands	22
100.	Brunei Darussalam	103	129.	Cape Verde	20
101.	Guinea	100	130.	Liberia	20
102.	British Virgin Islands	100	131.	Niger	20
103.	Moldova, Republic of	77	132.	Dominica	19
104.	Senegal	70	133.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	17
105.	Swaziland	69	134.	Malawi	16
106.	Mauritius	65	135.	Maldives	13
107.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	62	136.	Rwanda	11
108.	Benin	60	137.	Nepal	10

1	2	3
138.	Micronesia, Federated States of	10
139.	Somalia	9
140.	Vanuatu	9
141.	Haiti	7
142.	Guinea-Bissau	5
143.	Niue	5
144.	Papura New Guinea	5
145.	Sierra Leone	5
146.	Tuvalu	4
147.	Timor-Leste	4
148.	Burundi	3
149.	Montserrat	2
150.	Comoros	2
151.	Cuba	2
152.	Afghanistan	1
153.	Bhutan	1
154.	Solomon Islands	1
155.	Tokelau	-5
156.	Fiji	-9
157.	Central African Republic	-13
158.	Oman	-18
159.	Kuwait	-20
160.	Yemen	-21
161.	Netherlands Antilles	-30
162.	Suriname	-60

[Source: UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2005]

Illegal Migrants in Andaman and Nicobar

2857. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have become a hub for the illegal migrants from the neighbouring countries who indulge in anti-social activities affecting the normal life of local people;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that often they are up in arms against the U.T. Administration when it comes to evacuate them from illegal encroachments; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the Administration of this region strong enough to tackle any sort of unforeseen internal and external threat in view of its strategic location on international Shipping border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that the Islands have become a hub for the illegal migrants from the neighbouring countries. Proper and adequate measures are being taken by the Administration to keep a watch on entry of illegal migrants from other countries and take strict action against those found staying illegally in the Union Territory.

(b) and (c) In view of the position stated above, does not arise.

National Eligibility Test

2858. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has revised the eligibility conditions for appointment to the post of Lecturers by exempting candidates with M. Phil/Ph.D. from National Eligibility Test in June, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various colleges coming under central universities particularly Delhi University have gone ahead and made appointments ignoring important change in eligibility condition thereby affecting many candidates;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government/UGC against such erring colleges; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The National Eligibility Test (NET) shall remain the compulsory requirement for appointment as Lecturer for those with post-graduate degree. However, candidates having Ph.D. degree in the concerned subject are exempt from NET for teaching at the Post Graduate and Under Graduate levels. Candidates with M.Phil degree in the concerned subject are exempted from NET for teaching only at the Under Graduate level. These Regulations have been framed on the basis of recommendations of an Expert Committee.

(c) The Delhi University has reported that it has not received any such complaint in this regard.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

MVRS in NTC

2859. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) has been introduced in National Textile Corporation (RMD), Patna, Bihar;

(b) the number of persons opted for MVRS;

(c) whether officials who opted for MVRS have been given extension of three months three times; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of persons from the Retail Marketing Divisions of National Textile Corporation (NTC) who opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) is 1022, out of which 126 employees are from RMD, Patna Division.

(c) and (d) Officials who were given MVRS were relieved on the date from which their voluntary retirement was accepted as per decision of the Management of

NTC. However, three officers of Patna Marketing Division, who were to be relieved w.e.f. 31.12.2005 on MVRS, were allowed to continue on their posts because of residual work, after obtaining their consent.

Armed Force Special Power Act

2860. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by Justice (Retd.) B.P. Jeevan Reddy Review Committee Report on the Armed Forces Special Power Act (1958);

(b) whether the Government has taken a final decision on the recommendations of said committees;

(c) if so, the details of action so far taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Government will finalise the action on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended in 1972 has submitted its report to Ministry of Home Affairs on 6.6.2005. The recommendations of the Committee contained in its report are being examined and a decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

2861. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is facing problems in implementing Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds allocated to the scheme during each of the last three years and the actual amount utilized alongwith the reasons for non-utilisation of the funds, State-wise;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to review the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana assistance to the implementing agencies for the components covered under it is shared between the Central and the State governments. Constraints of funds in the States have been one of the problems in implementation of the scheme. Weak financial position of the handloom agencies has made tie-up with bank for loan difficult. Besides, passing on assistance to the implementing agencies through the State government has been causing delay in implementation of the projects sanctioned under the scheme. The details of budgetary allocation during the last three years and the amount utilized thereof are as under:

(Rupees in Crore)

S.No.	Year	Budgetary Allocation (BE)	Amount actually utilized
1.	2003-04	68.27	67.34
2.	2004-05	47.67	83.96
3.	2005-06	82.10	93.15

(c) to (e) Yes, sir. The government of India is considering reviewing the scheme by making it 100% centrally funded with an upward revision in the cost of the components.

National Programme for Education of Girls

2862. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether some grant was sanctioned by the Government of India under National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level to States particularly to Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount of grant sanctioned to the State Government, year-wise;

(c) whether no grant has been approved under the above scheme to States in current year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Year-wise grants released to Gujarat under the National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) is as follows:

Financial Year	Amount released under NPEGEL
2003-04	Rs. 134.72 lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 2827.00 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 2454.14 lakhs

(c) and (d) No, Sir. An amount of Rs. 813.35 crores has been sanctioned for the year 2006-07 under NPEGEL for all States and Union Territories implementing this scheme. Of this an amount of Rs. 918.57 Lakhs has been approved for Gujarat under NPEGEL for the current year.

Teachers Fellowship Programme

2863. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has spent the entire amount that was allotted for Teachers Fellowship Programme under the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the Teachers Fellowship Programme for a further period of one year in order to provide the benefit to the teachers now continuing the research activities under the Tenth Plan itself; and.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information, furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the details of allocation and expenditure under the scheme of Teachers Fellowship for the 10th Plan period are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2002-03	13.00	11.26
2003-04	5.87	4.85
2004-05	6.95	6.95
2005-06	17.04	17.04
2006-07	10.00	0.03 (so far)

(c) and (d) The Teacher Fellowship for the Ph.D. programme would be for a period of two years which is extendable by one year based on the merits of the case. The Teachers Fellowship for M. Phil programme would be for one year, extendable for another six months, if justified.

Special Package to Tribals

2864. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to extend the special package to the tribals living in the malenad and semi-malenad regions of Karnataka who are living the similar lifestyle of the people living in North-eastern States of the country;

(b) if so, by when the special package is likely to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to extend any special package to the tribals living in the Malenad and Semi-Malenad regions of Karnataka.

Irregularities in Central Universities

2865. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Central Universities have been found indulging in financial irregularities and riot following the directions of the Union Government;

(b) If so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to take any action against the management of such universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The annual accounts and balance sheets of all central universities are prepared under the directions of their respective Executive Councils and are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG) of India or by such persons as the (C&AG) may authorize in this behalf. The annual accounts of the central universities together with the audit reports thereon are also laid before both Houses of Parliament. Irregularities or anomalies, if any, in the audit reports of a central university are pursued and rectified by the university authorities.

Terrorists in PMF

2866. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various terrorist groups/organisations have sneaked their men into the para military forces in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the entry of such terrorists in para military forces is posing danger to the security of the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Appointment of Lecturers Under Reservation Policy

2867. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for appointment to the post of lecturer in physically handicapped category in Delhi University;

(b) the total number of persons appointed for the post of lecturer on the basis of reservation policy for physically handicapped in each college of the Delhi University during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) whether the Government/UGC has reported any violation of rules by any college of DU;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Demand for Autonomous Region

2868. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arunachal Pradesh has adopted a unanimous resolution demanding the formation of an autonomous region called "MOW REGION" and forwarded it to Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government to their demand; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government on such demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Arunachal Pradesh had forwarded a resolution passed by the State Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2004 for inclusion of Arunachal Pradesh in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to enable creation of following two Autonomous District councils in

Arunachal Pradesh for providing special Administration in the areas and for faster economic development:

(i) Autonomous District Council of Tirap and Changlang; and

(ii) Autonomous District Council of Tawang and West Kameng

Inter-Ministerial consultations are under way to examine and consider the proposal appropriately. A decision is yet to be taken in the matter.

Assistance to Victims of Gujarat Riots

2869. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided assistance to State Government of Gujarat to compensate the 2001 riot victims in the State;

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

(c) whether any money from the Central assistance of Rs. 150 crores provided by the Union Government remained unspent with the State Government of Gujarat;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing this money by the Government of Gujarat to riot victims; and

(e) the details of heads in which the State Government spent the said assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Union Government has not provided any assistance to State Government of Gujarat to compensate the 2001 riot victims in the State. However, in the wake of Godhra train carnage related communal riots in various parts of Gujarat in 2002, the then Prime Minister announced in Lok Sabha on April 30th, 2002 a Rs. 150 crore Package for Economic Rehabilitation for the relief and rehabilitation of the riot victims in that State. The package of assistance was primarily to include:

- reconstruction and repair of damaged houses and shops, both in rural and urban areas;
- provision of assistance to all the self employed categories who lost their earning assets;

- financial support for recommencing business, commercial, and industrial activities;
- revival of educational, medical and other institutions in the affected areas and special programmes to benefit widows and children.

As per available information, a total of Rs. 155.61 crore has been received from various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India out of which Rs. 136.51 crore was spent by the State Government and the balance amount of Rs. 19.10 crore was returned to the Union Government as unspent balance. Details of various heads of amounts released and expenditure incurred are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of amount released by different Ministries/Departments of the Government of India under the Prime Minister's Package of Rs. 150 crore for Relief and Rehabilitation of 2002 not affected persons in Gujarat and expenditure incurred by the State Government of Gujarat out of the same.

S.No.	Item and Ministry	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)	Expenditure as on 31-01-2005 (Rs. in Crores)	Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ex-Gratia to next of kin of the persons died in riots—Prime Minister's Office: ⊙ Rs. 1 lac paid from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund = 11.69 crore ⊙ Rs. 0.5 lac paid by Government of Gujarat = 5.85 crore	11.30	17.54	1169 cases
2.	Injury Assistance—Prime Minister's Office	2.20	2.21	2548 cases
3.	Household kits to affected families—Prime Minister's Office	10.34	10.28	42786
4.	Free foodgrains (Wheat & Rice)—Deptt. of Food & Public Distribution	62.60 (1,27,441 Tones)	100.45 (1,77,519 tones)	Riot affected BPL families & inmates
5.	Housing Assistance (Urban) VAMBAY – Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	26.37	12.28	18037 cases
6.	Housing Assistance (Rural) IAY (Ministry of Rural Development)	15.31	17.82	11204 cases
7.	Earning Assets Assistance (Urban) SJSRY—Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	4.21	4.40	10564 cases
8.	Earning Assets Assistance (Rural) PMRY-ARI	4.00	4.73	6631 cases

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Assistance to Small businesses (Urban) SJSRY – Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	1.80	1.34	2149 cases
10.	Assistance to Small businesses (Rural) PMRY-ARI	1.20	0.48	723 cases
11.	Assistance to Industrial units, shops, hotels etc. (Urban) SJSRY – Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation	9.83	5.09	2083 Units
12.	Assistance to Industrial units, shops, hotels etc. (Rural) PMRY – ARI	1.40	1.16	545 Units
13.	Rehabilitation by SEWA	0.74	0.47	271 windows
	(I) Shanta Programme (Skill training & livelihood) – Department of Women & Child Development			
	(II) SHANTA Hamare Bachche Programme for the rehabilitation of single parents & orphan children- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	0.60	0.55	606 children
	(III) Skill up-gradation Programme under NORAD scheme — Department of Women & Child Development	0.09	0.06	267 women
14.	Women's livelihood restoration (NORAD) – Department of Women & Child Development	2.37	2.01	5858 Beneficiaries
15.	Establishment of window homes Under SWADHAR scheme – Department of Women & Child Development	1.25	0.45	196 women 148 children (3 window homes)
Total amount received and expenditure under PM's Package		155.61	181.32	

Total expenditure for relief and rehabilitation incurred:

(i) Out of Govt. of India Funds	Rs. 136.51 crore
(ii) Out of State Govt. Funds	Rs. 68.50 crore
Grand Total	Rs. 205.01 crore.

*[Translation]***Weapons to Counter Naxalites**

2870. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Special Officers' nominated to counter Naxalites in affected States particularly in Chhattisgarh are required to deposit their weapon at night;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether naxalites attack tribes when these special officers deposit their weapons at night;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to waive of the requirement of depositing weapons at night by such special officers; and

(e) if so, the time by which this arrangement is likely to be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) There are no standard guidelines with regard to arming/disarming of Special Police Officers. The position varies from State to State depending upon the prevailing ground situation. However, the Central Government continues to impress upon the naxal affected States the need to strengthen the vigil and intelligence-gathering mechanism, and tighten up procedures to counter such attacks by naxalites.

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

2871. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the names of foreign countries with whom trade has increased during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of such increase thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase it further during the current year and to increase our trade with other countries as well; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Statement in respect of foreign countries with whom trade has increased during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) To enhance our exports the Government is taking initiatives such as facilitating participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and Buyer Seller Meets. Institutional arrangements such as Joint Trade Committee Meeting and periodical meetings to review bilateral trade agreements, Free Trade Agreements etc. to remove the impediments to the growth of trade and boost the same, rationalization of duty structure etc. are also held. SEZ Act 2005 has come into force to trigger a large flow of investment in infrastructure and productive capacity. An Inter-State Trade Council has been established with the objective of recommending measures to provide a trade-enabling environment in the States and to create a frame work for making states partner in India's International trade and export effort.

Statement

(Value in US\$ Million)

Countries	Total Trade 2003-04	Total Trade 2005-06	Percentage Growth
1	2	3	
I. West Europe	33401.92	54397.9	63
(a) EU Countries	28318.88	45789.83	62
Belgium	5699.54	7558.54	33
Denmark	462.67	787.38	70

1	2	3	
France	2344.35	3811.91	63
FRG	5433.66	9335.38	72
Greece	240.86	602.69	150
Ireland	250.89	436.22	74
Italy	2774.03	4318.69	56
Netherlands	1811.4	3495.21	93
Portugal	180.32	281.23	58
Spain	1250.22	2139.18	71
UK	6209.24	9044.18	46
Austria	305.3	472.21	55
Finland	379.8	1354.9	257
Cyprus	0	38.07	3807
Malta	0	121.93	12193
Lithuania	0	61.05	61.05
Estonia	0	21.21	21.21
Latvia	0	31.48	3148
Czech Rep	198.12	347.39	75
Slovak Rep	0	61.33	6133
Poland	181.66	329.49	81
Slovania	0	98.94	9894
(b) Rest of West			
Europe	5083.03	8608.07	69
Norway	341.25	394.55	16
Turkey	638.25	1192.56	87
Switzerland	3753.7	6999.67	86
Romania	0	334.59	33459

1	2	3	
Bulgaria	0	47.35	4735
Serbia & Montenegro	0	10.19	1019
(II) CIS & Balatic States	2281.88	4118.94	81
Russia	1668.19	2721.9	63
Rest of CIS	613.69	1397.04	128
Kazakhstan	79.22	115.19	45
Ukraine	344.05	1016.85	196
(III) Asia and Oceania	56017.38	97519.57	74
(a) Escap	41920.22	72251.04	72
Bangladesh	1708.32	1751.2	3
Nepal	915.34	1239.36	35
Sri Lanka	1514.84	2590.17	71
Australia	3198.61	5662.87	77
China PR	7007.57	17460.65	149
Hongkong	4742.89	6624.79	40
Indonesia	3219.47	4304.04	34
Japan	4356.6	6011.14	38
Korea Rep	3215.73	6162.34	92
Malaysia	2934.17	3540.15	21
Singapore	4146.5	8800.14	112
Thailand	1436.39	2264	88
Pakistan	344.29	859.33	150
(b) Other	14097.16	25538.53	81
Saudi Arabia	1857.17	3424.33	84
UAE	7139.68	12904.9	81
Isreal	1392.5	2272.3	63

1	2	3	
(IV) Africa	6988.55	11822.59	69
Egypt	463.65	882.24	90
Nigeria	640.32	979.36	53
South Africa	2426.39	4001.08	65
(V) America	20008.13	32257.74	61
(a) North America	17673.06	26890.34	52
Canada	1350.47	1903.75	41
USA	16322.59	24981.51	53
(b) Latin American Countries	2287.36	5328.08	133
Brazil	588.1	1946.71	231
Argentina	523.9	898.62	72
Mexico	335.76	531.66	58
Panama Canal			
Zone	3.73	5.01	34

Functioning of KVIC and KVIB

2872. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated annually to the Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) and Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) for its functioning separately;

(b) the percentage of total allocation, reaching out to the beneficiaries and to the Society;

(c) the details of functions envisaged and responsibilities entrusted with KVIB and KVIC for the upliftment of the Rural India;

(d) whether the KVIB and KVIC are discharging their duties assigned to them as per the guidelines prescribed to them;

(e) if so, whether the Government has constituted any body to monitor/supervise the functioning of these organizations;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 677.75 crore (Rs. 592.93 crore under Plan and Rs. 84.82 crore under non-Plan) has been allocated to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in the budget estimates for 2006-07. The Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) are statutory bodies established under the Acts passed by the respective State Legislatures and no allocations are made by the Government of India to these bodies. The administrative expenditures of the State/ Union Territory KVIBs are borne by the respective State/ Union Territory Governments.

(b) Allocations made to KVIC under the Plan head are utilised for the direct benefit of the beneficiaries of the programmes/schemes implemented by it.

(c) The details of functions envisaged and responsibilities entrusted to KVIC are given in section 15

of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (as amended to date). The main functions of the KVIBs are to plan, promote, facilitate, organize and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in their respective State/Union Territory.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The functioning of KVIBs is supervised by the respective State/Union Territory Governments. In so far as the functioning of KVIC is concerned, the schemes/programmes being implemented by the KVIC are monitored by the Central Government (Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries)

(g) In view of the reply at (e) and (f) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Traditional Garments

2873. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes for promoting traditional garments;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on these schemes during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the benefits accrued therefrom, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Government is not implementing any specific scheme for promoting traditional garments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Property of Foreigners

2874. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foreigners are owning properties in several States, particularly in Goa in violation of the Foreign Exchange Maintenance Act (FEMA), 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they get all kinds of protection and run plush business house in connivance with the locals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government against the foreigners violating FEMA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The information relating to purchase of property by Russians in northern part of Goa has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. Goa Administration has been advised to investigate into the matter.

The Central Government have since advised all State Governments/Union Territories to instruct the concerned authorities who register transfer of properties to ensure that the Reserve Bank of India guidelines are scrupulously observed while dealing with such matters which involve any foreign national.

Business Processing Organisation

2875. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has bagged the biggest outsourcing deals during the current year;
- (b) if so, the extent of outsourcing bagged by Indian BPOs this year and during 2005 and 2004 respectively;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost up this trade;
- (d) whether any policy has been laid down in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any shift in the focus of outsources has lately been noticed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per NASSCOM, the share of large contracts won by Indian service providers has increased from 1% in 2003 to 5%

in the first half of 2006. Some of the recent big deals have been won by M/s. Hindustan Computers Limited, Infosys, Satyam, TCS and Wipro.

(b) The total value of Information Technologies Enabled Services (ITES) – Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) exports, as available, is as under:

- (i) 2004-2005 US \$ 5.2 billion
- (ii) 2005-2006 US \$ 6.3 billion

(c) to (e) The Government has taken various steps to promote the growth of IT Software and Services Industry, such as: approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to IT Sector are put under the automatic route, peak rate of customs duty has been reduced, customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items has been abolished, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up, Income-Tax exemption on export profits is allowed to Software Technology Parks (STPs)/Export Oriented Units (EOUs) etc.

(f) and (g) No shift in focus is reported by NASSCOM. This sector is growing at the rate of 40% on year to year basis.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Fish Products

2876. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(l) Export of marine products to the major importing countries:

(Quantity in Tonnes and Value in US Dollar Million)

		2003-2004	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto June, 06) (Provisional)
		1	2	3	4
USA	Quantity	53153	50045	55817	8819
	Value	365.84	345.52	372.62	55.76
Japan	Quantity	50020	57832	59785	18543
	Value	253.86	266.96	262.79	69.99

(a) the average annual export of fish products from the country;

(b) the total quantity of various fish products exported during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, variety-wise and country-wise;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the export of fish products;

(d) the rate of rejection of Indian fish products; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken to eliminate the incidence of rejection of consignments of fish and fishery products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The average annual export of fish products from the country during the last three years was around US\$ 1484 million.

(b) As per the export figures compiled by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of marine products to the major importing countries and the export of major items of marine products during the last three years and the current year (upto June,'06) were as follows:

		1	2	3	4
European Union	Quantity	96284	117742	136842	33609
	Value	319.95	405.40	484.02	128.32
Total exports from India	Quantity	412017	461329	512164	102700
	Value	1330.76	1478.48	1644.21	353.35
(II) Export of major items of marine products					
Frozen shrimp	Quantity	129768	138085	145180	30315
	Value	876.64	938.41	970.43	205.27
Frozen finfish	Quantity	138023	159689	182344	24591
	Value	135.82	168.70	225.94	34.81
Frozen squid	Quantity	37832	48124	52352	7864
	Value	81.00	106.63	130.49	23.81
Frozen cuttlefish	Quantity	39810	44239	49651	15858
	Value	94.92	104.89	124.48	39.84
Total exports from India	Quantity	412017	461329	512164	102700
	Value	1330.76	1478.48	1644.21	353.35

(c) In order to increase the export of marine products, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices; assistance for production of value-added products for export; and marketing support.

(d) The rate of rejection of Indian fish products has been less than 1%.

(e) The MPEDA have been organizing training programme on implementation of hazard Analysis and Critical Control Programme (HACCP) to meet the international requirements. Trainings are conducted for seafood technologists/quality control personnel working in the processing establishments in order to upgrade the facilities. MPEDA also undertakes scrutiny of HACCP manuals of the processors and issues scrutiny and compliance certificates.

Socio-economic development of NER

2877. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified specified thrust areas for the socio-economic development in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/package provided by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any plan for the development/extension of road and railway network in this region;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has also any specific strategy to develop domestic and international tourism in this region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Recognizing the problems of infrastructural bottleneck, connectivity, communication and basic services, special attention is given to the socio-economic development of the region. The Approach to the Tenth Plan spelt out the objectives of economic growth with enhancement of human well-being through adequate level of food consumption, access to basic services, expansion of economic and social opportunities, reduction of disparities, etc. States of NEER have accordingly identified the priority areas in their Plans in the light of the objectives laid down in the Approach to the Tenth Plan. Further, since 1998-99 the Central Ministries/Departments, except those specifically exempted, are required to allocate 10% of their Gross Budgetary

Support (GBS) for the development of the NE Region. The unspent balance of this amount accrues to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) which is being utilized for bridging the socio-economic infrastructure in the Region.

(d) to (g) (i) **Road:** The Government has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme (SARDP-NE) for the NEER. Phase-A of this Programme, comprising improvement of 1310 km length of National Highways, state Roads and GS Roads at an estimated cost of Rs. 4618 crore has been approved for implementation and Phase-B, comprising 6306 km roads, has been approved for preparation of Detailed Project Reports.

(ii) **Railways:** As regard to the development of railways network is concerned, 6 new line and 5 gauge conversion works are in progress providing connectivity to capital cities, upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and removing transshipment points due to gauge conversion. The on-going works under different categories are as under:

Projects which will provide connectivity to Capital cities	(i)	Kumarghat-Agartala NL
	(ii)	Harmauti-Itanagar (Alternate alignment Bedati-Itanagar is being surveyed) NL
	(iii)	Jiribam-Imphal (Tupul) NL
Megabridge project connecting North and South bank	(i)	Rail-cum Road bridge at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh.
Other Works	(i)	Gauge Conversion of New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri-New Bongaigoan (linked branch lines).
	(ii)	Sencha-Silghat (56 kms) & Halbargaon-Mairabari of Lumbding-Dibrugarh including linked branches.
	(iii)	Gauge Conversion of Lumbding-Silchar and Extn. from Badarpur to Baralgram.
	(iv)	new line from New Maynaguri-Jogighopa.
	(v)	New line from Dudhnoi to Depa (land not made available so far).
	(vi)	Gauge conversion of Katkhal-Bairabhi.
	(vii)	Rangla-Murkongselek GC along-with linked fingers.

(iii) **Tourism:** As per the information received from Ministry of Tourism, the perspective and vision is to develop North-east as a unique sustainable eco-tourism destination with emphasis on the 'alert independent traveller' with the objective of unlocking the three tourism pillars of the North East-Nature, Culture & Religion so as to provide a competitive advantage to the Region.

FDI Inflow In States

2878. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) the States where the Foreign Direct Investment projects are being implemented at present, State-wise;

(b) the year-wise inflow of FDI in each State, sector-wise so far;

(c) whether some States especially Gujarat has less inflow of FDI in the country;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to attract more FDI in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Statement-I showing state-wise inflows received during April 2003 to May, 2006 enclosed.

(b) Statement-II showing sector-wise inflows received during April 2003 to May 2006 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Gujarat has received Rs. 2463.41 crore FDI during the last three years and ranks sixth among the States/Regions receiving highest FDI inflows.

(e) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted, on the automatic route, in most sectors. Under the liberalised economy, investment decisions, including location, are determined by the investors based on techno-economic considerations.

Statement I

State-wise Financial year-wise FDI Equity Inflows from April 2003 to May 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2003-04 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs	2004-05 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs	2005-06 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs	2006-07 Apr-May FDI in Rs	Total FDI in Rs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	353.49	747.85	1,056.78	336.29	2,494.41
2.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	19.48	13.39	0.00	0.00	32.87
3.	Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.13
4.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	917.12	610.53	66.36	269.40	2,463.41
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka	926.53	1,131.34	1,818.05	497.87	4,373.78
6.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	44.53	33.77	57.92	0.57	136.77
7.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh	34.85	69.25	42.55	0.38	147.03
8.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	1,355.31	3,183.13	4,290.17	301.23	9,129.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	0.00	0.00	315.88	0.00	315.88
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	1.89	4.58	3.32	0.00	9.78
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	603.80	358.47	1,190.10	1,467.96	3,620.33
12.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttanchal	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
13.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	84.50	467.37	407.82	135.78	1,095.47
14.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	76.71	13.49	378.16	0.00	468.36
15.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana	2,123.46	3,717.53	4,564.93	2,064.37	12,470.29
16.	Panaji	Goa	160.59	100.66	33.73	0.67	295.65
17.	State not Indicated		-3,360.72	4,201.34	9,758.63	341.30	17,661.98
18.	Advance of Inflow*		-1,880.76	2,485.15	0.00	0.00	4,365.90
19.	Stock Swapped*		-172.50	0.00	28.37	0.00	200.87
Grand Total			12,117.36	17,137.87	24,612.74	5,415.81	59,283.78

Statement II*Sector-wise Financial year-wise FDI Equity Inflows from April 2003 to May 2006*

(Amount in crore)

Sl.No.	Sector	2003-04 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2004-05 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2005-06 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2006-07 Apr-May FDI in Rs.	Total FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Metallurgical Industries	146.06	880.95	680.84	160.09	1,867.94
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	520.94	759.00	415.71	387.84	2,083.49
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.20	2.34	0.00	0.00	2.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Prime Movers Other than Electrical	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.25
5.	Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	2,449.32	3,280.58	6,499.06	358.36	12,587.33
6.	Telecommunications	531.95	588.41	3,023.46	1,383.83	5,527.65
7.	Transportation Industry	1,417.13	815.10	982.99	318.09	3,533.31
8.	Industrial Machinery	13.93	40.74	187.52	20.11	262.29
9.	Machine Tools	250.75	50.73	100.25	3.43	405.16
10.	Agricultural Machinery	0.11	0.01	415.97	0.00	416.09
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.05	0.47	231.30	0.00	231.82
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	100.07	56.73	226.61	3.37	386.37
13.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	40.96	62.46	111.41	4.50	219.33
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	9.26	24.05	6.72	0.00	40.03
15.	Industrial Instruments	4.16	4.95	1.69	0.00	10.80
16.	Scientific Instruments	0.07	0.14	0.45	0.00	0.66
17.	Fertilizers	99.29	61.90	19.31	0.00	180.50
18.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	93.69	908.68	1,979.06	81.93	3,063.36
19.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	1.35	27.62	0.00	0.00	28.97
20.	Dye-Stuffs	2.00	5.42	0.00	0.00	7.42
21.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	501.67	1,342.91	759.70	10.32	2,614.60
22.	Textiles (Including Dyed, Printed)	42.84	196.84	414.67	26.61	680.56
23.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	31.68	12.41	122.90	1.80	168.80
24.	Sugar	0.25	13.51	13.10	0.00	26.86
25.	Fermentation Industries	7.82	41.64	28.57	0.00	78.03
26.	Food Processing Industries	510.85	174.08	182.94	3.75	871.63
27.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	7.79	41.03	54.00	0.74	103.56
28.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	0.00	4.09	388.49	1.74	394.32
29.	Rubber Goods	29.31	184.18	150.77	0.70	364.96
30.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	32.18	2.03	4.89	0.34	39.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Glass	24.11	38.47	3.54	1.37	67.50
32.	Ceramics	6.78	123.09	25.02	4.40	159.29
33.	Cement and Gypsum Products	44.04	0.73	1,969.82	1.99	2,016.58
34.	Timber Products	0.50	0.31	465.64	0.00	466.45
35.	Defence Industries	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.24
36.	Consultancy Services	257.13	1,166.83	206.44	13.61	1,644.02
37.	Service Sector	1,235.27	2,105.53	2,565.04	1,089.25	6,995.11
38.	Hotel & Tourism	226.80	168.85	315.59	22.33	733.58
39.	Trading	104.66	65.72	123.43	108.95	402.77
40.	Miscellaneous Industries	1,319.11	1,399.71	1,907.83	1,406.75	6,033.39
41.	Advance of Inflow*	1,880.76	2,485.15	0.00	0.00	4,365.90
42.	Stock Swapped*	172.50	0.00	28.37	0.00	200.87
Grand Total		12,117.36	17,137.87	24,612.74	5,415.81	59,283.78

Negotiation in TRIPS on Biological Diversity

2879. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

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

(a) the plans of the Government to negotiate in the TRIPS Council to make TRIPS consistent with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and

(b) the success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In order to bring the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement in harmony with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India along with other developing countries has proposed in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the inclusion of "disclosure requirements" in patent applications. Towards this end, a proposal to amend the TRIPS Agreement by inserting Article 29 *bis* has been jointly submitted by India, Brazil,

Pakistan, Peru, Thailand and Tanzania to the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the WTO and to the General Council of the WTO in May 2006. This proposal is in line with the mandate of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

Many other developing countries have supported this approach of initiating text-based negotiations. Norway has also submitted a separate proposal for initiating text-based negotiations. The EC and Switzerland have supported the text-based approach. However, the US, Japan and Korea feel that the fact-based debate on the subject should continue.

[Translation]

Loan to Small Scale Industries by World Bank

2880. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has granted a loan of approximately 120 million U.S. dollars for development of small and medium scale industries in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tribal and minorities areas and also small scale industries being run by women are proposed to be provided the benefit of reservation in utilization of the said loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of funds proposed to be allocated to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is implementing a World Bank-led multi-agency/multi-activity projects on financing and development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The World Bank has approved a loan of 120 million US dollars under the credit facility of the project. The facility primarily provides long-term credit to SMEs for capital formation and technological upgradation.

(c) to (e) Under the World Bank Line of Credit (LOC), no category-wise/State-wise allocation of funds has been made. All eligible proposals, including those of women, tribal and minority applicants are provided credit under the project. Of the 13 branches of SIDBI, which operate the LOC, 2 branches are located in Maharashtra.

Setting up of Camps in North-Eastern States

2881. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of camps set up by various security forces in the North Eastern region, State-wise;

(b) the number of temporary and permanent camps set up in Government buildings, community buildings, religious buildings and private lands, State-wise;

(c) whether regular rent is paid to the owner of the buildings and land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The number of camps of security forces varies from time to time, depending on the internal security situation. While permanent establishments are owned by

the Central Police Forces (CPFs), State Governments provide temporary camps and pay rent for the same.

[Translation]

Technology Mission on Silk and Wool

2882. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission for the development of Silk and Wool;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy has been formulated for labour reforms in the Textile Sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is contemplating to propose a 'Technology Mission for Indian Silks'. The details are yet to be finalized.

(c) and (d) Textile Ministry has made certain suggestions for labour reforms in the Textile Sector, which inter-alia include:

(i) Flexibility to textile exporting units in hiring labour, subject to assuring a minimum 100 days employment to cater to variations in demand.

(ii) Raising daily working hours from 9 hours a day to 12 hours a day and weekly working hours from 48 hours a week to 60 hours a week with flexible daily hourly requirements.

(iii) Treating export activity in the textile sector as a public utility service, for the purpose of industrial disputes.

[English]

National Commission for Women

2883. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women was set up with a view to protect, promote and safeguard the interest and rights of women;

(b) if so, the details of composition of the said Commission and also the function;

(c) whether the rural women of the country are neither aware of its rights nor the functioning of the Commission; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to create awareness of the same amongst rural women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Commission for Women (NCW) consists of a Chairperson, five Members and a Member-Secretary. The functions of the NCW are laid down in Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(c) and (d) The NCW has launched various programmes such as Legal Awareness Programmes for Women and Girls to empower women and girls with the knowledge of their legal rights and duties, ultimately to be able to share power equally, gain full access to the means of development and to work together towards achieving gender equality and justice. Through the programme Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats, women are provided assistance for speedy disposal of matters pending in various courts relating to marriage and family matters.

The NCW launched a programme 'Chalo Gaon Ki Ore' on 3.2.2006 to bring about awareness among women of their rights, various schemes of Central and State Governments available for their social and economic upliftment, to empower women to fight violence against them, etc. Activities under the programme are mainly directed towards the rural women.

NCW continues to make efforts to create awareness amongst rural women.

Special Purpose Fund for Cash Crops

2884. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up special purpose fund for cash crops especially for pepper and rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Feasibility of setting up a Special Purpose Fund on the lines of Special Purpose Tea Fund is being examined by the Rubber Board & Spices Board. The Rubber Board has found it prima facie not feasible and expressed preference for continuation of Line of Credit under NABARD Refinance Scheme. The Spices Board is working on it in consultation with the State Government of Kerala, NABARD and the National Horticulture Mission. At this stage, it is not possible to predict when this Fund is likely to be set up.

Export of Diamonds

2885. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of both cut and polished diamonds from the country during each of the last three years and the current year along-with foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to promote the export of diamond from Rajasthan and Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per latest available figures, details of export of cut and polished diamonds (HS Code 71023990 and 71023910) from the country during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April-December) alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise are given below:

(In Million US \$)

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (April December)
USA	2522.42	2455.40	1888.68
UAE	791.79	1429.46	656.43
Hong Kong	2261.27	2604.83	2238.57
Belgium	1014.34	1214.49	889.36
Singapore	138.90	515.03	1165.13
Israel	470.31	675.86	531.46
Japan	328.04	453.40	313.34
Thailand	175.48	58.27	189.91
U.K.	77.18	58.27	50.59
Switzerland	123.08	133.03	87.25
Germany	32.88	43.17	31.11
Australia	47.03	56.29	40.51
Italy	17.1	18.45	9.45
Others	626.45	219.86	135.24
Total	8626.27	10132.41	8227.03

(Source: Export-Import Data Bank, Department of Commerce)

(b) and (c) As per Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative body of the trade, diamond cutting and polishing industry is mainly concentrated in the State of Gujarat and there is limited diamond processing activity in the State of Rajasthan.

Export of Gem & Jewellery, including cut and polished diamonds, has been identified as a thrust sector in the Foreign Trade Policy effective from 1st September 2004. In the Foreign Trade Policy updated as on 7th April 2006, following facilities have been extended to this sector:

- (i) Import of gold of 8k and above has been allowed under the replenishment scheme subject to the import being accompanied by an Assay certificate specifying the purity, weight and alloy content.
- (ii) Duty Free Import entitlement of consumables for metals other than Gold. Platinum to be 2% of

FOB value of exports during the previous financial year.

- (iii) Duty free import entitlement of commercial samples to be Rs. 300,000.
- (iv) Duty free re-import entitlement for rejected jewellery to be 2% of the FOB value of exports.
- (v) Cutting and polishing of gems and jewellery, to be treated as manufacturing for the purposes of exemption under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act.
- (vi) Import of precious metal scrap/used jewellery has been allowed for melting refining and re-export of jewellery. However, such import will not be allowed through hand baggage.

- (vii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export jewellery on consignment basis as per Rules.
- (viii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export cut and polished precious and semi-precious stones for treatment and re-import as per Rules.
- (ix) To boost export of plain gold/platinum/silver jewellery, articles and ornaments and enhance their international competitiveness, the value addition norms for such items has been reduced from 7% to 4.5%.

Some other facilities extended to the Gem & Jewellery export sector are encouraging creation of training infrastructure to impart skills in jewellery designing, participation of Gem and Jewellery exporters in international fairs and buyer-seller meets abroad etc. under various Schemes of the Department of Commerce. The above-mentioned steps promote the export of Gem and Jewellery products from the country, including Gujarat and Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Inferior Quality Fencing

2886. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of fencing at Indo-Bangladesh border is inferior and infiltrators manage to cross border;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the length in Kilometres of such fencing;

(c) the details of action taken against the agencies those used such a poor quality material;

(d) whether the Government proposes to restart the fencing work in those areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(f) the time by when refencing work in such areas is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) No Sir. The quality of fencing along the Indo Bangladesh Border is as per laid down specifications of CPWD. The work is being executed by Assam PWD, Tripura PWD, CPWD, BRO and few Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

854 Kms. of border fence erected under Phase-I in West Bengal, Meghalaya and Assam was single row. It has now been decided to replace this fence with modified and improved design of double row fence as is being done in Phase-II. This work is scheduled to be completed by 2008.

However, to ensure monitoring of quality of work, the Govt. of India has engaged Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) for Third Party Inspection.

To check infiltration from across the border the Govt. of India has taken the following steps;

(a) Close co-ordination with other Agencies including State Governments;

(b) Round the clock surveillance of the border by patrolling;

(c) Conduct of special operations;

(d) Up-gradation of intelligence network;

(e) Augmentation of strength for patrolling/naka duties;

(f) Erection of border fencing and construction of border roads.

[English]

Agreement on Peace with Neighbouring Countries

2887. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any agreement with the Government of China, Myanmar and Bangladesh for maintaining peace and tranquillity on the border areas;

(b) if so, the details to check militancy and infiltration; and

(c) the action taken with the counterpart Governments to implement the pending decision on National Security of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of India has signed two agreements with China i.e. 'Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas' in September, 1993 and 'Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China Border Areas' in November, 1996. Though, no such agreement has been signed with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, institutional mechanisms in the form of meetings of Joint Working Group, Home Secretary Level Talks etc. exist between India and Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh where the security related issues including the measures to check militancy and infiltration are regularly discussed and follow up action taken on the decisions arrived at in such meetings.

(English)

Graphite based Industries

2888. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up any graphite based industry in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the sites selected therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which setting up of such industries are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per available information, the Government does not have any proposal to set up graphite based industry in the country.

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

Mining of Kolar Gold Mines

2889. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining work is likely to be resumed at Kolar Gold Mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons likely to be provided jobs in the said mine;

(d) whether all the earlier employees are likely to be re-appointed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (e) Karnataka High Court in its order dated 26.9.2003 had recommended that Government should take appropriate steps to enable such of the employees, who have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), to form an Employees Co-operative by providing them appropriate land and such machinery and equipment as it can spare, so that they can take up projects with their specialised knowledge and experience. In this context, BGML Employees, Supervisors and Officers United Forum submitted its proposal to take over the assets of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) and to run the mines as well as extract gold from tailing dumps. Government proposes to invite global bids for assessment of the assets of the BGML and to make counter offer to the United Forum/Employees' Society of the highest bid received or the value assessment made by the in-house Committee (to be reassessed at the time of transfer) whichever is higher. The above mentioned purchase preference, proposed to be given to the United Forum/Employees' Society, will be subject to the condition, inter alia that they will employ, on priority, the ex-employees of BGML. However, the above mentioned scheme is subject to the approval of Karnataka High Court (Company Court).

Closure of Ongoing Classes of University Degree Programme

2890. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AICTE/Ministry of HRD have issued any instructions to close all ongoing classes of Central/ State University Degree programmes from the same campus as the PGDBM, thus forcing the university students to be shunted out and interfering with the education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to earmark separate infrastructure for PGDBM and other university classes in the same premises;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has also decided to permit PGDBM infrastructure for other university run courses also by running extra shifts or by making adjustment in time in order to cut costs and to provide education at cheaper rates to all classes in the same premises;

(f) if so, whether any directions have been issued to the AICTE in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (h) The AICTE has not issued any instructions about closing of ongoing classes of Central/ State University Degree programmes from the same campus where AICTE approved PGDBM programme is running.

The Council has enforced the following policy for the year 2006-2007 regarding PGDBM course:

1. For colleges where PGDBM is running along with University affiliated management courses like MBA/MMS; the colleges who did not have AICTE approval for previously run MMS courses are being asked to apply for regularization.
2. For colleges running PGDBM, no new MBA course is being allowed on same location.
3. For colleges running PGDBM along with other UG level courses/unapproved courses, Council has granted conditional approval thereby all unapproved courses are to be shifted out/closed in Building/Land earmarked for AICTE approved course.

As per AICTE norms, approved programmes are required to have exclusive facilities/resources and sharing of the same is not permissible so as to maintain the

quality of technical education. To run PGDBM course, separated land, building, faculty and other infrastructural facilities etc. are required as per AICTE norms.

Implementation of OBC Quota in IIMs and IITs

2891. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to give free hand to IIMs/IITs for implementation of OBC quota and increase the 54% seats for general category as reported in The Times of India dated July 31, 2006;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines for implementing this decision by different IIMs/IITs has been issued;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the guidelines commensurate with the recommendations of the Oversight Committee;

(e) if so, whether any financial help has been sought by these institutes; and

(f) the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Projects from Gujarat

2892. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal/project on Brass-Gunmetal and other metal from the Government of Gujarat and private industrial house;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon and the assistance provided to the State?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat to establish a technology demonstration-cum-training centre in the brass parts cluster, Jamnagar, Gujarat for financial assistance under the Small Industries Cluster Development Programme (SICDP). As the proposal is not complete in all respects, necessary information has been sought from the Government of Gujarat.

Propagation of Textile Schemes

2893. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some textile units are not aware of the loan facilities available under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy System (CLCSS) and Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken to give wide publicity and to propagate the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been in operation since 1.4.1999. The Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) is a component of this Scheme and was introduced in September 2003. Since the introduction of TUFS, more than 1000 awareness and publicity programmes have been organized by the Government in all textile clusters in association with textile associations, local industry, textile research associations etc. Also, 44 Powerloom Service Centers and 8 Regional Offices of the Textile Commissioner are functioning across the country and are regularly conducting seminars, workshops and awareness programmes about these two Schemes. Full details of these two Schemes have been made available on the Website of the Office of the Textile Commissioner (txcindia.com) and a Handbook containing both the Schemes has been published by the Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai. As a result of these efforts, as on 30-6-2006, a total of 5563 applications,

involving total project cost of Rs. 48004 crore, have been received under the TUFS (main Scheme). Similarly, under the CLCSS, as on 25-7-2006, a total of 1,165 applications, involving total project cost of Rs. 402.27 crore, have been received.

(b) No, Sir, in view of (a) above.

(c) Does not arise.

Technical Education by Deemed Universities

2894. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no clear cut demarcation of responsibilities between UGC and AICTE over the deemed universities offering technical education;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to lack of joint inspection of the university by UGC and AICTE create problems for deemed universities offering technical education;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Central Government, in exercise of its powers vested under Section 20(1) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 and Section 20(1) of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987, issued a directive to the UGC and the AICTE vide notification dated April 5, 2006, which, inter-alia, provides that while it is not mandatory for deemed to be universities to obtain prior approval of AICTE to start new courses/programmes, it is essential for them to maintain the minimum standards prescribed by the relevant statutory authority responsible for maintenance of standards of education in its field. It further states that in order to ensure the standards of education, the UGC and the AICTE may cause inspection of the deemed universities, in manner as prescribed in the rules/

regulations of these statutory authorities, and the UGC shall take necessary action, if needed, on the basis of the inspection report.

Corruption In Licensing Department of MCD

2895. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints against Licensing Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) particularly Sadar Zone (Idgah Road), Health Division from the public representatives and traders associations;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been probed in the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has informed that no such matter is under investigation with its Vigilance Department and that no complaint has been received against Licensing Department, Sadar-Pahar Ganj Zone (Idgah Road), Health Department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Assistance on the Line of Tsunami to Flood Affected States

2896. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assured last year that those State which were flood ravaged would be compensated on the same lines of Tsunami affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to compensate the flood affected States on the line of Tsunami affected States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the extensive damage caused due to floods in 2005 and of the requirement of the States for long term rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure. A Committee has been constituted to examine and process the detailed plan proposals received from States. Proposals from 11 States have been received.

Natural Disaster Information System

2897. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has launched the Natural Disaster Information System;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimize the fury of natural disasters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(c) Government have taken several measures encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and relief. These measures inter-alia include training and capacity building for multi hazard mitigation; development of model building bye laws, town and country planning legislation, land use zoning regulations and development control regulations; drawing up of Disaster Management and Emergency Support Function Plans (ESF); setting up of Emergency Operation Centres (EOC); setting up of specialist search and rescue teams; setting up of a Early Warning System for tsunami and storm surges in India Ocean; development of on-line National Inventory of disaster response resources and introduction of disaster management in public education. India meteorological Department has a well established mechanism for monitoring and forecasting cyclone and severe weather events.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Mobile Bombs by Terrorists

2898. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists have manufactured mobile bombs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any special task force to deal with new techniques being evolved by terrorists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Available inputs suggest that some terrorists have been trying to use Mobile Phones to trigger remote controlled improvised explosive devices.

(c) and (d) No such special task force has been constituted. Intelligence and Security agencies keep themselves abreast of the new technology being used by terrorists to take effective counter measures.

Eco-Friendly Technology

2899. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt advanced eco-friendly technology with foreign assistance in Mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targets set in regard to mining and exploration of Minerals in the Mining sector have not been achieved during each of the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of targets fixed/achieved during the said period and fixed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy, 1993, enunciates induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining for high value and scarce minerals and prevention and mitigation of adverse environmental effects due to mining and processing of minerals as an integral part of mine development strategy.

(c) Mining in the country is carried out by the public as well as private sector companies. Exploration in the country is carried out by various agencies like Geological Survey of India, State Directorates of Mining and Geology, Public Sector Undertakings like Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited, State Public Sector Undertakings and various Private Parties who have their own targets for mineral exploration.

(d) The targets in respect of Geological Survey of India during the last three years have been exceeded in respect of large scale mapping and detailed mapping and nearly achieved in drilling. Mineral investigations taken up by the Geological Survey of India during the last three years and in the current field sessions are given below:

Quantifiable activities	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1. Large Scale Mapping (in sq. km.) on 1:25,000 to 1:10,000				
Programme Target	1189.54	1021.05	922.135	1076.14
Achievement	1254.80	1027	1041.05	*
2. Detailed Mapping (in Sq. Km.) on Scale larger than 1:10,000				
Programme Target	30.316	30.745	27.237	32.96
Achievement	32.286	36.26	34.772	*
3. Drilling (in metres)				
Programme Target	92,797.60	88,540.70	87,129.44	85,501.42
Achievement	93,388.78	81,995.90	82,209.86	*

*(to be assessed after completion of Field Session in September)

The Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Mines has achieved targets set for the last three years except

developmental mining during the year 2003-04. The targets and achievements during the last three years and target for 2006-07 are given below:

Activity	Unit	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06 (Prov.)			2006-07
		Target	Achievement	%	Target	Achievement	%	Target	Achievement	%	Target
Drilling	Metres	165000	172281	104	164000	173144	105	170000	178425	105	175000
Developmental Mining	Metres	5000	3357	67	6000	7525	125	6200	8281	134	6850
Gross Revenue	Rs. Lakhs	6436	6089	95	6600	7535	114	6930	8140	117	7550
Gross Margin	Rs. Lakhs	1362	1253	92	1304	1918	147	1500	2102	140	1891

[English]

Sale of Alumina

2900. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the private companies/NALCO to sell alumina from Damanjodi Alumina plant for the use of the Aluminium plants owned by them;

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

(c) the policy decision taken by Government for supplying the Alumina to private companies by reducing the export of Alumina thereof; and

(d) the total Alumina produced, exported and required for own use of the NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Mines had received a proposal from Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) for purchase of alumina from National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) against spot/long term tenders.

(c) NALCO has informed that mixing of non-duty paid export goods alongwith goods sold in the domestic market after payment of duty may give rise to complications from Central Excise & Customs point of view and hence, the request of BALCO cannot be accepted.

(d) The total calcined alumina produced by NALCO during the year 2005-06 was 15,78,000 Metric Tonnes(MT) out of which 8,62,616 MT was exported and 12,994 MT was sold in the domestic market. The balance of around 7,00,000 MT of alumina was consumed by NALCO.

Women study Centre In Tezpur University

2901. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Tezpur University to start a centre for women studies in the university;

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

(c) the time by which such centre is likely to be started; and

(d) the total amount earmarked and posts likely to be sanctioned for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has received a proposal from Tezpur University for the establishment of a Women Studies Centre at the University. The UGC Standing Committee on Women Studies has decided to visit Tezpur University to give its recommendations for consideration by the Commission for a decision in this regard.

(d) Under the existing scheme of UGC, a University is entitled to receive Rs. 10.00 lakh per annum (including Rs. 7.00 lakh for salaries) as recurring grant and upto Rs. 20.00 lakh as non-recurring grant. The number of posts to be sanctioned for the Women Study Centre will depend on actual assessment of the requirement.

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme

2902. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of creches set up under Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the children of working mothers since its implementation, State-wise;

(b) the details of the above scheme and progress made under the scheme so far; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose so far, State-wise?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The details of the scheme are available at the website of the Ministry www.wcd.nic.in. So far 6,227 new creches have been sanctioned under the scheme.

(c) It is a Central Sector Scheme which is being implemented by the Central Social Welfare Board and two National level voluntary organisations i.e. Indian Council for Child Welfare and Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh. No State-wise allocation of fund is made under the scheme.

Statement

Number of Creches set up under Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of working Mothers since its implementation, State-wise

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Creches
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	618
2.	Assam	140
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	59
4.	Bihar	669
5.	Chhattisgarh	426
6.	Chandigarh UT	15
7.	Delhi	100
8.	Goa	20
9.	Gujarat	118
10.	Himachal Pradesh	112
11.	Haryana	18
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	171
13.	Jharkhand	141
14.	Kerala	35
15.	Karnataka	308
16.	Lakshadweep	20
17.	Madhya Pradesh	822
18.	Manipur	24
19.	Maharashtra	480
20.	Meghalaya	3
21.	Mizoram	76
22.	Nagaland	16
23.	Orissa	87
24.	Pondicherry	96
25.	Punjab	166

1	2	3
26.	Rajasthan	423
27.	Sikkim	1
28.	Tripura	19
29.	Tamil Nadu	168
30.	Uttar Pradesh	547
31.	Uttaranchal	84
32.	West Bengal	237
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
34.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8
35.	Daman and Diu	0
Total		6227

Grants to Universities

2903. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of amount granted/allocated by the University Grants Commission to Central/State/Deemed Universities and their affiliated colleges for planned and non-planned expenditure, for the year 2006-07 and the corresponding figures of grants given to all the universities in West Bengal and North Eastern States and the colleges affiliated to these universities during the said period, State-wise and university-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Statement showing the position of the University Grants Commission's Development Assistance to State Universities during Xth Plan period is enclosed. Non Plan assistance to State Universities is the subject matter of State Governments Details General Development Plan grant paid to Deemed to be Universities during the year 2006-2007 (upto 18.8.2006) are at Statement-II. Statement-III showing Non-Plan grant paid to Deemed to

be Universities during the year 2006-2007 is enclosed and a Statement-IV of Plan and Non-Plan grant sanctioned to Central Universities during 2006-2007 is enclosed.

The above Statements include information relating to the grants released to the State of West Bengal and the North-Eastern States.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State/Name of the University	X plan allocation 2002-2007	Grant released 2006-2007
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	571.50	—
2.	Kakatiya University	385.00	—
3.	Nagarjuna University	370.50	—
4.	Omania University	558.67	—
5.	P.S. Telugu Univ.	243.75	—
6.	S.V. University	454.93	—
7.	S.P.M. University	337.50	—
8.	S.K.D. University	350.00	—
9.	JNTU, Hyderabad	429.00	—
10.	NALSAR University	200.00	—
Goa			
11.	Goa University	405.00	—
Gujarat			
12.	Bhavnagar University	337.50	72.50
13.	Gujarat University	429.00	—
14.	M.S. Univ. of Baroda	752.05	—
15.	North Gujarat Univ.	205.50	—
16.	Sardar Patel Univ.	331.50	—

1	2	3	4
17.	Saurashtra Univ.	390.00	—
18.	South Gujarat University	429.00	85.80
Karnataka			
19.	Bangalore University	574.40	—
20.	Gulbarga University	310.50	—
21.	Karnatak University	405.00	—
22.	Kuvempu University	281.25	—
23.	Kannada University	130.00	—
24.	Mangalore University	305.00	10.00
25.	Mysore University	318.00	—
26.	National Law School of India University	105.00	—
Kerala			
27.	Calicut University	370.50	—
28.	Cochin University of Sc. & Technology	578.00	—
29.	Kerala University	400.35	—
30.	Mahatma Gandhi Univ.	347.30	—
31.	Kannur University	481.20	—
32.	Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University	80.00	—
Madhya Pradesh			
33.	A.P.S. University	318.00	—
34.	Barkatullah University	390.50	—
35.	Devi Ahilya Vishw.	318.00	—
36.	Dr. H.S. Gaur Vishw.	441.30	5.00
37.	Jiwaji University	315.00	—
38.	M.G. Gramodhya Vishw.	210.00	84.00
39.	Rani Durgawati Vishw.	409.50	12.50
40.	Vikram University	410.00	—
41.	National Law Instt. University	215.00	—

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra			
42.	Amravati University	313.75	—
43.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada University	350.00	—
44.	Mumbai University	683.50	—
45.	Nagpur University	459.90	—
46.	North Maharashtra Univ.	259.00	103.60
47.	Pune University	412.50	—
48.	Shivaji University	359.25	—
49.	S.N.D.T. Women's Univ.	542.94	—
50.	S.R.T. Marathwada Univ.	225.00	—
Tamil Nadu			
51.	Anna University	761.00	—
52.	Alagappa University	203.15	—
53.	Annamaiai University	532.73	—
54.	Bharatidasan Univ.	331.50	—
55.	Bharathiar University	330.00	—
56.	Madurai Kamraj Univ.	390.00	—
57.	Madras University	450.00	—
58.	M.S. Univ., Tirunelveli	280.00	—
59.	Mother Teresa Women's University	243.75	—
60.	Tamil University	225.00	—
61.	Periyar University, Salem	80.00	—
Arunachal Pradesh			
62.	Arunachal University	400.00	—
Assam			
63.	Gauhati University	405.00	—
64.	Dibrugarh University	405.00	—

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	Bihar			85.	Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University	235.00	—
65.	Patna University	302.50	—		Panjab		
66.	B.B.A. Ambedkar Bihar University	293.07	—	86.	Panjab University	489.70	—
67.	T.M. Bhagalpur Univ.	328.00	131.20	87.	Punjabi University	370.50	—
68.	K.S.D. Sanskrit Univ.	203.95	—	88.	Guru Nank Dev Univ.	429.00	—
69.	Magadh University	309.05	—		Rajasthan		
70.	L.N. Mithila University	318.00	—	89.	Rajasthan University	420.00	—
71.	B.N. Mandal University	236.00	—	90.	J.N. Vyas University	419.80	—
	Delhi			91.	M.L. Sukhadia Univ.	257.00	—
72.	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	225.00	—	92.	M.D.S. University	280.00	—
	Haryana				Tripura		
73.	M.D. Univ., Rohtak	429.00	—	93.	Tripura University	371.50	—
74.	Kurukshetra Univ.	380.00	109.50		Uttar Pradesh		
75.	Guru Jambheshwar Univ.	205.00	—	94.	Bundelkhand University	225.00	—
	Himachal Pradesh			95.	Ch. Charan Singh Univ.	358.00	—
76.	Himchal Pradesh Univ.	405.00	300.00	96.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Univ.	300.00	—
	Jammu and Kashmir			97.	Dr. R.M.L. Avadh Univ.	234.75	—
77.	Kashmir University	405.00	5.00	98.	D.D.U. Gorakhpur Univ.	269.66	—
78.	Jammu University	400.00	—	99.	Lucknow Univ.	431.00	82.80
	Jharkhand			100.	M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth	213.00	—
79.	Ranchi University	312.00	—	101.	VBS Purvanchal Univ.	225.00	—
80.	Vinoba Bhave Univ.	264.25	—	102.	M.J.P. Rohilkhand Univ.	280.50	—
	Manipur			103.	Sampumanand Sanskrit University	200.00	—
81.	Manipur University	398.60	—	104.	Ch. Shahu Ji Maharaj Kanpur University	201.50	40.30
	Orissa			105.	Jagadguru Rambhadrecharya Handicapped University	227.40	—
82.	Utkal University	367.50	—		Uttaranchal		
83.	Berhampur University	390.00	156.00	106.	H.N.B. Garhwal Univ.	325.00	—
84.	Sambalpur University	454.70	181.88				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
107.	Kumaun University West Bengal	370.50	—	114.	Vidyasagar University	300.00	—
108.	Calcutta University	577.00	—	115.	Bengal Engg. University, Howrah	375.00	—
109.	Jadavpur University	742.75	—		Chattisgarh		
110.	Burdwan University	347.00	—	116.	Guru Ghasidas Univ.	300.00	—
111.	Kalyani University	340.00	—	117.	Indira Kala Sangeet Vish	225.00	148.00
112.	North Bengal University	372.00	74.40	118.	Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla Vishwavidyalaya	318.00	63.00
113.	Rabindra Bharati Univ.	405.00	200.43				

Statement-II

(Rupees in Lakh)

S.No.	State/University/Institution	Grant Allocated	Grant Released (18.8.2006) 2006-07
1	2	3	4
	Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Central Instt. of English & Foreign Languages, Hyderabad	475.00	—
2.	Sri Sathya Sai Instt. of Higher Learning, Prasanthiniliyam	300.00	—
3.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	306.00	1.44
	Delhi		
4.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	633.00	53.96
5.	Sh. L.B.S. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth. New Delhi	401.25	—
	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	300.00	—
	Gujarat		
6.	Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad	333.00	2.00
	Jharkhand		
7.	Birla Instt. of Technology Mersa	272.47	42.98
	Maharashtra		
8.	Deccan College P.G. and Research Instt. Pune	225.00	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Gokhale Instt. of Politics and Economics Pune	300.00	—
10.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai	687.50	40.00
11.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune	232.50	—
12.	Bharat Vidhyapeeth, Pune	21.50	—
	Punjab		
13.	Thapar Instt. of Engg & Tech. Patiala	340.00	10.90
	Rajasthan		
14.	Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali	375.00	—
15.	Birla Instt. of Tech. & Sc. Pilani	329.70	—
16.	Jain Vishwa Bharati Instt., Ladnum	125.00	—
17.	Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	300.00	—
	Tamil Nadu		
18.	Avinashilingam Instt. For Home Sc. & Hr. Edn for Women, Coimbatore	364.75	8.29
19.	Gandhigram Rural Instt., Gandhigram	464.35	—
20.	Sri Chandrasekhendra Saraswathy Vishwa Mahevidyalaya, Kanchipuram	225.00	—
	Uttar Pradesh		
21.	Central Instt. of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi	150.00	—
22.	Dayalbagh Educational Instt., Agra	272.00	43.00
23.	Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Hardwar	297.00	—
	West Bengal		
24.	Bengal Engineering College, Howrah*	375.00 - 175.00 = 200.00	— — —
25.	R.K.M. Vivekananda Educational Research Institute, Belur Math, Howrah**	200.00	—
	Total	8080.02	202.57

*Declared as a State University in September, 2004.

**Sanctioned as a special grant for Building

Statement-III

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of University	B.E. Approved	Grant Paid (upto 18.8.2006) 2006-07
1.	Central Institute of English & Foreign Language, O.U. Campus, Hyderabad	1202.05	601.02
2.	Rashtriya Sanskrit, Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	465.52	232.76
3.	Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Katwaria Sarai, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi	663.75	331.88
4.	Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad	984.39	492.20
5.	Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai	940.67	470.33
6.	Avinaehilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore	1089.91	544.95
7.	Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram Dindigul	1094.13	547.06
8.	Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Dayalbagh, Agra	565.70	282.85
9.	Gurukula Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar.	687.45	343.72
	Universities receiving fixed maintenance grant		
10.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	400.00	200.00
11.	Banasthli Vidyapeeth, Banasthali	300.00	150.00
12.	Shri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Vishwavidyalaya, Enathur, Kancheepuram	7.00	3.50
	Total	8400.57	4200.27

Statement-IV

Rs. in lakh

Name of the University	Non-Plan (Maintenance) 2006-07		Plan (General Development Scheme)	
	Allocation	Released	10th Plan Allocation 2002-2007*	2006-07 Released
Uttar Pradesh				
Aligarh Muslim University	20125.00	10062.50	4814.85	700.00
Banaras Hindu University	20528.00	10264.00	7896.20	1667.00
Allahabad University	4096.00	2048.00	4177.90	1334.00
B.R. Ambedkar Univ.	270.00	135.00	2246.44	434.00
Assam				
Assam University	755.00	377.50	2300.00	234.00
Tezpur University	563.00	281.50	3550.00	734.00
Delhi				
University of Delhi	15077.00	7538.50	5911.50	1334.00
Jamia Millia Islamia	5105.00	2552.00	5123.85	1000.00
Jawaharlal Nehru Univ.	7058.00	3529.00	5912.50	1334.00
Meghalaya				
North Eastern Hill Univ.	4070.00	2035.00	4252.00	1000.00
Mizoram				
Mizoram University	860.00	430.00	7600.00	667.00
Maharashtra				
M.G.A. Hindi University	254.00	127.00	3333.15	717.00
Nagaland				
Nagaland University	1640.00	8.20	2600.00	334.00
Andhra Pradesh				
M.A.N. Urdu University	295.00	147.50	3091.90	734.00
University of Hyderabad	3990.00	1995.00	5375.00	1267.00
Pondicherry				
Pondicherry University	1753.00	876.50	3575.00	667.00
West Bengal				
Visva Bharati University	5299.00	2649.50	3800.00	834.00
Manipur				
Manipur University	990.00	495.00	2818.88	834.00
Total	92728.00	45551.70	78379.17	15825.00

Allahabad University and Manipur University became Central Universities during 2005-06.

*including additional allocation for the year 2006-07.

[*Translation*]

India Brand Equity Foundation

2904. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) constituted in 1996 to promote indigenous commodities in foreign countries through advertisements, has failed to achieve its objectives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the success achieved in improving the quality of agricultural, dairy and other products as per international standards; and

(d) new steps taken by the Government for proper utilisation of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India Brand Equity Foundation was constituted in 1996 with the prime objective to project the strength of Indian products and services and of the Indian economy in the international markets. IBEF has been successful in promoting, positioning and projecting India to build positive economic perception globally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) IBEF has been promoting overall India branding so far. It is only recently that it has started working with sector specific organizations viz. Handicrafts, Leather etc.

(d) The Government of India entered into an agreement with CII to give a new focus and professional management of IBEF. Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry signed an MoU in October 2002 and since then several initiatives have been taken by the management team of the IBEF to strengthen the objectives of IBEF and several groups have been formed and initiatives taken in the last four years.

[*English*]

Girls Education and the Common School System

2905. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

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

(a) whether a Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on the subject "Girls Education and the Common School System" has been set up to examine schemes, incentives and special measures taken to reduce gender disparity and increase the participation and retention of girls, in all sectors of education as an ongoing process;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide 50% reservation for girls in admission in Government and Private Schools as recommended by the CABE;

(d) if so, the details of other recommendations likely to be implemented; and

(e) the details of the follow up action thereon?

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

(b) The CABE Committee on 'Girls' Education and the Common School System' has, inter alia, made the following recommendations for girls education.

- * All schools should have female teachers and female attendants.
- * In every school there should a child care center.
- * Greater effort in gender sensitization especially among boys and male teachers should be made.
- * Targets should not be spelt only in terms of enrolment and retention but also in terms of relative achievement and performance.
- * Courses of study for girls must be same as for boys at all levels and the concept for soft or 'womanly' subjects for girls should be avoided as it contradicts the right to equal treatment for boys and girls.
- * Girls have the right for positive discrimination through affirmative action by the state.
- * Part time schooling for girls should be replaced by 50 per cent reservation for girls at the entry points of regular schools.

- * Employment of girls should be prohibited.
- * Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme should be implemented in all earnestness.
- * Education of girls up to age 18 should be made free.
- * Incentives offered for girls' education need to be revisited.

(c) to (e) Implementation of the recommendations is an on-going process. Since school education is primarily within the purview of the State Governments, the report of the CABE Committee on 'Girls' Education and the Common School System' has been sent to the State Governments for necessary action.

Tea Factories

2906. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board plans to set up tea factories for small tea growers in Assam and other tea-growing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith location, cost, capacity and other details of the project including the employment potential to be generated thereby; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. Processing units are set up by plantation owners/entrepreneurs themselves.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening of Campus of IIT, Kharagpur

2907. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to open a campus of Kharagpur, IIT in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be spent for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the proposed campus would be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IITK) has already a small campus functioning at Bhubaneswar, Orissa. In view of the increased student strength, the Institute is exploring the possibilities of expanding the campus. Funding will depend on the finalisation of the expansion plans.

SEZs for Tobacco

2908. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Special Economic Zones/Export Oriented Units in the country for the export of tobacco;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received proposal from MNC for setting up of such zones; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Central Government is not proposing to set up any new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs). No approvals are being granted by the Government for setting up any Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) for export of tobacco.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Jute Board

2909. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating a comprehensive scheme to protect the interests of jute producers and enhance the demand of jute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Jute Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. In order to formulate a comprehensive scheme to protect the interests of jute producers and enhance the demand of jute, the Government announced the National Jute Policy, 2005 which proposes to set up a National Jute Board.. Accordingly, a National Jute Board Bill, 2006 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22.05.2006. The Bill has been referred by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour for examination. The recommendations of the Committee are awaited. Thereafter, the Bill is required to be passed by both the Houses of the Parliament. The Jute Board is likely to be set up immediately after the aforesaid Bill is enacted into an Act and the Act comes into force.

Import/Export of Copper Wire

2910. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the copper wire rods imported during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise;

(b) whether custom duty of 25 per cent is levied on import of such rods from other countries where only 2 per cent is levied on import from Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the rationale behind levy of preferential duty on import of copper wire rods from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The values of copper wire (ITC HS code7408) imported/exported are given below:

Values in Rs. Crores

	2003-2004	2004-2005	Apr.-2005- Feb.-2006 latest available
Import	107.94	203.08	336.84
Export	635.43	1065.19	1567.57

The country-wise details of export and import of copper wire are given in the publications 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India; Volume-I (Exports) and Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which are available in the library of the Parliament.

(b) The customs duty levied on import of copper wire from other countries is 7.5% whereas no duty is levied on import from Sri Lanka. In addition, additional duty of customs in lieu of excise duty and 4% additional customs duty are charged.

(c) The import of copper wire from Sri Lanka is to be allowed at preferential duty, only subject to fulfilment of Rules of Origin prescribed under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA) which specify that domestic value addition requirement shall be 35% and that goods must undergo transformation at 4- digit harmonized system of Tariff Classification.

Mobile Book Exhibition

2911. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Book Trust is organizing mobile book exhibitions in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its future plans particularly for the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the reading habit among the students, youths and other countrymen?

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

(b) The Total number of programme yearwise

- (i) April 2003 to March 2004 – 1428 Exhibitions
- (ii) April 2004 to March 2005 – 1595 -do-
- (iii) April 2005 to March 2006 – 2000 -do-

The mobile exhibition programme is proposed to be strengthened by the Trust in future and for the purpose five additional exhibition vans are already in the process of being procured. More exhibition vans are proposed for procurement during the next Plan period to strengthen the programme further.

For the State of Tamil Nadu as part of the immediate programme in future—one programme from 1.1.2007 to 31.3.2007 has already been scheduled.

(c) The National Book Trust, India undertakes 'extensive book promotion related programmes around the year and throughout the country in terms of Mobile Pustak Parikrama, National Book Fairs, Regional Book Fairs, Book Exhibitions, Seminars, Symposia, book release functions, childrens' programmes and meet the authors programmes. Apart from this, the Trust has its publication series in particular to meet requirements of Children like Nehru Bal Pustakalaya, for Youth namely Young India Library, special series for Neo Literates, India The Land and the people, National Biography and many others to provide an enriched reading material with correct and simplified as well as easily understandable information in the form of books at affordable -prices. Moreover, the Trust tries to make its books accessible to public at large all across the country.

[Translation]

Meeting for Settlement of Border Dispute

2912. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently held any meeting with the concerned parties of Maharashtra and Karnataka to settle the border dispute between both the States;

(b) if so, the details of the main points of discussion held during the said meeting;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to dispose of this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does Not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to settle the boundary dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, the Central Government constituted the one-man Mahajan Commission, which had submitted its report in August 1967. The Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka have taken opposite stands on the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission. The approach of the Central Government in the matter has consistently been that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding. The Government of Maharashtra has presently filed a suit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which is pending in the Apex Court.

Import of Rice

2913. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice imported alongwith foreign exchange spent thereon during each of the last three years and current year, country-wise;

(b) whether there has been a steep increase in the import of rice in comparison with its export during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The country-wise details of import of rice are as under:

	Quantity in Tons				Value in Rs Lakh			
	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06(Prov.)		April-06(Prev.) latest available	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Bangladesh PR	14	10.43			NIL		NIL	
Indonesia	32	14.23			NIL		NIL	
Italy	NIL				3	0.13	3	2.45
Japan	0.4	0.69	NIL		NIL		NIL	
Korea RP	NIL				1	1.80	NIL	
Nepal	6	1.2			NIL		NIL	
USA	2	0.56			19	1.04	NIL	
Total	54	27.71			23	2.97	3	2.45

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Bridge Over Lohit and Khabolu

2914. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes taken up under NEC's 9th plan period for survey and investigation have been shortlisted for implementation during the eleventh plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NEC has examined the DPR on bridges over Lohit and Khabolu river and the 'DPR on the "strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Assam"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Plan proposals and priorities of NEC are yet to be finalized. NEC is currently consulting the member States on formulation of the Eleventh Plan.

(c) and (d) The DPR for bridges over Lohit and Khabolu river is still awaited from Assam State PWD. The DPR in respect of "strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Assam" has been received by the NEC Secretariat from the Planning & Development Department, Government of Assam. The examination in the NEC Secretariat has not been completed.

Conversion of Middle Schools into Secondary Schools

2915. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schools have been raised from Middle Schools to Secondary Schools in Rajasthan during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the said purpose;

(c) the criteria has been adopted for raising the level of these schools;

(d) whether the Union Government has directed some State Government to raise the level of their schools in their respective States;

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

(f) the funds earmarked as Central assistance for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) During the last two years, 917 schools have been upgraded from upper primary to secondary level in Rajasthan based on local demand from the community and the students. No financial assistance was provided by the Union Government for this purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Evaluation of Ashram Schools

2916. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent evaluation studies have shown that Ashram School buildings and infrastructure facilities are not maintained/utilized properly in the country;

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

(c) the details of the 10th plan outlay and expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) the number of tribals benefited during the plan period till date in various states?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The report of the study commissioned by this Ministry, to evaluate the scheme for Establishment of Ashram Schools in March, 2006, is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of the 10th plan outlay and expenditure incurred are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Names of scheme	Tenth Plan outlay	Expenditure till date
Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	78.30	30.04

(d) State-wise, Number of seats created during 10th Plan period is as given below:

S.No.	Name of State	Number of seats created
5.	Andhra Pradesh	3800
6.	Gujarat	4560
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7000
8.	Karnataka	1875
Total		17235

Reservation in IITs, IIMs

2917. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposals to reserve seats for the Minority Communities in the IITs, IIMs and IIFTs;

(b) whether the Minority Education Panel has recommended such policy to Government;

(c) the details of those recommendations;

(d) whether the Standing Committee of his Ministry has also recommended reservation of quota for IIMs, IITs and IIFTs

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement this policy and reserve seats for the Minority Communities; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (f) The Standing Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education in its periodic reports have inter-alia recommended that:

"as the number of minority students is falling in prestigious institutions like IIT, IIM/IIFT, etc..... Proper reservation may be made for admission of minority students in such institutions"

No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

Coir as Agriculture Product under WTO

2918. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received requests from the States producing Coir products to declare Coir products as an agricultural product under WTO agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received representations from the Government of Kerala for inclusion of coir under the scope of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The Government has already filed its negotiating proposals with the WTO for including products such as coir for the rationalisation of product coverage in the AoA. Consistent with the elements and principles agreed thus far in the negotiations, the food security, livelihood security and rural development needs of agricultural producers in developing countries like India will be taken into account in the final outcome of the negotiations.

Sensitivities across non-agricultural products will also be factored into the position and strategy for negotiations adopted by India in the negotiations on market access in respect of non-agricultural products through instrumentalities such as specific flexibilities and less than full reciprocity in tariff reduction commitments of developing countries as compared to those of developed countries.

Criteria for Clearance of Proposals for SEZs

2919. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for clearance of applications for setting up of Special Economic Zones;

(b) whether SEZ Act provides full freedom to the power developer to allocate space or provide infrastructure and levy user charges on agreed terms with units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which setting up of SEZs have been helpful to the projects for which they were considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The minimum basic requirement, as stipulated in the SEZ Act/Rules, for clearance of the proposals for setting up of Special Economic Zones, include minimum area of land for various categories of SEZs and recommendation of the State Government.

(b) and (c) Subject to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 and the letter of approval granted to the developer, the developer may allocate space or built up area or provide infrastructure services to the approved units in accordance with the agreement entered into by him with the entrepreneurs of such units. The setting up of SEZs have been helpful to the projects in as much as 948 units are already in operation providing employment to nearly 1.23 lakh persons.

Closure of Jamia Millia Islamia University

2920. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jamia Millia Islamia University has been shut down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been frequent students strikes in that University;

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

(e) the steps taken to bring back normalcy and to reopen the university and also to avoid recurrence of such instances in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by Jamia Millia Islamia, certain acts of violence took place

on the University campus on the 18th July, 2006. With a view to restoring normalcy, the University had to be closed *sine die*. The University has appointed Hon'ble (Mr. Justice) S.K. Aggarwal, Retd. Judge, High Court of Delhi, to conduct an inquiry into the matter and submit a comprehensive report. Meanwhile, the University reopened with effect from the 27th July, 2006.

It is not correct to say that there has been frequent students' strike in the University. To avoid any recurrence in future and to protect the long term interests of its bonafide students, the University is committed to cleansing the University campus of the undesirable elements.

Lakshadweep Development Corporation

2921. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of development corporations in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;
- (b) the objectives of establishing Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. (LDCL) etc.;
- (c) the activities currently undertaken by the LDCL;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the activities of such Corporation for the next three years; and
- (e) the total loss, profit of the LDCL during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There is only one Corporation in Lakshadweep, *i.e.*, Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. (LDCL).

(b) The objectives of Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. are as follows:

- (i) Survey, prospect and catch, develop, manufacture, conserve, culture, and artificially breed, preserve, process and convert, deal in wholesale and/or retail, and buy, sell, market, import and export all varieties of fish, shellfish, squids, cattle fish, octopus, marine products like oysters, pearls and sea-weed, and corals and jelly fish which are available from the sea and other waters.

- (ii) Procure, market, sell, process, preserve, develop, deal in import and export of agriculture produce, undertake civil supplies operations, industrial raw materials and finished industrial products.
- (iii) Conduct operation of ships both passenger and cargo and also acquire ships for operation and act as agents for operating and maintenance of both passenger and cargo vessel of Lakshadweep Administration and other government and private bodies.

(c) The major activities currently undertaken by Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. are as follows:

- (i) Operating a Tuna Canning Factory at Minicoy, Desiccated Coconut Powder Unit at Kadmat, Coconut Milk Plant at Andrott.
- (ii) Marketing of LDCL products such as canned Tuna, Desiccated Coconut Powder, Coconut Milk, etc.
- (iii) Running and maintenance of three passenger and four cargo vessels.
- (iv) Fleet Management and control.
- (v) Exports of fish/seafood and related matters.
- (vi) Crew management and related matters.
- (vii) Repairs of vessels entrusted to it.
- (viii) Major dry dock and related functions.
- (ix) Material procurements for ships, factories, and dispatches.
- (x) Managing all the control Towers in the Islands as well as the Mainland Ports at Cochin, Beypore and Mangalore.

(d) The following proposals are before the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. to expand its activities for the next three years:

- (i) The Corporation is planning to set up a Consultancy Wing for providing from-concept-to-commissioning support for the new vessels that are being procured by the Lakshadweep Administration.
- (ii) It is actively involved in matters relating to the dedicated berth to be constructed for the Lakshadweep Administration at Cochin Port.

- (iii) The Board of Directors have also taken a decision to have processing facilities in the mainland for fish-based value added products and also create additional storage and freezing facilities in the mainland in order to improve the export performance of the Fishing Division.
- (iv) The Corporation is also planning to enter into areas of Tourism in the next 2 to 3 years.
- (v) The Corporation plans to be a major player in the shipping services industry by providing all round services in the field of ship management, fleet management and attain high level of efficiency in technical and engineering services in the field of ship management.

(e) The profit of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. during the last three years is as follows:

	2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	2004-05 (Rs. in lakhs)	2003-04 (Rs. in lakhs)
Profit (PBT)	248.34 (Provisional)	156.78	136.41

Education to Street Children

2922. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated a scheme aiming at providing opportunities to working street children to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education;

(b) if so, whether the said scheme has come into force;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the areas so included and the achievement made so far under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scheme named "Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care & Protection" is

being implemented from the financial year 2004-05. The objective of the scheme is to provide opportunities for non-formal education, vocational training, etc. to working children to facilitate their entry/re-entry into mainstream education.

The scheme is being implemented in urban areas all over the country except the areas covered by the existing schemes of the Ministry of Labour. The amount released and number of beneficiaries since 2004-05 upto 2006-07 (till date) are as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of beneficiaries
2004-05	7.55	292
2005-06	111.92	1800
2006-07 (till date)	39.53	900

Suggestion of NCMEI

2923. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of a student in English and Mathematics subjects is counted for promotion in secondary classes;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has suggested that English and Mathematics be made optional subjects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the Scheme of Studies prescribed by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for secondary classes, students are required to offer five subjects including two languages, one of which should be either English or Hindi. As per the pass criterion prescribed by CBSE, students are required to obtain at least 33 percent marks in all the five subjects including Mathematics and English, if opted by them.

(b) No, sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export Centres

2924. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to set up and develop export oriented centres in the country especially in Jharkhand for export of agricultural produce; and

(b) the places in Jharkhand where export oriented centres have been developed alongwith details of their capacity, expenditure incurred thereon and profits earned therefrom during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) 60 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) have been set up in the country with a view to provide infrastructure to promote export of various agricultural commodities. An AEZ for vegetables is being set up in Jharkhand.

(b) The AEZ for vegetables in Jharkhand covers the districts of Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Lohardaga. The AEZ was notified by DGFT on 15.1.2006 and an investment of Rs. 7.09 crores is envisaged to take place in 5 years in the AEZ. The AEZs do not work as units making profit or loss.

Institutions and Workshop Places along Border

2925. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
DR. H.T. SANGLIANA:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any report on the established worship places and educational institutions on the border areas of India, Pakistan Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of the educational institutes and the worship places established during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any problems pertaining to the internal security of the country has been reported from such places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against such places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available reports, it is not possible to indicate the exact number of educational institutions and worship places established in border areas during the last three years.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to arrive at a general conclusion, on the basis of reports available, that these institutions pose a serious problem to internal security of the country. The Government is fully aware of the need for proper surveillance along the international borders to check any activities prejudicial to the country.

[English]

Textile Parks

2926. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives of Textile Parks alongwith the facilities provided in these parks;

(b) the limit of maximum and minimum number of manufacturing units fixed to be set up in each Textile Park, State-wise; and

(c) the number of employment opportunities likely to be generated on the establishment of Textile Parks, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) With a view to provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, Government have launched the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP).

The facilities in an Integrated Textile Park (ITP) depend upon the requirement of the units to be set up, which *inter alia* include common infrastructure like compound wall, roads, drainage, water supply, electricity supply including captive power plant, effluent treatment, telecommunication lines etc. and common facilities like testing laboratory, design center, training center, trade center/display center, warehousing facility/raw material

depot, creche, canteen, workers hostel, offices of service providers, labour rest and recreation facilities, etc.

(b) and (c) The number of manufacturing units and employment opportunities in each ITP vary from project to project. State-wise details of the number of manufacturing units and estimated employment opportunities in the 26 projects sanctioned so far are given below:

State	Number of project sanctioned	Number of manufacturing units	Estimated employment opportunities	
			Direct	Indirect
Andhra Pradesh	04	325	85,900	1,35,000
Gujarat	06	318	44,750	78,500
Karnataka	01	90	2,000	2,000
Maharashtra	06	952	21,900	33,100
Rajasthan	02	122	7,000	17,000
Tamil Nadu	05	259	16,000	30,500
Uttar Pradesh	01	80	3,500	5,000
West Bengal	01	73	11,600	34,800

Violation of CVC Guidelines

2927. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry invited a tender in June, 2006 with a stipulation that the purchase committee reserves the right to award the contract to more than one firm at the rate of L-1 firm after negotiation;

(b) if so, whether this is not a violation of CVC's instructions as post tender negotiations can not be held except with L-1;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to inquire into the matter and to cancel all such tenders;

(d) if so, the details of the tenders invited for the purchase of stationery and other general items

since 1-8-2005 by the Ministry and organizations under it including Delhi Police together with the rates received in the tenders and the details of the tenders finalised so far and the rates at which the items purchased; and

(e) the reasons for not publishing the details of tenders awarded on Ministry's website and steps taken for the publication of the same on the website as per CVC instructions?

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

(b) and (c) The advice of CVC has been sought in the matter.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[Translation]***Pak Criminals**

2928. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ. No. 1990 dated December 06, 2005 regarding Pakistani Criminals and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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

(b) As per information received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, during the period from 2003 to 2005 (upto 06.12.2005), 150 Pak nationals, found to be indulging into various kinds of criminal activities in the country, have been arrested. Cases have been registered against them under the provisions of various Acts like Arms Act/Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act/Official Secret Act/Customs Act/Explosive Substance Act/Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 2004/Indian Penal Code/Code of Criminal Procedure, etc.

Further during the same period, 15 Indian nationals have been found providing shelter to the Pakistani criminals. These Indian nationals were also arrested and cases were registered against them under various Acts mentioned above.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Contribution of Powerloom Sector**

2929. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any target of having 90,000 shuttleless looms by 2010 to achieve production of 90 billion metres by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target and to modernise the powerloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For modernisation of the powerloom sector, Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) under which 5 per cent interest subsidy on bank loan is proposed. An additional option has been given to decentralised powerloom sector to avail 20 per cent Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) in lieu of 5 per cent interest reimbursement. Government has also set up Computer Aided Design Centres to facilitate creation of improved and new designs in the production of textiles.

Technology Mission on Cotton

2930. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints received by the Government with regard to the implementation of Cotton Technology Mission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Manufacturing of Guns**

2931. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private gun manufacturing factories in the country, State-wise;

(b) the norms for fixing quota for manufacturing guns by these factories;

(c) whether views from the State Governments are also sought in fixing such quota; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There are 95 gun manufacturing factories in the country and they are located in the following States—

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of firms
1.	Bihar	36
2.	Himachal Pradesh	04
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	31
4.	Karnataka	02
5.	Madhya Pradesh	06
6.	Rajasthan	12
7.	Uttar Pradesh	03
8.	Uttaranchal	01

(b) and (c) Government of India do not fix quota of gun manufacturing factories,

(d) Does not arise.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

2932. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Government under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned/rejected and pending;

(c) the details of funds given for sanctioned applications during each of the last three years; year-wise; and

(d) the details of existing provisions for checking misuse of funds under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The number of applications received, the number of applications sanctioned and the year-wise details of funds given for sanctioned application during each of the last three years are as follows:

Year	Number of Applications received	Number of Applications sanctioned	Details of loans sanctioned (Amount in Rs. Crore)
2003-2004	867	884	1341
2004-2005	986	986	2990
2005-2006	1086	1078	6776

(d) Since the scheme is being implemented through the banks and financial institutions, their existing machinery automatically takes care of funds under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). However, for overall monitoring of the Scheme there are two-tier arrangements as follows:

- * Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary(Textiles) at Ministry level;
- * Technical Advisory cum Monitoring Committee (TAMC) under the Chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner at subordinate level.

Deemed University

2933. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Universities Grants Commission had written a communication to deemed Universities seeking information on the courses offered by them and the students intake in such courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar exercise was carried in the year, 2005 and letters were sent to 103 deemed universities, but approximately 40 responded;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) vide letter dated May 26, 2006, has requested the institutions declared as 'Deemed to be University' to furnish the information regarding their intake capacity and fee charged, course-wise.

(c) to (e) UGC *vide* letter dated April 19, 2005, addressed to all the institutions declared as 'Deemed to be University' existing at that time, sought the information in respect of their intake capacity, course-wise, and infrastructure available etc. among others. According to the UGC, only 36 Deemed universities have responded. The UGC being an autonomous body is sufficiently empowered to maintain and coordinate standards of education in institutions deemed to be universities.

Foreign Educational Institutions

2934. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has offered World Trade Organisation (WTO) to allow foreign educational institutions in the country to provide higher education; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Government have made offers under the negotiating platform for the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in the field of Higher Education to India's trading partners.

(b) The offers made are:

Education Services	Limitations on Market Access	Limitations on National Treatment
Higher Education Services	(1) None subject to the condition that service providers would be subject to regulations, as applicable to domestic providers in the country of origin.	(1) None
	(2) None	(2) None
	(3) None, subject to the condition that fees to be charged can be fixed by an appropriate authority and that such fees do not lead to charging capitation fees or to profiteering. Subject further to such regulations, already in place or to be prescribed by the appropriate regulatory authority. In the case of foreign investors having prior collaboration in that specific service sector in India, FIPB approval would be required.	(3) None
	(4) Unbound except as in the horizontal section	(4) Unbound except as in the horizontal section

Modes of supply of services: (1) Cross-border supply; (2) Consumption abroad; (3) Commercial Presence; (4) Movement of Natural persons.

The negotiations have not concluded as yet. These offers can be modified or withdrawn at any time during the negotiations.

The Government has been against any haste in opening the education sector to foreign participation under a multilateral regime without adequate safeguards and also would not like to let the education sector be used as a bargaining chip in obtaining any gains in other sectors.

The role of the education sector in developing human resources to promote and sustain rapid economic and social growth cannot be over emphasized. It has been the considered view of the Government that India should retain all the options in the education sector to be exercised at a time most suitable in national interest.

Non Tariff Barriers

2935. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on trade and tariff barriers between India, its neighbouring and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has introduced any tariff concession on the goods or proposes to reduce the import of various commodities from these countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the non-tariff barriers, especially in the processed food sector is crippling the export potential from India;

(f) if so, the details of major trading partners who are imposing NTBs on Indian exports;

(g) whether India has raised its point of view of NTBs in the ongoing negotiations; and

(h) if so, the view of other developing countries on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Department of Commerce has conducted studies on non tariff barriers (NTBs) faced by India on its exports to neighbouring countries and other trading partners. The Department of Commerce undertook a study on "Non-Tariff Barriers faced by India and Policy Measures" in 2001. The Department also got studies conducted by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on "Non Tariff Barriers on India's Trade with Pakistan" and by the Economic Laws Practice (ELP) on Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical & Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC) Countries" in 2006.

(c) and (d) As a part of the commitments made by India in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations at the "World Trade Organisation, India reduced its weighted tariff average from 71.4% to 32.4%. India is also engaged in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and other Regional Trade Arrangements where tariff concessions are exchanged with the following countries/regions:

- (i) FTAs or Framework Agreements for establishing free trade areas or economic co-operation have been signed with Sri Lanka, Bhutan, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries, Thailand, BIMSTEC members, Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC)
- (ii) PTAs have been signed with the MERCOSUR countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), Chile and Afghanistan.
- (iii) India is a member of two PTA's namely the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) and the Bangkok Agreement, which has been renamed as the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).
- (iv) A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) has been signed with Singapore.

The tariff reductions and eliminations under these FTAs/PTAs and other Regional Trade Arrangements vary from product to product and the concessions range from 0-100 percent. Under each FTA usually there is a negative list, on which no tariff reduction is offered; and a phased

tariff reduction programme where tariffs are reduced over an agreed period of time.

(e) and (f) Non-Tariff Barriers, especially in the processed food sector have affected India's exports. Indian exporters have faced NTBs in exporting to Australia, Canada, China, European Communities, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka and the United States.

(g) and (h) Yes Sir, several developing countries, including India, have referred to NTBs as an issue of significant interest to them and have sought suitable remedies to them, including the removal of the NTBs. The NAMA 11 Group of developing countries (Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Namibia, Philippines, South Africa, Tunisia and Venezuela) have formulated and submitted a paper proposing the establishment of a NTB resolution mechanism.

Small Industries Development Institutes

2936 SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the number of Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) to assist the small scale entrepreneur;

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

(c) the number of technology resource centres set up in SISIs during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export Oriented Zones

2937. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up export oriented zones in backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the steps taken by the Government in this regard, and

(c) the norms for selection of backward districts for setting up of these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Profit Earned by NTC

2938. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The profit earned/loss incurred by each of the textile mills during the year 2005-06 and first quarter of the current year, State-wise;

(b) The steps taken to make loss incurring mills profitable;

(c) The terms of reference of the advisors shortlisted for the revival of textile mills; and

(d) The time by which the advisors are likely to report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) State-wise details of profit earned/loss incurred for 40 operating NTC mills are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) As per the Modified Rehabilitation Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), NTC is in the process of modernizing 22 mills by itself by placing orders for purchase of new machineries. As per BIFR directions, it has been decided to modernize 29 mills through Joint Venture with private partners.

(c) The advisors are required to make suitable model for revival of 29 mills for entering partnership with private partners. The advisors would also be required to formulate all formats including advertisement for inviting Expression of Interest (EOI), and will evaluate the responses received.

(d) The advisors are likely to submit interim report within 3 months for further action, and the project is likely to be completed within a year time from the date of award of contract.

Statement*Profit Earned/Loss Incurred by Each of the NTC Textile Mills during 2005-06 & 1st Qtr. (2006-07)*

(Rs. in lacs)

S.No.	State/Name of working Mills	Profit/(Loss) 2005-06	Profit/(Loss) 2006-07 (1st qtr.)	Cash Profit 2006-07 (1st qtr.)
1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan				
1.	Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	(1426.32)	(316.61)	
Madhya Pradesh				
2.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	(847.05)	(214.31)	
3.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	(1032.28)	(304.60)	
Uttar Pradesh				
4.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	(187.54)	(21.68)	
Andhra Pradesh				
5.	Tirupathi Spg. Mills	(287.74)	(75.20)	
Karnataka				
6.	Minerva Mills	(4079.32)	(561.14)	
Kerala				
7.	Parvathi Mills	(1373.73)	(279.90)	
8.	Alagappa Mills	(477.35)	(31.93)	71.14
9.	Canre. Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Cannanore	(269.29)	3.55	10.63
10.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	(456.06)	(28.48)	18.63
11.	Vijaya Mohini Mills	(458.10)	(18.47)	30.74
Pondicherry				
12.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	(393.51)	(67.91)	
Maharashtra				
13.	Barshi Textile Mills	(160.42)	(22.65)	1.82
14.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	(2471.71)	(456.71)	
15.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	(457.10)	(102.35)	

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	(973.19)	(216.34)	
17.	Apollo Textile Mills	(934.80)	(218.11)	
18.	Finlay Mills	(3513.46)	(542.30)	
19.	Gold Mohur Mills	(2405.83)	(422.18)	
20.	Dhule Textile Mills	(996.90)	(265.17)	
21.	Nanded Textile Mills	(1210.62)	(264.06)	
22.	Tata Mills	(3006.58)	(712.04)	
23.	Podar Mills	(2282.08)	(448.24)	
24.	India United Mills No. 1	(3178.42)	(877.75)	
25.	India United Mills No. 5	(1898.60)	(430.24)	
26.	RBBA Spg. & Wvg. Mills	(1254.42)	(299.30)	
27.	Savatram Mills	(717.84)	(170.71)	
	Tamil Nadu			
28.	Cambodia Mills	(241.02)	(37.61)	23.89
29.	Sri Rangavilas Gng. Spg. & Wvg. Mills	(223.02)	(37.36)	26.14
30.	Pankaja Mills	(241.18)	(47.84)	22.33
31.	Pioneer Spinners	(120.63)	(13.33)	15.07
32.	Kaleeswarar 'B'	(68.99)	(29.96)	27.07
33.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	(177.98)	(57.30)	
34.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	(969.68)	(214.38)	
35.	Sri Sarda Mills	(632.40)	(120.86)	5.14
	Assam			
36.	Associated Industries	(224.38)	(183.23)	
	Orissa			
37.	Orissa Cotton Mills	(424.22)	(266.95)	
	West Bengal			
38.	Aarti Cotton Mills	(845.71)	(278.02)	
39.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	(1287.60)	(359.52)	
40.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	(738.64)	(408.56)	

Approval of New Courses by Deemed University

2939. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deemed universities are starting new courses without the approval of UGC;

(b) if so, the details of such erring universities and action taken against them by the Government;

(c) whether the Government have no control over the intake of students in each course; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (d) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), institutions declared as "Deemed to be Universities" are at par with the State and Central Universities defined under Section 2 (f) of the UGC Act, 1956, for the purpose of offering general courses in Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, therefore, no prior approval of the Commission would be required to start such general courses. In the case of professional/technical courses, Government's notification dated April 5, 2006 clarifies that prior approval of AICTE is not necessary for deemed universities, however, they are liable to maintain, at least, minimum standards in professional education prescribed by the relevant statutory authority. Further, deemed universities are open to inspection by AICTE/UGC in accordance to the provisions under relevant Rules and Regulations and it is up to UGC to take necessary action, if needed, on the basis of the report of the inspection team.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bal Bhavan

2940. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct Bal Bhavans in the country particularly in backward and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location-wise number of the Bal-Bhavans set up in various States of the country as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No such scheme has been finalised by the Government.

(c) A Statement showing the zone-wise number of State Bal Bhavans in the country, is enclosed.

Zone-wise Number of State Bal Bhavans

Name of the States/UTs.	Number of Bal Bhavans
1	2
North Zone	
1. Haryana	10
2. Jammu and Kashmir	2
3. Punjab	2
4. Delhi	1
5. Uttaranchal	1
6. Chandigarh	1
Central Zone	
1. Madhya Pradesh	2
2. Uttar Pradesh	6
East Zone	
1. Orissa	3
2. West Bengal	2
3. Manipur	1
4. Assam	1
West Zone	
1. Gujarat	5
2. Goa	1
3. Maharashtra	5
4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1

1	2
5. Daman and Diu	2
6. Rajasthan	1
South Zone	
1. Tamil Nadu	7
2. Andhra Pradesh	5
3. Kerala	7
4. Karnataka	5
5. Pondicherry	1

[English]

Commission on Official Language

2941. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a commission to examine the issues involving declaration of any language as an official languages;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which such report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sitakant Mahapatra to consider, *inter-alia*, the demand for declaring languages included in the eighth schedule to the Constitution as Official Language.

(b) The committee has since submitted its report.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report to the Government in June, 2004.

(d) Keeping in view the reply to part (b) above, question does not arise.

Indian Institute of Handloom Technology

2942. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Indian Institute of Handloom Technology for upgradation of handloom technology training programme alongwith number of students quota allotted, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is providing hostel facilities to these students in each Indian Institute of Handloom Technology in an academic year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether students so admitted in IIHTs are living in highly rented houses in spite of vacancy in the hostel;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps Government proposes to take to utilize hostel capacity for welfare of the students studying at IIHT; and

(g) the number of quota reserved in each of IIHT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) At present, 4 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) at Varanasi, Salem, Guwahati and Jodhpur are functioning with the objective to provide technically qualified manpower, primarily to meet the requirement of the Handloom Sector. These IIHTs are conducting 3 years Diploma Course in Handloom Technology with total intake capacity of 225 students (Salem-75, Varanasi-60, Guwahati-45 and Jodhpur-45). Besides, IIHT, Salem & Varanasi are also conducting 1½ year Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry with intake capacity of 28 students. Each Institute has its own area of jurisdiction and a quota of seats have been allotted to each IIHT for the respective State falling within their jurisdiction. Details of the States covered by each of these institutes and the number of seat allotted to the participating States in the DHT courses are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, hostel facility is provided to maximum number of students who opt for the same.

(c) IIHT Jodhpur- IIHT, Jodhpur has a boys hostel with a capacity of 94 students and girls hostel of 24 students. Presently 88 students are residing in boys hostel

and 8 students of 1st year are expected to join. A total of 12 girls are residing in girls hostel.

IIHT Guwahati- IIHT, Guwahati has a boys hostel with a capacity of 92 students and girls hostel of 30 students. Presently 66 students are residing in boys hostel and 8 students of 1st year are expected to join. A total of 16 girls are residing in girls hostel.

IIHT Salem- IIHT, Salem has two boys hostels with a capacity of 160 students and girls hostel of 32 students. Presently 151 students are residing in boys hostel and 32 girls are residing in girls hostel.

IIHT Varanasi- IIHT, Varanasi has two boys hostel with a capacity of 146 students and girls hostel of 30 students. Presently 129 students are residing in boys hostel and 22 students of 1st year are expected to join. A total of 27 girls are residing in girls hostel and 3 students of 1st year are expected to join.

(d) Yes, some of the students are residing outside due to various reasons as mentioned against (e) but not on account of non-availability of hostel facility. However, the Institutes have no information on rent paid by them.

(e) Some of the students are staying outside either on their own accord or if found involved in indiscipline/unwanted activities in the hostel to maintain discipline and decorum in the hostel & in the interest of hostel inmates.

(f) Hostels in the Institutes are running at full capacity.

(g) The reservation of seats in respect of DHT courses rests with the respective State Governments as per their reservation policy. The reservation of seats for Post Diploma Course in Textile Chemistry is 15% seats for SC & 7.5% seats for ST, while the remaining seats may be filled from General Category candidates.

Statement

Detail of allotment of seats to different States in Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology

S.No.	Name of IIHTs	States covered	No. of seats
1	2	3	4
1.	IIHT Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	18
		Uttaranchal	2
		Bihar	4
		Jharkhand	3
		Orissa	8
		West Bengal	10
		Himachal Pradesh	3
		Jammu and Kashmir	4
		Maharashtra	8
		Total	60
2.	IIHT Salem	Andhra Pradesh	15
		Karnataka	15
		Kerala	15

1	2	3	4
		Pondicherry	3
		Tamilnadu	26
		Goa	1
		Total	75
3.	IIHT Guwahati	Assam	14
		Manipur	10
		Tripura	8
		Meghalaya	2
		Mizoram	2
		Nagaland	4
		Aunachal Pradesh	3
		Sikkim	2
		Total	45
4.	IIHT Jodhpur	Rajasthan	14
		Madhya Pradesh	9
		Chhattisgarh	4
		Delhi	6
		Punjab	2
		Haryana	4
		Gujarat	6
		Total	45
Grand Total:			225 seats

Revival Scheme of NTC

2943. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been submitted by the Parvathi Mills, Kerala to the Government for the revival of the mill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Unauthorized Construction on ITPO Land

2944. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the unauthorised constructions of food and beverages units on the land of ITPO in Pragati Maidan has been removed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which such illegal constructions are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of unauthorized construction are given in the enclosed statement. A deadline for removal of unauthorized construction cannot be set at this stage, as the matter relating to unauthorized construction by several licensees is *sub-judice*.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Licensee	As per Agreement	As per Existing in Oct. 2005 and March 2006	Deviation (c-b) in Oct. 2005 and March 2006
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Palace Rest (K-4)	186.00	298.00	112.00
2.	Tripti (K-6)*	92.90	99.71	6.81 (G.F.) 7.28 (Terrace)
3.	Hindustan Coca Cola (K-7) (Bhartiyam)	92.00 155.00	92.00 275.00	— 29 (G.F.) 91 (G.F. – Semi Permanent)
4.	Mother Dairy (K-8 & 9)	216.00	231.00	15.00
5.	Prakarti Restaurant (Gulati Restaurant) Tand. Jan. (K-11)	148.6	354.68	205.84
6.	Pepsi (K-13)**	91.85	—	—
7.	Gulati Caterers (Adar Satkar)	226.59	411.00	184.41 (G.F.) 186.44 (Terrace)
8.	Food Plaza Rest. (Phoolwari)	992.82	1537.00	544.18
9.	Singla Cuisine (Occasion)	230.00	230.00	—
10.	Bhayana Tents (Vatika Rest.)	659.00	871.00	212.00

Total Number of cases of Deviations = 8

*Licence expired on 12.8.2006.

**Licensee has vacated the premises on 18.5.2006.

*[Translation]***Proposals for Setting up Creches**

2945. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals sent by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up creches in the State under National Creche Fund are pending with Government;

(b) if so, the time by which funds will be sanctioned for the said proposals including, the reasons for delay;

(c) the number of names and proposals of women

and child development schemes/programmes lying pending with the Government;

(d) the number of proposals sanctioned for decision; and

(e) the time by which all the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The proposals are under consideration.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme/ Programmes	proposals received from Madhya Pradesh	proposals sanctioned	proposals under consideration
1.	Working women Hostels	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Short Stay Homes	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Support for Training Employment and Programme (STEP)	11	Nil	11
4.	Swablamban	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme	894 Creches	822	72
6.	Swadhar	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Pilot Project to Combat Trafficking of Women & Children for commercial exploitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	A Programme for Juvenile Justice	26	26	Nil

*[English]***Employment Target in Handloom Sector**

2946. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target to provide jobs in the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The general thrust of the handloom sector schemes implemented by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is to provide support for product diversification, design and skill upgradation and market access to the handloom weavers to augment their livelihood and increase their earnings. The Government of India has been assisting handloom sector which is decentralized in nature to sustain employment through implementation of various developmental and welfare schemes. As per Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96, handloom sector provided employment to about 65.51 lakh persons in the country.

[*Translation:*]

Allocation of Funds for Industrial Development

2947. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) the norms for allocation of funds to States for industrial development;

(b) whether the Karnataka State has got the lowest investment in industrial sector as compared to other Southern States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the funds allocated are not sufficient for development of industries particularly in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) and (e) and (f) DIPP does not operate any generic scheme for allocation of funds to States for industrial development except for special schemes. While the primary responsibility for industrial development is of the State Governments, Government of India supplements their efforts to the extent possible in providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives under its various schemes. At present, these include the Growth Centre Scheme, Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, North-East Industrial Policy Package, Special Category States Package, Integrated Development of Leather Sector and Industrial Park Scheme being operated by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and funds are allocated for the projects under these schemes. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions including choice of locations of the industrial units are taken by entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations. State-wise information of the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) received and Letters of Intent (LOI)/Direct Industrial Licenses (DIL) issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion during 1.4.2003 to 30.6.2006 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Government is reviewing and evaluating relevant schemes from time to time to make them meaningful for industrial development throughout the country. Ministry of SSI and Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries have formulated special schemes for industrial development of rural areas.

Statement

State-wise and Financial year-wise Investment Intentions (IEMs + LOIs + DILs) from 2003-2004 Onwards

S.No.	Name of the State	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007 (Apr-June)		Total	
		Nos	Prop. Inv (Rs. Cr)	Nos.	Prop.Inv (Rs. cr)	Nos.	Prop. Inv (Rs. Cr)	Nos.	Prop. Inv (Rs. Cr)	Nos.	Proposed Investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	2	31	0	0	2	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	266	16527	422	16596	493	19001	178	18392	1359	70516

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	66	6	51	7	41	2	5	22	165
4.	Assam	39	163	73	430	71	809	18	443	201	1845
5.	Bihar	5	27	12	314	37	3913	25	2688	79	6942
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	212	16155	453	47602	242	39914	49	14750	956	118421
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	227	4137	96	834	88	2374	25	1069	436	8414
9.	Daman and Diu	91	390	54	418	72	780	13	37	230	1625
10.	Delhi	9	14	7	20	5	20	2	6	23	60
11.	Goa	33	325	29	171	36	296	10	191	108	983
12.	Gujarat	447	32341	613	29695	753	82901	169	7848	1982	152785
13.	Haryana	185	8372	198	2737	232	5578	70	915	685	17602
14.	Himachal Pradesh	63	1126	107	3384	115	1774	42	862	327	7146
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	56	774	126	2719	134	2058	28	726	344	8277
16.	Jharkhand	65	1861	88	10539	202	54089	28	5068	383	71557
17.	Karnataka	180	14074	224	10969	268	15353	94	5706	766	46102
18.	Kerala	20	417	26	294	48	610	10	167	104	1488
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	70	1616	139	8538	175	18782	45	2094	429	31030
21.	Maharashtra	685	6878	709	13256	826	24694	217	5524	2437	52352
22.	Manipur	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	0	2	7
23.	Meghalaya	32	99	32	215	33	634	4	819	101	1767
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	5	16034	1	2	0	0	0	0	6	16036
26.	Orissa	155	17718	248	45565	167	38255	26	13064	596	114602
27.	Pondicherry	51	252	34	263	48	411	13	60	146	986
28.	Punjab	110	1844	170	4190	195	7127	52	2750	527	15911
29.	Rajasthan	170	1096	156	2162	186	5077	63	3779	575	12114
30.	Sikkim	2	18	5	243	7	548	1	10	15	819
31.	Tamil Nadu	256	2898	419	54481	630	11841	206	6844	1511	76064

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
32.	Tripura	2	2	7	251	0	0	1	0	10	253
33.	Uttar Pradesh	238	2179	595	21633	631	31710	251	21418	1685	76940
34.	Uttaranchal	142	1334	174	2441	392	5706	156	6330	864	15811
35.	West Bengal	450	7637	452	14078	380	12047	86	1520	1368	35282
36.	Locations in more than one State	2	9	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	11
Total		4275	158385	5649	294094	6476	386381	1884	123085	18284	96195

Note: Investment in terms of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) filed, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and Direct Industrial Licences issued since November 2003.

[English]

Fuel Source for Tobacco Growers

2948. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge demand for Virginia quality tobacco produced in Mysore District of Karnataka both in India and abroad;

(b) whether wood is used as fuel to cure tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to provide an alternative fuel on subsidized rates to the tobacco growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. There is demand of Virginia tobacco produced in Mysore district of Karnataka both in India and abroad.

(b) and (c) The tobacco growers in Karnataka do not entirely depend upon wood fuel from forests for curing tobacco. Some growers also use agri-waste like coconut shells, paddy husk, Maize cobs, cotton stalks, briquettes made from agri-waste, coffee husk, stubbles from social forestry, etc. besides wood fuel from trees from their own fields.

(d) and (e) The Tobacco Board is pursuing growers to raise their own fuel by planting fast growing trees in 0.5 acre to 1 acre in their lands to have continuous fuel supply for one tobacco barn for 6 to 10 years besides raising fast growing trees on the bunds of their fields. Board proposes to supply seedlings of fast growing trees at subsidized rates to growers for raising these plantations. The Board is also promoting manufacturing of briquettes from tobacco & cotton stalks and has already demonstrated the same in tobacco growing areas in Andhra Pradesh. The Board also proposes to extend subsidy for setting up of briquette making units for tobacco curing. The Board is pursuing developing solar barns with the help of Solar Energy Center, New Delhi, a Government of India Organisation. The Solar Energy Centre is likely to take up the project soon.

Shortage of Text Books

2949. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the NCERT has blamed distributors for shortage of text books;

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

(c) whether the various distributors to which task is assigned are not timely printing books; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further action taken by the Government to meet the shortage of text books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Distributors are not given any printing assignments by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). NCERT is mandated to print and supply textbooks for the schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. NCERT has taken all possible steps to ensure that its textbooks are made available across the nation, in sufficient numbers for CBSE affiliated schools in time. When shortages are reported in the CBSE affiliated system, NCERT has responded through its network of 235 approved wholesale agencies.

[Translation]

Setting of University

2950. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian oil company Gezpram and University of Ustarakhas have offered their assistance for setting up a university in Gujarat for studying subjects related to petroleum;

(b) if so, whether this issue is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the benefit likely to be gained by the petroleum sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M .A.A. FATMI): (a) State Universities are set up by Acts of State Legislature, and Central Government has no role in setting up of State Universities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Security at PM Residence

2951. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unauthorised car with VIP number entered the Prime Minister's House without any check as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 28, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for not exercising the desired security check and action taken for security lapses;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that such lapses of security do not repeat;

(f) the total number of cases regarding neglect of the security of the P.M. and other VVIP brought to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years as on date; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the security personnel and offenders separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) to (g) No Sir, No unauthorized car with VIP number entered the Prime Minister's House as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated July 28, 2006. As there was no security lapse, no enquiry has been conducted regarding this.

[English]

Impact of Patents

2952. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been adverse impact on the Small Scale Industries (SSI) by switching over to product patent from job patent laws;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the impact of ill-effects of product patent on SSI;

(c) the details pertaining to the assistance being provided/proposed to be provided by the Government to SSI for adopting new technology and carrying out product research in view of their financial constraints; and

(d) the details on the role of the Government with regard to product royalty prevailing in SSI?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Product patent protection,

introduced under the Patent (Amendment) Act, 2005 in drugs, food and chemicals, became effective from January 01, 2005 as product patent protection already existed for other fields. It is too early yet to assess the impact of the latest product patent protection on the small scale industries (SSI). However, the Government (in the Ministry of SSI) has been monitoring the situation through interactions with SSI associations and other stakeholders.

(c) The Government implements a number of schemes under which incentives, including financial assistance, are provided to the SSI for upgradation of technology, acquisition of improved plant and machinery and improvement of quality of management and systems. Besides, there is a scheme of conferring annual national awards on SSI units for excellence in research and development. With a view to creating awareness among the SSI units, their associations and other concerned with intellectual property rights and their implications for the sector, the Government has also been organising sensitization programmes all over the country.

(d) The amount of royalty for transfer of technology/know-how in any industrial sector, including small scale, is based on the market value of the technology/know-how. No legal norms have been fixed for this.

Vacant Post of Executives

2953. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various undertakings under the Ministry are without the top executives;

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

(c) whether these undertakings are suffering losses in the absence of these executives; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director (C.M.D), National Aluminum Company Ltd. (NALCO) fell vacant on 29.05.2006 after order of removal from service of the then C.M.D. However, in view of the injunction granted by the Delhi High Court, the said order has been kept in abeyance.

(c) and (d) The in-charge arrangement have been made for the vacant posts and hence, no loss is apprehended to NALCO.

Grants for Scholarship

2954. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI M. SHREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to develop wider merit-cum-means based loan and scholarship programmes through the Banking system and other agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Government has released the scholarship to eligible candidates who applied for the last year;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-payment of scholarship; and

(e) the steps taken by the government for early disbursement of the scholarships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Revised Model Educational Loan Scheme of Indian Banks' Association provides broad guidelines to the banks for providing financial support from the banking system to deserving/meritorious students for pursuing higher education in India and abroad. The main emphasis is that every meritorious student, though poor, is provided with an opportunity to pursue education with the financial support from the banking system with affordable terms and conditions and that no deserving student is denied an opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial support. For such loans upto Rs. 4.00 lakhs, no security is required. Above Rs. 4.00 lakhs and upto Rs. 7.5 lakhs collateral in the form of a suitable third party guarantee is required. The bank may, at its discretion, waive third party guarantee if satisfied with the net-worth/means of parent who would be executing the document as "joint borrower". Above Rs.7.5 lakhs, collateral security of suitable value or suitable third party guarantee along with the assignment of future income of the student for payment of installments is required.

Subject to repaying capacity of the parents/students, the following ceiling has been imposed regarding quantum of finance:

1. Studies in India – Maximum Rs. 7.5 lakhs
2. Studies abroad – Maximum Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

Rate of interest:

- Upto Rs. 4 lakhs – BPLR,
Above Rs. 4 lakhs – BPLR + 1%.

Under National Merit Scholarship Scheme of the Deptt. of Higher Education, Government of India, financial assistance is being provided to the meritorious and poor students of rural areas studying in Classes IX & X and also to meritorious students studying in post-matric to post-graduate level in Government Schools, Colleges and Universities. Funds are provided under the Scheme to the States/UTs for disbursement of scholarships to eligible candidates.

CBSE and UGC have signed MOUs with ICICI Bank for electronic disbursement of scholarships to the accounts of scholarship holders, under the following scholarship schemes:

- (1) CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Professional Studies.
- (2) CBSE Merit Scholarship Schemes for Under-Graduate Courses.
- (3) UGC Indira Gandhi PG Scholarship for Single Girl Child.
- (4) UGC Post Graduate Merit Scholarship to University Rank Holders.

Students can also withdraw money using ICICI Bank ATM Cards/Smart Cards.

Normally, the Plan Schemes require fresh sanction for the new plan period and at that time the scholarship programme may undergo modifications based on feedbacks.

(c) to (e) Under National Merit Scholarship Scheme, an amount of Rs. 8.36 crores for 25,220 students has been provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations during 2005-06 for disbursement of scholarships to awardee students.

Under both the schemes of UGC, 2340 students have been awarded merit scholarship during 2005-06 so far, on the basis of documents received through Universities/Colleges where the awardees have taken admission to the 1st Year of P.G. Programme. The names of 1370 awardees have been forwarded to ICICI Bank for distributions/crediting the amount of scholarship in the accounts of selected awardees.

During 2005-06, CBSE has released 776 scholarships out of 1050 scholarships to the selected candidates. Rest of the scholarships could not be released due to incomplete information submitted by the candidates.

Infrastructural Facilities in Anganwadi Centres

2955. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from various State Governments particularly from Kerala for improvement of infrastructural facilities of Anganwadi, so as to upgrade them as a pre-nursery school; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Citizenship to Pakistani Nationals

2956. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani nationals visited India have applied for Indian citizenship;

(b) if so, the number of such families, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the citizenship is likely to be granted to them;

(d) whether the Union Government is considering to grant citizenship to families and doctors living in other States on the line of Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the provisions made for those families whose passports and period of Visas have expired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) to (c) Persons of Indian Origin including Pak nationals, who apply for grant of Indian Citizenship (IC), are considered under the provisions of section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. No definite number of such applicants and timeframe for granting IC can be specified because the applications have to go through different stages in the State/Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Visit of NHRC in Jail

2957. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission regularly visits various jails to see that human rights of prisoners are protected in jails in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the jails visited by NHRC during each of the last three year, State-wise;

(c) the main observations made by the NHRC after such visits, State-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government and State Governments on such observations; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the violation of human rights in the country?

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

(b) A State-wise list of jails, visited by NHRC during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The main observations made by NHRC after visiting the Jails State-wise are as under:

(i) Maharashtra: Overcrowding. Sanitation not satisfactory,

(ii) Chhattisgarh: Overcrowding; unfilled vacancies,

(iii) Karnataka: Jail infrastructure needs upgradation. Health care facilities inadequate. System of Board of visitors gone defunct,

(iv) West Bengal: Large number of Under Trial Prisoners. Sanitation not satisfactory,

(v) Himachal Pradesh: Position of staff is unsatisfactory. Housing facilities need improvement.

(vi) Haryana: Overcrowding. Sanitation not satisfactory. Unfilled posts,

(vii) Delhi: Overcrowding. Housing facilities is unsatisfactory,

(viii) Rajasthan: Inadequate health facilities. Unfilled vacancies,

(ix) Tripura: Dismal living conditions. Issue of parole needs examination,

(x) Kerala: Inadequate health facilities. Sanitation is poor at most places. Recreation facilities inadequate.

(xi) Andhra Pradesh: Overcrowding. Inadequate health facilities,

(xii) Goa: Old building needs renovation. Jail Adalats are not being held. System of Board of visitors got defunct.

(d) Prison is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take suitable action on the observations of the NHRC. However, a number of States have reported to the NHRC that they have taken steps to address the deficiencies pointed out by it particularly in improving sanitation, construction of new jails and residences for the jail staff.

(e) The Government is sensitizing the State police forces and the jail officials through training programmes to prevent human right violations. NHRC also conducts training courses on human rights for police officers on regular basis.

Statement

Name of State	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Central Prison, Pune,		
West Bengal	Presidency Correctional Home, Kolkatta, District Correctional Home Howrah		
Himachal Pradesh	Modern Central Jail, Kandla, Sub Jail, Bilesapur		
Haryana	Central Prison, Ambala		
NCT of Delhi	Women Prison, Delhi		
Rajasthan	Central Jail, jaipur, District and Sub Jail, Tonk, Open Jail, Sanganger		
Tipura		Central Jail, Agartala, District Jail, Udaipur Sub Jail, Sonamura	
Kerala		Central, Open and Women Prison, Thiruvananthapuram, District Jail, Kollam, Sub Jail, Pathanamthitta	
Andhra Pradesh		Central & Open Prison, Hyderabad, District Jail, Karimnagar, Sub Jail, Bhongir	
Goa		Central Jail, Panaji	
UT of Chandigarh		Central Jail, Chandigarh	
Chhattisgarh			Central Jail, Raipur, District Jail, Durg, Sub Jail, Sanjari, Balod

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			Central Prison Bangalore, Open Air Jail, Korarmangla, Taluk Sub Jail, Chickaballapur, District, Jail, Mangalore.

Setting up of Inter State Trade Council

2958. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

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

(a) the names of the States that have not so far set up Inter-State Trade Council alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government against such States;

(c) the number of States having functional WTO cells;

(d) whether the Government proposes to plan coordination in the activities of these cells; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government of India policy framework does not envisage setting up of Inter State Trade Council at the state level.

Inter-State Trade Council is a permanent advisory body set up by Government of India on 24.6.2005 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, Govt. of India; Chief Ministers of the states or State Cabinet Ministers nominated by concerned Chief Ministers and certain other dignitaries as Members. Director General Foreign Trade is the Member Secretary of the Council.

(b) Does not arise.

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

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to plan coordination in the activities of the WTO cells functioning in the States. However, State Governments are regularly consulted on matters relating to WTO negotiations.

EFC Grants for Elementary Education to the NE

2959. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the breakup of funds under EFC Grants for Elementary Education to the States of the North East;

(b) the amount utilized as on date;

(c) the time by which the remaining balance will be utilized; and

(d) the steps taken to facilitate full utilization of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Central share released to the North Eastern States including Sikkim during the year 2005-06 was Rs. 364.36 crores.

(b) and (c) The expenditure reported by the North Eastern States during 2005-06 was Rs. 511.45 crores out of the total funds available including; Central share, State share and the unspent balance at the beginning of the year. The unspent balances available with States/UTs at the end of the year are carried forward to the following year.

(d) Several training programmes have been held for North Eastern States for capacity building to ensure better utilization of SSA funds. A rigorous system of monitoring

of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has also been put in place to track progress of States.

Performance of Companies

2960. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of mini Navaratna companies under the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) There is only one Miniratna Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines viz. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOD) is signed between Ministry of Mines and NALCO every year. The performance of the NALCO is reviewed with reference to the MOU parameters. NALCO has been given excellent rating during the last three years.

Central Social Welfare Board

2961. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Social Welfare Board provide vocational training to women in various trades;

(b) if so, the details of vocational training schemes being run by Central Social Welfare Board;

(c) the number of women given training for various trades under these scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the trained women are also being provided jobs; and

(e) if so, the job provided during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Export Insurance Scheme

2962. SHRI SARVEY SATAYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any export insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its aim and objective; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Government of India has set up an Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) in 1957 for insurance for the credits extended by the exporters to overseas buyers. ECGC has been in the field of export credit insurance since then, supporting the exporters of the goods and services and projects and banks financing such exports. With a view to facilitating medium and long term exports and considering the limitations of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation in providing adequate cover on its own and non-availability of re-insurance cover to such exporters; the Government has decided to establish a National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) and is operating the scheme from March 07, 2006. The objective of the NEIA scheme is to ensure availability of credit risk cover for medium and long term high value projects which are commercially viable and desirable from the point of view of national interest where re-insurance cover is not available or its cost is very high. The National Export Insurance Account will have a corpus of Rs. 2000 crores, of which Rs. 246 crores will be contributed during the 10th Plan and Rs. 1754 crores will be contributed during the 11th Plan period. The Account shall be maintained and operated by a Public Trust set up jointly by Department of Commerce and the ECGC.

Inclusion of Banjara Caste In ST List

2963. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for inclusion of some of its castes including Banjara community in ST List is pending with the Union Government.

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has sent this proposal to Registrar General of India for their comments;

(c) if so, whether the Registrar has sent back the proposal to Union Government with some queries;

(d) if so, whether the reply to the queries has been prepared;

(e) the time by which the proposal would be sent again to the Registrar General for their consideration; and

(f) the other measures taken by the Government to expedite the matter so the Banjara community gets benefits of ST without any delay?

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs did receive a proposal from UP Government regarding inclusion of Banjara Community in the ST list of UP. As per the approved modalities, the proposal was referred to the Registrar General of India (RGI), seeking their comments. The office of RGI furnished their comments and did not agree to the proposal for inclusion of the

Banjara community in the ST list of UP. The matter was referred back to the State Government for their comments and giving further justification in support of their proposal. The State Government's reply is awaited. The State Government has been reminded periodically to expedite its reply.

Export of Sandal Wood/Bamboo

2964. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the quantum of bamboo/sandal wood/sandal wood products exported, State-wise during each of the last three years, and the current year alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals from other countries for import of these items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantum and value of export of bamboo, sandal and sandal wood products for the last three years is as follows:

	2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006 (April 2005-Jan 2006)	
	Quantity	Value (Rs/Lakhs)	Quantity	Value (Rs/Lakhs)	Quantity	Value (Rs/Lakhs)
Bamboo	1201.99 quintals	32.33	3864.61 quintals	97.89	1194.8 quintals	29.49
Sandal wood	1778 cubic metre	192.66	34 cubic metre	4.62	2118 cubic metre	376.11
Sandal wood Products	3780.36 quintals	2554.56	1293.40 quintals	2636.15	1379.54 quintals	3588.71

State-wise export data is not maintained, however, the major export destinations of above products are USA, EU, Middle East, African Countries, Australia, etc.

(b) and (c) No specific request for import of these products from India has been reported. To promote the export of all goods including bamboo, sandal wood and its products the exporters are encouraged to take benefits of the schemes like Advance License Scheme (ALS), Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB), Marketing Development Assistance (MDA), Market Access initiative Scheme (MAI), etc.

Modernisation of HCL

2965. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the expansion/modernization of Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL);

(b) if so, the details of investment proposed under the expansion/modernization programme;

(c) the main objectives of the expansion/modernization of HCL; and

(d) the time by which the said expansion/modernization is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

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

Seafood Processing Units

2966. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import raw-material with a view to make the country a seafood processing hub;

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

(c) whether the Government has received requests from States especially from Government of Kerala for establishing Seafood Processing Units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is already a provision in the Foreign Trade Policy to import raw materials exclusively for export purposes under the Advance Import Authorization Scheme. A Package for Marine Sector has also been incorporated in the Foreign Trade Policy under which duty free import of specified specialized inputs/chemicals and flavoring oils etc. are allowed to the extent of 1% of f.o.b. value of preceding financial years export and import of monofilament longline system for tuna fishing are allowed at a concessional rate of duty.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement

2967. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security concerns are plaguing India's Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (BIPA) with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the objections raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to address the security concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) have informed that a Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPA) between India and China has been under negotiations since 1996 during the last round of negotiations held in March, 2006 in New Delhi, an agreement was reached between the two sides on the text of BIPA. The Agreed Text is being processed in the Department of Economic Affairs in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and Reserve Bank of India for obtaining internal approvals.

Education in jail

2968. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for technical education in jail from the State Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Increase in the Strength of Delhi Police Force

2969. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of the Delhi Police Force, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing strength of the Delhi Police Force to maintain the law and order situation in the capital in the better way;

(c) if so, whether the Government also proposes to increase the women officers in the proposed expansion of Delhi Police Force;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The rank-wise sanctioned strength of Delhi Police is given below:

Sl. No.	Rank	Sanctioned strength
1	2	3
1.	Commissioner of Police	1
2.	Special Commissioner of Police	3

1	2	3
3.	Joint Commissioner of Police	15
4.	Additional Commissioner of Police	10
5.	Deputy Commissioner of Police	44
6.	JA Grade Officers	28
7.	Assistant Commissioner of Police	269
8.	Inspector	1055
9.	Sub-Inspector	3834
10.	Assistant sub-Inspector	5624
11.	Head Constable	14448
12.	Constable	32419
13.	Civilian	74
14.	Class-IV Employee	1786
Total		59610

In addition, the Government has also sanctioned five battalions of India Reserve Police for the NCT of Delhi comprising of 5035 personnel as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Rank	Sanctioned strength
1	2	3
1.	Deputy Commissioner of Police	20
2.	Assistant Commissioner of Police	35
3.	Inspector	40
4.	Sub-Inspector	130
5.	Assistant Sub-Inspector	115
6.	Head Constable	955
7.	Constable	3375

1	2	3
8.	Civilian	20
9.	Class-IV Employee	345
Total		5035

(b) to (e) Strengthening of Police Force is a continuing process. Government reviews the strength of Delhi Police from time to time and sanctions posts in accordance with requirement and availability of funds. Government has decided to raise the strength of women personnel in Delhi Police to 10% of its total strength.

Aid Received for ICDS

2970. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Voluntary Organisations such as Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) and World Food Programme etc. are extending assistance/aid for ICDS Projects of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the aid given by various international organisations during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the assistance/aid given by various international organizations during each of the last three years for ICDS projects in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)

(in Rs. crore)

Yea	Value of commodity	#Cash Component	Total Assistance
2003-04	46.59	32.15	78.74
2004-05	53.21	42.96	96.71
2005-06	55.17	40.45	95.62

#No cash has been provided directly to Government of India but funds have been spent on activities like capacity building of functionaries, behaviour change communication, strengthening of supply chain management, monitoring and supportive supervision.

2. World Food Programme (WFP)

Year	Fortified blended food provided (in MTs)	Value of fortified blended food provided (in crores of Rs.)
2003	7,967	6.28
2004	18,639	14.69
2005	25,976	20.48

3. UNICEF

(In US \$ Million)

Year	Regular Resources	Other Resources	Total (in US Million \$)
2003 (Expenditure)	3.64	2.60	6.25
2004 (Expenditure)	4.07	3.74	7.82
2005 (Allocation)	4.75	6.26	11.01

Funds to Terrorist Outfits

2971. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law to check the increasing flow of funds to the terrorist outfits through Hawala operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to freeze cash flow to terrorist groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 as amended in September 2004 has provisions to combat financing of terrorism. The Act allows to attach or freeze assets of a terrorist organization and/or proceeds of terrorism. It also lays down a detailed procedure for doing so. Further, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, (FCRA), also regulates and monitors receipt and use of foreign funds by the recipients. The Foreign

Exchange Management Act, (FEMA) has provisions to deal with cases of unauthorized transfer of foreign exchange through hawala. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) have also come into effect. The security and law enforcement and Revenue agencies are sensitized from time to time to pursue an inter-agency approach, detect channels and use of funds being received by the terrorist groups and accordingly invoke legal provisions to plug the flow of funds to terrorists.

Vocational Training Institutes

2972. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten Vocational Training Institutes set up in 1998 in Assam in collaboration of Central and State Governments are in a deplorable condition as reported in the 'Assam Tribune' of June 27, 2006;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to oversee the functioning of these Institutes;

(c) the Vocational Courses conducted in each of these Institutes alongwith the trainee and instructors strength in each institute;

(d) whether the trainees and instructors have not been paid their scholarships and salaries since 2004; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Spices

2973. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of spices exported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) whether the export earnings through spices has decreased during the said period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give subsidy for the export of spices;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the exports of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The statement on quantity of spices exported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise, is given below:

Major Countries	2003-04		2004-05(E)		2005-06(E)		2006-07 (Apr-June)	
	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
U.S.A.	36525.0	42934.1	40880.3	46929.1	39813.4	47738.6	11361.25	12743.81
Malaysia	19585.3	9013.5	39625.3	14340.9	42609.3	14481.3	14397.94	5034.98
U.K.	14453.0	12632.2	15080.5	12981.6	15291.5	13363.9	4460.70	3282.93
China	2590.3	7172.4	2767.7	8866.9	2976.7	13180.2	476.21	2362.33
Germany	4880.9	10417.8	4916.7	11215.0	5018.4	11763.8	1257.68	2921.15
Japan	7749.8	10119.5	6686.3	11472.2	6902.4	10482.5	1733.21	1935.97
U.A.E.	22615.7	9511.6	22865.5	8684.5	25265.7	9291.4	8150.69	3029.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sri Lanka	29168.9	9980.4	36816.7	9463.3	33427.3	8538.4	4440.86	1625.30
Singapore	4971.8	5886.0	6717.1	6733.2	5657.4	7160.8	1703.75	2074.94
Saudi Arabia	9191.9	5794.4	10114.1	5574.6	7365.3	5647.5	1840.86	1324.77
France	2818.0	4753.4	2836.3	4768.4	2264.4	5033.5	588.25	689.17
Others	100031.4	62945.0	146182.1	78970.2	133935.3	82863.1	32983.59	24990.12
Total	254381.8	191160.2	335488.5	220000.0	320527.0	229525.0	83375.00	62014.55

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Currently there is no new proposal to give subsidy for the export of spices. However, the Government is already providing freight subsidy to meet part of internal and international freight for export of 20,000 tonnes of pepper till the 'upper limit of 20,000 MT is reached.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The steps taken by the Government, through the Spices Board, to improve the export of spices are given below:

- Upgradation of technology for high end value addition and developing capabilities to meet the emerging global food safety standards.
- Adoption of high-tech processing technologies such as cryo-grinding steam sterilisation, super fluid extraction and advanced system of packaging.
- Assistance for setting up/upgradation of in-house laboratories of exporters for testing among other things, pesticide residues, aflatoxin, physical, chemical and microbial contaminants and chemical composition of spices.
- Adoption of quality certification procedures leading to accreditation under ISO, HACCP, SQF 2000, organic certification, etc.
- Development of innovative packaging for branded consumer packs for spices and spice products and adoption of barcode.

- Encouraging exporters to participate in international trade fairs, meetings etc. and undertake business tours to develop personal rapport and relationship with overseas buyers by offering assistance.
- Offer of assistance for sending business samples abroad.
- Promoting worldwide direct sale of premium category of branded Indian spices *viz.*, "Flavourit", since March 2005.
- Promotion of export of organic spices
- Quality improvement
- Generic promotion of Indian spices through participation in international food fairs and exhibitions besides sending business delegations to tap new markets.
- A WTO compatible subsidy scheme to meet part of internal and international freight for export of 20,000 tonnes of pepper till the upper limit of 20,000 MT is reached.

Trafficking of Women and Children

2974. SHRIMATI P. SATHEDEVI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Social Sciences has conducted any research on trafficking of women and children for sex work during the recent year;

(b) whether incidents of recruiting children from unorganized labour sector for sex work have been reported;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative to curtail the mishappening to children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Institute of Social Sciences, the Institute had conducted an all India study on Trafficking in Women and Children during 2003-2005. During the Research Programme, a number of instances of commercial sexual exploitation of children in the unorganized sector have come to their notice.

(c) and (d) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPS is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Ministry of WCD also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including child sex workers. A pilot project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is also being implemented. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programme for prevention of trafficking.

UGC Grants to Educational Institutions

2975. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria set for each category of grants on infrastructure and capacity enhancement to higher institutions through UGC including sports, library, skill upgradation modernization indicating grants for specially defined purposes like institution of backward districts, Junior Colleges, etc.

(b) whether the basis of these criteria are being reviewed on account of changed circumstances;

(c) whether the latest categorization of the backward districts set by the Planning Commission based on several indicators has been adopted by UGC to ensure grant to the deserving colleges of backward districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to mandate incorporation of new areas to fit into the present requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission provides financial assistance to eligible university/colleges which are included under Section 2(f) and declared fit to receive grant under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 as per approved pattern of assistance under the various schemes. UGC provides only development grants to eligible State Universities under the Plan, whereas, both Plan and Non-Plan grants are provided to Central Universities and eligible Deemed Universities. Under the scheme of Development assistance to colleges, financial assistance is provided to colleges for strengthening basic infrastructure and to meet their basic needs including books for journals and Scientific equipments.

Under the Scheme of 'Special Development grant for universities/colleges in Backward Areas, the Commission provides special development grant to the eligible colleges located in identified backward areas to ensure equity and access to higher education. A college recommended by an expert Committee, constituted by the UGC, is eligible to receive up to Rs.10.00 lakhs as a 'One time grant'. The eligible Universities under the scheme are provided up to Rs. 70.00 lakhs as one time additional grant over and above the Plan allocation. The Commission also provides financial assistance to eligible and deserving Young' colleges to ensure the equity and access to higher education.

(b) Yes, Sir. The schemes/guidelines are reviewed in every Plan with the help of Expert Committees.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The UGC is providing grants to eligible universities/colleges physically located in Backward

District which is below the level of total literacy on the basis of 2001 census as determined by the Planning Commission.

Closure of KVS

2976. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country particularly in Assam have been closed down very recently without making any alternative arrangement for the students who were pursuing study there;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the school authority of another Kendriya Vidyalaya located nearby has refused to give admission to those students of Kendriya Vidyalaya who sought admission after they passed out Xth standard successfully this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the justification for closing down Kendriya Vidyalaya and also the reasons for refusal of admission by the concerned authority of another Kendriya Vidyalaya located in very nearby places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL), Assam under Project Sector, was closed down w.e.f. 01.04.2006 with the arrangement that all desirous students, who were pursuing their studies in the KV will be admitted in the nearby KVs. KV BRPL Bongaigaon (Assam) was closed at the behest of the Project Authorities. Admission to XIth standard in Kendriya Vidyalayas, in all cases, were regulated as per the Admission Guidelines of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

Funds to SSA for Muslim Dominated Areas

2977. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has identified 87 Muslim dominated districts under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as reported in *Times of India* dated July 12, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds likely to be provided to these districts under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) 99 districts with more than 20% Muslim population based on 1981 Census data, had been identified under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, as minority concentration districts. 22 of these districts are in the State of Uttar Pradesh, 15 in Bihar, 11 in West Bengal, 7 in Kerala, 6 each in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, 5 each in Rajasthan and Gujarat, 4 each in Assam and Maharashtra, 3 each in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, 2 in Tamil Nadu and 1 each in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Uttaranchal and Haryana.

(c) About 25% of the total outlay under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2006-07, has been provided for these minority concentration districts.

Tea Growers in Himachal Pradesh

2978. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tea growers have stopped growing tea in some States especially in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save tea growers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per available information, except for some growers in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh, growers in other tea growing States have not stopped growing tea. The closure of three cooperative factories in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh and fragmentation of tea areas into small parcels of land due to family partition, etc. are some of the reasons which led to stoppage of plucking by some tea growers.

(c) Two of the closed tea factories in the Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh have been privatised by the State Government by leasing them to private firms and

tea growers around these factories have since resumed tea cultivation and regular plucking. Two old tea factories have upgraded their processing capabilities by converting to the manufacture of black orthodox tea with financial assistance from the Tea Board. Small manufacturing units are being encouraged to produce good quality green tea and 17 units have registered themselves with the Tea Board. In addition, assistance is also extended by the Tea Board to the growers for revival of their abandoned gardens through replantation/rejuvenation pruning and infilling. The Tea Board is also extending financial assistance by way of grant-in-aid for location specific research and extension activities.

[*Translation*]

No-Industry District

2979. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) the number of districts identified as no-industry districts at present, State-wise;

(b) the criteria laid down for declaring any district as no-industry district;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to undertake developmental works in no-industry district; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the efforts made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has not carried out any exercise to identify 'no-industry' districts. However, Ministry of Finance has notified 53 districts as category-A and 70 districts as category-B industrially backward districts for the purposes of Income Tax concessions. The notification mentioning these districts is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Districts which satisfied the following conditions were notified by Ministry of Finance as industrially backward category-A districts:

- (i) The district had a total weighted index count of 250 or less in the All-India Gradation List, or
- (ii) The district was a 'no industry' district as indicated in the All India Gradation List, which was prepared on the basis of financial, infrastructural and industrial parameters, or
- (iii) The district was an inaccessible hilly area district as indicated in the Eighth Plan Document and had a total weighted index count of 500 or less in the All India Gradation List, or
- (iv) The district had no railhead as on 1.4.1994 and had a total weighted index count of 500 or less in the All India Gradation List.

(c) and (d) Concerted efforts are being made by State and Central Governments for development of backward areas under various schemes *inter-alia* providing for fiscal concessions, improved industrial infrastructure and a conducive investment climate for setting up of industries. These include the Growth Centre Scheme, Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme, North-East Industrial Policy Package, Special Category States Package, Integrated Development of Leather Sector and Industrial Parks Scheme being operated by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

Statement

Notification: S.O.714(E)

Section(s) Referred: 80-IA

Statute: INCOME TAX

Date of Issue: 7/10/1997

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), as amended by section 3 of the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (15 of 1997), and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue (Central Board of Direct Taxes) number 636(E), dated 3rd September, 1997, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government specifies the following districts as industrially backward districts of category "A" and category "B" under sub-clause (c) of clause (iv) of sub-section (2) of section 80-IA read with rule 11EA of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, namely:

A. CATEGORY "A" INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

1. Godda Bihar 2. Gumla Bihar 3. Araria Bihar
 4. Gadchiroli Maharashtra 5. Madhepura Bihar
 6. Sidharthanagar Uttar Pradesh 7. Dumka Bihar
 8. Mandla Madhya Pradesh 9. Khagaria Bihar
 10. Kishanganj Bihar 11. Malda West Bengal 12. Palamau Bihar
 13. Phulbani Orissa 14. Madhubani Bihar
 15. Kalahandi Orissa 16. Jehanabad Bihar 17. Saharsa Bihar
 18. West Dinajpur West Bengal 19. Nawadah Bihar
 20. Bahraich Uttar Pradesh 21. Sitamarhi Bihar
 22. Sahebganj Bihar 23. Murshidabad West Bengal
 24. Cooch Behar West Bengal 25. Bankura West Bengal
 26. Panna Madhya Pradesh 27. Pratapgarh Uttar Pradesh
 28. Maharajganj Uttar Pradesh 29. Jalore Rajasthan
 30. Aurangabad Bihar 31. East Champaran Bihar
 32. Banda Uttar Pradesh 33. Barmer Rajasthan 34. Purnia Bihar
 35. Bastar Madhya Pradesh 36. Siwan Bihar
 37. Vaishali Bihar 38. Basti Uttar Pradesh 39. Sarguja Madhya Pradesh
 40. Chamoli Uttar Pradesh 41. Jaisalmer Rajasthan
 42. Lohardagga Bihar 43. Chhatarpur Madhya Pradesh
 44. Uttarkashi Uttar Pradesh 45. Churu Rajasthan
 46. Wayanad Kerala 47. Idukki Kerala 48. Jalpaiguri West Bengal
 49. Almora Uttar Pradesh 50. Pithoragarh Uttar Pradesh 51. Tehri Garhwal Uttar Pradesh 52. The Dangs Gujarat 53. Banswara Rajasthan.

B. CATEGORY "B" INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

1. Srikakulam Andhra Pradesh 2. Mahbubnagar Andhra Pradesh
 3. Katiyar Bihar 4. Bhagalpur Bihar 5. Gopalganj Bihar
 6. Darbhanga Bihar 7. West Champaran Bihar 8. Saran Bihar
 9. Bhojpur Bihar 10. Samastipur Bihar 11. Deoghar Bihar
 12. Nalanda Bihar 13. Gaya Bihar 14. Muzaffarpur Bihar
 15. Rohtas Bihar 16. Banaskantha Gujarat 17. Sabarkantha Gujarat
 18. Bidar Karnataka 19. Seoni Madhya Pradesh 20. Tikamgarh Madhya Pradesh
 21. Shivpuri Madhya Pradesh 22. Balaghat Madhya Pradesh
 23. Jhabua Madhya Pradesh 24. Sidhi Madhya Pradesh
 25. Vidisha Madhya Pradesh 26. Raigarh Madhya Pradesh
 27. Morena Madhya Pradesh 28. Betul Madhya Pradesh
 29. Rajgarh Madhya Pradesh 30. Rajnandgaon Madhya Pradesh
 31. Sagar Madhya Pradesh 32. Beed Maharashtra
 33. Bolangir Orissa 34. Mayurbhanj Orissa 35. Balasore Orissa
 36. Ganjam Orissa 37. Dungarpur Rajasthan 38. Dholpur Rajasthan
 39. Sawai Madhopur Rajasthan 40. Tonk Rajasthan
 41. Nagaur Rajasthan 42. Jhalawar Rajasthan
 43. Sikar Rajasthan 44. Hardoi Uttar Pradesh
 45. Lalitpur Uttar Pradesh 46. Hamirpur Uttar Pradesh
 47. Badaun Uttar Pradesh 48. Fatehpur Uttar Pradesh
 49. Azamgarh Uttar Pradesh 50. Etah Uttar

Pradesh 51. Barabanki Uttar Pradesh 52. Etawah Uttar Pradesh
 53. Deoral Uttar Pradesh 54. Ghazipur Uttar Pradesh
 55. Ballia Uttar Pradesh 56. Jaunpur Uttar Pradesh
 57. Sitapur Uttar Pradesh 58. Jalaun Uttar Pradesh
 59. Unnao Uttar Pradesh 60. Faizabad Uttar Pradesh
 61. Kanpur Dehat Uttar Pradesh 62. Mainpuri Uttar Pradesh
 63. Gonda Uttar Pradesh 64. Farukhabad Uttar Pradesh
 65. Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh 66. Mirzapur Uttar Pradesh
 67. Mau Uttar Pradesh 68. Purulia West Bengal
 69. Birbhum West Bengal 70. Midnapore West Bengal—Explanation.

For the purpose of this notification, the districts correspond to the districts mentioned in the report of the study group on Identification of backward districts dated 4th October, 1994, and are based on districts as they stood in the Census Report of 1991. Where a district specified as an industrially backward district for the purpose of section 80-IA is reorganised, either by split or otherwise, after the Census Report of 1991, all the areas comprised in the district as it existed in the Census Report of 1991 will qualify for the purpose of this rule.

2. This notification shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 1st day of October, 1994.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Central Government had set up a study group to identify industrially backward districts for the purposes of section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The group submitted its report to the Central Government in the month of October, 1994. The Central Government constituted another study group to review the said report. On the basis of the reports of both the study groups, the Central Government decided that the industrially backward districts should be classified into two categories, *i.e.*, category "A" and category "B". Section 80-IA was amended by the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (15 of 1997), so as to classify the industrially backward districts of category "A" and industrially backward districts of category "B". The said Ordinance has come into force on the 16th September, 1997. Rule 11EA of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, has also been amended retrospectively with effect from 1-10-1994 so as to give effect to the amendment made in section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act by the said Ordinance. It is certified that the retrospective operation of this amendment shall not prejudicially effect the interest of assesses.

(Sd.) Dr. Dheeraj Bhatnagar, Under Secretary to the Government of India.

[Notification No. 10441/F. No. 142/20/94-TPL(Pt. III)].

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2005		137	129	4	3	1	2	—	2	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
																Fined Rs. 500				Fined Rs. 100
2006 (31/7/2006)		76	67	6	8	8	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—

Lottery

2982. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI C.H. VIJAYA SHANKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for enactment of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 (No. 17/1998);

(b) whether this Act provides independence to State Governments to control the Lottery system;

(c) if so, the names of the States where Lotteries have been permitted and totally banned, separately;

(d) whether lottery tickets are still being sold at certain places in the country;

(e) if so, the income being earned by the Government by the lottery trade, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to impose ban on lotteries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAI/SWAL):

(a) The reported malpractices in the conduct of lotteries and its impact on the poorer sections of the society prompted the Government to enact the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998.

(b) The State Governments organize lotteries in their States in accordance with the conditions imposed under section 4 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998. As per Section 5 of the Act, a State Government may, within the State prohibit the sale of tickets of a lottery organized,

conducted or promoted by every other State. The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 7.5.1999 in Civil Appeal No. 2747 of 1999 M/s. B.R. Enterprises Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and others, passed an order that the State Governments can ban the sale of tickets of lotteries of all other States in their own jurisdiction only if it decides not to have any lottery within its territory including its own lottery.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal are organizing lotteries in their States. The Governments of Goa and Manipur have at present temporarily banned lotteries. The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal have under Section 5 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 prohibited the sale of lottery tickets within their States.

(e) No such data is maintained centrally.

(f) and (g) The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23.12.1999.

Import/Export of Marble

2983. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where marble is being exported at present;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to promote Marble Industry in the country especially in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban import of marble;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The major marble bearing state in the country is Rajasthan and, hence, most of the export of marble and marble products is originating from Rajasthan. Small quantities of marble and marble products originating from Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Gujarat are also exported.

(b) Ministry of Mines has constituted a Group on Marble Development (GMD) under the chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) having representatives of State Governments, Ministry of Commerce, Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and Industry as Members. The Terms of Reference of GMD includes, *inter alia*, recommending measures for speedy development of marble and upgradation of technology and scientific exploitation of marble. Marble is a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act (MMDR Act), 1957 and, therefore, State Governments are empowered to frame rules for grant of mineral concession for marble. However, Ministry of Mines has notified the Marble Development Conservation Rules, 2002 under Section 18 of the MMDR Act, 1957 for conservation and systematic development of and scientific mining to conserve the marble resources and provide a uniform frame work with regard to systematic and scientific exploitation of marble throughout the country.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to ban the import of marble.

[English]

Meeting by NCERT

2984. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) the number of Seminars, Conferences and Advisory meeting were organized by the NCERT during 2005-06;

(b) the details regarding their venue, themes and expenditure incurred on each one of them;

(c) the number of Seminars, Conferences, meetings were organized on behalf of the NCERT with NCERT funds; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on these along with the budget earmarked for the current year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Information are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance for Education Policy

2985. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is providing financial assistance for studies, seminars, evaluation, etc. to institutions and organizations for the implementation of education policy;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to different institutions and organization in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the contribution of these institutions and organisations in the implementation of education policy?

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

(b) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The institutions supported under the scheme are involved in the promotion of education.

Statement

State-wise details of the assistance provided to different institutions and organisation during the last three years

S.No.	Name & Address of Institution/ organisation	2003-04 Rs.	2004-05 Rs.	2005-06 Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Dr. D. Swaminadhan Research Foundation, Hyderabad	1,99,398	—	—
2.	Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam	1,50,000	—	—
3.	Vigyana Bharati and Maharashi Bhardwaja Society, Andhra Pradesh	1,50,000	—	—
4.	Dr. D. Swaminadhan Research Foundation, Hyderabad	1,23,578	—	—
Assam				
1.	The Gorgoripar Rural Development Organization, Cachar, Assam	50,000	—	—
2.	Pathari Vocational Institute, Nagaon, Assam	1,00,000	1,00,000 75,000	75,000
Bihar				
1.	Indian History Congress, Patna,	—	3,50,000	—
Gujarat				
1.	Centre for Environment Education, Ahamedabad	—	1,50,000	—
Haryana				
1.	IDF, Gurgaon	—	—	18,33,000
Jammu and Kashmir				
1.	University of Kashmir, Hazrat Bal, Sri Nagar	—	30,000	—
Kerala				
1.	Kerala Hisotry Association, Kochi	—	—	2,50,000
Maharashtra				
1.	The Spastic Society of India, Mumbai	—	1,50,000	1,50,000 1,09,730
2.	Decan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune	—	—	1,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa				
1.	Bata Goswami Recreation Club, Bhubaneswar	—	—	1,50,000
Punjab				
1.	DAV College of Education Amritsar Punjab	67,101	1,89,853 83,000	—
2.	Sant Longowal Instt. of Engineering & Technology, Longowal, Dist., Punjab	42,707	—	—
3.	Centre for Research and Industrial Research, Chandigarh	—	—	2,50,000
Rajasthan				
1.	Mitra Mandal Tarun Samaj Samiti, Bharatpur	3,00,000	1,50,000 1,50,000	1,50,000
2.	Sanskar Jyoti, Jaipur	—	1,00,000	—
3.	Bhartiya Shiksha Shodh and Nirdeśan Sansthan, Jaipur	—	1,00,000	—
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	Bhartiya Vidya – Adhyayan Kendra, Varanasi	—	50,000	—
2.	Instt. for Rural Entrepreneurship, Development & Research, 32-Narendra Nagar, Unnao—U.P.	1,50,000	1,50,000	—
3.	Nirbal Varga Gramodaya Vikas Samiti, Ghazipur, UP	1,14,400	1,14,00	—
4.	Indian Social Educational Farmers' Association, Allahabad	1,50,000	1,50,000	—
5.	IIIT, Allahabad	—	3,00,000	—
6.	Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi	—	2,50,000	2,00,000 2,50,000
7.	Aligarh Historian Society, Aligarh	—	75,000 67,160	75,000
8.	Gyandeep Shiksha Bharathi, Mathura, UP.	—	1,20,000	1,20,000
9.	IIM Lucknow	—	—	3,13,932
10.	University of Lucknow	—	—	18,973

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Peoples Council of Education, Allahabad	—	—	1,50,000
12.	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad	—	2,50,000	2,39,759 2,50,000
Uttaranchal				
1.	H.N.B. Garhwal University (Garhwal)	1,19,412	—	—
West Bengal				
1.	Science Communicator's Forum, Kolkatta	—	1,50,000	—
2.	Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research & Development, Kolkatta	1,50,000	1,50,000	—
3.	Vikram Shila Education Resource Society, Kolkatta	—	1,84,020	—
4.	Institute of Development Studies, Kolkatta	—	2,50,000	2,00,000
5.	University of Kalyani	—	—	50,000
6.	Indian History Congress, Vishavshanti, West Bengal	—	—	1,37,500
7.	HIJLI Inspiration, Kolkatta	—	—	1,27,000
Delhi				
1.	Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE), Delhi-52	2,08,000 47,850	1,00,000 1,37,559 50,000	92,331 74,552 46,000 1,50,000
2.	Society for Social Services	—	50,000	—
3.	Media Management Group for Literacy and Development, New Delhi	—	1,60,000	—
4.	Gandhi Hindustani Shitya Sabha, New Delhi-110002	1,00,000	—	—
5.	Khass Kitab Foundation, 205, Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi-110049	96,301	—	—
6.	Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association, Delhi-54	1,00,000	—	—
7.	Spandan, New Delhi-29	50,000	50,000	—
8.	Indian Association on Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Delhi	—	1,50,000	—

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Haryali, Centre for Rural Development, New Delhi	—	1,50,000	—
10.	Sakshi, New Delhi	—	80,000	70,700
11.	Bhartiya Shiksha Sodh and Nirdeas Sansthan, Jaipur	—	1,00,000	—
12.	Spastics Society of India	—	—	1,50,000
13.	William Carey Study and Research Centre	—	—	60,000
14.	All India Tribal Students Association	—	1,00,000	75,705
15.	National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCASER)	—	—	13,48,725
16.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	—	1,16,700	1,50,000
17.	Society for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies	—	—	1,50,000
18.	S & T Educator Forum	—	—	1,50,000
19.	Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)	—	—	2,50,000
20.	Jamia Millia University	—	77,000	—
21.	CTSA, Delhi	—	1,90,000	—
22.	NIEPA	—	1,35,105	—
			93,499	

[Translation]

Filling up of ST Quota in Delhi Police

2986. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ST quota in Delhi Police has not been filled since 1998;

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

(c) whether Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has recommended to fill the vacant quota of ST reserved category;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Home Ministry and Delhi Police have taken any steps to fill the vacant posts as per reservation policy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (g) 270 posts in promotion quota and 86 posts in direct recruitment quota reserved for Scheduled Tribes candidates in Delhi Police have not been filled up. Rank/cadre-wise number of these posts, dates since when they have been lying vacant, reasons for their remaining vacant and steps taken to fill up these posts are given in the Statement enclosed. No direction from the Central Administrative Tribunal has been received to fill up the vacant posts reserved for ST candidates.

Statement**(I) Promotion Quota**

Sl.No.	Rank & Cadre	No. of vacant posts of ST Category	Date/Year from which lying vacant	Reasons for the posts remaining vacant and steps taken to fill-up the vacant posts
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Insp. (Exe.)	21	Nov., 2005 onwards	22 SI(Exe.) of ST Category are available in promotion list and the vacant posts are likely to be filled up shortly.
2.	Insp. (Min.)	03	1.1.1998	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidates in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration. However, during the vacancy year 2004-05, three posts, of ST Category were filled-up by SC candidate on exchange basis as per rules.
3.	Insp. (Ops./ Commn.)	01	1.1.2001	This post could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
4.	Insp. (Tech./ Commn.)	01	23.11.01	This post could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
5.	SI (Exe)	20	Jan, 2005 Onwards	These post could, not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
6.	SI (Min.)	17	1.1.1998 Onwards	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
7.	SI (Armourer)	1	1998	This post could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
8.	SI(MT)/Tech.	1	1.1.04	This post could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
9.	SI/Finger Print	1	1.1.98	This post could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
10.	ASI (Exe.)	109	15.11.01 onwards	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.

1	2	3	4	5
11.	ASI (Women)	02	4.12.98 & 11.5.06	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
12.	ASI (Min.)	09	1998 onwards	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
13.	ASI(Driver)	16	1998 onwards	These posts could not be filled-up due to non-availability of ST candidate in the normal as well as extended zone of consideration.
14.	ASI (WO)	1	17.4.06	Preparation of promotion panel for the vacancy year 2006-07 is under process.
15.	HC (AWO)	47	Jan/05 & onward	These vacancies are being filled up by promotion
16.	W/HC (Exe)	4	July/06	These vacancies are being filled-up by promotion.
17.	HC(Driver)	16	Nov./05 onwards	These vacancies are being filled up by promotion.

(H) Direct Recruitment Quota

1.	S.I. (Exe.)	26	Jan., 2005 onwards	Vacancies are being advertised shortly.
2.	ASI(Finger Print)	01	16.11.01	Recruitment under process, Interview will be held shortly.
3.	ASI(Steno.)	06	1998	Vacancies will be advertised shortly.
4.	ASI (Radio Tech.)	06	1998 onwards	Vacancies will be advertised shortly.
5.	HC (Fitter Battery)	01	Dec., 2001	This post is lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable ST candidate.
6.	HC (Min)	26	2 (Sept./04) 1 (Nov./04) 2 (March/05) 1 (April/05) 4 (Oct./05) 16 (Jan.06 Onward)	Recruitment for 7 posts is under process. Interview will be held shortly. Remaining 19 posts will be advertised shortly.
7.	W/Constable (Exe.)	15	May/2006	These posts are lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates of ST category.

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Constable (Bandmen)	4	3 (Dec./1997), 1 (Jan/06)	These posts are lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates of ST category.
9.	Constable (Dog Handler)	01	July/004	This post is lying vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates of ST category.

Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries

2987. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the "Scheme of Funds for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" (SFURTI); and

(b) the funds allocated and utilized by States under this Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Government has recently approved implementation of the Scheme of Fund for

Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 100 clusters of khadi, village and coir industries over five years beginning 2005-06. The Scheme envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development/quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

(b) SFURTI is a Central sector scheme and hence the funds are not allocated State-wise. However, the funds allocated to the Nodal Agencies, i.e., Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board for development of clusters under this Scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as under:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Funds allocated			Utilised
	Other Regions	North-Eastern Region	Total	
2005-06	1.35	0.15	1.50	1.50
2006-07	23.37	2.60	25.97	Under compilation

[English]

HIV Affected Students

2988. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest survey on Social-Economic Impact on HIV and AIDS in India has found that education is a casualty for children in HIV affected homes;

(b) if so, whether the study has also found that not only enrolment of children from HIV homes is lower than those from non-HIV homes but also a drop out rates is higher and attendance is lower;

(c) if so, the other findings of the study; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) (a) to (c) A study on Socio-Economic Impact of HIV and AIDS in India, prepared by N.A.C.O., N.C.A.E.R. and U.N.D.P., indicates, *inter alia*, that in HIV affected households, the enrolment of children in schools is affected only to some extent, while drop-out rate and absenteeism is comparatively higher for such children.

(d) The Action Plan for Adolescence Education Programme (2005-06) envisages, among other things, revision of Education Policy for incorporating measures

to prevent stigma and discrimination against learners/ students and educators and to ensure access to life skills education for HIV prevention.

[*Translation*]

Mining Proposals

2989. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mining proposals received and cleared by the Union Government during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise, mineral-wise;

(b) whether the foreign companies have also been given permission in the field of mining. State-wise, mineral-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of mines closed in various States, mineral-wise;

(e) the number of workers became jobless due to closure of such mines, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to provide them alternative job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Grants under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

2990. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) details of funds sought by various State Governments for the post matric scholarship in the current financial year 2006-07, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds released by the Union Government to various States, so far;

(c) the number of students benefited by such scholarship during 2005-06 and proposed to be benefited in the current year in various States;

(d) whether the Government proposes to share the funds being spent by the State Governments on post matric scholarship scheme;

(e) if so, the time by which orders to this effect are proposed to be issued; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) During the current financial year, proposals submitted by various State Governments and funds sought under the scheme of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students is as under:

S.No.	Name of the State Govt.	Amount asked for PMS Scheme (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4330.95
2.	Chhattisgarh	724.36
3.	Mizoram	1153.07
4.	Manipur	1316.45
5.	Jharkhand	1002.33

(b) and (c) The grants-in-aid under the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to various State Governments/UT Administrations during the year 2006-07 and number of beneficiaries covered during the year 2005-06 and proposed to be covered during the year 2006-07 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) for ST students is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funds spent by State Governments/UT Administrations on this Scholarship are already shared by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs by giving 100% funds over and above the committed liability of State Governments/UT Administrations. In case of North Eastern States, 100% Central assistance is provided since the committed liability condition does not apply to them.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	
		Anticipated Beneficiaries	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)	Physical Target for the year 2006-07 (number of beneficiaries)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132252	1750	100000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13347		13000
3.	Assam	64898		64000
4.	Bihar	2982		3000
5.	Gujarat	98673	500	90000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3520		3500
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	8688	200	8700
8.	Karnataka	41218	518	41000
9.	Kerala	6600	117	6600
10.	Madhya Pradesh	46000	235	46000
11.	Maharashtra	88908	750	87000
12.	Manipur	34570	635	34000
13.	Meghalaya	45000	550	44000
14.	Mizoram	27475	450	27000
15.	Nagaland	32000	2103.8	32000
16.	Orissa	39898		39000
17.	Rajasthan	80373	2976.22	80000
18.	Sikkim	1232		1200
19.	Tamil Nadu	2231		2200
20.	Tripura	8802	125	9000
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4900		4900
22.	West Bengal	19360	161	18000

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	292	1.5	270
24.	Daman and Diu	30		30
25.	Uttaranchal	10937		10000
26.	Chhattisgarh	53658		54000
27.	Jharkhand	21637	290	21000
28.	Goa	590		600
Total		890071	11363.5	840000

The figure of beneficiaries of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2005-06 is actual beneficiaries.

Seminar and Exhibition for Welfare of Tribals

2991 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Civil Society Seminar and Exhibition held in New Delhi demonstrated the manner in which innovative and pilot approaches reach out to the tribal people, the most underprivileged section of the Indian society;

(b) if so, the outcome of the seminar; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for defining their development needs and tribal identity?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Anthropological Survey of India, under the Ministry of Culture organized two seminars at New Delhi which included discussion on innovative and pilot approaches meant to reach out to the tribal people. The first seminar on 'Human Origins, Genome and People of India' organized in 2004, discussed issues relating to human antiquity in the Indian sub-continent, biological diversity found among the people of India and also how foragers, horticulturists, farmers, shifting cultivators and fishermen, many of whom are from Scheduled Tribe communities, are adapting to the changing situations and reacting to the development programmes. The second seminar on 'Identity, Cultural Pluralism and State' organized in 2006 emphasized that people's knowledge relating to biodiversity, intangible cultural heritage, and folk knowledge of sustainable development be combined with broader

development issues. Based on the outcomes of the seminars, the Anthropological Survey of India has undertaken the work of establishing a natural repository of human genetic material and also documenting the indigenous knowledge system all over the country.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has brought out a draft Tribal Policy to address various issues relating to the protection and development of Scheduled Tribes.

Ceasefire Agreement with NSCN (IM)

2992. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ceasefire agreement with NSCN(IM) has been extended as reported in 'Jansatta' dated August 01, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed with Naga leaders;

(c) whether NSCN(IM) has started selling arms or renting weapons to other outfits in the North Eastern region;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether NSCN(IM) is still indulging in extortion and illegal taxation;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of progress made towards a lasting settlement of Naga issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Pursuant to discussions held between Government of India team and NSCN (I/M) leaders during 29th – 31st July, 2006, the ceasefire has been extended by one year *i.e.* upto 31st July, 2007. Besides the substantive issues, measures to strengthen the ceasefire monitoring mechanism were discussed.

(c) and (d) Government have no report regarding selling/renting of weapons by N&CN (I/M) to other outfits in the North Eastern region.

(e) and (f) There are some reports of extortions by NSCN (I/M) who have, however, denied their involvement in any such activity.

(g) The talks are continuing. It will not be desirable to disclose further details.

Investment in Textile Industry

2993. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment activity in the textile industry falls far short of the desired levels despite the generous incentives under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the extent to which it falls short from the desired levels;

(c) whether the Government proposes to deepening of the incentives in order to stimulate further investment in the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the labour laws are the main disincentive for investment in the textile and garment industry; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to amend the labour laws to avoid further decline in investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The amendment in labour laws requires forging of political consensus.

[Translation]

World Bank Report on Literacy

2994. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has commented on India's literacy rate;

(b) if so, the point which have been mentioned in the said report;

(c) whether the Government have requested the State Governments to study the said report and take the necessary steps to bring improvement in the literacy rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No comments on the literacy rate in the country have been offered by the World Bank in its publication titled "India – Inclusive Growth and Service Delivery: Building on India's Success – Development Policy Review" published in June, 2006.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Multi-National Companies in Small Scale Sector

2995. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big companies get the goods partly manufactured by small scale industries in order to avail relaxation/benefits under Small Scale Industry and the rest they get assembled from other sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such companies blacklisted so far?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Product reserved for exclusive manufacture by small scale industries (SSI) can be marketed by non-SSI units. There is also no restriction on non-SSI units to get these products manufactured by SSI units on job-work basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Education Scholarship

2996. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide funds to State for granting Scholarship to poor students; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allotted for the purpose during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) *Funds Released to the States/UTs under National Merit Scholarship Scheme and Eartwhile National Scholarship Scheme & the Scheme of Scholarship at the Secondary Stage for Talented Children from Rural Areas*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04*	2004-05*	2005-06	2006-07 (Till 17.8.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	57.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	2.99	
3.	Assam	—	—	30.68	
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	19.58	
6.	Delhi	0.22	0.26	9.79	
7.	Goa	—	0.34	1.44	
8.	Gujarat	—	—	71.55	
9.	Haryana	0.96	0.63	48.25	
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1.43	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	11.94	
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	28.24	
13.	Karnataka	—	—	—	88.51
14.	Kerala	—	—	—	
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	23.23	47.13	

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Maharashtra	—	15.95	68.10	
17.	Manipur	—	1.33	3.27	
18.	Meghalaya	0.29	0.33	2.36	
19.	Mizoram	—	—	1.24	
20.	Nagaland	—	—	3.30	
21.	Orissa	—	—	93.13	
22.	Punjab	11.85	12.00	—	
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	30.95	
24.	Sikkim	—	—	0.03	
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	51.59	
26.	Tripura	0.55	1.27	3.50	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	8.42	153.70	
28.	Uttaranchal	—	—	9.80	
29.	West Bengal	—	—	74.49	
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	0.16	
31.	Chandigarh	1.52	—	0.43	
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	5.23	
33.	Daman and Diu	0.35	0.24	0.16	
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	4.29	
35.	Pondicherry	0.57	0.20	0.48	
Total		16.31	64.21	836.21	88.51

*Note - Figures for 2003-04 & 2004-05 include the releases under both the erstwhile plan schemes viz. National Scholarship Scheme (NSS) and the Scheme of Scholarship at the Secondary Stage for Talented Children from Rural Areas, which have been merged to formulate National Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMSS) notified to States/UTs on 16-2-2005 for implementation.

(b) Grants Released to the States/UTs under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribes during the last three years and current financial year

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Till 17.8.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2435.7	1084.23	3606.79	1750
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.19	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	0	100	1200.32	
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	208.45	1254.04	290
6.	Goa	0	12.09	6.04	
7.	Gujarat	185.27	222.43	2447.59	500
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	9.17	6.61	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	196.07	508.08	200
10.	Jharkhand	0	200	841.26	290
11.	Karnataka	0	400	2020.5	518
12.	Kerala	0	146.14	289.72	117
13.	Madhya Pradesh	81.62	899.04	288.7	235
14.	Maharashtra	391.92	1042.86	1031.44	750
15.	Manipur	928.93	538.97	1794	635
16.	Meghalaya	339.99	926.28	1925.31	550
17.	Mizoram	369	900.99	840.85	450
18.	Nagaland	1028.61	507	982.5	2103.8
19.	Orissa	0	0	100	
20.	Rajasthan	484	1792.57	1261.98	2976.22
21.	Sikkim	12.69	15.01	9.94	
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	49.05	17.86	
23.	Tripura	161.09	196.19	195.14	125
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0	107.82	56.07	
25.	Uttaranchal	0	137.5	85.05	
26.	West Bengal	94.57	20764	19360	161
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.89	2.74	3.09	1.5
28.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	
Total		6579.47	10137.71	21018.09	11362.52

(c) Grants Released to the States/UTs under the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Castes Students during the last three years and current financial year

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Till 17.8.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5449.142	8434.74	9435.46	1814.24
2.	Assam	412.412	228.28	490.41	264.86
3.	Bihar	0	1000	1100.00	1892.74
4.	Chhattisgarh	352.18	1567.79	526.00	0
5.	Delhi	22.16	6.65	0.00	0.0
6.	Goa	0	1.93	3.00	3.45
7.	Gujarat	1373.702	463.838	940.12	521.13
8.	Haryana	228.53	425.9	456.00	657.99
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.82	31.21	143.87	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	95.986	28.8	136.31	111.71
11.	Jharkhand	281.037	84.31	0.00	0
12.	Karnataka	2481.937	2699.58	2652.00	1242.22
13.	Kerala	677.5735	999.49	3771.00	453.14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1278.931	1366.6	3064.10	1327.98
15.	Maharashtra	2765.576	4220.47	8490.95	1433.36
16.	Manipur	82.768	84.13	126.43	11.57
17.	Meghalaya	15.553	4.67	8.33	1.62
18.	Orissa	0		0.00	1739.68
19.	Pondicherry	99.737	85.38	90.00	59.71
20.	Punjab	0		0.00	0
21.	Rajasthan	1207.7	1157.87	1508.34	1992.21
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0.00	4.48
23.	Tamil Nadu	2184.453	2891.78	6982.18	1719.97
24.	Tripura	174.2355	195.84	222.39	80.61
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5137.5815	5937.7	11087.00	5098.37

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Uttaranchal	0	302.25	296.13	220.07
27.	West Bengal	2165.81	807.19	3279.00	2676.6
28.	Daman and Diu	0	0.89	0.50	2.23
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0		0.00	0
Total		26499.3625	33027.288	54809.52	23329.94

Replacement of IPA, 1894

2997. SHRI KISHAN BHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been advocating to replace the archaic Indian Prison Act (IPA) of 1894 by a Model Prison Bill uniformly applicable to all States;

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

(c) whether NHRC has prepared and circulated an outline of a said Model Prison Bill;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has examined the said Model Prison Bill;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to change Indian Prison Act, 1894?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) With a view to bring in a basic uniformity in matters relating to the administration of prisons and management of prisoners in the country and to lay down the framework and criteria for a sound and safe custody and reformative treatment of prisoners, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had prepared an outline of a new Prison Bill to replace the existing Prisons Act, 1894.

(e) to (g) Based on the outline made by the NHRC, a draft Prison Management Bill was prepared and circulated to all the State Governments for their views, as "Prisons" is a State subject. In the absence of favourable response from the States, no further action was taken.

Activities of MMTC in Orissa

2998. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and its major promoters has recruited local tribals in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of persons engaged by MMTC in the State during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the details of activities undertaken by the corporation in the State during the said period; and

(d) the additional facilities proposed to be provided by the Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MMTC has a Regional Office (RO) at Bhubaneswar and Field Offices at Barbil and Paradip. The total manpower of RO Bhubaneswar including its Sub Regional Offices is 173, out of which 42 belongs to ST and 41 belongs to SC category.

(c) MMTC in Orissa deals in export and import of minerals, pig iron, coal, non-ferrous metals, fertilizers, precious metals, etc.

(d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to continually formulate policies for the upliftment of tribal population with a view to bring them into the mainstream.

[Translation]

Increase in Prostitution

2999. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that number of prostitutes is continuously increasing in the country as published in 'Dainik Navbharat' dated July 02, 2006;

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

(c) whether National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women have expressed their concern over human trafficking of girls and women in the flesh trade;

(d) if so, the details of trafficking of girls and women for flesh trades in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has decided to assess the social/economic aspects of this issue keeping in view the said human trafficking;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to stop such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The study on "Girls/Women in Prostitution in India" conducted (between 2002-2004) sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and quoted in 'Dainik Navbharat' of 02.07.2006, reports that there is a growing trend in the number of prostitutes in the country. The study estimates that there are 2.8 million prostitutes in the country of which 35.47% entered the trade before the age of 18 years.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the information furnished by National Commission for Women and National Human Rights

Commission, specific data state-wise, with respect to girls and women trafficked for flesh trade is not available.

(e) and (f) The Report sponsored by Ministry of Women and Child Development has found that factors like illiteracy, lack of skills, poverty, ill treatment by family, desertion by spouse etc. are some of the socio-economic aspects of human trafficking for prostitutions.

(g) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for trafficking. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons. The amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee. A pilot project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is also being implemented. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews quarterly the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution. The Ministry also conducted advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking.

[English]

Women Police Stations

3000. SHRI SARVEY SATAYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up one women police station in every district to solve the women related police cases quickly and efficiently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Police being a State subject in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to decide about setting up of women

police station in every district. However, the Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments for upgradation of the police infrastructure, including facilities for women police personnel, under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces. States have been advised to bring the strength of women personnel in Police to atleast 10% of the force in a given time frame.

Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

3001. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set export target of \$ 50 billion for textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to extend the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme beyond March, 2007 to achieve the aforesaid export target by 2010;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend the period of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme beyond March, 2007;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the names of the States which have so far been benefited from the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The National Textile Policy, 2000 envisages a target of textile and apparel exports for US \$ 50 billion by 2010 of which the share of garments will be US \$ 25 billion.

(c) to (e) The technology upgradation is one of the several factors which will help in meeting the export target. To increase the capacity and competitiveness of Indian textile sector, Government has already introduced schemes like Technology Mission on Cotton, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks, etc. apart from the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme. In addition, various policy initiatives have been taken like reduction of excise duty on man-made fibre, exemption from excise duty to entire textile sector (except for man-made fibre sector) reduction of import duty on raw material, allowing 100% Foreign Direct

investment in textile sector, de-reservation of certain items from the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector, etc. No decision has been taken for extension or otherwise beyond March, 2007 in respect of TUFs.

(f) The names of the States/Union Territories which have so far been benefited from TUFs are : Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Composition of University Grants Commission

3002. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for appointment of members to UGC and its present composition;

(b) whether some vacancies are still existing in UGC since long;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Appointment and composition of members of the UGC are made as per the provisions of Section 5 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Promoting Gender Equality

3003. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government signed MoU with UNDP in July, 2004 for implementation of a project titled Promoting Gender Equality and also constituted a Standing Committee under Chairmanship of JS(WW) to facilitate programme implementation; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of Projects sanctioned under the UNDP Project promoting Gender Equality is as follows:

1. Paper for 'Women in Leadership Positions';
2. Paper for 'Action Research on Vulnerable Women';
3. Preparation of the Women Development Report;
4. Paper on Engendering Macroeconomics and Macroeconomics Policies;
5. National Conference on "Gender and Macroeconomics" organized by University of Mumbai;
6. Regional and National consultations to engender the Eleventh Five Year Plan process;
7. Regional training workshops on gender budgeting;
8. Study on the Impact of Trade and Globalization on Gender in India;
9. Documentation of Women Leaders;
10. Study on the Identification and Assessment of Options for Reducing Vulnerability of Disabled Women in India;
11. Study on the Identification and Assessment of Options for Reducing Vulnerability of Elderly Women in India;
12. Documentation on Home Based Workers.

Legislation for Fake Goods

3004. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations received from the Working Group on counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products;

(b) whether the Government proposes an integrated act on counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 17, 2006; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A Working Group on Counterfeit, Fake, Spurious and Contraband Products was set up by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs in January, 2004. In its report finalised in May, 2006, the following general recommendations were, *inter alia*, made by the Working Group:

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs may consider bringing out an Integrated Act on counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products with adequate penal provisions and detailed procedures.

(ii) An independent authority needs to be set up with wide ranging powers to initiate *suo-moto* action to protect consumers from various problems, including the menace of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs is already contemplating setting up of a National Consumer Protection Authority.

(iii) Priority attention is required to be given to critical areas affecting consumer health and safety like water, milk, food and drugs and all concerned Ministries/ Departments/Organisations should join hands and launch a vigorous campaign for enhancing consumer awareness in such areas.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Working Group are being processed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs. The specific recommendation relating to an Integrated Act on counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products with adequate penal provisions and detailed procedures, which was referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, was examined. The Ministry of Home Affairs was unable to agree to this recommendation and conveyed its non-acceptance to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs.

Trade with Middle East Countries

3005. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with Middle East countries have increased during the last two years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of imports/exports made along with the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the trade relations between India and Middle East countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been overall increase in trade with all the Middle East countries during the last two years and the current year. The details of exports/imports, balance of trade and percentage growth during 2004-05, 2005-06 and the current year 2006-07 in respect of all the countries in the region are given in the enclosed Statements I, II and III.

(c) Increased Government to Government contacts, holding Joint Commission Meetings with these countries at regular intervals, encouraging participation in the trade exhibitions and visits of trade delegations from time to time for strengthening bilateral official and institutional cooperative framework have been undertaken to improve the trade relations.

Statement I

Department of Commerce Monthly Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal commodities and Countries) Region-wise all countries Trade for WANA region (Period: April-March)

Dated: 17.8.2006
Values in US \$ Million

S.No.	Country	2003-2004			2004-2005			% Growth	
		Exports	Imports	Trade Bal.	Exports	Imports	Trade Bal.	Exports	Imports
	WANA								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Algeria	122.15	4.47	117.68	231.22	6.31	224.90	89.28	41.17
2.	Bahrain Is	111.63	74.52	37.11	156.46	121.87	34.59	40.16	63.54
3.	Egypt ARP	367.49	98.21	269.28	444.73	152.64	292.09	21.02	55.43
4.	Iran	918.11	266.83	651.29	1,231.39	410.21	821.18	34.12	53.74
5.	Iraq	75.17	0.14	75.03	131.19	1.12	130.07	74.53	711.18
6.	Israel	723.96	669.76	54.23	1,005.76	988.11	17.65	38.92	47.53
7.	Jordan	150.99	230.27	-79.28	128.25	355.89	-227.64	-15.06	54.55
8.	Kuwait	319.09	142.48	176.61	421.44	305.94	115.49	32.07	114.72
9.	Lebanon	59.05	7.68	51.37	67.46	20.46	47.00	14.24	166.55
10.	Libya	18.73	10.38	8.35	173.53	13.60	159.93	826.34	30.99
11.	Morocco	67.72	255.81	-167.88	112.48	362.18	-249.68	28.23	41.69
12.	Oman	258.99	50.88	208.11	267.67	20.61	247.06	3.35	-59.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Qatar	128.44	187.05	-58.61	209.42	672.85	-463.44	63.04	259.71
14.	Saudi Arab	1,123.31	737.77	385.54	1,412.06	1,301.15	110.91	25.71	76.36
15.	Sudan	107.38	31.22	76.16	317.45	22.88	294.57	185.64	-26.71
16.	Syria	201.46	4.65	196.81	253.18	3.82	249.37	25.67	-17.89
17.	Tunisia	68.16	64.71	3.46	74.46	94.94	-20.48	9.23	46.72
18.	U Arab Emts.	5,125.61	2,059.85	3,065.76	7,347.88	4,641.10	2,706.78	43.36	126.31
19.	Yemen Republic	217.55	29.76	187.80	246.41	30.82	215.59	13.27	3.58
Total of WANA		10,185.03	4,926.22	5,258.81	14,232.44	9,526.51	4,705.94	39.74	93.38
% Share in India's total		15.95	6.30		17.04	8.54			
India's total		63,842.97	78,149.82	14,306.65	83,535.94	11,517.44	27,981.50	30.85	42.70
Exchange Rate: (1 US\$ = Rs.)			45.9613	44.9315					

Data Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

Statement II

*Department of Commerce Monthly Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries)
Region-wise all countries Trade for WANA region (Period: April-March)*

Dated: 17.8.2006
Values in US \$ Million

S.No.	Country WANA	2004-2005			2005-2006			% Growth	
		Exports	Imports	Trd.Bal.	Exports	Imports	Trd.BI.	Exports	Imports
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Algeria	231.22	6.31	224.90	268.52	14.65	253.67	16.13	132.01
2.	Bahrain Is	156.46	121.87	34.59	189.82	186.92	2.90	21.32	53.37
3.	Egypt ARP	444.73	152.64	292.09	664.27	217.97	446.31	49.37	42.79
4.	Iran	1,231.39	410.21	821.18	1,176.41	685.86	490.55	-4.46	67.20
5.	Iraq	131.19	1.12	130.07	145.39	2.05	143.34	10.83	83.06
6.	Israel	1,005.76	988.11	17.65	1,213.76	1,058.54	155.22	20.68	7.13
7.	Jordan	128.25	355.89	-227.64	181.74	435.46	-253.72	41.71	22.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Kuwait	421.44	305.94	115.49	507.71	460.50	47.20	20.47	50.52
9.	Lebanon	67.46	20.46	47.00	71.01	18.43	52.57	5.26	-9.92
10.	Libya	173.53	13.60	159.93	103.01	11.79	91.22	-40.64	-13.35
11.	Morocco	112.48	362.16	-249.68	125.77	431.46	-305.66	11.82	19.13
12.	Oman	267.67	20.61	247.06	404.57	256.66	147.91	51.15	1,145.39
13.	Qatar	209.42	672.85	-463.44	251.04	894.06	-643.02	19.88	32.88
14.	Saudi Arab	1,412.06	1,301.15	110.91	1,806.94	1,617.39	189.55	27.96	24.30
15.	Sudan	317.45	22.88	294.57	313.47	31.66	281.81	-1.25	38.38
16.	Syria	253.18	3.82	249.37	273.61	4.99	268.63	8.07	30.63
17.	Tunisia	74.46	94.94	-20.48	79.70	101.13	-21.43	7.04	6.52
18.	U Arab Emts.	7,347.88	4,641.10	2,706.78	8,592.78	4,312.12	4,280.67	16.94	-7.09
19.	Yemen Republic	246.41	30.82	215.59	276.58	9.89	266.69	12.24	-67.91
Total of WANA		14,232.44	9,526.51	4,705.94	16,646.11	10,751.51	5,894.60	16.96	12.86
% Share in India's total		17.04	8.54		16.20	7.55			
India's total		83,535.94	111,517.44	27,981.50	102,726.10	142,416.26	39,691.18	22.97	27.71
Exchange Rate (1 US \$ = Rs.)		44.9315			44.2735				

Data Source: DGCIS, Kolkata.

Statement III

Department of Commerce Monthly Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries) Region-wise all countries Trade for WANA Region (Period-April-April)

Dated: 17.8.2006
Values in US \$ Million

S.No.	Country WANA	2005-2006			2006-2007			% Growth	
		Exports	Imports	Trd.Bal.	Exports	Imports	Trd.Bal.	Exports	Imports
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Algeria	28.48	1.83	26.65	27.87	0.30	27.57	-2.14	-83.72
2.	Baharain Is	36.06	12.60	23.46	9.05	14.69	-5.64	-74.90	16.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Egypt ARP	50.21	15.41	34.80	43.53	14.58	28.95	-13.30	-5.41
4.	Iran	50.45	23.64	26.81	134.61	55.77	78.84	166.85	135.97
5.	Iraq	2.43	0.19	2.24	20.69	0.12	20.56	752.80	-34.87
6.	Israel	89.89	101.98	-12.10	115.14	86.25	28.89	28.10	-15.42
7.	Jordan	10.32	19.78	-9.46	15.92	21.15	-5.23	94.28	6.91
8.	Kuwait	35.91	24.64	11.27	58.00	18.34	39.65	61.48	-25.56
9.	Lebanon	4.05	2.01	2.04	5.44	2.21	3.23	34.51	10.08
10.	Libya	11.20	1.74	9.46	7.82		7.82	-30.16	
11.	Morocco	11.08	13.10	-2.02	11.98	13.66	-1.68	8.14	4.26
12.	Oman	24.60	5.67	18.92	33.52	41.78	-8.26	36.29	636.58
13.	Qatar	14.20	43.16	-28.96	13.51	68.04	-54.53	-4.87	57.65
14.	Saudi Arab	137.22	114.00	23.23	136.97	101.83	35.14	-0.18	-10.67
15.	Sudan	42.09	1.51	40.58	25.74	1.55	24.19	-38.85	2.30
16.	Syria	14.41	0.55	13.86	31.42	0.74	30.69	118.05	33.97
17.	Tunisia	8.31	8.46	-0.15	7.27	7.05	0.22	-12.45	-16.62
18.	U Arab Emts.	543.50	292.81	250.69	854.73	301.53	553.19	57.26	2.98
19.	Yemen Republic	14.68	2.10	12.58	46.64	1.21	45.42	217.71	-42.35
Total of WANA		1,129.08	685.20	443.89	1,599.86	750.82	849.04	41.70	9.58
% Share in India's total		14.80	6.37		18.30	5.90			
India's total		7,627.20	10,764.70	3,137.50	8,743.09	12,732.76	3,989.67	14.63	18.28
Exchange Rate (1 US \$ = Rs.)			43.7412			44.9491			

Data Source: DGCIS, Kolkata.

Development of Central Park in CP by NDMC

3006. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC proposes to redevelop Central Park in Connaught Place, New Delhi;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the New Delhi Municipal Council at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Construction of KVs Buildings

3007. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permanent building construction in respect of few newly created Kendriya Vidyalayas are delayed by several years due to purchase of land from State Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay;

(c) the details of such schools indicating the amount and period involved, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/to be taken for early acquisition of land construction of school buildings;

(e) whether few KVs have started functioning since 2003 without the approval of Government of India;

(f) if so, the reasons for not getting the approval subsequently;

(g) the time by which the same is likely to be obtained; and

(h) the status of the construction of permanent building of KV Lakhimpur in Assam stating the amount allocated annually, target set and reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The details of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) which were opened after 1.4.2003 and for which permanent buildings are yet to be constructed due to non-availability of land are given in the enclosed Statement. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has requested the State Governments and sponsoring agencies to provide suitable land free of cost.

(e) to (g) In June 2006 Government regularized KVs which were opened by KVS during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 without the approval of Government.

(h) Land has not yet been made available by the State Government of Assam for KV at Lakhimpur. Construction work of the permanent school building can be taken up only after land is made available by the State Government as sponsoring agency.

Statement

State-wise List of Kendriya Vidyalayas where Transfer of Land is Pending with State Governments and the Ministry of Defence

State	Name of Kedriya Vidyalaya	Date of Sanction	Sector
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	1. Roing	22.2.2003	Civil
	2. Miaon	6.2.2004	Civil
	3. Khonsa	4.3.2004	Civil
Assam	4. Mangaldoi	22.2.2003	Civil
	5. RRL Jorhat	22.2.2003	Civil
Bihar	6. Buxar	27.2.2003	Civil
	7. Bettiah	27.2.2003	Civil
	8. Hazipur	4.3.2003	Civil
	9. Motihari	3.3.2003	Civil

1	2	3	4
	10. Barauni	8.7.2004	Civil
	11. Darbhanga	8.7.2004	Civil
	12. Patna No.3	4.8.2004	Civil
	13. Banka	4.8.2004	Civil
	14. Purnia	4.8.2004	Civil
	15. Arah	4.8.2004	Civil
	16. Siwan	4.8.2004	Civil
	17. Chhapra	6.2.2004	Civil
	18. Gopal Ganj	6.2.2004	Civil
Chhattisgarh	19. Jashpur	3.3.2003	Civil
	20. Beladilla, Dantewada	22.2.2003	Civil
Daman and Diu	21. Diu	22.2.2003	Civil
Gujarat	22. Dwarka	4.3.2003	Civil
	23. Jetpur	27.6.2003	Civil
Haryana	24. No. 3 Faridabad	22.2.2003	Civil
	25. No. 2 Gurgaon	12.3.2003	Civil
	26. Harsingpura, Karnal	19.6.2003	Civil
Jharkhand	27. Dhanbad	3.4.2003	Civil
	28. Surda, Ghatshila	4.3.2003	Civil
	29. HEC Ranchi	22.2.2003	Civil
	30. Bhurkunda	17.2.2004	Civil
Jammu and Kashmir	31. Anantnag	22.2.2003	Civil
	32. Pahalgam	22.2.2003	Civil
	33. Zanskar	22.2.2003	Civil
	34. Kargil	22.2.2003	Civil
	35. Nubra	22.2.2003	Civil
	36. Chusul	22.2.2003	Civil
	37. Hira Nagar	22.2.2003	Civil
	38. Kathua	22.2.2003	Civil

1	2	3	4
	39. Badarwah	24.2.2003	Civil
	40. Chenani at Kud	22.2.2003	Civil
	41. Gulmarg (Tanmarg)	23.1.2004	Civil
Karnataka	42. Karwar (Naval Base)	9.3.2005	Defence
Lakshadweep	43. Kavaratti	22.2.2003	Civil
Madhya Pradesh	44. Sagar No. 3	6.2.2004	Civil
	45. Shajapur	6.2.2004	Civil
	46. Mungaoli	12.9.2005	Civil
Rajasthan	47. BSF Pokhran	22.2.2003	Civil
	48. Karauli	20.2.2004	Civil
Tamil Nadu	49. Madurai No. 2	6.2.2004	Civil
Uttar Pradesh	50. Gorakhpur	4.3.2003	Civil
	51. Deoria	10.3.2003	Civil
	52. Balrampur	20.5.2003	Civil
	53. Raksha Vihar, Kanpur	22.2.2003	Defence
	54. Varanasi	22.2.2003	Defence
Uttaranchal	55. Rishikesh, Hardwar	31.3.2003	Civil
	56. Pauri, Garhwal	29.5.2003	Civil
	57. Rajgarhi	7.10.2003	Civil
	58. Augustmuni, Rudraprayag	4.2.2004	Civil
	59. Sourkhand, Tehri	6.2.2004	Civil
	60. ITBP Mirthi, Pithoragarh	17.2.2004	Civil
	61. Lohaghat, Champawat	17.2.2004	Civil

[Translation]

Violation of Rules by Foreign Companies

3008. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the names of foreign companies against which
action has been taken for violation of rules laid down for
foreign investment in the country during the last three
years; and

(b) the dates on which cases have been filed against
them and the present status of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Section 13 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999, provides for imposition of penalty after adjudication, for contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules/Regulations, Notification, Order issued thereunder. The Director of Enforcement under the Department of Revenue has been empowered to investigate such contraventions and no investigations in respect of foreign companies for violation of rules have been carried out during the last three years.

[English]

Printing of History Text Book

3009. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the History Text Books available in 2000 are being reprinted without any content changes since 2004;

(b) is so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has started reprinting of these books as they are in accordance with 2000 National Curriculum frame-work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Following history textbooks that were available in 2000 are being currently reprinted since 2004 and being taught in the academic session 2006-07.

1. *Medieval India – A Textbook in History for Class VII* by Prof. Romila Thapar.
2. *Modern India – A History Textbook for Class VIII* by Prof. Arjun Dev and Prof. Indra Arjun Dev.
3. *Story of Civilization, Volume Two – A History Textbook for Class X* by Prof. Arjun Dev.
4. *Modern India – Textbook for Class XII* by Prof. Bipin Chandra.

5. *Contemporary World History – A History Textbook for Class XII, Part I & II* by Prof. Arjun Dev *et al.*

All reprint editions, appearing every year, carry suitable editorial corrections and changes. These are done on the basis of suggestions received from various individuals and organizations. Particularly, the book, *Story of Civilization, Volume Two—A History Textbook for Class X* by Prof. Arjun Dev as was available in 2000 was split into two parts on the recommendations of the Neeladri Bhattacharya Committee and reprinted in March 2005 for Classes IX and X. Of these two books the Class IX book has been replaced by the new book *India and the Contemporary World -1* from the academic session 2006-07.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since National Curriculum Framework (NCF) – 2005 has been introduced from the academic session 2006-07 new textbooks based on NCF-2005 are being introduced in phased manner.

Employment Growth in Textile Sector

3010. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Working Group on Textiles and Jute has projected a growth of employment in the handicrafts sector @ 3% annually during Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the extent to which the above projection has been fulfilled so far;

(c) the number of artisans employed so far in the Textiles and Jute sector;

(d) whether the Government has submitted the projection growth of employment in the handicrafts sector to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the approach paper of 11th Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the projected growth of employment during the remaining period of Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Till 2005-2006, the penultimate year of the Xth Five Year Plan, satisfactory progress has been achieved to fulfill the projected growth of employment in the Handicrafts Sector.

(c) As per all India Census of Handicrafts Artisans conducted during 1995-96 by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the estimated figures of the artisans employed was 47.61 lakhs. However, no firm data is available regarding employment in the Handicrafts Sector. The Sub-Group on Handicrafts on Xth Plan had estimated that the employment in the sector would reach 67.70 lakhs by the end of Xth Plan (2006-07).

(d) The Sub-Group for the Xth Five Year Plan is examining the issue and will soon submit its recommendations to the Planning Commission, which would include figures on growth projection in the Handicrafts Sector.

(e) In view of above, does not arise.

(f) New Initiatives have been taken, which include the launching of new schemes and addition of components to the existing schemes, viz., Credit Guarantee Scheme, Bima Yojana, and Facility Centre Scheme with Public Private participation, to achieve the projected growth of employment during the remaining period of Xth Plan.

[Translation]

Free and Compulsory Education Bill

3011. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in the process of giving final touch to the Free and Compulsory Education Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A draft Model Bill on Right to Education, to be adopted by the States, containing provisions relating to the child's right to free and compulsory education of equitable quality, responsibility of the State and appropriate governments, etc., has been circulated recently to the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the State Governments for their comments.

[English]

Mainnourished Children

3012. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of the CAG(Civil) more than 55% of children in the States are mainnourished in the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, whether the impact of Integrated Child Development Services were marginalized on health and nutritional status of children in the State of Madhya Pradesh including other States;

(c) if so, whether the procurement of sub standard nutritional food and non-observance of prescribed procedure in procurement were also responsible for this;

(d) whether the Union Government has asked a report from the State Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the response of States; and

(f) the total assistance provided by the Union Government in this regard during the last three years and utilization made thereof by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National level data on undernourishment among children is compiled through the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. As per NFHS-2 (1998-99), 55.1% of children below 3 years of age in Madhya Pradesh are underweight. The report of CAG (Civil) appears to have used this NFHS data only.

(b) The performance of the ICDS Scheme has been evaluated by several agencies in the past, the latest being the one conducted by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) in 2005-06. The Evaluation report has revealed that:

The percentage of severely malnourished children in the age group 0-3 years reduced from 7% in 1992 to 1% in 2006 and in case of children in the age group 3-5 years it reduced from 4% in 1992 to 0.8% in 2006.

- * The percentage of children with low birth weight decreased from 41 in 1992 to 29 in 2006.

To reduce malnutrition amongst children, Bal Sanjivini Campaign is being carried out in Madhya Pradesh since 2001. As per the data of 8th round (May 2006) of Bal Sanjivini Campaign, the prevalence of malnutrition has come down to 49.21% in the State. However, the work relating to NFHS-3 (2005-06) is currently underway and its findings are expected by the year end. Data on extent of malnutrition amongst children in Madhya Pradesh, which could be compared with that of NFHS-2, would, thus, be available by year end only.

(c) to (e) Facts shall be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(f) The details of grant-in-aid released by the Government of India and the expenditure incurred by the States under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme during the last three years are as under:

Year	Total funds released (Rs. in crore)	Total expenditure reported by the States (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	1458.68	1735.43
2004-05	1726.55	1795.25
2005-06	3273.99*	2666.65**

*includes Rs. 974.59 crore released for supplementary nutrition.

**the expenditure by 27 States/UTs only from whom reports have been received so far.

Setting up of National Tea Auction Platform

3013. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes set up e-auction platform on the lines of National Stock Exchange for auction of Tea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds to Private School

3014. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether financial assistance is provided by the Government to the public schools/private schools in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Sanskriti school in Delhi is receiving financial assistance/funds since their inception from the Government as recently reported in the various national dailies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether certain proposals of Sanskriti school for grant of financial assistance is pending with the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Grant-in-aid to schools is essentially a State Government function. Under certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes, grants are released to State Governments/NGOs for the benefit of schools/students. There is no scheme with Ministry of Human Resource Development for release of capital grant for construction of school buildings or maintenance grant for day-to-day running of the private schools.

(c) and (d) According to information made available by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension, Department of Personnel & Training, details of the financial assistance given to Sanskriti School, Delhi, from Government are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement*Financial Assistance given to the Sanskriti School, Delhi, by the Government*

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Ministries/Departments of Government of India/State Governments	Amount released from 1994-95 to till date
1.	Ministry of Defence	500.00
2.	Ministry of Finance	300.00
3.	Ministry of Human Resource Development	500.00
4.	Ministry of Railways	20.00
5.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	1.50
6.	Department of Personnel and Training	550.00
7.	Government of Kerala	5.00
8.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	10.00
9.	Government of Tripura	1.00
10.	Government of Karnataka	25.00
Total		1912.50

*[Translation]***Beautification of Chandigarh**

3015. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Regulatory Body for the beautification of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such body is likely to be set up;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any survey for the development of the urbanized villages of Chandigarh and also providing them modern facilities;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the names of villages included in the survey;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for development of such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (g) The four villages of Burail, Badheri, Butrela and Attawa are an integral part of the sectoral grid of Chandigarh City. These are under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh which provides modern infrastructural facilities like Roads, Water Supply, Sewerage, Storm Water Drainage, Street Lighting, Horticulture works and Sanitation in these villages. A specific plan provision of Rs. 5.50 crores also exists for infrastructural development of these four villages. A separate survey for this purpose is, therefore, not required.

[English]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground by KVS

3016. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received and persons appointed on compassionate grounds under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan during each of the last three years, post-wise, region-wise;

(b) the number of application pending with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for consideration till date;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

(d) the time by which these persons are likely to be appointed on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Since 1.4.2003, 136 requests were received for appointment on compassionate ground in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). The year-wise, post-wise and region-wise break-up is given in the statement enclosed. In the absence of vacancies to be considered for compassionate appointment, no compassionate appointment was made in KVS, during the last three years. The appointment on compassionate ground depends, *inter alia*, upon the availability of vacancies.

Statement

Total Requests Received for Compassionate Appointment during each of the last three years are as follows:

Year	Number of Requests Received		
	Region	Categories of posts	
		Group C	Group D
1	2	3	4
2003-2004	Ahmedabad	01	01
	Bangalore	02	01
	Bhopal	02	02
	Bhubneshwar	00	01
	Chandigarh	00	05

	1	2	3	4
		Chennai	00	01
		Dehradun	02	03
		Delhi	01	01
		Guwahati	00	04
		Hyderabad	01	03
		Jabalpur	01	02
		Jammu	00	01
		Kolkata	01	01
		Lucknow	04	03
		Patna	00	01
		Silchar	00	01
		Total	15	31
2004-2005		Bangalore	01	00
		Bhopal	01	02
		Bhubneshwar	03	02
		Chandigarh	03	00
		Chennai	01	00
		Dehradun	01	03
		Delhi	02	05
		Hyderabad	00	03
		Jabalpur	00	02
		Jaipur	00	01
		Jammu	02	00
		Lucknow	01	00
		Silchar	02	00
		Total	17	18
2005-2006		Ahmedabad	01	02
		Bhopal	01	02

1	2	3	4
	Bhubaneshwar	07	01
	Chandigarh	00	01
	Dehradun	02	02
	Delhi	01	01
	Guwahati	00	02
	Hyderabad	00	02
	Jabalpur	02	00
	Jaipur	01	02
	Jammu	00	00
	Kolkata	00	02
	Lucknow	00	02
	Mumbai	01	02
	Patna	04	00
	Silchar	01	01
	Total	21	22
2006-2007	Ahmedabad	01	00
	Bhubaneshwar	01	00
	Chandigarh	01	00
	Dehradun	02	00
	Delhi	00	01
	Guwahati	00	01
	Hyderabad	01	00
	Mumbai	02	00
	Patna	01	01
	Total	09	03
	Grand Total	62	74
	Total Group "C" = 62		
	Total Group "D" = 74		

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, whatever happened has happened, but I would just request the hon. Members that we should complete the listed Business without breaking for lunch. On this, through you, Sir, I seek the cooperation of the House. I hope, Prof. Malhotra will agree with me that the listed Business should be completed without breaking for lunch.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, a number of issues are important in Zero Hour. Today, in the entire country ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such Hour as Zero Hour.

... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Pesticides in Soft Drinks

- SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

*[English]***Appointment on Compassionate Ground by KVS**

3016. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received and persons appointed on compassionate grounds under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan during each of the last three years, post-wise, region-wise;

(b) the number of application pending with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for consideration till date;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

(d) the time by which these persons are likely to be appointed on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Since 1.4.2003, 136 requests were received for appointment on compassionate ground in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS). The year-wise, post-wise and region-wise break-up is given in the statement enclosed. In the absence of vacancies to be considered for compassionate appointment, no compassionate appointment was made in KVS, during the last three years. The appointment on compassionate ground depends, *inter alia*, upon the availability of vacancies.

Statement

Total Requests Received for Compassionate Appointment during each of the last three years are as follows:

Year	Number of Requests Received		
	Region	Categories of posts	
		Group C	Group D
1	2	3	4
2003-2004	Ahmedabad	01	01
	Bangalore	02	01
	Bhopal	02	02
	Bhubneshwar	00	01
	Chandigarh	00	05

1	2	3	4
	Chennai	00	01
	Dehradun	02	03
	Delhi	01	01
	Guwahati	00	04
	Hyderabad	01	03
	Jabalpur	01	02
	Jammu	00	01
	Kolkata	01	01
	Lucknow	04	03
	Patna	00	01
	Silchar	00	01
	Total	15	31
2004-2005	Bangalore	01	00
	Bhopal	01	02
	Bhubneshwar	03	02
	Chandigarh	03	00
	Chennai	01	00
	Dehradun	01	03
	Delhi	02	05
	Hyderabad	00	03
	Jabalpur	00	02
	Jaipur	00	01
	Jammu	02	00
2005-2006	Lucknow	01	00
	Silchar	02	00
	Total	17	18
	Ahmedabad	01	02
	Bhopal	01	02

1	2	3	4
	Bhubaneshwar	07	01
	Chandigarh	00	01
	Dehradun	02	02
	Delhi	01	01
	Guwahati	00	02
	Hyderabad	00	02
	Jabalpur	02	00
	Jaipur	01	02
	Jammu	00	00
	Kolkata	00	02
	Lucknow	00	02
	Mumbai	01	02
	Patna	04	00
	Silchar	01	01
	Total	21	22
2006-2007	Ahmedabad	01	00
	Bhubaneshwar	01	00
	Chandigarh	01	00
	Dehradun	02	00
	Delhi	00	01
	Guwahati	00	01
	Hyderabad	01	00
	Mumbai	02	00
	Patna	01	01
	Total	09	03
	Grand Total	62	74
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MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

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[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, whatever happened has happened, but I would just request the hon. Members that we should complete the listed Business without breaking for lunch. On this, through you, Sir, I seek the cooperation of the House. I hope, Prof. Malhotra will agree with me that the listed Business should be completed without breaking for lunch.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, a number of issues are important in Zero Hour. Today, in the entire country ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such Hour as Zero Hour.

... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Pesticides in Soft Drinks

- SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment has recently released its study regarding the presence of high level of pesticides in soft drinks;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the same;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to ban the manufacture and sale of soft drinks;

(e) whether the soft drinks manufacturing companies have disregarded the instructions given by the Union Government regarding limit of pesticide residue in soft drinks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released a report on 2.8.06 entitled "Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks".

The report states that:

- A total of 57 soft drink samples of 11 brands (7 brands of PepsiCo and 4 brands of Coca Cola) were tested for 15 organochlorine pesticides and 13 organophosphorus pesticides.
- The range of concentration of total pesticides (organochlorines and organophosphorus) was 2.65 ppb to 31.55 ppb in all 57 samples.

To examine the report of CSE, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, constituted an Expert Committee on 04.8.2006 which reviewed all aspects contained in the CSE Report including the methodology adopted by CSE. The conclusion of the Expert Committee is that the report of the CSE does not provide conclusive evidence for presence of different pesticides in the concentration reported. The report of the Expert Committee is placed on the Ministry's website. The specific observations of the Committee are that:

- The report does not provide details required for the confirmatory interpretation of quantum results.
- The residue data reported based on GC- Mass confirmation is inconclusive.
- The prevalence of different isomers of HCH (Hexa chloro cyclohexane) are in contradiction to their biological nature. Further, no confirmatory evidence are provided to support the result as per normal practice.
- Malathion under goes hydrolysis in acidic medium of soft drinks. Hence, its residue in such a concentration is technically unlikely. Further, GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Malathion.
- Heptachlor is banned from 1996. Hence, its presence in such concentration is unlikely. GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Heptachlor.
- Chlorpyrifos the mass fragmentation pattern of standard (Retention time of 19.36 minutes) and sample (Retention time 18.54 minutes) points towards presence of Chlorpyrifos residues in the sample. However, Retention time of both do not match.

In view of the above inconsistencies, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sought further details from CSE.

In compliance with the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted by the Parliament, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already amended the standard for the water to be used in the manufacture of soft drinks to conform to the standards for packaged drinking water vide notification no. GSR 451 (E) dated 15th July, 2004.

Further in order to develop composite standards for carbonated beverages, on recommendation of JPC, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a National Level Expert Committee to advise on fixation of MRLs of pesticides in Carbonated beverages, fruits and vegetable juices and other finished products. The committee decided that there is a need for multi centre monitoring studies with appropriate sampling of sugar from different geographical region to assess pesticide residues levels in sugar samples to pre-empt the possibility of pesticides coming through sugar which is one of the constituents of soft drinks apart from water. The report of

the monitoring study would be completed by January, 2007, would enable Government of India to prescribe composite standards for carbonated water after following due process of notification.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, is implemented through State/UT Government who draw samples of various food products and take action under PFA Rules, 1955, if the samples are found not confirming to PFA Rule, 1955.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued directions to State and Central Laboratories to lift samples of carbonated drinks and to test them. The Directors, Central Food Laboratories, have also been advised to accept samples of carbonated water and packaged drinking water for checking the quality parameter including pesticide residues. A total of 213 numbers of samples have been lifted from 14 States and dispatched for testing. Testing report has been received from Gujarat. As per the report received from the State of Gujarat, out of 28 samples analyses, none of the samples has shown any presence of any of the pesticides. Report has also been received from Central Food Laboratory, Mysore, in respect of two samples of water and two samples of carbonated drinks. The samples indicate that pesticide levels are below the statutory limits.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I would like to first profusely thank you for allowing this Short Notice Question. This is an important Question. The inaction on part of the Government was bizarre as it is, but after I have received this reply from the Minister, the situation has become ridiculous. This is a 7,000-crore rupee industry on which lakhs of people are dependent for their livelihood. We have seen in the past one month, since the CSE report came out, that various State Governments have taken action on their own. There have been some State Governments which have banned the production and the distribution of soft drinks. Others have gone half way through it, but the Union Government does not seem to be coming out with any clear policy.

Sir, since the last report came out in 2002 or 2003, a high-powered JPC was set up, and the JPC gave certain recommendations. The BIS also finalised the standards for soft drinks to be followed in the country, but that has not been notified. In fact, on the day of the last meeting of the BIS, when the standards were to be notified, the Union Health Secretary, God knows on whose instructions, wrote to the BIS to hold back the action. There is a total confusion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI UDAY SINGH : Sir, is the Central Government likely to take an action shortly which will clear the confusion that exists today because the health of millions of people is at stake?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to make your position clear?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Definitely, we are very much concerned about the situation prevailing today on the pesticide issue, after the reports submitted by the CSE. We are setting standards, after the JPC recommendations. To set the standards, we have to go through detailed scientific studies. There are three main standards which we have to set: one for water, one for sugar content, and one for the concentrate. There are three different products in a carbonated drink. In respect of setting standards for a carbonated drink, in fact, India was one of the first countries to set it way back in 1955. Pertaining to the current issue, already there are standards for water. The standard for packaged drinking water is the standard set for water to be used in the manufacturing of carbonated drinks.

Coming to the standards for sugar, we have been testing these things. By January, 2007, maybe, in three to four months time, we will be having comprehensive standards for all the specifications of a carbonated drink. Sugar standards will be given because we have to go through a process of scientific testing and validating which would stand in a court of law. The Head of ICMR, Dr. Ganguly, has been heading a high-level Committee which has been going into the issue. Coming to the third part, the concentrate part, this is a patented proprietary item, and the onus of having no pesticides in the concentrate is on the manufacturers.

Even though the standards will be set shortly, according to the current prevalent situation there should not be any pesticide residue in any of the carbonated drinks. We have standards of minimum residue of pesticide in soft drinks.

To answer the hon. Member, we are in the process of setting standards for these carbonated drinks shortly.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, the reply of the Minister practically trashes the Report of the CSE. On every count it says that it is not found to be true. I did not want to say it so directly but I think there is... (*Not recorded*) between the Government and the soft-drink manufacturers and, therefore, I think setting up... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will see to it. Do not use that word. Strong words break no bones.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: All right, Sir, I withdraw that word and put it in softer words.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I do not want softer words. You may put it in parliamentary words.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: The Government's inaction in this regard is giving rise to the suspicion in our minds. Committees after committees have been set up. There is no need for setting so many committees. Either the Report of the CSE is right, in which case the soft drinks, as they stand today, must be banned or the Report of the CSE is wrong, in which case the State Governments be advised that a ban on the soft drinks must be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: You are giving suggestions. You may put the supplementary. You are articulate enough. Please put the question.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I would like to know the concrete time frame by when the Union Government will come out with a clear-cut policy because giving shifting dates of January next year or May next year will not work. We have already seen so many years gone by. I would like to know from the Government, from the hon. Minister, the specific date by when this would be done.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the hon. Member has used some strong words.

MR. SPEAKER: Those have been omitted. Why do you worry?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Even though they have been omitted, I would like to say that the intention of the Government is consumer-safety. Consumer-safety is my priority. I have stated in my answer that we are not contradicting the CSE Report. The Report is inconclusive and that is why we have asked the CSE for more details. The interpretation of the specialists on the CSE Report is already in the website. Anybody can go into the website and see the interpretation of the Report of the CSE. We have asked the CSE for more information. When they will elicit information, we will go into the issue again. It is not that the CSE Report is right or wrong. Currently, it is inconclusive and we need more details of the Report. It is a matter of few days only when we are going to have more conclusive Report of the CSE.

Coming to the Committee, it has to go through the process of law. Acting in a haste will not solve any of

the problem today. Whatever we do, we have to do it scientifically. It is not that the Committee is just going on and on. Whatever we do, it has to stand in a court of law. We are trying to do it scientifically.

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply. This was the most unsatisfactory reply....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow you further. Shri Francis George – Not Present.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, the CSE Study Report states that the pesticide residue in soft drink samples collected from different States of India is on an average 24-times above the Bureau of Indian Standards. While the test done on soft drinks samples from the United States show no pesticide residue. Why this difference is there? Why are they producing the soft drinks in India with pesticide residue above certain level and why are they not doing the same in the United States and other countries? Why are we allowing them to do the same?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, firstly, I would like to thank the CSE, Ms. Sunita Narayan, for bringing up this issue not only for the general public of the country but for the Government also. She is a good friend. I have already said that the CSE Report is inconclusive and we are getting more information on it. It is already there on the website. We are now waiting for the CSE final Report. We have also asked the State Governments to pick up more samples and today more than 200 samples, literally from 14 States, of these carbonated drinks and the carbonated water, which is used in the manufacture of these carbonated drinks, have been lifted.

The process is going on. We have results from a laboratory from Gujarat which says that there are no pesticide residues in the drinks. It is a high level laboratory. The Central Food Laboratory, Mysore, which is a NABL accredited laboratory lifted four samples from the local retail market. They have also said that there are no pesticide residues above permissible limits. Notwithstanding that, we have to wait for all the results to come and we have to go through a process and protocol of testing. These laboratories are going through the protocol of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. These are the laboratories which will be evaluated in the court of law... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very bad habit.

[Translation]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has replied that the CSE has released a report titled "Analysis of pesticide residues in the cold drinks". The cold drink industry is running apace at present in the rural areas besides in towns. This industry has been affected due to this report. This question was raised in respect of this subject and despite a reply given at length by the hon. Minister, uncertainty still persists. The hon. Minister still proposes to constitute a committee which will submit its study report in January, 2007. As such, there is a lot of time in the submission of a report. In the meanwhile, I want to know unequivocally from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to ban these cold drinks till the report to be submitted clarifies whether these cold drinks are safe for human health or not. The reason is, even small shopkeepers in the rural areas keep these cold drinks and this industry is suffering extremely.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered elaborately. You ask for just one answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I am more worried about the consumer safety. As regards the issue of pesticide residues, today the onus is on the manufacturers that there should not be any pesticide residues above the permissible limits in any of these carbonated drinks. Today, there are standards. It is not that standards are not there. We are trying to work on comprehensive standards and by early 2007, it is going to come but even today it is not that there are no standards and the manufacturers can put any amount of contaminants in any of these things. It is not like that. In fact, we have a set of standards for water, concentrates and sugar also. *Prima facie*, the preliminary study says that there are no pesticide residues in sugar also. So, ultimately the manufacturers of carbonated drinks should not have any pesticide residues even today above maximum permissible limit. We have a set of standards today also. It is not that we have to wait for 2007 and the onus is on the manufacturers.

I would like to mention that we are discussing two issues. One is the pesticides issue and the second is

the health issue. The health is the larger issue. I would like to inform the House that in future, we are going to have a lot of problems on the health issue due to all the junk foods including the carbonated drinks. Today the health studies are there which say that these so called drinks cause obesity in children, lead to diabetes, dental problems and bone problems which lead to fracture. These are some of the health issues where there have been global studies. We have to take a comprehensive decision on the health issue... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not respond to any and every question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put supplementary on this question. You also know how sensitive the issue of pesticide in cold beverages is. The day this matter was raised in the House, almost all the parties expressed similar reactions. Since then, an agitation has been launched all over India against this. The people feel that the Government have deceived them. Three years have passed since then. The JPC Report has also come. According to that the Bureau of Indian Standard have laid out new standards. Then what are the reasons that the Government are withholding to notify them.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have no doubts, as has just been said by Shri Udai Singh, this question is disturbing the public mind. The Government which are answerable to the public should clarify whether it is answerable to the Parliament or to the cold drinks or Cola management. I would like to ask this very question, through you, to the Government ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to make speeches. This is time to ask question. So you may please put question.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The hon'ble Minister is not making it clear. The Minister said that he wants some more time here. All our friends of Parliament are sitting here. Taking their sentiments into view, I would like to say that as long as the safety report is not clear,

there should be a ban on the sale of Cola in the country. Does the Minister want to do so?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, after the report of the JPC, a national level Expert Committee to advise the Central Committee on Food Standards on the issue of pesticides residues not only in carbonated drinks but also in fruit juices had been formed. This Committee comprised of Dr. Ganguly, the DG, ICMR, Dr. Khanna, a retired Director of the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, Dr. Agnihotri of Agricultural Research Institute and Dr. Thyagarajan, ex-Director of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. It was a high level Committee. They had comprehensively gone into the issues of pesticides residues not only in carbonated drinks but also in fruit juices.

Sir, it is not a question of banning or not banning the soft drinks. Under Section VII of the PFA, any State Government can take action if any food product is found to be detrimental to the health of its citizens. But if such a decision is taken, then that would only be a short-term measure. That is why I would like to say that if we were to take any decision, then we need to take it on health grounds. The issue of pesticides residue is a short-term problem. The health issue is going to be a long-term problem. The sugar concentrate in the soft drinks is more dangerous than the pesticides content in the soft drinks. Literally, there is five to ten per cent of sugar content in the soft drinks. That is why I am saying that we need to take a decision on the health grounds. The Government is not dithering on the issue. We are very concerned about it. The whole country is looking towards the Government on this issue. We are concerned about consumer safety. It is not as if we are not taking any decision ...*(Interruptions)*

12.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Private Security Agencies Central Model Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 617

(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2006, issued under section 24 of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4763/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 4764/06)

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 4765/06)

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 4766/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Sir, on behalf of Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 4767/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993:

(i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 4768/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXIV Thirteenth Session, 1995

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4769/06)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XXXI Third Session, 1996

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4770/06)

3. Statement No. XXXV Fourth Session, 1997

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4771/06)

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

4. Statement No. XXXV Second Session, 1999

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4772/06)

5. Statement No. XXXVI Third Session, 2000

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4773/06)

6. Statement No. XXXI Fourth Session, 2000

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4774/06)

7. Statement No. XXIX Fifth Session, 2000

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4775/06)

8. Statement No. XXXIX Sixth Session, 2001

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4776/06)

9. Statement No. XXXVII Seventh Session, 2001

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4777/06)

10. Statement No. XXIV Eighth Session, 2001

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4778/06)

11. Statement No. XXII Ninth Session, 2002

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4779/06)

12. Statement No. XIX Tenth Session, 2002

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4780/06)

13. Statement No. XVII Eleventh Session, 2002

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4781/06)

14. Statement No. XV Twelfth Session, 2003
Placed in Library, See No. LT 4782/06)

15. Statement No. XII Thirteenth Session, 2003
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4783/06)

16. Statement No. XI Fourteenth Session, 2003
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4784/06)

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

17. Statement No. IX Second Session, 2004
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4785/06)

18. Statement No. VII Third Session, 2004
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4786/06)

19. Statement No. VI Fourth Session, 2005
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4787/06)

20. Statement No. IV Fifth Session, 2005
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4788/06)

21. Statement No. III Sixth Session, 2005
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4789/06)

22. Statement No. II Seventh Session, 2006
(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4790/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.
FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi (Part I and II), Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Delhi (Part I and II), Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (Placed in Library, See No. LT—4791/06)

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4792/06)

(5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4793/06)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 2004-2005.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT—4794/06)

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2000-2001.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4795/06)

- (11) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4796/06)

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4797/06)

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4798/06)

- (17) A copy of the statement* (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the grant of 1st degree through Formal Education) Regulations, 2003.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4799/06)

- (18) A copy of the Statement* (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards of Instruction for the grant of Masters degree through Formal Education) Regulations, 2003.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4800/06)

- (19) A copy of the Statement** (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the University Grants Commission (Return of Information by Universities) Rules, 2004.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4801/06)

- (20) A copy of the Statement** (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the University Grants Commission (Return of Information by University Grants Commission) Rules, 2004.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4802/06)

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee—Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee—Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2002-2003.

- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4803/06)

* The regulations were laid on the Table of the House on 15 March, 2005.

** The rules were laid on the Table of the House on 3rd May, 2005.

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2003-2004.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4804/06)
- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4805/06)
- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4806/06)
- (28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2004-2005.
- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4807/06)
- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4808/06)

- (32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2004-2005.
- (33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4809/06)
- (34) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2004-2005.
- (35) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (34) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4810/06)
- (36) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4811/06)
- (37) A copy of the Notification No. F. 13-10/2003-Desk (U) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2006 making certain amendments and additions to the Statutes of the Mizoram University, under sub-section (2) of section 46 of the Mizoram University Act, 2000.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4812/06)
- (38) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (39) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (38) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4813/06)
- (40) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004.
- (41) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (40) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4814/06)
- (42) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004:
- (i) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 286 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006.

- (ii) The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2006, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 416 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2006.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4815/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, on behalf of Shri Namu Narain Meena, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4816/06)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4817/06)

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 62 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

- (i) The National Biodiversity Authority (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of

Officer and other employees) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 156 in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2006.

- (ii) The National Biodiversity Authority (Annual Report and Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1689 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2005.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4818/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jairam Ramesh, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2004-2005.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4819/06)

- (2) A copy of the Tea Board (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Officers appointed by Government) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4820/06)

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the STCL Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the STCL Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006,

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4821/06)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4822/06)

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Port Blair, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Port Blair, for the year 2003-2004.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4823/06)

12.20 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

(i) **Re: Business transacted during previous week**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 60 Starred Questions admitted, only 14 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 494 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

The House took up two Calling Attention regarding "applicability of the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 in the context of observations made by Judicial Authorities" raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and "situation arising out of proposed discontinuation of Revised Long Term Action Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) in Orissa" raised by Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

The House discussed for about 2 hours and 50 minutes one Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding "widespread distress among the farmers in the country" raised by Shri Mohan Singh. However, the discussion was not concluded.

During the period, as many as 67 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour and before the adjournment of the House for the day. Also, 22 matters were raised under rule 377 during the period.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House discussed the Cantonments Bill, 2006 as passed by Rajya Sabha for about 4 hours and 27 minutes before it was passed.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 5 Bills were introduced. The Crop Insurance Bill, 2005, with a view to provide for insurance of crops and for matters connected therewith moved by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi on 12 May, 2006 was also taken up for further discussion for about 18 minutes. The Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House.

[Mr. Speaker]

The *Safai Karmachari* Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005 seeking to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of *Safai karmacharis* moved by Smt. Krishna Tirath was taken up for consideration and discussed for about 1 hour and 10 minutes. The Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House. The Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill, 2004 seeking to provide for abolition of capital punishment in the country moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan was also taken up for discussion. However, the discussion was not concluded.

The House also had a discussion for about 2 hours and 25 minutes on the Resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal for balanced and equitable growth of different parts of the country, particularly the remote areas. However, the discussion was not concluded.

The House sat late and worked extra for as many as 2 hours and 42 minutes to transact essential items of business.

Out of the 2 hours and 42 minutes for which the House sat late, 1 hour and 22 minutes were devoted to raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over.

I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings.

12.23 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): I beg to present the following reports:

- (1) Twelfth 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 Excise and Customs (CBEC)".
- (2) Thirteenth 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 sitting of the

Committee relating thereto on the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Dena Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them".

- (3) Fourteenth 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 sitting of the Committee relating thereto on the Ministries of Home Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding "Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and pattern of social crimes towards them".

Statements

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken replies of the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the following Action Taken Reports of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

- (1) Fifteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) — Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Bank of Patiala and credit facilities provided by the bank to them.
- (2) Nineteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) — Working of Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Madhya Pradesh.

12.25 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

Twenty-ninth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.26 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 158th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants (2005-06) pertaining to the Department of School Education and Literacy**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to make the following statement:

In pursuance of direction of the Speaker, Lok Sabha published in the Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Hundred Fifty-Eighth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Demands for Grants 2005-06 (Demand No. 57) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (now known as Department of School Education and Literacy), Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The Standing Committee on HRD examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (now known as Department of School Education and Literacy), Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2005-06 and presented their Hundred Fifty Eighth Report in the Lok Sabha on 21st April, 2005. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (now known as Department of School Education and Literacy), Ministry of Human Resource Development, and an Action Taken Note on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee which was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 16.12.2005. The Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (now known as Department of School Education and Literacy), Ministry of Human Resource Development is making all efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

*Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4824/06.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

12.27 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, pertaining to the Department of Food and Public Distribution**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 1, 2004.

The statements indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in respect of the above report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution are annexed separately. It may please be noted that the Ninth Report contain 14 recommendations. These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution. The details of recommendations which has been accepted/partially accepted/not accepted is given as under:

Total No. of Recommendations	Accepted	Partially Accepted	Not Accepted
14	7	6	1

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4825/06.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

The reason(s) for non-acceptance of the recommendations which could not be accepted has been mentioned against such recommendation. Statement on the Report is annexed and may be seen at pages 1 to 14.

The action taken replies in respect of this report has been sent to the Committee on 21.4.2006 and 4.8.2006.

12.28 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 119th report of Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay this statement on the above subject in pursuance of rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part – II dated September 1, 2004.

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had, in its meeting held on 25th April, 2006, considered the Demands for Grants for 2006-07 of the Ministry of Home Affairs with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Ministry and also took oral evidence of the senior officers of this Ministry. The Committee examined the Demands for Grants and its 119th Report was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 19th May, 2006.

12.29 hrs.

- (iv) **Factual position on carrying of Arab TV Channels**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, in order to strengthen the mechanism of regulation over the content of television channels, which are being transmitted/re-transmitted through cable networks/DTH in

India, for public viewing, the Government has notified Downlinking Guidelines on 11th November 2005.

All private TV channels, which are beamed into India, and are being transmitted/re-transmitted through cable networks/DTH in India, for public viewing, have to get themselves registered under the said Guidelines. To facilitate smooth implementation, six months time (upto 10th May 2006) was provided to all TV channels to comply with the provisions of the Downlinking Guidelines and get themselves registered.

Further, vide notification dated 11th May 2006, the Government allowed the channels which were uplinked from abroad and had made an application for registration to the Central Government upto 11th May 2006, for a period of six months *i.e.* upto November 2006 or till such registration has been granted or refused.

The private TV channels, which were uplinking from India, in accordance with the permission for uplinking granted before 2nd December 2005, were treated as "registered" television channels under the Downlinking Guidelines.

It has been brought to the notice of Ministry that some small section of media has reported that India has "banned" Arab TV channels under pressure from Israel. The Government of India denies this vehemently as it is contrary to facts. No channel in particular has been "banned" recently by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. This is a malicious and baseless accusation against the Government by interested quarters.

UFA Government reiterates that the Arab TV channels like Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabia, Q TV have not yet applied to be downlinked in India till date. Hence they cannot be transmitted/re-transmitted through cable network/DTH in India, for public viewing. However, they are still free to apply afresh for registration under the Downlinking Guideline, if they so desire and they will have similar opportunities like others.

The policy guidelines for downlinking issued on 11th November 2005, the list of 65 channels uplinked from abroad, who had applied upto 10th May 2006 and permitted to continue beaming *vide* notification issued on 11th May 2006 and other related documents are available on the Ministry's website: www.mib.nic.in.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4826/06.

**Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4827/06.

A press release clarifying the above status has been issued on 7.8.2006 by the Ministry on which reports have been carried by newspapers both within and outside the country. The Ministry of External Affairs has also sent a detailed fax message, dated 7.8.2006 to all missions in the Gulf and WANA regions to rebut the malicious and false information carried by the paper.

12.30 hrs.

- (v) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on 'functioning of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)' pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

[*English*]

*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha) 2005-06 pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in pursuance of direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin — Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Twenty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20.12.2005. The Report relates to "Functioning of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI)".

In the Twenty-Fourth Report, the Committee made six recommendations in all. The Action Taken Notes on these recommendations/observations have been furnished to the Committee on 28.4.2006.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations/observations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House.

*Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4828/06.

I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.31 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[*English*]

Re: Notice of Question of Privilege

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santasri Chatterjee, I have received your notice on the question of privilege dated 18th August, 2006 against Shri Shatrughan Sinha, Member of Rajya Sabha and Shri Viswanathan, Sociologist for allegedly casting aspersions on the Office of Speaker, Lok Sabha in an article published in *The Times of India*, dated 13th August, 2006. I did not notice it earlier. I have noticed it now. I treat it with the contempt that it deserves. I do not allow this notice. Let it be dropped.

12.32 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (ii) **Re: Reservation to SCs and STs in Minority Educational Institutions**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker Sir, today the people belonging to scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes feel hurt and let reged. Thousands of SCs, STs and members of Bhartiya Janta Party Morcha are staging a dhama at Jantar Mantar Road defying barricades and road blocks at many places because the facilities being provided to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for getting education have been snatched away by this House.

According to Article 15(5) of the Constitution, the Government is empowered to enact a law for giving admission in all the educational institutions to the children belonging to socially and educationally backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. But the Bill brought before the House by Hon'ble Minister and passed

here has debarred the students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes students from getting admission in these minority institutions run by Christians and Muslims. It is injustice. The people belonging to these classes are the citizens of this country but they will not be given admission here. Then, where shall they go to get education. But his law has given a free hand to the educational institutions of minorities and also given liberty to them to be selective in this regard. It now depends upon their sweet will or not to give admission. The successive Governments have provided every possible assistance to them at every level, then why Scheduled Castes/Tribes should not be given the right which was granted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar to them? They should be entitled to get admission anywhere.

While the government is pressurizing the private companies, private factories and private industries for implementing reservation, then, why the government is not pressurizing aided Christian and Muslim institutions, and why these have been exempted? I think that the government has done injustice to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in order to appease Christian and Muslim communities. The people of Scheduled Castes/Tribes have for last 50 years been blindly voting the congress to power. Today, it is not working for their welfare. I had judged the intension of hon. Fatmiji when he announced in the Lok Sabha at the time of passing the National Minority Educational Institutions Act that no person belonging to Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes will get admission in Minority Educational Institutions under article 15(5) of the Constitution. This was stated by him in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is already speaking. Do not buttress him. It is being recorded. You are only disturbing him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Through you, I request the Government to abolish this law which empowers Minority Communities to open new educational

institutes under the above said law. Unless and until the Govt. accords permission, it will not happen and that is why it has to make arrangements for their admission. The Govt. have defeated the very purpose of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is meant for all and sundry. ...*(Interruptions)* Lastly, I urge upon the Government to repeal this provision by amending Article 15(5) of the Constitution. Minority Educational institutes have been exempted from granting admission to the students of Schedule Castes and other Backward classes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have agreed for only half-an-hour to be spent for discussing matters of urgent public importance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Verma, I have allowed you. You cannot do this. You cannot speak for ten minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: In keeping with this amendment, the National Minority Educational Institution Commission Act, 2004 should also be amended, so that they could get education in all the minority educational institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahesh Kanodia, Shrimati Karuna Shukla, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale and Shri Ramswaroop Koli have been associated with this matter.

Now, Shri Gaurishanker Chaturbuj Bisen to speak now. Please do not disturb your own Member. He is raising a very important issue. I would not allow anything else. You can go on shouting. I would not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please send your slip.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

[Mr. Speaker]

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I emphatically deny all the allegations levelled against the Government in so far as the SC, ST and Minorities are concerned by Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma.

First of all, I can substantiate them when the debate takes place. The UPA Government has given the highest attention in all sectors so far as the upliftment of the SC and ST, OBC and Minorities without any discrimination. If you try to make an issue of it, it is your own politics and not the policy of the UPA Government. We are upholding their rights more than any other Government in this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gaurishanker Chaturbhuj Bisen to speak now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded. Please do not disturb your Member. Nothing is being recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is raising a very important matter. I have called your Member. He is raising a very important matter about floods in Madhya Pradesh. You are disturbing him.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, I have also given a notice..... (*Interruptions*) It is happening for the first time...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down please. All of you can not express your opinion simultaneously.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Then, let me adjourn the House till tomorrow. I think, you do not want the House to function.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Gaurishanker Chaturbhuj Bisen says will go on record and nothing else will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. You please see some of the letters to the editors that have been published today. Are you feeling proud that the people are criticising us?

...(*Interruptions*)

12.37 hrs.

(III) **Re : Need to provide flood relief to Madhya Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been torrential rain in the months of July and August in Madhya Pradesh. This torrential rain has caused heavy damage to 22 districts of Madhya Pradesh in which about 1000 villages have been adversely affected and a population of approximately 2 crore has had to suffer losses due to this rain. Crops worth crores of rupees have been ruined. As per the data made available, 74 people have been killed and more than 1500 cattle have lost their lives. The damage is too heavy for the economically backward State of Madhya Pradesh to be able to make good the loss incurred. We expect that the Government of India provide a special package to compensate for ruined crops, damage houses and other losses. The Central Government should also despatch a Study Group there immediately to assess the extent of damage caused. The Prime Minister of India should pay special attention towards it and provide maximum assistance. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to conduct the House. Then you please conduct the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please wait.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh and Shri Chandramani Tripathi will associate with it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chattar Singh Darbar will associate. Shri Krishna Murari Moghe is associating. They have given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of people have been rendered homeless and there is loss of life and property due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Think about the Speaker also. I am also a human being and not a machine.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let a machine (robot) replace me in the chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.40 hrs.

(iv) Re: Need to provide Central Assistance for the flood affected areas of Orissa

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, Orissa has witnessed

unprecedented floods. The State has encountered floods in three phases starting from first week of July during the current monsoon till date. *In toto*, 24 districts of the State have been affected due to floods, heavy rain, storm surge and landslide during July and August till date...*(Interruptions)*

7920 villages of 128 blocks have been affected. 61 persons had lost their lives due to flood and cyclonic storm in the sea. 2.51 lakh hectares of kharif crop have been damaged. 49,390 numbers of houses had collapsed and 18,36,153 people have been affected so far. Besides the flood situation, three other districts were also affected due to pest attack causing damage to kharif crop of 4571 hectares of land...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you speak at the same time?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : These floods have caused extensive damages particularly to National Highways, PWD Roads and the rural roads, drinking water supply system and public buildings. A large number of breaches occurred in the rivers and canal embankments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. We had a full discussion on this.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : On preliminary assessments, the total loss to the damaged public properties is estimated at Rs. 1000 crores. The available funds under the CRF is totally inadequate to meet the challenge. The Chief Minister of Orissa has requested the hon. Prime Minister of India on 12th August, 2006 for Central assistance of Rs. 750 crore to meet the immediate requirement of tackling the flood situation. Though the Union Government has declared Central assistance for other States, no Central High-level Team has visited the flood-affected area of Orissa so far nor has any Central assistance been provided to the State so far.

So, my request to the Union Government is to immediately come to the rescue of the people of Orissa and give central assistance so that Orissa can meet its requirement and take care of the victims, of the flood-affected people. The poor people are suffering. They are now surrounded by water...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We discussed it two days back. It is the same issue. Because it is an important issue, I have allowed it to be raised. We had a full discussion.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : So, I would request the Central Government to come to the rescue of Orissa immediately and take care of the people of Orissa and the request of the hon. Chief Minister to provide Rs. 750 crore immediately to meet the immediate requirement of the State by way of Central assistance be accepted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab is associating. Please cooperate.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, this is a very important matter which I want to raise in this House. One major news item appeared in the main Newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : One girl student committed suicide in Kerala due to non-availability of educational loan from the nationalised commercial bank branch concerned. She was a B.Ed, student who applied for a loan amount of only Rs. 35,000. The news item says that the bank branch concerned - which is the State Bank of Travancore - blindly denied that. The girl student belonged to the Scheduled Caste community. She committed suicide. So, I would like to take up this matter, through you, Sir, with the Government to ask the nationalised commercial bank concerned to give the educational loan for the needy people without any difficulty.

I would request the Government to ask explanation from the concerned branch of the State Bank of Travancore and also take action against that branch.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Whoever reminds me again and again will delay his chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): That is why we are sitting quietly ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Right now you are not sitting quietly. You are still talking.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar: Mr. Speaker Sir the effect of price rise...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Look at Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. He sits quietly and that is why I give him an opportunity to speak daily.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Shri Prabhunath Singh always keeps on shouting and even then you give him the opportunity to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I never shout. I sit like a disciplined soldier...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The whole country is aware of the role you play?

....(Interruptions)

[English]

12.46 hrs.

(v) **Need to provide diesel subsidy to farmers affected by drought in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the whole country is suffering due to price rise but it has affected the farmers the most. Right now a condition of drought has emerged and farmers feel helpless to face this situation because neither the Central Government nor the State Government has provided any means of irrigation. In view of this situation the Bihar Government has provided Rs. 10 subsidy on diesel to the paddy crop farmers to save their crops. The money has reached the district level. It has been decided that the farmers who try to protect their paddy crops and irrigate their fields will be given subsidy at the rate of Rs. 10 per litre through the Panchayats. Through you, I would like to demand the Central Government to provide Rs. 15 per litre subsidy on diesel as the State Government has given Rs. 10 per litre subsidy so that the farmers are able to save their paddy crops. Through you, I would also like to urge upon Shri Lalu Prasad Ji who is a powerful Minister*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be deleted.

[Translation]

Leave it and carry on.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Bihar Government has not yet requested for a Central team...(Interruptions) I had visited Bihar. I have also given a statement here...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright. It is okay.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have got a ready response also.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am saying so because Shri Lalu Prasad is a powerful Minister. Everybody knows it, I would request him to use his good offices to provide us subsidy from the Central Government so that the farmers are able to protect their crops...(Interruptions)

[English]

12.47 hrs.

(vi) **Re: Alleged atrocities committed on Dalit Women in Lakhi Sarai district of Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs on a very sensitive and shameful incident which occurred in Lakhi Sarai district of Bihar. Undeterred culprits of feudal mentality raped half a dozen dalit women in village Ramnagar of Suryagarh Division of Lakhi Sarai district between 12.00 to 2.00 am. at night on August 6, 2006 and Police administration right from

SHO to Superintendent of Police kept on finding excuses for not lodging an FIR. These women cried for justice but all they got was harassment of every kind. This happened in the reign of a Government which claims to have established the rule of law and boasts in saying that law will take its own course. Does not the incident of atrocity and harassment perpetrated on dalit women and not lodging an FIR in this regard prove that the undeterred culprits of feudal mentality have full freedom to commit such crimes against dalits in Bihar and go scot free. Atrocities are committed on dalit in the name of good governance in Bihar ...(Interruptions) Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards this shameful incident and demand that the Central Government should take this matter seriously and intervene. I also demand that a central team should be sent to investigate this incident. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh does not agree.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We have just celebrated the 60th anniversary of our independence. This type of incident is happening on such an occasion in Bihar. Therefore, I request the Home Minister to seek a report from the State and get the culprits arrested...(Interruptions). In addition, the State should be ordered to lodge an FIR...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, an FIR should be lodged against the local officer, the SHO and other guilty officers...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. members who want to associate themselves with this issue may please send the slips.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)***[Translation]*SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak for a minute.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may deny it.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit, down, it is over now.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Shri Prabhunath Singh disputes the allegations made by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji please sit down, I have spoken on behalf of you.

*...(Interruptions)*SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, whenever something happens, the hon'ble Railway Minister holds a dialogue with the Chief Minister of Bihar, and the chief Minister toes the lines of the Railway Minister.
*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing will go on record,

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Madhusudan Mistry to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Madhusudan Mistry's observation will go no record.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, Today, the entire Gujarat *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of you, I have told that you, call it a dispute.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record this.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. You please sit-down, nothing is being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will adjourn the House.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen, why are you speaking nothing is being recorded. Let the other honble members also express their views.

*...(Interruptions)*SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir Today, the entire Gujarat is reeling under floods *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What are you doing? Go to your seat and sit down. I think, the people of this country will now decide whether this whole system will continue or not. This is amazing attitude that is being taken. Do you feel proud of it?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What are you gaining by acting in such a way.

[English]

I can only say that this is very unfortunate. You are criticising me, making all sorts of aspersions against the Chair and nobody thinks of what is happening to this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Everybody is on a speaking-spree. I have not made any discrimination in granting time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You people decide yourselves and occupy the chair on rotational basis.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House did not sit for 50 minutes and thus no business was transacted.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very shameful. I am very sorry. I can only say this. Politics has become so confrontational. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling all those Members who are not listening to the chair. You please sit down.

[English]

Why are you standing Shri Topdar? Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: These are important issues. I am trying to give opportunity. We have agreed for only half an hour. I have started with Shri Varma, then went to Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

I have given opportunities to all those members who were concerned about this issue; even then all of you are not satisfied.

I am addressing all those members who are not heeding the Chair. You please be seated.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We are happy.

MR. SPEAKER: It is ok, now please listen to the hon'ble Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I would like to make a submission regarding two issues on behalf of the Government. One issue is about the natural disasters and the other is about the abominable incident occurred in Bihar. The issue regarding drought condition of Bihar had already been raised here. We will consider it once we receive a request from Bihar in that regard.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Please consider the condition of Orissa also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We will definitely consider it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Government provide subsidy...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Just keep quite please...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not respond it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you do not want it, I will sit down.

[Translation]

We will pay attention towards the hardships being faced by the people of Orissa. Whenever a request from

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

the State Government comes before us, we will provide whatever assistance we can, after going through it. The second issue taken up here was about the abominable act.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Please include Madhya Pradesh also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It will also be included.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Please consider Gujarat also. Mistry ji will talk about it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: All requests from the State Governments regarding natural calamities would be considered and assistance would be provided on the basis of merit ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think, hon. members are anxious to carry on with the House. Let me adjourn the House; let us go home. People will send us home very soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The second issue regarding Bihar which has been raised here was concerned with the downtrodden women and many other women. On this issue, after ascertaining the facts from the State Government we will do the needful. The State Government will also take action in that regard and we will also take action on this issue.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: On the one hand it is stated that law and order is a State subject and on the other; the hon'ble Minister issues such statements. It is a case of injustice...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: One hon. Member is raising an important matter. Please allow him.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, how can you shout from there.

[*Translation*]

It is not a right thing.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: MR. Speaker, Sir, Northern Gujarat, Southern Gujarat and Central Gujarat i.e. the entire Gujarat is now reeling under floods. On account of floods today the villages and cities of Gujarat are severely affected. Heavy rains in Gujarat have caused floods, but I would like to term it as a man-made disaster. The excess water of dams there should have been released in time. But the Gujarat Government officials did not release it in time and nor did they inform the people about this. As a result when water was released from the said dams, areas like Surat, Ahmedabad etc. were submerged. Consequently many villages were swept away. The Central Government provided an assistance of Rs. 500 crores to the Government of Gujarat. Earlier also the State Government had been granted an assistance of another Rs. 500 crores, but the State Government did not present any details regarding the expenditure till date. The said amount of assistance which was made available to the State Government has not reached the people of Gujarat. Survey has not been conducted in my own constituency. The people belonging to that area have been harassed a lot for the last one week...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The Government of Gujarat is doing its best...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated, you have made your point.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, National Disaster Management Authority, should conduct an enquiry in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kasmram Rana.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can you speak at any time you like? Will you take your seat or not?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can anybody stand up and say whatever he likes?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is disgusting behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: About 76 Members have given notice to raise their matter.

Now, Shri Kashiram Rana.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire Surat city has been devastated by the floods. This is the same Surat city which fills the coffers of the Central Government to the tune of Rs. 7000-8000 crores through revenue, customs, excise and income-tax. The entire industry has been destroyed, buildings have collapsed and a large number of cattle have been killed. The magnitude of the destruction faced by Surat city is such that even the coming next 10 years will not be sufficient for the city to regain its lost glory and stand on its own feet. Apart from Surat city, as hon'ble Madhusudan ji has said, a major portion of the State has been devastated by flood waters. My request to the Central Government is that under these circumstances Rs. 500 cores announced by the Central Government as amount of assistance to Surat city is very insufficient. The State Chief Minister has sent a memorandum to the Central Government requesting for an assistance of Rs. 25,000 crore. The Central Government had provided assistance to kutch at the time of the earthquake, on similar lines I urge the Central Government to honour the demand of Rs. 25000 crore as assistance for Surat city in order to enable it to stand on its feet. The entire crops of Gujarat have been destroyed, the farmers have got ruined. Gujarat has never witnessed destruction of such a magnitude. Therefore, my humble request is that quick assistance should be provided. In order to bring Surat city and Gujarat out of this destruction.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.S. Gadhavi is allowed to associate with this matter.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I think, I have to get rid of some Members. Some Members have to go outside. Then, probably some effect will be there..

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, not one word is being recorded. Please go to your seat and wait for my permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to some issues of the beedi workers in Kerala as well as in other States.

Sir, though the Beedi & Cigar Act was passed in 1958 in this House, it was not implemented throughout the country, especially in the States where the beedi industry dominates. In the absence of such an Act, the beedi workers may not be able to get the benefits, either minimum wages or other benefits, that they have to get.

The other issue of the beedi industry is that excise duty is imposed on the total production of beedi. As a result, the Co-operative Societies and the Government firms are really in difficulty because they have to file their accounts in time. At the same time, the private traders are not filing such accounts to the Government. The Unions have already requested the Government to impose excise duty on tobacco instead of the total beedi produce.

Another burning issue is this. The children of the beedi workers were getting the scholarship for the last so many years. From 2004 they are not getting the scholarship. It is very pity to say that Rs. 1,80,000 crores are pending.

About 16,000 students are not getting these scholarships. As a result of that, the Government has to take these scholarship money from the Bidi Workers Welfare Fund. So, I would request the Government to take immediate action on this issue.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, my name may also be associated on this issue.

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, I also want to associate with what Mr. Karunakaran has said

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you may send your names.

Now, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma - Not present.

Hon. Members, there are so many businesses to be transacted. On the farmers' issue you demanded a discussion, but it seems nobody has any interest to participate. We are still going on with the Zero Hour.

Now, Shri Ramjilal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the Cabinet approved the draft to provide 27% reservation to the backward classes in the institutes of higher education. It was in the news for the last many days that the Government was inclined to provide 27% reservation to the backward classes. It has been reported in the newspapers regularly that there is difference of opinion within the Government in this regard and the Council of Ministers is divided on this issue. The Government has introduced this incomprehensive bill in a haste in view of the mounting pressure to bring it in this session only. This bill will facilitate the implementation of reservation in AIIMS, IITs, IIMs and other Government aided institutions, however, non-aided institutions have been spared. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. Three important institutes of science and technology have also been kept out of the ambit of reservation.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. If I have to continue like this, I would abolish this hour. Please be very brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Is there any shortage of professors due to which reservation will not be implemented there? Reservation is being implemented in a phased manner. The Government is adopting a lackadaisical attitude in this regard and creamy layer is not being included in it. It is a very serious issue. The Government is trying to dilute the matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is way I have given permission to raise this serious issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please associate me also with this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, Shri Parasnath Yadav, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya have been allowed to associate with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, you cannot ask others to rise. You are gesturing them to get up.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me for half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask all the Members of your party to resume their seats.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: This is an issue related to the creamy layer. I would like to know from the Government that when even a class-III employee is included under creamy layer, then who will take admission there—the poorest of the poor who does not have any money? The Government is trying to deprive the entire backward class from higher education in the name of creamy layer. The Government should shun it. We will oppose this formula.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As an exception, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has been permitted to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I should be associated with this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may send the slips without disturbing the House. Mr. Devendra Prasad, I would ask you to sit on the Chair!

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: "Creamy layer" is not a constitutional word...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has moved an incomprehensive Bill. A very bizarre situation has arisen...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there was a request for debate on the farmers' issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, you are becoming incorrigible.

There was a request made by the Government that to transact the important businesses, particularly, the discussion on the farmers issue, the Calling Attention listed in today's List of Business may be taken up later on. Shall I do that after the Bills? After the Bills, we can take up the Calling Attention.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : No, Sir.

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): Sir, the Calling Attention may be taken up later on.

MR. SPEAKER: They are not agreeing.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am not agreeing.

[*Translation*]

It is a very sensitive matter. It should be taken up. It would be completed in half an hour.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Other matters of urgent public importance would be taken up before the adjournment of the House in the evening. Please cooperate with the Chair.

Now, Calling Attention - Shri Raghunath Jha.

13.09 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of Absence of Border Roads resulting in the increase in ISI and Naxalite activities on Indo-Nepal Border and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard:—

"Situation arising out of Absence of Border Roads resulting in the increase in ISI and Naxalite activities on Indo-Nepal Border and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[*English*]

*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): India-Nepal border is an open border having a length of 1751 kilometres covering five States, viz., Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim. Nationals of both the countries are free to cross over to the other side under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship, 1950.

The Government of India is seized of the matter of development of infrastructure along India-Nepal border, including development of road network in border areas so as to facilitate patrolling by the Shashtra Seema Bal (SSB) which has been deployed as the Border Guarding Force on the India-Nepal Border as also to promote further development of the border areas. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. Important matter is being discussed. The hon. Minister is making a statement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please note this. SSB has already identified 657 kilometres of roads in the border districts of Bihar which are of operational significance to them and which should be constructed/upgraded in the areas along India-Nepal border. Discussions are under

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

way with respective State Governments and it is expected that the list of roads to be taken up for construction/upgradation will be finalized soon. The suggestions by the hon. Members for roads in border districts of Betia, Motihari, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria and Purnea as well as the specific road—Adapur-Raxaul-Ghorasahan-Shivhar-Sitamarhi-Darbhanga-Saharsa-Kishanganj will be considered keeping in view the operational requirements of SSB.

The Government of India is also actively considering establishment of four Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at Raxaul and Jogbani in Bihar and Sonauli and Nepalganj Road in Uttar Pradesh on India-Nepal border. These check posts will house regulatory agencies namely, Immigration, Customs, border security together with support facilities like parking, warehousing, banking, hotels etc., in a single complex equipped with all modern amenities. Road connectivity to these ICPs will also be improved simultaneously.

Sir, 18 Battalions of the SSB have been deployed along the India-Nepal border to keep a strict vigil over the movement of undesirable elements. The Government has already sanctioned 20 additional battalions of SSB to have proper control over the border. SSB has already established 266 BOPs all along the Indo-Nepal border and appropriate directions have been given to the field units to exercise effective vigilance to prevent infiltration by undesirable elements. Intensive Patrolling and "Nakas" continue to be carried out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my hearty congratulations to the hon'ble Minister, for he has understood its importance and accepted the need for strengthening and upgradation of more than 600 km. long road along the Indo-Nepal border in Bihar after having a discussion with the respective State Governments. I had mentioned a few points during the calling attention motion; however, the hon'ble Minister has not given reply to any of them.

Sir, as per the treaty, the common people are free to cross over to the other side but armed Maoists enter into Bihar's border area on a large scale and indulge in various types of crimes such as looting of police stations and arms and ammunitions. Dozens of rifles have been looted and a number of people have been killed.

Hon'ble Member, Shri Sitaram Singh is present in the House. His house in Bihar was attacked. Hundreds of men and women were attacked. Some people involved in these activities were arrested, some of them got injured and some were killed. Most of them are Nepali Maoists. It has been mentioned in the calling attention motion that SSB has been deployed there for border security. However, in the absence of proper roads, the movement of S.S.B. is hindered for 5-6 months because of the Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Kamala and Advara rivers emanating from Nepal. In such a situation, large scale smuggling takes place in this area. Many persons have been caught while trying to smuggle fake currency. Most of them enter into Bihar with fake currency of Rs. 500 denomination through Pakistani agency ISI. Some of them have been arrested. Modern weapons like A.K.- 47, A.K.- 56 which are difficult to get elsewhere are easily available in Nepal's market. Criminals and naxalites either of this side or of that side, have affected the entire northern Bihar including West Champaran, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Kishanganj, Purnea, Saharsa and Supaul. Though the number of security personnel has been increased near the river to keep a check on their activities in these areas but no arrangements have been made for the unobstructed movement of security forces so that they could keep proper vigil and secure the borders. I would like the hon'ble Minister to consider it.

13.17 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

On this, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the Government of India should not be under any illusion. We should understand our position now. Earlier, we took Tibet as a buffer State but we failed to secure our borders. Our vigilance was not up to the mark at that time. Today's Nepal is not the same Nepal with which we signed a treaty in 1950. Today, all types of arms and armoury can penetrate our borders from Lhasa area of Nepal and China within 24-28 hours. All war implements and armoured vehicles can cross over. But our position is not the same. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister should take all these things into account. The Government has adopted the Nepal road but all out efforts should be made for the upgradation of this road as early as possible and to take action for special control are these areas. This is my submission to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad, please ask your question only.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would comply with your orders. But first of all I would like to thank the Hon'ble Home Minister because he has appreciated the significance of the subject. But it needs some more attention. The subject is related to the construction of roads on Indo-Nepal Border. It is not only related to national security but also concerns friendship between India and Nepal. Moreover it is also crucial for maintaining peace in view of Maoist activities on Indo-Nepal Border. Therefore, this subject is highly sensitive. It is of national and international importance. From strategic point of view Nepal is a friendly nation but many unfortunate incidents occur in the border areas of India and Nepal as has been pointed out by Hon'ble Shri Raghunath Jha. I want to tell the Government that two points in the statement of the Government need to be clarified. First point is that SSB has identified 657 km. long road in the border districts of Bihar to streamline the patrolling on Indo-Nepal Border and promote development in the border areas. It is important from operational point of view. This is a positive response. But it has also been stated that discussions are going on with the concerned State Governments about roads to be constructed on Indo-Nepal Border. How long will this discussion continue? I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether any time frame is likely to be fixed in this regard? Whether any timeframe has been fixed for the aforesaid discussion?

We hope that the list of roads to be constructed would be finalized soon. The issue has been raised through a calling attention as to by what time the roads proposed to be constructed in Motihari, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supoul, Araria, Purnea, Sahrasa, Darbhanga and Kishanganj are likely to be finalized. The Hon'ble Minister has said that this would be considered in view of the operational needs. On the one hand this 657 km long road is important on operational count, on the other hand, the issue of special roads would be considered keeping in view the needs of SSB. I would request the Hon'ble Minister not to consider this anymore. When it is clearly mentioned that roads are to be constructed in the border areas of India and Nepal. I would like to ask whether the Government would take positive steps and by what time the said construction work would begin? The issue is to be discussed with the Government of Bihar and five other State Governments. I would like to

say that 19 border districts of Bihar adjoining the border of Nepal are the worst affected with Maoist violence and anti national activities. Smuggling is also going on and criminals get sophisticated arms from Nepal, though we have friendly relations with Nepal and the people of Nepal want peace and tranquility with India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have put forth your views. Now please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Therefore, I want to know by what time the construction of border roads would begin to maintain peace and ensure the movement of security forces? I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the positive steps taken by the Government for the construction of border roads...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on the subject. I should also be given time to speak on the subject...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also to raise a calling attention. I have given a notice in the morning. Sir kindly give me an opportunity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly listen to me. First you take your seat. First of all as per the rules only those Hon'ble Members will be given opportunity whose names have been listed. I have allowed those two Members whose names were listed. I request you all that there is a long list of business and we need to dispose it off. Therefore, other Hon'ble Members can not be allowed to speak on the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, it's an important issue....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I allow one hon'ble Member, I would be bound to permit every one. Yogiji if I allow you, I would be forced to allow everyone. So please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogiji please sit down. Your speech is not being recorded. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Home Minister to reply on the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to reply on the Calling Attention. He is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Home Minister is on his legs. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translator:]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow you.

[English]

Shri Aditya Nath, I feel very sorry for you, but please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your notice has not been received.

[English]

Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: See the list. Your name is not there. If I allow you, I have to allow everyone. I cannot do this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aditya Nathiji, it is not possible for me to accommodate you at this point of time. Therefore, please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): Sir, how can you allow him to go on like this? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aditya Nath, you should understand my problem also. If I give you time to speak, then I will have to give time to all the hon. Members, and I would have to accommodate them all. Therefore, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: According to rules, only those hon. Members who have given their names in writing can be accommodated to speak. Therefore, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogiji please sit down. If I allow you, I would have to permit everyone.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogiji please sit down. Please try to understand.

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Hon'ble Members asked that the Naxals who are coming from that side...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogiji please sit down. Your speech is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. What should I do?

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, how can two Members speak at the same time? Let the Minister be allowed to give his reply. If the hon. Member wants to raise any queries, he can do so at the end. He is constantly interrupting the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noting is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Members asked what steps were being taken to stop the Naxals who coming from Nepal. This is correct and a good question too. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Members that we are going to increase the number of our SSB forces. If 20 battalions are deployed there today we will strengthen our border security by deploying 20 more battalions there.

Another point is with regard to uncemented roads in Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Sikkim. Steps are being taken by the Government to make them pucca roads. If these roads were National Highways, it would have been the responsibility of the Union Government entirely. But State Governments are consulted and involved if the roads are constructed in States. We have taken the responsibility of constructing cemented roads. We informed that the total length of road is 1751 km, of which we are going to construct 1558 km of roads.

As far as Bihar is concerned its border is 726 km long and out of that we are going to construct nearly 607 km. State Governments are to be consulted for the construction of these roads and we are discussing the issue with them. We have asked them to give their opinion in this regard so that we can keep that in mind during construction of roads. We have written to State Governments also. We have written to the Government of Uttar Pradesh as well as to the Governments of Bihar and Sikkim. The final decision will be taken keeping in view the information that will be received from them and action will be taken accordingly.

Fourthly, what we are going to do in this regard is that we are going to establish the headquarters of the new Battalions in those border areas itself where these are being raised. We have particularly, written to the Government of Bihar requesting them to provide us the land on this border only so that we can keep our new battalion at the place where we are raising it. This will include the Battalions of SSB and CRPF as well and action is being taken to deploy these battalions especially in the border areas. State Governments have also been asked to strengthen their intelligence agencies. There is less intelligence coverage in the rural areas. The IB or the R&AW are not much effective in collecting intelligence in Taluka and Districts so the State intelligence agencies are required to collect information.

Previously, the way of functioning was better but now-a-days it is observed that they are not performing their duties satisfactorily. Therefore, we are requesting Governments of all the States to strengthen their intelligence machinery. They have also been asked, that out of their forces meant to be deployed, they should reserve some companies for taking action and not utilize them for maintaining law and order and traffic. They should instead use these companies for the said work. This is how we are taking action in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, lastly, I would like to say that the Central as well as the State Governments will share the financial liabilities. This work will be undertaken by the Border Road Development Organisation at some places and at other places we would like to get it done by the PWD of the State Governments and some other Public Sector Undertakings as well. Hence, this road will be constructed and we will also be able to control Naxalism by doing so.

13.36 hrs.

**SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION
OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up the Supplementary List of Business.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I oppose the move to introduce a Bill to amend the salary, allowances and pension of the Members of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Let me say, Sir, that we are not the persons to decide our salaries. This is beyond our legislative competence. When the farmers in the country are committing suicides, we are enhancing our salaries. This is very unfortunate and I oppose it.

It should be decided by an independent agency and not by the Members of Parliament. We should appoint an independent Committee, which should take evidence, decide and then make recommendations. Then only we should enhance our salaries. We, ourselves should not enhance our salaries. We are not competent to say what should be our salary, emoluments and allowances. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shri Varkala Radhkrishnan's speech will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We are not competent to decide it. Let us form a Committee, not of Members of Parliament, but an independent Committee to look into the matter and make recommendations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except whatever Shri Varkala Radhkrishnan says, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : When farmers in the country are committing suicides, we should avoid enhancing our salaries. It is quite unbecoming. In the Press it has come that the Members salary will be about Rs. 1 lakh. We will be in difficulty. So, I would request that the Bill should not be introduced at this stage. A new Committee may be formed which may look into the matter and decide.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, at the very outset, at the introductory stage of the Bill, I strongly oppose the Bill because it is un-wise, unreasonable, illegal and un-ethical also. Members of Parliament are making laws for the country but it is a matter of regret that the Members are making law for the enhancement of their salaries and allowances for themselves. This is un-ethical. My humble suggestion before you is, let an independent Committee, barring the Ministers and the Members of Parliament, be constituted. This independent Committee should examine all the matters relating to the salaries, allowances and other facilities of the Members. If we increase our salaries ourselves, it will give a wrong message to the people. Therefore, I humbly request my friends not to press for the passing of the Bill. I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw it.

Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of the Bill. The bill is unethical, undesirable and undemorsatic. Therefore I would request the Government to withdraw the bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, many veteran leaders of the Communist Party are occupying the offices of Profit ...*(Interruptions)*

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dt. 22.8.2006.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the speech of the Hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all, the opposition to the introduction of a Bill in the House is always done on the legislative competence. I brought this Bill with full legislative competence. It is within the ambit of the Constitution...(Interruptions). You have already made your submission, now let me speak. The Article 106 of the Constitution of India says:

"Members of either House of Parliament shall be entitled to receive such salaries and allowances as may from time to time be determined by Parliament by law and, until provision in that respect is so made, allowances at such rates and upon such conditions as were immediately before the commencement of this Constitution applicable in the case of members of the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion of India."

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is speaking without my permission, therefore, nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: All right, you go on speaking. I would sit down... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I draw the kind attention of the hon. CPI leader, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty and Comrade Radhakrishnan that this constitutional provision provided the strength to have a Joint Parliamentary Committee of Parliament. It has examined the matter. I think similar would be the case in the State Assemblies of Kerala and West Bengal. Therefore, there is no difference between us and the States. After due deliberation on this matter, the Joint Committee of Parliament submitted a report. I thank the

*Not recorded.

Members of the Joint Committee who represent all the parties. It is headed by Shri Giridhar Gamang. They have done a great job. They have brought out a table which would show that the Members of Parliament of India are the lowest paid parliamentarians in the world.

Secondly, I would like to submit that our Government has taken a decision in this regard which I am happy to inform you that this will be effective up to five years. Thereafter, a permanent institutional mechanism shall work. That is also the recommendation of the Joint Committee. I would bring to the House a resolution in respect of that mechanism in the next Session which will ensure the fate of all future things from 15th Lok Sabha. So, this is only for the next five years.

I think the legislative competence is there and the constitutional support is also there. The recommendation of the Committee is there. Therefore, I think the opposition to the introduction of the Bill does not stand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I introduce* the Bill.

13.45 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a very long list of Matters under Rule 377. I would like to request the hon. Members that Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. These will form part of the proceedings.

- (i) **Need to convert the metre gauge railway line from Jaitalsar to Dhasa in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, Amreli there is a meter gauge line which connects Jaitalsar to Dhasa. Several

+Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri V.K. Thummar]

commercial activities are being carried out from there and Pipavav port also falls in the vicinity of it which has necessitated to convert this metre gauge line into broad gauge line. Consequent upon conversion of this line into broad gauge line, several ports of Saurashtra may be linked to other parts of the country and a new rail service may also be introduced in that area. Unless this metre gauge line is converted into broad gauge line-modern rail service can not be provided in Saurashtra. In this regard, I have requested the Hon'ble Minister of Railways several times. Hon'ble Minister informed the House that survey is being conducted in this regard but I think delay is being done in this work.

I would like to request, through this House, that directions to convert this metre gauge line into broad gauge line may be issued at the earliest.

(ii) Need to bring amendments in the EPF Act for the benefit of Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO (Mahbubnagar): I would like to draw the attention of the House that the employees of the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies are facing many problems in Andhra Pradesh in regard to their EPF remittances.

The cooperative societies do not fall under the definition of employee-employer category, which are jointly owned by the members.

Hence, I, therefore, request the Government to bring about necessary amendments in the EPF Act so that the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Bodies are exempted from the remittance of EPF amounts.

(iii) Need to check the pollution caused by 'Coconut Shell Burning Industries' operating without valid licence in Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, in Kangayam Taluk, there are a number of illegal "Coconut Shell Burning Industries" functioning without any valid permission or licence from the authorities concerned and are producing Charcoal. Large quantities of Charcoal is produced out of burning the coconut shell which is stored in Kangayam Town itself in the heart of the residential area. Moreover, there

is no valid licence for the storage of charcoal by the Agency who purchases the Charcoal.

By adding Tri Nitro Toluvin (TNT) with this charcoal, country bombs (crude Bombs) can be produced and used for criminal activities. The public suspects that the above said charcoal is used for illegal purposes and the agency purchasing the same is also sending it to various parts of the country and also to Sri Lanka causing illegal subversive activities.

The burning of the coconut shell is creating air pollution leading to environmental degradation and affects the health of the public residing in nearby villages and causing numerous diseases to them. Already the public demanded through agitations the closure of the illegal coconut shell burning industries and hitherto no action has been taken.

Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests to direct the authorities to take immediate suitable action against the above said illegal industries and to protect the public residing in the area from the evil effects of these industries.

(iv) Need for effective implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Aurangabad, Bihar

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is an excellent opportunity to tackle the widespread unemployment and poverty in our rural countryside where agriculture is the sole means of earning livelihood. This makes them dependent on the monsoon and whenever it falls drought prevails as in my constituency Aurangabad for two successive years. It means enormous distress for farmers and farm labourers which is heightened by lack of opportunities for alternative employment.

This scheme provides opportunities for some employment to the rural needy and makes them eligible for monetary compensation. It may not fully eliminate unemployment but if implemented with sincerity it will be a big step towards progressively reducing poverty. But unfortunately it is not being implemented diligently. A very small number of job cards is being issued and, where issued, very few jobs are awarded. The requisite allowance is also paid. Funds meant for this scheme have been withdrawn but not disbursed.

The Government should not permit this unsatisfactory situation. It should have a monitoring mechanism to check actual progress district wise in the country, especially in Bihar. This will ensure the Scheme's meaningful implementation.

(v) Need to provide a package of incentives for Industrial development in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (Narasaraopet): Centre have offered a package of incentives to certain States excluding Andhra Pradesh for attracting industrial investments by giving exemption in Central Excise and Sales Tax, besides exemption from Income Tax for 10 years. This has resulted in exodus of industries from Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh has already suffered heavily during the last 10 years, lagging behind in the National Averages in terms of growth in the manufacturing sector. No new major industrial project has come into the State in the last 10 years. The average annual growth of industries has fallen from 2.4% to 1.1%. The State had accounted for only 4% of the total FDI inflow into the country in the last decade.

It is requested that Central Government should consider offering similar incentives to one most Backward District in each of the three regions viz, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Rayalaseema as are being offered in Uttaranchal & Himachal Pradesh in respect of promotion of manufacturing industries.

(vi) Need to allot the shares of ONGC to those farmers whose lands have been acquired by the company in Mehsana parliamentary constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, Mehsana ONGC has acquired the lands of medium and small farmers to extract oil and gas from there. The said farmers are completely dependent on that land to look after their families. The ONGC acquires the land on low rates and extract oil and gas worth crores of rupees from there but on the contrary, the life of the families of farmers become hell for want of employment. The Government propose to sell its stake in ONGC. Hence, I would like to request the Government that the farmers whose lands have been acquired, should be made share-holders in the ONGC company so that

the poor farmers can maintain their families and a portion of profit of ONGC can reach to these poor farmers.

Through this House, I would request the Government to sympathetically consider this proposal.

(vii) Need to review the Government's decision regarding reduction in excise duty on charged drugs over MRP in Gujarat

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Government of India's Notification dated 7.1.2005 to charge excise duty on drugs at 16% to 65% of the MRP which was subsequently reduced to 16% to 60% of the MRP has seriously affected the small scale industry in Gujarat. The Chief Minister of Gujarat had written a letter to the Finance Minister for rationalization of rates and duty structure. Nothing has been communicated for State Government as yet in that regard.

I urge the Government to review the situation and protect the small scale industry in Gujarat which is affected adversely by the recent Government's notification.

(viii) Need to provide reservation to the eligible persons of SC/ST category in the appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and various High Courts

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Sir, there is a constitutional provision for providing reservation to the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in appointment to the posts under the central and the State Governments and those in the institutes and undertakings financed and controlled by the Government. But the provisions of reservation have not been implemented in various sectors, which include appointments of the judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, keeping in view the Probably it was the, level of education among the Communities in 1950 that might have gone against implementing the provision of reservation in judiciary based on the apprehension that the eligible candidates possessing required qualification for appointment in the Supreme Court and the High Courts among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes may not be available.

Presently, after a long period of 59 years after independence, there is sufficient number of eligible

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

candidates possessing required qualifications for appointment to the Supreme Court and the High Courts even among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Hence, there is a need to pave the path of social justice by immediately implementing the provisions of reservation.

- (ix) Need to sanction adequate funds for early completion of construction work on Talchar-Bimlagarh Railway line, in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): There has been growing discontentment among the people of Orissa due to the inordinate delay the construction of 154 Km. Talchar-Bimlagarh line. The estimate cost of the line reached to Rs. 726.96 in 2004-05 when the line was sanctioned. But with cost escalation it may now has crossed Rs. 8000.00 crores.

The final location, survey of the line has been completed. But the land acquisition has not been commenced so far. The Ministry of Railways was requested for 2006-07 land acquisition which has not been allocated so far.

The proposed line will establish a link between Coal, aluminium and other mineral belt, including NTPC at Talchar and Angul Industrial areas with Bimlagarh where a number of down stream Industries have come up. The line will facilitate the transport of mineral and coal to the areas and will be an economic line and freight traffic will fetch good amount of revenue to the Railway. It will add to the economic development of the tribal people as it will pass through an area which is traditionally predominated by the tribals.

As such, I demand that adequate amount be sanctioned for Talchar-Bimlagarh line and so that the construction work is completed at the earliest.

- (x) Need to include Rewa Parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh under Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Sir, my parliamentary constituency Rewa, in Madhya Pradesh, is a very backward region. Despite being a politically

aware and educationally advanced place, it is highly backward from the view point of industrial development. Due to lack of any industry and in the absence of employment opportunities, the educated youth of this region are not only frustrated but are also taking resort to illegal activities and going astray.

The situation in rural areas of my constituency is even more serious. The farmers are indebted. Many a times, the crops are damaged due to natural calamities and sometimes farmers do not get proper price despite bumper crop. The labour class is sitting idle. They are not getting any work.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Rural Development that keeping in view the condition of my parliamentary constituency, district Rewa of Madhya Pradesh may be covered under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme so that the people of Rewa may get employment.

- (xi) Need for four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Road in Kutch district, Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): In my constituency i.e. Kutch District in Gujarat, Mundra is very important port handling cargo destined to vast hinterland of North and Central India. Cargo movement has increased considerably after the development of Gujarat Adani Port. Government of India has recently approved Special Economic Zone at Mundra. Adani and NTPC are going to set up mega thermal power plants of approximately 6000 MW in this Special Economic Zone. Due to heavy movement of goods materials generated by ports and industrial development in Kutch, Gandhidham-Mundra Section of NH-8 A (Km 0/6 to 60/0) is having high density of traffic, which is likely to increase tremendously in future. Keeping in view the port connectivity programme, Ministry of Surface Transport and Highways has included four laning of Gandhidham-Mundra section in NHDP Phase-III with target date of completion as December 2009.

Looking to the pace of industrial development in this area, I urge upon the Government of India to kindly get the Mundra Port connected by four-lane highway with the East-West corridor at the earliest.

- (xii) Need to extend Railway network in Sunderbans area of Mathurapur Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal**

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): People living in the Sunderbans area (South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas Districts) of West Bengal, a good part of which is in my Parliamentary Constituency, 16

Mathurapur (SC), are suffering to a great extent due to inadequate railway service facilities.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to take immediate steps for extension of railway network facilities for: Jaynagar to Raidighi, Canning to Jamtala, Jaynagar to Dhamakhali and Park Circus to Dhamakhali; laying of double lines in the Baruipur-Diamond Harbour Section of which Baruipur-Magrahat subsection requires most immediate attention and action, and in Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur-Kakdwip-Namkhana Section. It is needless to reiterate that passengers especially the daily passengers of the area suffer very badly due to heavy pressure on the single tracks in these sections. Also, a Halt station at Madhavnagar Raod between Nishchindapur and Kashinagar stations in Lakshmikantapur-Kakdwip-Namkhana sub-section is an urgent necessity.

I urge upon the Government that steps be immediately taken to mitigate the sufferings of the common people of the Sunderbans area of West Bengal.

(xiii) Need to amend Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 with a view to protect the interests of Indian Seamen

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): It is reported that a good number of seamen are regularly killed in high seas. It is also inhuman that Indian seafarers who are reported missing have no trace in high seas. The tragic and mysterious disappearance from the vessel MSC Carmen on 12th Oct. 05 of Hasan Zaheer with four others is one of the cases. The approach of the Government of India is very indifferent. It's also a fact that tampering of evidence has become a common feature in these cases. The bereaved families run from pillar to post for justice which is seldom met. A genuine demand has been raised to amend Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

So, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Shipping to amend the Act by adding the line "loss of life of any citizen of India".

(xiv) Need to formulate a policy for allotment of Petrol Pumps by maintaining a distance of five kms. between two filling Stations in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the feeling of disappointment prevailing among

the petrol pump dealers of Uttar Pradesh. The cut-throat competition for setting up of petrol pump has started since the Government have delegated the power of Selection Committee to the Oil Companies under the Public Sector Undertakings. As per the norms, the petrol pumps which are sanctioned by the public sector oil companies should be separated by a distance of at least 5 k.m. However, it is on account of the cut throat competition that these oil companies are grossly violating the rule and once one oil company grants sanction for setting up of a petrol pump, the other one also gives approval for setting up another outlet near the first petrol pump. Especially in rural areas, if one company establishes a petrol pump, other company feels pride in setting up another outlet at an arm's length from the former one. The result is that most of the petrol pumps are on the verge of closure.

So, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that it should give instructions to the public sector oil companies that if any company establishes petrol pump at one place, the other oil company should set up another petrol pump at a distance of at least five k.m.

(xv) Need to provide stoppage of 4164 Down Sangam Express and Chauri-Chaura Express at Manauri Railway Station in Chail Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Stoppage of 4164 Down Sangam Express and Chauri-Chaura Up-Down should be provided at Manauri Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency. The people of Manauri Air force station, G.G. road, commercial township area chail and Sarai Akil and nearly 25 villages have to travel to and from Kanpur and Allahabad daily including hundreds of traders, government officers' staffs, students and common people. The revenue of railway will increase if the stoppage of both the trains are provided at the said station.

I urge upon the Government that keeping in view the sentiment of the common people, one minute's stoppage of both the said trains should be provided at Manauri station.

(xvi) Need to take steps for socio-economic upliftment of Mushar Community in Bihar

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the plight of Mushar community who are the most backward community among the Scheduled Castes of Bihar State. The said community

[Shri Rajesh Kumar Majhi]

constituted 2.5 per cent of the total population of Bihar. The National Human Right Commission had conducted the survey of social-economic condition of this community and Saxena Report in this regard was submitted to the Central Government. On the basis of Saxena Report, the Ministry of Rural Development had asked the state Government to formulate an action plan in regard to Mushar Community for providing land for the construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojna and ensuring of drinking water, and providing the road connectivity, food security, nutrition and health facility, and providing, social security, besides working towards ensuring woman empowerment skill development and prevention of crime against them. But despite such instruction, the State Government could not formulate any such action plan and it is on account of this that today the said community legs behind in the main stream of the society.

Sir, through you I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Rural Development that in compliance of the Saxena Report he should take suitable steps and provide required assistance for the socio-economic development of the said community at the earliest.

(xvii) Need to expedite the setting up of an Ordnance Factory at Krishnagiri and upgrade the existing infrastructural facilities at other Ordnance Factories in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, in our country at present there are 39 Ordnance Factories distributed at 24 locations. Out of this, Tamil Nadu is having only 6 units. The ordnance factory organization is the largest and the oldest departmentally run production unit in the country and is engaged primarily in the manufacture of defense hardware viz., weapons, ammunitions, vehicles (armoured and transport), clothing, general stores and equipment for defence services.

In my Krishnagiri Constituency, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri are the two districts. It has a very mountainous terrain and flat lands. This district is listed as the most backward district in Tamil Nadu and is lagging behind in industrialization. It is only 11.36% urbanised as per Census-2001

There is a long pending demand for setting up of an Ordnance Factory in Krishnagiri district and a proposal

for the same is lying pending with the Union Government. A vast stretch of government land of more than 500 acres is lying vacant at Pochampallil Taluk in my Krishnagiri district and is also identified for setting up of the Ordnance Factory there. But so far, no progress has been made in this regard.

I shall, therefore, urge upon Hon'ble Minister to expedite the proposal of setting up of an Ordnance Factory at Krishnagiri and also to upgrade the existing facilities and infrastructure at all the Ordnance Factories located in Tamil Nadu.

(xviii) Need to monitor the functioning of Sidharth Nagar District Cooperative Bank in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumariaganj): Sir, the District Cooperative Bank of district Sidharth Nagar and its all branches have turned insolvent. This District Cooperative Bank and its branches handle the accounts of GRY, Primary school, scholarship accounts, Gram Sabha account; Government's accounts opened for various developmental works and the personal accounts of poor and oppressed farmers. It is on account of gross financial irregularities that the said bank has turned insolvent. Result is that all types of account holders of this bank are forced to be driven from pillars to post and all types of developmental works have stalled.

So, through you, I would like to request the Government that the Government should hold high level inquiry against the officers and staffs responsible for the insolvency of District Cooperative Bank, Sidharth Nagar and along with that ensure that all the account holders get their due amounts so that developmental and other works may not get affected.

(xix) Need to provide special Hill Area Fund for development of Valparai in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Valparai Hill area with tea and coffee plantations is part of my constituency in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu.

The poor daily wage workers, working in the Estates earn only Rs. 65/- per day and this amount is not at all

sufficient to keep and maintain a family and educate their children also.

Hence I request that Valparai should be facilitated to become a Tourist Centre to improve the Business Prospects in the area, Also very big coffee and tea related industries should be set up in the Hill area to give employment opportunities for the local people.

Valparai town road should be properly maintained to attract tourists and hospital facility should be improved with new buildings.

For all these purposes special Hill area fund should be allotted.

(xx) Need to expedite the negotiations with NSCN(IM) faction to find out an early solution for restoring peace in Nagaland

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Through Ceasefire extension, all the time, peace is prevailing in the State of Nagaland barring few incidents because of the continuing Ceasefire Extensions, a sense of peace and normalcy is increasingly being seen in Nagaland. People are growing more and more confident and this sense of well being has encouraged them to take up various social and economic activities. Tourists and visitors to the state, including various Central Government Officials, are often amazed at the major changes brought about in the life of the people within this short period of peace brought about after the Ceasefire agreement was first signed in 1997. Thus, our people are now demanding that peace be allowed to prevail permanently.

I want to make it very clear the stand of State Government of Nagaland, Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) Policy is equi-closeness with all Factions and Government has formed a Consultative Committee on Peace (CCP). Through CCP Government had contacted all the Factions and requested them to come to the negotiation table with Government of India for amicable solution of vexed Naga Political Problem. The duty of State Government is to act as a facilitator between the Government of India and the contending parties. Now that NSCN (IM) had submitted its proposal to the Government of India for which Government of India has taken serious note. Government of India should try to solve the issue as early as possible.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to expedite the dialogue in serious manner and solve the

vexed Naga Political issue honourably and acceptable to all sections of Naga People.

13.46 hrs.

CENTRAL SILK BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 20—Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, the hon. Minister for Textiles has moved the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006 for consideration by this House. This Bill has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. At the outset I would like to submit that sericulture is part of agriculture and figures in the Concurrent List.

Sir, we are in an era of liberalised economy. It has been the constant endeavour of the hon. Minister to decentralise the entire process of sericulture. It is a well-known fact that States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Bengal are the major silk growing States. The State of Karnataka has a history of producing silk for more than 200 years. But I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that by bringing about this amending Bill, the Government would only pave the way for centralisation than decentralisation. There are provisions in the Bill for creating parallel mechanisms and systems. There are Sections in the Bill that seeks to create more hurdles, more licensing stages and more delays which is not a happy augury for the silk industry as a whole.

Sir, the State of Karnataka is a premier silk producing State. In the last 15 years, the Government of Karnataka,

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister, that has adopted a policy of producing high yielding varieties of mulberry. There has been 100 DFL cocoon productivity. There has been an increase in production from 28 kgs per 100 DFLs in 1991 to 53 kgs per 100 DFLs in 2005-06. In 1991, per hectare cocoon productivity and income generation in 1991 was 394 kgs, but in 2005-06 it has increased to 632 kgs. The total production of silk in 1991 was 66,224 metric tonnes and today, in 2005-06, it has been 7071 metric tonnes. Improvement has been from 9.5 per cent in 1991 to 7.42 per cent in 2005-06. There has been increase in per hectare silk productivity. In 1991, it was 41.5 kilograms per hectare. It has increased to 93.6 kilograms in 2005-06. It is more than 100 per cent increase.

There has been considerable increase in production cost and there has been increase in the income of farmers. The average income in 1991 was Rs. 29,861 per hectare and it has now increased to Rs. 78,987 in 2005-06. There has been improvement in quality and prices of raw silk. The price has increased from an average of Rs. 705 per kilogram in 1991 to Rs. 1052 in 2005-06.

13.51 hrs.

(SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*)

There has been a decrease in drudgery also. When all the States have been made this improvement, specially Karnataka, in silk rearing and production, I do not understand the need for the proposed Bill for taking away some of the powers of the Karnataka State Sericulture Ministry to the Central Silk Board. Actually, every State has its own act. For example, there is a foolproof legislation since 1959 called the Karnataka Silkworm Cocoon, Silk Yarn Regulation, Purchase, Supply, Distribution and Sale Act, 1959 which regulates production of quality silk worms, rearing of silk worms, possession, disposal, sale or purchase of silk worms, silk worm cocoons, licensing and reeling establishments, establishing and maintenance of cocoons in the silk market. This is the existing law and it is adequate. It is adequate for the quality, maintenance of silk worms.

You very well know and this House also appreciates that there are two important sections in silk production or sericulture. One is mulberry cultivation which farmers are doing and another is production of eggs and these eggs

also are reared by licensed producers, that is, the farmers. From production to eggs, hatching to rearing, till the stage of cocoon and reeling, the entire activity comes under the State Sericulture Department. There is a State Certification Agency. When the State Certification Agency is there, I do not understand the need for duplicating the same by the Central Sericulture Board. I urge the hon. Minister, through you, on this point. He is well-versed person in textiles and more so in sericulture. After reeling, twisting and weaving, it goes to textiles and then to the market. The plight of the reelers is grave. Actually, they are having obsolete technology and machinery which are not at all comparable to the machinery and technology in Japan and China. If they want to purchase automatic reelers, they have to spend Rs. 1.5 crore and they do not have the investment capability.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to provide reelers with ultra modern machinery which is in use, which is in vogue both in China and Japan. Secondly, they purchase cocoon every day. Every day they are reeling them in obsolete *charaka* like reelers. For that they do not have any money.

It is my good fortune that hon. Finance Minister is also present here.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: By the way, the Minister has come.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He should also come to the rescue of the hon. Minister of Textiles and to the rescue of the entire sericulture trade, especially the reelers. We need credit facility. We need working capital, that too on everyday basis. There is a question of marketing and level playing field between Chinese silk and Indian silk. There are problems of quality because of the unfinished research and development work of cocoons in our country. The primary function of the Central Silk Board is to look after the research and development of cocoons and their procedures. Therefore, they should concentrate in that field.

I want to bring some important features of Karnataka's contribution towards sericulture and the silk industry. Karnataka produces fifty per cent of India's raw silk. Karnataka, especially the Bangalore and Kolar regions, is known as land of silk. Our hon. Minister Shri K.H.

Muniyappa is also present here. Karnataka is known as land of gold, sandalwood, silk and coffee.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Ananth Kumar is saying.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : I appreciate that Shrimati Tejaswini See Ramesh is also associating with what I am saying.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ananth Kumar ji, now conclude your speech.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This is a very big issue. So give me some time.

[English]

Around 5.62 per cent of the global silk production is from Karnataka. We are providing employment to twelve lakhs of people. There are 12,252 reeling units and there are more than one lakh reeling workers. We have got 71 government grainages, 477 private grainages, 66 cocoon markets and 10 silk exchanges. We have got 96 silk farms, 246 pre-cocoon and 17 post-cocoon technical service centres. We have got a Research and Development Institute. We have the required number of officers for this. We have the facility for extension, transfer of technology, inspection and monitoring. These are being effectively done.

I want to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister as to what the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce which submitted a Report on 31st May, 1995, said in its Fourteenth Report on Sericulture. The Standing Committee unanimously observed:

"The Committee observes that the CSB which was expected to promote and develop silk by encouraging research activities on evolving races, devising means for improved methods for mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing, reeling and spinning activities, etc., had to extend its activities in other areas which were in the domain of the Department of Sericulture of State Governments."

14.00 hrs.

"....With the result some of the developmental schemes/programmes undertaken by CSB such as extension centres for propagation of mulberry cultivation, production of DFLs, seed distribution etc. were not being organised properly. It appears that the need for CSB stepping into these unassigned areas is because of indifferent attitude of some of the State Governments in performing the role assigned to them..."

But Karnataka is not one of them. Karnataka has been a premier State in silk production. I again quote:

"While the Committee understands the compulsions before the CSB, it feels that the CSB should gradually relieve itself from the unassigned role leaving the State Government to act what is really in their domain."

This has been the categorical unanimous recommendation from the Standing Committee on Commerce relating to sericulture activity...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you conclude.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : So, I urge upon the hon. Minister that he should delete the proposed provisions in the Bill.

Now, I read out within half a minute section 8B— Powers and functions of the Committee. I request that the entire sub-section 8B (1) (2) and sub sections except laying down of quality standards for kind or variety of silk-worm seed; authorisation of silk-worm races and hybrids for commercial exploitation and all other sub-sections from (iii) to (viii) be deleted because field activity, farmers extension service, rearing monitoring and inspection certification of the seed, pupa and moth examination etc. all these things should come under the State Governments. Therefore, this is a State Government activity. So, I request the hon. Minister to delete the entire thing.

Secondly, in Section 8E of the proposed Bill again from sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) and sub-sections (a) to (d) of sub section (3) and sub-section (4) of 8(E), I request the hon. Minister to delete them.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we delete everything then what will go on record.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There are so many things in it to be kept on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am concluding.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR SINGH VAGHELA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give your reply later.

SHRI SHANKAR SINGH VAGHELA: I tell you the whole thing...(Interruptions) I will take only one minute.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, his minister Shri Gowda had met me yesterday.

When he phoned me, I had told him to come to Delhi. Yesterday he had a detailed meeting with my officers. The Minister Shri Rajshekharan was also present in the meeting. Shri Muniappa, Shrimati Tejaswini the hon'ble member from Karnataka, and the other friends had also met me regarding Karnataka. I would like to say that there is no need to worry about the State Governments. We really believe in decentralization, but in view of the kind of competition being faced from China, this Bill will be enforceable in all 12-14 States all over the country. Therefore, when the time will come to frame the rule we will discuss the matter with all the States. We will make planning so that the problems about which you have apprehension may not crop up. I would like to intervene this much only... (Interruptions)

[English]

The detailed reply will be given by the Minister of State.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may take it as an assurance.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for this assurance. Shri Ramchandra Gowda, the hon. Minister for Sericulture, Government of Karnataka and Shri K.H. Muniyappa have taken special interests. All our other MPs have also taken special interests. My only request is that there should not be any duplication of the mechanism. There should not be policing of the activities which is being done by the State Governments. There should not be any centralisation from decentralisation.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Textiles, Shri Shankersinh Vaghela, has already assured this House including myself that he is going to take adequate care in rule making. I also request him that during the advent of the next Session in November, if possible, we should be allowed to move an amendment to delete these clauses from the Bill also.

With these words, I once again thank the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to strongly support the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006. I would like to congratulate that Karnataka has done very well right from the beginning in the field of silk production. But, in content of what the hon'ble member from opposition was speaking on the issue, I would like to that under the present global scenario, our silk industry is facing stiff competition from China. As a result of this, we are not in a position to claim that the weavers in India have become self-dependent even though they are getting support in terms of subsidy and all other facilities for the silk industry and handloom ever since the UPA Government have come in power. The same situation applies to the farmers... (Interruptions) Now when this Amendment Bill is being introduced, I would like to know two things: whether the Central Government have no right to make this amendment? The Hon'ble Member was referring to concurrent list. It is true that this is the subject of concurrent list, but the amendment could be made. In the larger interest of the country, the Government can enact any law so that the silk-producing farmers, weavers engaged in this industry and all other could be benefitted of it. The laws like the one under discussion are enacted. At present Karnataka has 51 per cent share in the silk-production in the country. From time to time, the

Government have provided a slew of facilities to the silk producing farmers of the other States of India so that the people could produce silk. We should adopt the mechanism with which more and more silk could be produced in India. Apart from it I would also like to say an effort should be made to include the provisions for providing necessary facilities for the sector that would facilitate the farmer the weavers engaged in this industry. We can take clues from China. An apparel manufactured at a cost of Rs. 800 in India can be imported from China at cheaper price and better quality. If the farmers and the weavers in India do not compete with it, what will happen to crores of people who are engaged in this business?

As far as Karnataka is concerned, the farmers of this State need to be strengthened more so that they could produce more silk. But, at the same time, the same approach should be applied for whole India. I am of the opinion that India will be able to withstand the competition only when the Government provide more relief to them. The Standing Committee of Parliament had recommended this amendment. Rajya Sabha has already passed this Bill. We would like to say that when this amendment bill is passed, the Government should pay attention to the way by which more and more silk could be produced in India. We have to evolve the mechanism by which the share in silk production from Karnataka, presently 51 per cent, could be increased upto 60-65 percent and also to oversee as to how the facilities to be given to the weavers with the industry could be increased so that the threat from China could be countered and the conditions of silk producing farmers and weavers could be improved in the State.

Sir, with these words I conclude my speech and I strongly support this Bill with the belief that the Government will provide more support to the farmers and the weavers in this field so that they could stand strongly.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that due to liberalisation and globalisation policies being pursued by the Central Government, there has been an adverse impact on the silk industry in the country and as a result of this, there is a need to regulate some of the activities of the silk industry.

Sir, it is a fact that Karnataka is the major silk-producing State in our country and 51 per cent of our

country's total silk production comes from Karnataka. There are four other States apart from Karnataka where silk is being produced and they have their own Acts.

I have gone through the Report of the Standing Committee on Labour. It is stated in this report that views of major silk-producing States have been taken. There is some ground for the objection raised by Karnataka and it is necessary to assure that the proposed amendments would not disturb the existing set up. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also raised serious reservations in regard to some of the amendments that have been proposed in the existing amending legislation. The Government of Karnataka has stated that the role of the Central Silk Board, within the ambit of objectives contained in the mandate, is welcome whereas such of the amendments which lead to duplication and overlapping may be dropped in the best interest of the industry. This is the main objection of the Government of Karnataka. So, we will have to see whether the mandate is being diluted by this amendment or not.

Sir, we know that there is a crisis in the silk industry. It is a fact that a large number of people are involved in the production of cocoon and silk. It is also a fact that there has been an increase in the production of both cocoon as well as silk, but there has not been commensurate increase in the income of farmers. There are some traditional silk-producing States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, but there are some non-traditional States also like the State of Jammu and Kashmir. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to what is the necessity for bringing this amendment and what is the need to regulate and whether it is because of import liberalisation. The anti-dumping law has already been imposed against dumping of silk from some countries. But what is the necessity to regulate the quality and standard of production of silkworm seeds?

I would like to know whether the State Seri-culture Departments are capable to produce better quality of seeds or not.

We have about four to five research centres throughout the country and research works are also being undertaken there. Today, they have developed bivoltine and there has been some development in regard to quality of silk, also by improving the quality of silk and by reducing our cost of production. I would like to know whether we will not be able to compete with the foreign

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

countries who are exporting silk to our country and because of that our traditional industries like silk are being adversely affected. That we will have to see.

Some apprehensions are also expressed by the Standing Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when he replies to the debate, whether those suggestions have been incorporated in the legislation after the Standing Committee has submitted its report. One apprehension, and this is very important, is that small scale seed farmers/producers may lose their jobs as a result of the proposed amendment. The Committee further recommends that provision should also be incorporated in the Bill to impart training to small-scale seed farmers/producers in other fields/areas of sericulture to enable them to carry their livelihood. This is very important because the farmers who are involved in the production of cocoon are small and marginal farmers.

There is also an apprehension of it being monopolised because it has been stated in the report. The Committee were informed that the cost of setting up of multi-voltine grainage as per specification of the Bill may be around Rs. 10 lakh. The cost of bivoltine grainage along with cold storage, which is an essential requirement for bivoltine silk worm seed production may be around Rs. 1 crore. As such, there is a danger of private sector monopolised by a few people to take over the production of silk worm seeds in the country and this may adversely affect the interests of 1,300 small-scale seed producers.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have a few points and I would like to highlight those. While the hon. Minister replies to this debate, he will reply to these important points.

So, I would like to know whether this will be monopolised by a few people and then what will happen to these 1,300 small-scale producers; whether their livelihood will be adversely affected or not.

Sir, I will take the opportunity to point out some of the problems of Central Silk Board. We have recently met the hon. Minister. There are a large number of vacancies of scientists. The main function of the Central Silk Board is to develop the new types or new kinds of

silk to produce quality silk. Unless, there are adequate number of scientists, how can research work be undertaken by the Central Silk Board?

In a number of research centres, there are a large number of vacancies. There are about 2,500 casual workers. They are called time scale workers. They are time scale workers for 15 to 20 years. A decision was taken to convert time scale workers to give them temporary status. That decision was taken and order was issued. Even some workers got increased salary but subsequently, after two months, that order issued by the Ministry of Textiles was withdrawn. The Ministry of Textiles withdrew the order after two months.

I would like to request that not only the measures which he has proposed in the amending legislation be taken into consideration but also the problems that the Central Silk Board is facing today like the problem of finance, the problem of fund, the problem of inadequate number of scientists, and the problem of workers, should be taken into consideration. I hope, while replying to the debate, the Minister will clarify all those points.

*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, let me thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006. On behalf of my Party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) while supporting this Bill, let me put forth some points for consideration.

Silk production is an important occupation under industry all over the world. Very few countries have developed the art of producing silk. About 70,000 units with looms were operating in our country, but now there are only about 35,000 units with looms are in operation due to their facing closure. This situation has arisen out of tough competition from some of our neighbouring countries. Abundant import of Chinese silk has brought about this impasse. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to go for a time bound ultimatum to ban import of silk from China. In order to ensure this, anti-dumping tax has been introduced. Still I would like to impress upon the Union Government to impose a ban on silk import permanently. Such a measure should be to help the silk producing units in the country.

Import of Chinese silk has increased manifold. It has increased by 6,560 per cent. This has greatly affected

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

our own silk producing units. Many units are facing closure, because they cannot go on in the wake of a stiff competition. Even when credit facilities are extended at a lower rate of interest, these silk units cannot run. Even funds and assistance for improving and developing the technology and technique do not help to improve the situation. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take special care and interest extending a special package to this silk industry.

Production of cocoon and the growing of mulberry trees are not covered under Crop Insurance Scheme. It is necessary to bring them under Crop Insurance Scheme while conducive atmosphere is created for marketing and exporting silk products. The Government must set up export facilitation centres wherever necessary.

In Tamilnadu at Hosur in our Krishnagiri district there is a Sericulture Institute. I request you to expand and strengthen it. The climatic conditions available there is ideal for the production of cocoons. Under TUFSS technological development and upgradation is taken care of in textile sector. This must be available to silk industry and especially sericulture.

Quality of silk cloths are ensured by way of providing 'Hallmark' labels. Despite this move of the Government, there are still shops and traders who fleece the customers with silk cloths of inferior quality. They cheat on the public, they exploit the taste of the unsuspecting public by way of providing substandard silk material. They even pass on artificial fibre as silk. Public must be saved from being exploited by these unscrupulous traders. In order to help the public to identify quality silk material, special markets should be provided.

By virtue of being a member of the Central Silk Board, I have come across several farmers involved in the production of silk and I have studied their problems. Last week, the Members of the Central Silk Board and the officials met our Hon. Minister to impress upon him the urgent need to attend to the problems faced by those who are involved in the silk production in the absence of marketing, exporting and funding facilities. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to set up a silk corporation in the pattern of textile corporation or cotton corporation.

Silk industry needs to be developed and for this, the ideal traditional centres like Banaras, Kanchipuram and Hosur must be declared as special silk zones.

There are many people who are employed as casual and temporary labourers and their services must be regularized and such of those employees must be made permanent. Vacant posts there must be filled immediately. I find that even casual labourers on daily wages are not getting their dues. They must be ensured of gainful employment on a daily basis. It is for a long time that they have not got any increase in wages. They are not getting adequate increase.

Under special SGSY projects implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, all the activities pertaining to silk industry must get clearance and fund flow.

Considering the growth in technology, Silk Board must be helped to engage qualified scientists to take up research. Silk Board must get a matching standardized and growth on a par with CSIR.

There must be extension service facilities in the form of officials of the Silk Board getting excess to meet the farmers involved in cocoon production. They must take to these farmers the new techniques and technologies in getting quality silk yarn. Such officials must get adequate transport facility to be on the reach out to the needy farmers and workers involved in sericulture. Private sector production of cocoon must get enough of encouragement.

It is necessary to study and explain the achievements of the Central Silk Board during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. Silk production must be augmented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

Timely help must be available to the farmers to grow healthy cocoons. Disease prevention measures must be taken in time. As such, the catalytic development programme has been taken up effectively. It must be continued through the Eleventh Five Year Plan period also. Pebrine is a disease that affects silk. Hence, effective steps must be taken up to eradicate completely this pebrine disease that affects mulberry trees and the silk worms.

Quality yarn produced in the private sector must be procured by the Centre directly. If they are encouraged to export directly, they can help increase the foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Thousands of poor farmers and agricultural workers are involved in silk production in the rural areas. Most of them are carrying on silk production involving all their

[Shri E.G. Sugavanam]

family members. Many self-help groups of women have also come forward to seriously engage themselves in sericulture. To improve their living standards and to ensure their livelihood appropriate steps and measures should be taken by the Government. Our Leader and the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has provided free electricity and necessary credit facilities to these farmers through co-operative bodies. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to extend such meaningful measures to other weavers all over the country. Sericulture has been taken up in a big way in Krishnagiri, Hosur, Dharmapuri, Thali and particularly in Gopichettipalayam and Satyamangalam that come under the constituency of our Minister of State for Textiles Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan. I urge upon the Union Government to evolve schemes to ensure that the farmers involved in this are getting remunerative prices for their produce and adequate facilities for producing quality cocoons and silk yarn. Only then, we would be able to provide a competitive edge to our silk industry. With this I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2006. However, this Bill has already been passed in Rajya Sabha. Now it is being passed in Lok Sabha. I rise to speak in support of this Bill. As Shri Ananth Kumar has said and this is also a fact that Karnataka is the highest silk producing state in the country. It has 50 per cent share in total silk production. Here, all the members have expressed their views. The House may recall that many years ago there was no production of terrycote, terrylene and gaverdin in India. Such clothes were imported from other countries. Wearing imported clothes was a fashion among poor, middle and upper class people. Now-a-days many multinational companies are coming here. Now it has been said that imported clothes are cheap and indigenously produced clothes are costly. They have high costs. We have heard old song, "Kanpur kee chappal aur Banaras kee saree' (Kanpuri sandals and Banarsi sarees).

I belong to Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I would like to say about Varanasi's sarees. It was the centre of Saree. I was hopeful that Bhai Rajesh Ji who comes from Banaras, would say something about it. Banarasi sarees are very famous and it has been the centre of sarees, but today the saree industry of Banaras is on the verge

of collapse. This industry is going to be closed. Very few people are doing this business. These sarees have low sale. Through this Bill, I would urge upon the Government to provide subsidy loan and other incentives for the production of silk to the farmers of those areas where the business of sarees is being done on large scale so that they could employ themselves in Saree industry. A large number of weavers reside in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also come from Uttar Pradesh. Whether it is Mau or Pariyavan or Akbarpur, The handloom clothes manufactured from all these places are very popular. I would say that the silk industry, with which minority Muslims are associated, should be encouraged by giving subsidized loans to them or by promoting sericulture. With these measures, the industry can spread to various parts all over India and then, they would be in a position to compete with the multinational companies. In sericulture, there are mulberry trees which generates cocoon. Farmers have to do very hard labour for it and they have to be very careful in rearing of silkworms and its generations. As long the generation goes on, growth of silk worms will be higher and production of silk yarn will also be higher. Silk yarn is produced from the cocoon and then its reel is formed. It is processed in various ways and then it is sent to mills for reel formation. Some are hand-made. Participation of farmers could be seen more in it. We are always discussing in the House that the farmers engaged in the production of cotton or silk or choirs are more prone to suicides.

Now that we are discussing the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, so I would like to say that the Government should pay more attention to silk production, particularly by giving subsidy and more loans to the farmers so that the production of silk could be more and the silk industry could be promoted. With these words I conclude my speech while extending my thanks to you.

14.35 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here to deliberate on the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill. As has been stated, the Central Silk Board Act came into force in 1948. The basic purpose was to develop and modulate the silk trade in this country. Today import of silk has played havoc in the market. The Chinese silk is spoiling the purity.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that at one point of time Orissa was famous for producing silk and also marketing silk products. Kalingan maritime history is replete with instances depicting the silk trade it had with the South-East Asian countries and how trade with both Romans, Arabs and Chinese and Far-East countries flourished. The silk trade flourished during that period.

During the arrival of the European traders, written documents depict the finesse and expertise the weavers of Utkal or Orissa, as it is called, had. The trade and commerce by different Ports of Orissa, namely Baleswar, Chandbali, Gopalpur continued till 1930. But after Independence, Orissa does not figure in the silk map of India. What is the cause? I do not know. Even after 60 years, the Government has not woken up. Orissa has large tracts of forests where silk worms are home grown by Adivasis, especially in the district of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar and in all the KBK districts. They need support. Market has to be energised.

In this Bill, a number of States have been mentioned. But the State of Orissa has not been mentioned. A representative of Orissa Government should also find place in the Committee. Weavers of Cuttack, Ganjam and Sambalpur have specialised in value adding the silk and it works like a patent. The Bomkai silk of Berhampur, Sambalpuri of Sambalpur and Maniabandhi silk of Cuttack are world famous yet Orissa remains unrepresented in the silk map of this country. I would like to know why this discrimination is done. I want to know whether you are going to add Orissa in it.

At the same time, I would like to say that sericulture is to be promoted and should be supported by the Union Government in a concerted manner in those States which have natural forests. This would give added income to the Scheduled Tribe people. I would again urge the Government to include Orissa.

My second point here is that recently a news item has been published, and I am sure the Minister is aware and has heard about Kusuma Rajaiah of Andhra Pradesh and the process he has popularised by not slaughtering of any living organism. He is allowing the moth to fly away before boiling the cocoons for reeling silk. Such eco-friendly method of manufacturing mulberry silk yarn should be encouraged. Not only the Jains but those who believe in non-violence and are interested in proper maintenance of ecology should encourage this also.

Though this method spares the worm of a brutal death, it costs more than the conventional method. Under the traditional method, a single cocoon yields nearly 500 metres of shimmering yarn in filament form whereas the non-violent method produces 60-70 metres of yarn, less shining and discontinuous.

Hence it has to be hand-woven or mill-spun. The silk, though more expensive, is sweat-absorbent and the couture-conscious love it.

The third point here is that the silk sector in India needs to be modernised. It has to go beyond cottage industry status. The output levels have to improve. Without these changes, even the anti-dumping cases will achieve nothing.

Today China needs a major importer like India. India's domestic and export markets for silk products are growing. The local silk production has been more or less stagnant. Even in the last 60 years not much improvement has been done. My question here is this. What steps have been taken to increase silk production in our country? China is dumping cheap silk hurting the Indian silk-growers. What steps the Government has taken to make a price-support measure to help the local silk growers?

Traditionally, India has been the only country in the world which produces all five known commercial varieties of silk namely mulberry, tussar, oak, eri and muga. Most of these silks are not ideally suited for high speed power looms and the industrial sector. What steps are you taking to bring in the technology transfer?

I conclude by saying this. The traditional silk-producing belts need to be promoted. India's silk industry today is decentralised and so structured as to prevent inflow of more capital. These issues need to be addressed.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill 2006. I would like to support this Bill on behalf of JD(S). Karnataka is the premier silk producing State, contributing more than 50% of the country's, and 5.62% of world's mulberry raw silk production. Nearly 88,000 hectares is under mulberry cultivation, giving employment to 12 lakh persons in both downstream and upstream Sericultural activities. Nearly 12252 reeling units employing 82500 reeling workers are functioning in the State. 76 Government grainages and

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

477 private licensed seed prepares are engaged in production of quality seeds in addition to 6 grainages of Central Silk Board. The silkworm cocoons produced by the farmers are traded on a day-to-day basis in 86 Government Cocoon Markets and I would like to place on record that the system has been well accepted by the farmers and the reelers mainly because of the transparency involved in the transactions, accurate weightment and cash payment to farmers on the same day of transaction Government has set up 10 silk Exchanges in the State for the sale and purchase of raw silk yarn. Karnataka has also set up Silk Marketing Board with a view to stabilize the silk prices. The State has also a well established silk weaving facility under the aegis of Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation producing the world famous Mysore crepe silk sarees.

The State has established 96 Sericulture Farms producing the basic seed, both multivoltine and bivoltine, at P3, P2 and P1 stages of multiplication, of provide the basic seed required for commercial seed production. The cocoons are also traded in Government facilitated seed cocoons markets, which provides a platform for selection of quality seed cocoons of the choice of the seed prepares. The State has established a Seed Area for production of pure Mysore multivoltine seed cocoons and 38 bivoltine seed areas.

These Farms and Seed Areas also cater to the needs of seed cocoons of other States like, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. This system has ensured supply of quality seed cocoons of proper genealogy through out the year. The advantages of seed areas are rearing is done in a compact area where crop monitoring, seed cocoon production, disease management and procurement/marketing of seed cocoons are ensured systematically. Over the years, the State has evolved a prefect system of extension and transfer of technology by establishing 246 Technical Service Centres to cater to the needs of reelers. The State has also established one Research and Development Institute and 6 Sericulture Training Institutes for training the farmers, reelers, private seed producers and the personnel of Department of Sericulture. The Department of Sericulture in Karnataka has an active strength of 443 qualified technical officers and 2506 technical personnel fulfilling the responsibilities of extension, transfer of technology, inspection and monitoring. The sericulture sector in Karnataka is supported by a budgetary grant of Rs. 50.41 crores under Plan (including Rs.15.00 crores from Central Silk Board) and Rs. 110.00 crores under Non-Plan.

Karnataka State is having a reasonably foolproof legislation since 1959, enforced in the entire State. The Karnataka Silkworm Seed, Cocoon and Silk Yarn (Regulation of Production, Supply, Distribution and Sale) Act, 1959 regulates the production of quality silkworm seeds, rearing of silkworms, possession, disposal, sale or purchase of silkworms, silkworm cocoons, licensing of reeling establishments and establishing and maintenance of cocoons and silk markets. The existing laws are adequate of ensure production and supply of quality silkworm seed. The provisions in the Karnataka Silkworm Seed, Cocoon and Silk Yarn (Regulation of Production Supply, Distribution and Sale) Act, 1959 are stringent enough to ensure quality and liberal enough to encourage large scale production of silkworm seed. It may not be out of place to mention here that the sericulture sector in the State has successfully ensured disease-freeness in seed crops. The ever-fatal pebrine disease has been controlled effectively by the State machinery, facilitated by constant vigil and frequent inspections at all stages commencing from the maintenance of basic seed. The dreaded pebrine disease, which attacked the silkworms in Karnataka during 1991-92, has not recurred again due to these efforts. There was no total crop loss at the farmer's level due to any of the silkworm diseases.

The new races of mulberry and silkworms given to us by the Central Silk Board and State Research Institutes, combined with improved packaged of practices, ably transferred to the farmer's fields, have contributed to:

- (a) Adoption high-yielding mulberry varieties and silkworm races.
- (b) Increase in per 100 dfls cocoon productivity—28 kgs. Per 100 dfls in 1990-90 has increased to 53 kgs. in 2005-06.
- (c) Increase in per hectare cocoon productivity and income generation—348 kgs. per hectare in 1990-91 has increased to 632 kgs. in 2005-06.
- (d) Increased in total production of silk—from 6224 MTs in 1990-90 to 7471 MTs. in 2005-06.
- (e) Improvement in renditta—from 9.5 in 1990-91 to 7.42 in 2005-06.
- (f) Increase in per hectare silk productivity—41.5 kgs. per hectare in 1990-91 has increased to 93.6 kgs. in 2005-06.

- (g) Decrease in cost of production and increase in the income to the farmers—Rs.29,861/- average income from one hectare in 1990-91 has increased to Rs.78,987/- in 2005-06.
- (h) Improvement in the quality and price of raw silk—the prices increased from an average Rs. 705/- per kg. in 1990-91 to Rs. 1052/- in 2005-06.
- (i) Decrease in drudgery.

This directly influences the socio-economic conditions of the farmers and reelers. More and more farmers have been adopting advanced technologies, and also, more and more large farmers are being attracted to cultivation and rearing of silkworms. The commercial silkworm cocoon rates have been improving to the advantage of the farmers.

Under the circumstances, some of the provisions proposed in the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2005, run parallel to the provisions in the Karnataka Silkworm Seed, Cocoon and Silk Yarn (Regulation of Production, Supply, Distribution and Sale) Act, 1959 and therefore, would amount to duplication, overlapping & probably confusion as well.

- (i) The provisions relating to constitution of central Silkworm Seed Committee to specify quality parameters for silkworm seed, regulation of export and import of silkworm seed, constitution of Hybrid Authorization Committee, etc. are welcome.
- (ii) However, provisions relating to registration of seed producers and imposition of conditions requirements to be met by such producers may not be necessary. Adequate provisions to this effect are already in place and being practiced in Karnataka as per the Karnataka Legislation.
- (iii) The programming and planning of silkworm seed production should be left to the sole discretion of the State as it relates to the very basic functioning of the Directorate of Sericulture in the State. The Directorate, having 246 grassroot level Technical Service Centres with trained manpower, is in a better position to assess the requirement of silkworm seed and plan for its timely production and distribution. The Directorate in Karnataka ensure production and distribution of an average of one core disease free layings

per month. The basic seed cocoons required for this magnitude of production is also assessed in advanced, planned and produced in the State considering seasonality.

- (iv) In the Karnataka Silkworm Seed, Cocoon and Silk Yarn (Regulation of Production, Supply, Distribution and Sale) Act, Sericulture Demonstrators and above level staff in the field have been notified. This inspect the grainages and certify the silkworm eggs before release to the farmers about its disease freeness. The quality and the disease-freeness of the silkworm eggs are ensured by means of microscopic examination of pupae and mother moths before release to the farmers. These staff is provided with advanced instruments and technical know-how to record the quality certifications.
- (v) Moreover, the quality of seed cocoons produced in the seed areas, marketed and used for production eggs is also monitored stringently and certified before sale in markets.
- (vi) Under the circumstances, constitution of silkworm seed Certification Agencies would only add to delay and make the entire process more cumbersome and difficult from the view point of farmers. Inclusion of this provision in the proposed amendment would amount to duplication the existing provisions and practice.

Under the existing Karnataka Silkworm Seed, Cocoon and Silk Yarn (Regulation of Production Supply, Distribution and Sale) Act, seed testing is conducted in the seed production centers by the staff on day-to-day basis, the working of the officials is specified and seed testing is be conducted before selection for seed. The production of eggs is frequently tested for disease-freeness. Only after certification they are permitted to be supplied to the farmers. Therefore, the proposed amendments relating to setting up of Central Seed Testing Laboratory, testing and inspection may be limited to the silk worm seed intended for export or import.

The Central Silk Board is the principal agency in the country to advise Government of India and State Government as well on the various aspects concerning the different activities involved in the sericulture industry. Its role in the areas of evolution of new races, research, development and promotion of advanced technologies is

paramount and should naturally become the focus of its activities.

- (i) The subject of bringing in a Central Legislation for regulating production and distribution of silkworm seed is being discussed since 1986. Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce (1995-96), in its 14th Report on Sericulture presented to the Rajya Sabha on 31st May, 1995 has elaborated on these aspects and has observed that the Central Silk Board should gradually relieve itself from the unassigned role such as extension centres for propagation of mulberry cultivation, production of dfls, seed distribution, etc. which are in the domain of the State Government, and, leave such functions to the State Governments to act what is really in their domain.
- (ii) The respective roles of Central Silk Board and State Departments of Sericulture need to be clearly defined to make the whole system user-friendly and efficient and definitely 'helps in increasing qualitative and quantitative silk production in the country, in general and Karnataka in particular.
- (iii) The Central Silk Board should integrate vertically the various practices and bring in harmonization with the objective of production of superior quality silk, which is the need of the hour.
- (iv) The State Government has an open mind on certain amendments to the Karnataka Legislation suggested by Central Silk Board and Ministry of Textiles and is under the process of review with a view to bring in liberalization in the context of the global challenges in the sericulture sector.

Therefore, it is the considered view of the Department of Sericulture, that any amendment proposed to enhance the role of Central Silk Board within the ambit of the objectives contained in its Mandate is welcome, whereas, such of the amendment which lead to duplication and overlapping may be dropped in the best interest of the Industry. I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill.

Sir, I thank you and with these words I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Angadi. You may please finish in four or five minutes.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill has been introduced by the hon. Minister of Textiles. As Shri Ananth Kumar has already expressed the facts and figures, there are five States—Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Kashmir—which are growing silk in the country. I am proud to say that more than 50 per cent of the silk is produced in Karnataka only. This Act being the Central Act may overlap the State Act—this duplication should not be there—because usually the Central Acts nullify the State Acts. So, the farmers will have to comply with the two laws, one enacted by the State Government and the other enacted by the Central Government. That is why, I oppose this Bill.

In this connection, the figures of the Central Government show the production of silk at 7,000 tonnes in the last 20 years, and there is no improvement. So, the Central Government should take initiative to improve the quality of silk and help farmers grow more silk, to encourage the unemployed youth in the rural areas. We can go through the details as explained by Shri Ananth Kumar and also other colleagues. Today, Karnataka is the only State and in Karnataka, my constituency Belgaum is one of the important places for growing silk. So, I would request that a research centre should be started in Belgaum District of Karnataka.

My request to the hon. Minister is that instead of implementing the Central Act, he should give powers to the States only to encourage more production of silk. While Shri Ananth Kumar was speaking, the hon. Minister of Textiles has promised that he will not allow overlapping. If he makes that, the States will take care of the farmers.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh will speak. You may speak for four or five minutes.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, it is very unfair to give very short time to women because it is a Bill relating to silk.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has taken 2 minutes. I have given you four-five minutes.

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH : Sir, I will obey the Chair. You can trust me. *(Interruptions)*

Silk is the symbol of beauty and splendour in this country. Every woman is having weakness for silk. I know that you are all like my brothers and fathers. The men of this country are having a weakness for women as their mothers, sisters or daughters. All men like women as their dear ones. So, naturally, to please them whenever they are upset in the house, they will follow the secret route, silk route to appease them, but definitely we need more time to debate the matter of silk where 60 per cent of women engaged in agriculture are depending on the profession of sericulture.

Sir, Indian silk is particularly famous in the southern part of India. Karnataka is producing 51 per cent of the total amount of Indian silk. India is the largest producer of raw silk in the world, and it is only next to China and has 14 per cent share in the global raw silk production.

India's annual production in the year 2005-2006 was around 17,305 metric tonnes. At the same time, its total consumption of silk is 25,000 metric tonnes. This means that there is a potential to grow 8,000 metric tonnes more. Now, China is exploiting this opportunity to dump all its Bivoltine Mulberry Silk of international quality. Therefore, there is a need to grow more silk to meet the domestic demand. Definitely, Tassar, Vanya, Muga, Eri, Mulberry, and our State's pride, namely, Mysore silk is having a lot of potential and a lot of demand.

There is also a lot of difference between the choice of North Indians and South Indians. We will go by the weight of the silk, weight of the saree, and colour and design of the saree. On the other hand, people in North India prefer lighter silk. This growing of silk or wearing of the silk reflects the culture, tradition and topography.

We have lot of export potential these days, and it is a great opportunity for us. The export earnings from silk are growing steadily because of the increasing demand for Indian silk goods, particularly, from the European countries. This is reflected in the export earnings, which was Rs. 2,294 crore during the year 2002-2003, and it has increased to Rs. 3,158 crore in the year 2005-2006. This shows 38 per cent demand growth.

We have a lot of potential to export, and it will definitely benefit the rural Indians where sericulture is the

main profession. The Indian silk goods also have high export potential because of its distinctiveness and low production cost. It will also provide more employment potential because sericulture has been promoted as the agro-based, labour-intensive, rural-oriented cottage industry in the country providing gainful employment mainly to the weaker and marginalised sections of the society. It is a highly remunerative occupation because it needs very little capital to start this profession. One kilogram of raw silk generates 11 mandays of work, which is really unnoticed. We must strengthen the sericulture industry, and silk profession.

It also provides employment to women. Approximately six million people are employed in it, and around 61 per cent of them are women. This is happening because they can do the production of silk even while doing their domestic work like taking care of the cattle, etc. This will give results within 1½ months, and it will be supporting their small family. Therefore, it needs to be strengthened.

Another point that is worth mentioning is that it is eco-friendly. Majorities of our silk goods are purchased by the urban rich and middle-class consumers, and around 57 per cent of the final silk value of the silk fabrics goes back to the primary producers.

Sir, you are looking at the watch, but I would request you to give me a couple of minutes more to speak on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I would be able to give you only one more minute to speak. Please conclude your speech in one minute.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: This Bill aims to strengthen this industry. It will also not at all interfere in the powers of the State Government. Definitely, it will strengthen the farmers, reelers and weavers. We must produce quality seeds and quality cocoon as this is the need of the hour, that is, to meet the international challenge. Otherwise, our neighbouring countries will definitely exploit our weakness.

So India is having every potential and my Government is very much concerned with this. As a Member of Parliament from Karnataka, I am bound to protect all democratic powers enjoyed by the State Government. In this connection, I have already met Shri Muniyappa. Some other Members from the ruling benches have also met him and he assured us in this regard.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

So once again I would request the Government through the Chair to help us to strengthen the Central Silk Board to help the farmers, reelers and weavers.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill. In this connection, already our leader, Shri Ananth Kumar, one of my other colleague and also my sister, Shrimati Tejaswani have spoken on this.

Unfortunately, we have moved our amendments today only. We ought to have moved them yesterday so that they could have also been taken into consideration. It is well known that Karnataka is growing sericulture, *i.e.*, Mulberry and other Mysore silk. Karnataka produces more than 50 per cent silk of the total silk produced in the country. Therefore, the Karnataka Government had passed an Act in 1959 to strengthen the Sericulture Board and also to give encouragement to the farmers. The Mysore silk of Karnataka and Kanchi silk of Tamil Nadu which are grown in South India have a lot of potential for export. Karnataka's status in silly production is premier. Around 50 per cent of India's raw silk and 5.62 per cent of global silk production is there. Mulberry production is in 88,000 hectares and it provides employment to 12 lakh persons. They have created infrastructure for 12252 reeling units, 71 government grainages, six central grainages and 477 private grainages. It has created 66 cocoon markets and ten silk exchanges. So, one could see how much effort has been put by the Government of Karnataka to help the silk farmers.

Now the Central Government is amending this Act for overriding the powers of the State Governments. The silk is grown only in three to four States. So, it would have been better if the matters concerning the States are left to the concerned State Governments

Therefore, I earnestly request the hon. Minister that before passing this Bill, some of our amendments will have to be accepted.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Sir, only five to six States are producing silk and Karnataka is one of them. I do not want to repeat the statistics already given by my colleagues but I can say that it has created direct employment for 12 lakh persons in Karnataka. It has got a foolproof legislation from 1960 onwards. With

the existence of a foolproof legislation, Karnataka has grown to many fields. The growth is more than 100 per cent in the last 10 years. It has grown and has given employment to 12 lakh persons. In this context, I do not want to elaborate much but I can only say that duplication of this law will confuse the farmers and producers. For example, Section 8F pertains to the constitution of Seed Certification Agency. The silkworm seed is certified by the officer of the State Governments before release to the farmers at reeling level, market level and grainage level.

15.00 hrs.

In this context I would like to state that such an action would only result in duplication. It would only mean having two policing agencies, namely, the Central Government as well as the State Governments. This will be the situation.

Sir, Section 8(e) talks about constitution of a Registration Committee empowered with registration of seeds of silkworm producers and imposing certain regulations. This power now rests with the State Governments. When it is already within the ambit of the State Governments, why should this provision be at all made? I would like to earnestly request the Central Government not to include this Section in this Bill. I would request the Central Government to delete this particular Section.

Sir, Section 8(c) refers to the powers of the Central Government to notify all kinds of varieties of silkworm seeds after consultation with the Central Silkworm Seed Committee. Another point to be noted here is that in 1995, the Standing Committee made a categorical recommendation regarding this. Discussion on this aspect has been going on since 1986. In 1986 itself a Committee was very vocal about the provisions as contained in Section 8(c), 8(d), 8(e) and 8(f). These provisions are not at all necessary.

Sir, I support the contention of the Government in matters relating to global competition, anti-dumping and such other things. The Government should fairly look into these aspects. It is not the Central Government that alone are the champions of the causes of the farmers, even the State Governments, I am not talking about my own State alone, are having their own laws and they are already protecting the interest of the farmers in the best possible manner. The Central Silk Board can certainly

guide the State Governments, but such a legislation will help the cause. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to delete the Sections regarding having a Registration Committee and notification of silkworm seeds and such things.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballpur): Sir, at the outset I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for having brought forward this amending Bill. Through this Bill, the Government seeks not only to provide certain rights but also seeks to impose certain duties on the Central Silk Board. I am especially very happy about the fact that the hon. Minister has sought to introduce two Committees— one for controlling exports and imports and the other a Hybrid Authorisation Committee. These were quite essential. This amendment was overdue and it should have been brought earlier.

My colleagues from Karnataka have already mentioned that of the total silk grown in the country, 65 to 70 per cent is grown in Karnataka. A lot of people find employment and earn their livelihood owing to this in the State. The main problem being faced by the silk growers is the competition from China. Of course, I do agree and also my colleagues and the hon. Minister would agree that there is some difference in the quality of silk grown in India as compared to what is produced in China. The quality of Indian silk is better than that of the Chinese silk. Indian silk has a lustre which is absent in the Chinese silk. But unfortunately when it is being sold at a cheaper rate people prefer to go in more for Chinese silk than Indian silk. Therefore, we have to make efforts to control import of Chinese silk so that we could safeguard the interest of the silk growers of our country.

Sir, our farmers have got a lot of difficulty. Even our weavers have got a lot of problems. I would like to request the hon. Minister to address these issues. I would also like to request the hon. Minister that he should make provisions for continuous supply of power to the sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may please conclude now.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, you could have given me another two minutes. I was a former Minister of Textiles. Anyway, since you are asking me to conclude, with these words, I conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): Sir, the present

Central Silk Board Act does not provide for any regulatory mechanism for production and sale of silkworm seeds in the country. So, the proposed legislation's objectives are to ensure quality standards of production of silkworm seeds, to restrict production of seeds to only authorised places, to control production and trade and to prevent entry of untested hybrids from other countries likely to be carrying disease and other risks.

The provisions which are made under the present Bill are the creation of Silkworm Seed Committee under the Central Silk Board making them responsible for standard and other related matters. The other provision is the constitution of Hybrid Authorisation and Registration Committee and the constitution of seed testing laboratories and agencies for testing, certifying and inspection of such seeds. The next provision is to vest customs officers the power of inspection with respect to export and import and making non-adherence of such standards a punishable act and making provisions to give effect to Central Silk Board notwithstanding inconsistency contained in other enactment.

The Bill was originally introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30.8.2005 which referred the Bill to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour made certain recommendations which were received in the Ministry of Textiles on 1st March, 2006. This Ministry examined the recommendations and prepared a revised draft Amendment Bill which has been approved and passed by the Rajya Sabha in this Session.

With this, I would like to inform the hon. Member, Shri Acharia that most of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee have been accepted. The Standing Committee on Labour has made a total of seven recommendations which were discussed and most of them are accepted. Also, he wanted to know the need of this Bill. The present Bill intends to bring uniformity and remove hindrances in the path of fast development of sericulture keeping in view the globalisation and liberalisation. We cannot compete with China in silk production unless we change the system radically.

Today, all major States which produce silk have their own Acts which put many restrictions on production and marketing of seed and inter-State movement of the same. Thus, the farmers as well as the reelers are the victims of the present system and they need to be freed to take the benefits of liberalised national and global markets.

[Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan]

So, the State restrictions should go away. Some of the State Acts are restrictive and they restrict the inflow of private sector investment, expansion and automation which are essential to meet the challenges of global competition.

The concerns voiced by hon. Members like Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Rajesh Mishra will be looked into at the time of framing of rules. I would like to tell them that as explained by hon. Member, Shri Shailendra Kumar, sericulture being a subject taken over by the Union under Concurrent List of the Constitution, the Central Government is competent to make its own laws as well as amendments to the already existing laws.

Shri Sugavanam from Tamil Nadu said that there should be quality control of silk sarees. I would like to inform him that we have introduced a silk mark and it has come into effect since two or three months. He also said that Krishnagiri is a place which is doing well in sericulture. There are many other places in Tamil Nadu including my own constituency where there is sericulture cultivation. The assistance given by the Textiles Ministry and the Central Silk Board will also be extended to Krishnagiri.

I would like to tell the hon. Member, Shri Mahapatra from Orissa that Sericulture will be encouraged in Orissa. If State Governments come out with some proposals the Central Government will definitely look into them.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): We made a request to include a member from Orissa in the Board. It is not mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Members will be there from all over the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: You have not mentioned the name of Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: We cannot give an assurance whether there will be a member from Orissa. But your request will be looked into. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I requested the hon. Minister to insert Orissa in section (4) of clause 3 (g).

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: We will look into it.

While Shri Ananth Kumar was talking, he mentioned that automatic reeling units are very costly and that the estimation comes to Rs. 1.5 crore. I would also like to inform him that about Rs. 50 lakh subsidy has already been announced. If proposals are received from such units, that will be looked into.

Shri M. Shivanna, Shrimati Tejaswini See Ramesh and other hon. Members from Karnataka and also Members from other States mentioned that Karnataka is the major producer of silk. In this context, I would like to say that Karnataka is producing 7,000 metric tonnes of silk whereas the all-India production of silk is 17,000 metric tonnes.

I thank Shri Jalappa for supporting this Bill. While framing the rules under this Act, the genuine apprehensions of Members from Karnataka and other States shall be considered with an open mind. The aim of the present Bill is to liberate the farmers and reelers from the restrictive practices. Under the new regime, the Centre would try to make use of State infrastructure, manpower and expertise and it would also try to strengthen them.

Actually we are trying to make other States on par with progressive State of Karnataka. There is nothing against Karnataka. We want other States also to follow the progressive practices and the achievement made by Karnataka. In the interest of farmers and reelers the Act must be passed without any amendments.

So, I would request that the Bill be passed.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikbalapur): When I was the Minister of Textiles, I had encouraged multi-end reeling units. I was giving fifty per cent subsidy. What has happened to that? Is it still being persisted with? The Minister has to clarify that.

Secondly, while exporting they will export them as if they are hand woven, but they are actually woven with power looms, using lean texture. They are exporting them as hand loom ones. This has to be checked.

Another thing I wanted to mention is this. In my own place Dhoddabella Port, we have 20,000 power looms which are running on silk. I know something about silk. That is why I wanted to take a few minutes more.

Will the Minister consider kindly clarify whether these multi-end reelers are being supported? We have to encourage them because *rendetta* will be more in these multi-end reelers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I asked a question about scientists. There is a shortage of scientists. There are a number of vacancies for them. Scientists

are not being recruited because of some restrictions. I want to know whether there will be any relaxation of restrictions. There are 2,500 workers. They were upgraded to temporary status. The order was also issued to that effect. But subsequently it was withdrawn. Will the Government re-consider that by giving them the temporary status?

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I have noted down the points mentioned by hon. Members, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and by former Minister, Shri R.L. Jalappa. Here, I would like to tell that I have noted down their points. The multi-end scheme is still in operation. As I have already said, as far as these automatic reeling units are concerned, we have sanctioned one unit in Tamil Nadu and a subsidy of Rs. 50 lakh has been announced. But the unit location has got to be finalised.

As far as the suggestion from the hon. Member, Shri Sugavanam, regarding the vehicles for the Silk Board officers is concerned, it is under consideration.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about my point?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: I have noted down your point. We are very much aware of the importance of R&D in this particular sector. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: What about inclusion of Orissa? Orissa is not—there in Section 4. Please include Orissa also. ... (Interruptions) I want to move an amendment. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have given the chance for two times. Your amendment is not there.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: In Section 4 of Bill in clause 3 it is mentioned—one person to be nominated by each of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Orissa. I want the word Orissa to be added. Orissa has got a lot of potential for silk culture and silk growing and also sericulture. A lot of tribal people are involved in this. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: It will be given due consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill. "

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title were added to the Bill

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed. "

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed. "

The motion was adopted.

15.20 hrs.

**BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND
TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LAWS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item number 21—Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981 and the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16th August, 2005 to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980 and the various other Acts to enhance the flexibility of the Board of Directors to improve the corporate governance.

This Bill, *inter alia*, provides to increase the number of whole time directors from the existing 2 to 4; to delete the Section relating to the provision of nomination of up to two Directors from SEBI and other Financial Institutions on the Board of nationalised banks; to amend Section 9 (3) (i) to provide for a maximum of three elected shareholder Directors on the board; to enable the shareholders to discuss, adopt and approve the annual accounts and the balance sheet of the bank concerned at the Annual General Meeting; to prescribe annexing of the details of a subsidiary or subsidiaries such as balance-sheet, profit and loss accounts and report of auditors along with the annual report of the bank; to enable the banks to transfer the unclaimed dividends of over 7 years to Investor Education and Protection Fund established by the Central Government under Section 205C of Companies Act, 1956; to enable supersession of the Board of Directors of weak, potentially weak banks by the Central Government based on the recommendations of the RBI; to amend relevant statutes relating to banks and Financial Institutions for prescribing the term of non-official/elected Directors other than workmen/officer employee Directors as three years subject to further re-appointment/re-election with total continuous period not exceeding six years.

This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance which discussed the provisions of the Bill and deliberated thereupon in detail and presented its report to the hon. Speaker on 24th April, 2006. The Committee are in agreement with the broad objectives of the amendment proposals which are aimed at meeting the requirements to the present day complexities as well as expanding activities of the banking system. The Government, based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, has submitted a list of the amendments which we would move towards the end of the discussion on this Bill. I can assure the hon. Members that after the varied discussion, widespread discussion - based on the recommendation of the Standing Committee as also with other hon. Members who had an occasion

to point out something, an amendment which needed to be carried out—various amendments have been incorporated. The list has been circulated. The amendments would be moved in due course of time.

With these words, I commend that the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 along with the official amendments proposed be taken into consideration by this august House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981 and the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

I would like to make an announcement here also. After the passing of this Bill, we will take up the Discussion Under Rule 193 relating to the Report of the Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority and not the discussion about the problems of farmers.

Now, Shri P.S. Gadhvi to speak.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to express my views on the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

As we know, the 14 major Indian Scheduled Banks, each with a deposit of Rs. 50 crore or more, were nationalised in July 1969. The hon. Supreme Court by its judgement in February 1970 declared the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1969 void. So, with a view to resume control over these banks, the President of India promulgated on 14th February, 1970, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance....

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, business changes at whims and fancies. What is this? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, issues related to the farmers are very important. There should be a discussion on the Pathak Commissions Report tomorrow. Today you take up the farmer's issue for discussion.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can conduct the House up to 10 p.m. but there must be discussion on the farmer's issue first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow we will get sufficient time for this discussion if we discuss on the farmer's issue today then we will not get sufficient time to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That will be taken up tomorrow.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why is the Business of the House changed like this? The farmers' issue is a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. So, we should take up the farmers' issue first. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It will be better if we take the issues related to the farmers first.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Tomorrow we will have sufficient time for this discussion.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: At what time will it be taken up tomorrow?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be decided tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI JAIPRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Deputy Speaker is right. If this subject is taken up tomorrow then we will get ample time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The List of Business should not be altered in such a fashion.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it has been decided in the Leaders Meeting also that the farmers' issue will be taken up first today. ... (Interruptions)

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): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, item no. 24 which is listed in the List of Business is to be taken up at 4 o'clock today.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After the passing of this Bill, we will take up the discussion regarding the Report of Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, first of all farmer's issue be taken up and thereafter Pathak Report can be discussed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow the House will have enough time for discussion on this issue.

Mr. Gadhaviji you may speak.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

I would like to express my views on the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005. In our country, 14 major Indian scheduled banks, each with a deposit of Rs. 50 crore or more, were nationalised in April 1969 by the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1969. But this Act was declared void by the hon. Supreme Court through its judgement in February, 1970. So, with a view to resume control over the banks, the President of India promulgated an ordinance on 14th February, 1970 which is called the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1970. This was later replaced by the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

Subsequently, six Indian private banks, each having a deposit of Rs. 200 crore or more, were nationalised by

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

an ordinance dated 15th April, 1980 known as the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1980 and this ordinance was also replaced by the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

At present, there are nearly 19 nationalised banks as mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons given by the hon. Minister. The Acts of 1970 and 1980 originally envisaged that the paid up capital of these banks may be raised by way of transfer from reserve funds or by contribution by the Central Government. In 1994, these Acts were amended to provide that the paid up capital of these banks may be increased by such amounts as the Boards of Directors of these banks may think, after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and with the previous sanction of the Central Government to raise funds by public issue of shares so that the Central Government shall hold not less than 51 per cent of the paid up capital of each bank. Thus, the shareholding pattern of 15 nationalised banks, which have gone in for public issues varies from 51 per cent to 70 per cent. The Central Government holds the entire equity in 4 nationalised banks and has majority equity shareholding in 15 nationalised banks.

Sir, in addition to the changes in the pattern of shareholdings in nationalised banks introduced in 1994...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The Government is proposing to have an amendment for the equitable representation of Government directors on the boards of banks by reducing the maximum number of directors elected by shareholders other than Government from six to three. This amendment gives some power or much power to Government, but at the same time, the demand of the day of the banks is that the banks should evolve appropriate strategies to enable Indian firms to access funds at competitive rates and meet the challenges from foreign banks, besides fulfilling the credit requirements of marginal and sub-marginal farmers.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister the situation regarding the NPAs in our banks. The NPAs are increasing every year and in all the banks, wherever they are giving credit, we have come to know that there are a big amount of holdings in the

form of NPAs. The menace of NPAs in the Indian banks is alarming. The NPAs in developed markets, like the US, are so much less than the Indian banks that banks there have access to update credit information on potential borrowers. In India, loans and credit cards are often given without much information on credit history. It is not uncommon for individuals to default on their dues to one bank and get a new loan/credit card from another.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the report of the Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd. CIBIL, who has began building database on commercial entities, including corporates. Like all agencies engaged in maintaining credit histories, CIBIL works on the "Prevention is better than the cure" principle.

Sir, I would like to mention here that legal remedies for recovery of debts by way of Debt Recovery Tribunal Act and by SARFAESI Act have not proved much helpful in recovery of dues of banks. Thus the main purpose of agencies like CIBIL is to help banks to avoid NPAs in the first place. They do this by helping more informed decision.

Sir, we know that the corporates are many times taking loans from one bank and at the same time they go to another bank. They do not disclose everything there. The other bank is not having any information on this. So, all types of amendments are brought before this House. The hon. Finance Minister should consider this also because this is a very big menace. We know how the big corporates and persons like Harshad Mehta and others have cheated the banks. The banks are providing all sorts of credit facilities to these people but they are not providing any credit facility to the poor farmers. Today, in the House the issue was raised that one unemployed youth has committed suicide because he was denied loan by the banks.

Sir, I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that in my Kutch District, there is a huge amount of deposit with a bank. It is more than Rs. 6,000 crore. Normally, the debit-credit ratio is 60:40, but in Kutch District, they are not giving credit of more than 10 per cent. The debit-credit ratio there is 90:10. All these types of things are happening there.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider my suggestion and to bring amendments in this regard. As all types of amendments are not there and our banks are to compete in this globalised era, so amendments to

that effect should be brought. I welcome this amendment also. At the same time, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that poor farmers, small traders, small businessmen also get credit in an easy way instead of giving more loans to the corporate houses or big businessmen who have cheated these banks and which has resulted in having more NPAs with these banks.

My only request to the hon. Minister is that he should kindly consider all these suggestions and he should bring all the amendments which will enable the banks to give loans.

I once again support the Bill. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill. Actually, this should have come a long time back. Though it was introduced in the year 2000 for amendment, yet it took a long time because of the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha, and also some of the proposals which were made in the NDA Government were not acceptable, and suggestions of the Standing Committee on Finance were totally different.

Actually, if the banking sector were to function effectively, the benefit that would accrue to the nation and particularly to the people would be substantial. The benefits that can be provided through the budgetary support are less as compared to the effect that can come if the funds from the nationalised banks, from the banking sector were to be utilised properly. At the point of time when the benefits of the deposits that were there in the banks were being enjoyed only by a few people in the country, Madam Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, in those days had nationalised those banks to see that the benefits were enjoyed even by the poor people and more and more people. At that time, there were banks which had got equity of Rs. 1 crore and deposits of Rs. 200 crore. That means, even if they were to earn a margin of 4 per cent, .3 per cent or 2 per cent, the benefit would be Rs. 4 crore in a year over the equity of Rs. 1 crore. That means, there would be 400 per cent benefit to those equity holders, who are the owners of the bank. That is why, all those things were taken into account. In those days, the banks were inaccessible to the poor people and they were accessible only to a few rich people. That situation has changed. Later, in the eighties or in the seventies, when the funds were made available from the

nationalised banks to the poor people in the villages who did not have access to the banks, they felt elated. In fact, a lot of poor people were benefited. But, subsequently, a wrong opinion has gone in the country that the loans given to the poor people in the villages were not being repaid. So, Bank Managers used to spread the news that the money lent to the poor people and the villagers was not being paid back; so, let us give this only to a few rich people by which we can get back our money. That culture once again has come. I am very happy that today 97 per cent of the money lent to the women Self-Help Groups is being repaid.

15.39 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

That means, there need not be any fear in the banking sector that the money lent to the poor people or the villagers will not be paid back. It will be paid back and the benefit that would accrue to the nation, to the poor people also will be enormous. If Rs. 100 crore are lent to an industrialist, the benefit may be eight per cent or nine per cent to the bankers and the generation of wealth may not be substantial compared to the investment. But, when Rs. 20,000 is given to a poor woman to purchase buffaloes or cows, she will earn more than Rs. 20,000 in a year. That means, a loan of Rs. 20,000 will generate wealth to the tune of Rs. 20,000 for the society. It will also change the financial position of the family. There will not be any need for the Government of India or the State Government to worry about them or to give them subsidy or to give them other benefits. All that we need to do is that the rate of interest for these poor people in the villages has to be brought down. They will not be able to pay as much interest as the corporate sector can pay.

If the interest rate was to be 15 per cent to corporate sector, naturally they will load that interest on the product cost and sell it. So, they will not be at a loss. The poor people are subjected to lot of problems. Marketing their product is a problem. They have to face natural calamities and so many other vagaries. Added to those things, high interest rate will kill them. So, a policy must be evolved. While they can charge any interest for the corporate sector but the rate of interest for the poorer sections of the society must not be more than three per cent or maximum of four per cent. If this were to be case, we can increase our GDP substantially every year by encouraging people and providing employment in the rural areas. So, I would

[Shri K.S. Rao]

request the hon. Minister to think whether this is good for the nation instead of providing Rs. 40,000 crore under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rs. 25,000 crore under food subsidy through Shri Pawar ji, another Rs. 25,000 crore under fertilizer subsidy, and also a sizeable amount under the Rural Development Schemes. All these things can be avoided over a period of time if money is made available to poor people at a lesser rate of interest to generate wealth. So, I would request the hon. Ministers to give a thought to it and discuss this matter in the meeting of the Cabinet.

Now, coming to the Bill and keeping in view of globalization, magnitude and nature of the business that the banking industry has to do is totally different, naturally it has to adopt new techniques and compete with the multinational and foreign banks which we have allowed here. So, the size of capital that is required is more, the size of transactions is more, and the problems are totally different. Taking all those things into account and permitting private partners in the nationalized banks, necessarily we have to give freedom and liberty to them and even to the private shareholders of the nationalized banks. I am happy that they have provided that the Directors can be now from the shareholders also apart from they are nominated by the Government of India. It is required.

Some of the provisions made by the hon. Minister in this Bill are very welcome. Take the case of whole-time Director. Earlier there used to be only one whole-time Director. Later we made it two. Now, because of the increased dimensions of the transactions, four whole-time Directors or functional Directors would be required. So, that is provided.

Earlier, the Board was not empowered to approve. Now, the Board is empowered to discuss, adopt and approve Directors' Report, Annual Report, Profit & Loss Account, Balance Sheet, etc. That means, there is a responsibility kept on them, and if something goes wrong, they will be answerable directly. Earlier, they do not have that right to adopt and approve and the blame goes on the Government. That part is eliminated. I am happy that the responsibility is transferred on the Directors.

Another thing that is provided is transferring unclaimed dividends after the lapse of seven years to the Investors' Education Production Fund. It is not wrong to transfer it. It is good for the nation and it is for a good purpose of utilizing it for the Education Production, Fund. But, sometimes it happens that one's father or grandfather might have deposited some money in the bank, in the

meantime he died without informing his successors, and his son or grandson was not aware that his father or grandfather has deposited so much of amount and he is eligible to get so much divided. And after the lapse of seven years, if he were to come to know that there is some money that is due to him because of the savings made by his earlier generation, then he must be able to get it and he should not forego that. My request to the hon. Minister is this. Please do not put a straight bank on that. There must be a provision to pay back that money to the heir apparent. I suggest that it is the bank's responsibility to see that it is transferred automatically to the account of the heir apparent.

It is mentioned there in the proposal as 'at the time of depositing money or at the time of putting the equity' etc. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the hard-earned money deposited in the banks with a view, which is secured in the bank rather than giving it to an individual, should not be lost. So, I think, that provision has to be changed giving a chance for the people to take back their money.

Sir, the earlier Government had proposed to reduce the minimum equity in the nationalised banks to 33 per cent. That means, in the present scenario, if that were to be reduced to less than 51 per cent, the nationalised banks would have also come under the control of the multinationals, which is not in the interest of the nation. Now, I am happy that this Government has put the ceiling of 51 per cent minimum. That is also a good proposition, which is mentioned, and I support it on that count also.

Coming to the rural banking, whatever we say, whatever the promise is made about increasing the lending, doubling it in three years is a good augur. But I am of the opinion that much more needs to be done in the field of rural sector, allocating more money particularly, for the small and marginal farmers, artisans, self-employed people. All those people, who are living in villages, who acquire some skills through vocational education to their experience of working in the fields, must be linked with the financial institutions directly. Whoever has got skills and whoever satisfies the conditions, can utilise the bank money and generate wealth for him as well as for the nation, must be preferred.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to find out a way to link some of those institutions where skills are being imparted to the institutions to finance them automatically without their going and requesting the banks for money.

Sir, with these few words, I support this Bill and I also support keeping the minimum of 51 per cent equity in the nationalised banks.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfers of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, is so simple, and therefore, I do not find any reason to oppose this Bill. But while supporting this Bill, I have some points to raise here for due consideration of the hon. Finance Minister.

At page 9, para 16, line 5 of the Bill, the beginning of the sentence is all right. Then, it is written : "...and do away with the compulsory nomination of an officer of the Reserve Bank on the Board." But I do not know, why this clause is supposed to be omitted. The compulsory nomination of an officer in the Reserve Bank in the nationalised bank should continue. Otherwise, the role of the Reserve Bank would be diminished.

Therefore, I again propose that the compulsory nomination of an officer in the Reserve Bank should continue. I am not accepting this deletion, from the Bill. The hon. Minister should clarify the position whether it can be accepted or not accepted. But primarily, I am opposing this particular proposition to delete the clause, about deletion of compulsory nomination of the Reserve Bank of India. In the Standing Committee, we made a note of dissent on this particular issue.

Secondly, Sir, at page 14, para 30, at the end, it is mentioned that the terms and conditions of the issue of Preference Shares by public sector bank, should be made fully transparent, and they are to be reviewed on regular basis to prevent misuse of the same. But there is no clause in this particular Bill to monitor the issue of preference shares by the public sector banks, which can invite the misuse of the same. That is why I would like the hon. Finance Minister to include some clauses in the Amendment Bill so that the misuse of the Preference Share of the public sector can be prevented.

Sir, the role of the banks is very important in the growth of economy of our country. So far as our country is concerned, we find that the economic imbalance is growing, particularly the Eastern India is lagging behind economically. So far my knowledge goes, the CDR (Credit Deposit Ratio) is very much unsatisfactory in Eastern India. Only 40 to 50 per cent of deposits are being credited in Eastern India. That is why, the economic

imbalance is taking place to a greater extent. There should be conformity in respect of the credit throughout the country. It is a very important issue. That is why, I wanted to highlight it to the hon. Minister for his consideration.

Thirdly, as the hon. Member, Shri K.S. Rao has rightly pointed out, the rural India should be taken into confidence for giving more and more credit to the farmers, the peasants and to the Self-Help Groups. We are saying so much about the loan to the Self-Help Groups. But our experience is that they are being harassed by the banks. They are not getting timely loans. The rate of interest should also be reduced. Otherwise, I think, the generation of employment will not take place to a greater extent, which is the burning issue in our country now-a-days. So, this point should also be taken into consideration.

There is a huge NPA. But we are not giving due consideration to realise this debt. But they are taking this as an advantage. It is because of this, the poor people in our country are not getting much benefit out of the banks. So, while we are supporting this Bill, I would also request the hon. Minister to take steps so that the banks can play a role as an engine for the growth of our economy, particularly, for the toiling masses and the poor people and how they can be benefited by the banks. This should be taken into consideration.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am standing here to speak in support of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005. As Hon'ble Members expressed their views, it is a fact that banks play a major role in the development of the nation. The then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalized the banks so as to uplift the living standard of the poor of our society. It is also a fact that many investment companies and our private banks did collect money from the public over a period of time and invested it but they become flop later on. We should see as to how our Public Sector Banks can give more and more loans to the farmers and poor for overall development so that their living standards can be improved and they can join the mainstream of our country.

It is a fact that widespread disparity is prevailing in the country be that pertains to regional disparity or

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

economic development. Different condition prevails in different States, like farmers, are committing suicides in southern States. Just now so many hon'ble Members have expressed their views. There are a number of schemes which are related to farming and are employment oriented, which help people to gain employment, but due to higher rate of interest, people did not reap its benefits. On the contrary, they take loan from the Private Banks at local level. Public Sector Banks should provide loans at lower interest rate so that unemployment and economic imbalance can be removed from the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many things were said about the customer-care. We should give more emphasis to those employment oriented schemes which are in the interest of poor people and farmers and are helpful to women self-help groups and voluntary organizations so that their living standard can be enhanced by way of providing loans. Many a times we have discussed on this subject in the House. In my opinion Banks can play major role in this regard. Therefore, I would like that Mr. Minister should give emphasis on such pro-poor schemes which are in the interest of poor as well as farmers and that should be employment oriented. Today the economic disparity has been widened so much so that the poor has become poorer and rich has become richer. The condition of the middle class is even worse because they have not been able to raise their living standard. Therefore, economic balance should be maintained. This is a fact that the 70 per cent of our population are agrarians. This is the major problem being faced by the farmers. Our efforts should be to uplift the living standard of farmers, labourers and poors. Then only our country can progress.

With these words, at the end I would like to say that our banks should provide loans at the lower interest rate keeping in mind the economic-imbalance of the country.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman Sir, a discussion is being going on the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rules was formulated at first in 1969 in order to regulate the banks and to improve its functioning. At that time 14 banks were nationalized, whose capital investment was more than Rs. 50 crore. The Supreme Court has repeated the rules made in 1969.

Later on Bill was structured in 1970 through which these banks were regulated. Later on many amendments and revision were made in this Bill. Again 6 banks were nationalized in 1980 whose investment was more than Rs. 2 billion. This bill was pending since 2004 but due to dissolution of 13th Lok Sabha this Bill was not able to pass.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a lot of difference in present and past scenario. Due to economic reforms the trade is increasing, resulting in increased responsibility on the banks. It is a common complaint that the banks are very particular in collecting money whereas think twice before extending any kind of loan to poor people and farmers. This Bill has been brought to regulate the functioning of the banks. Through this Bill, some important Amendments have been made. Government have formulated many rules and by-rules to motivate our banks to have competition with foreign banks.

16.00 hrs

This Bill has been presented in the House for approval after much deliberation, therefore, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, I rise to speak on this Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Finance Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Since the Bill was presented to Parliament, subsequently various amendments have been introduced by the Finance Minister. I was wondering whether the Finance Minister would be looking at the possibility of changing the object of the Bill itself. I think, the Finance Minister is busy with doing something. I would like to know whether the Government will be really interested to look at the possibility of necessitating changes in the objects of the Bill itself. Looking at the type of official amendments which have been made since the Bill was presented to Parliament, probably he is really looking at the objects other than what has been stated in the Bill itself. For example, one of the objects of this Bill is to facilitate the Government in the case of 14 nationalised banks as to whether the capital should be reduced from 51 per cent to 33 per cent, to have some changes in the capital structure of the banking companies themselves.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Rather that was the case with the earlier Bill. So, please correct

yourself. When the Bill was introduced by the other Government, then there was a proposal to reduce it to 33 per cent. That particular provision has been now removed by way of this amendment.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : One of the objects of this Bill was that because of the changing complexities that are there in the country, there is a need to bring change in the structure of the banking company. My illustrious colleague, Shri K.S. Rao, was saying that if the banking structure is strengthened, it will facilitate to have really very robust economy. How will it make the banking very robust? The debate of whether the banks should be nationalised or there should be social control goes back to the year 1966 when Shri Morarji Desai was the Finance Minister of India. He had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Pai Panandikar, the eminent economist, who had in fact said that nationalising the banks may not be in the long-term interest of the country. Ever since then, in 1969, most of the banks were nationalised. Since then, we have been experimenting with the banks in a manner that is not in the long-term interest of the banking sector itself. We should be clear whether we should continue to have banks as public sector undertakings, the Government should have amnesty for the banks or we should allow the banks to function in a manner so that they will really grow naturally and there will be regulators which are appointed by the Government, like the RBI, which will regulate the banking sector.

We have now seen that the Government keeps experimenting with it and wanted to reduce the shareholding—I am not saying this Government, but some Government—to 33 per cent. I do not know because of what it is said that we should not bring it down below 51 per cent. It does not matter whether you keep it 51, 74 or 84 per cent because the Government is going to exercise control over these banks. Then, how do you have robust development of the banking sector? That is the question.

If you want that banks should not be denationalised, but you should have proper control over them, then the shareholding pattern is very important. Today, the banks are controlled by the Government. It means that they are controlled by the Department of Banking in the Ministry of Finance. It means that somebody right from the level of Under-Secretary to that of Joint-Secretary or Secretary

exercise control over the bank. I do not think that banks are controlled by the Parliament of India. They are really controlled by those who actually run the Banking Department of the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, all the Chairmen of the banks must come and bow before those who actually make the appointments. Seldom is the Minister aware of whose appointments are being made. The appointments are made by the Secretaries and others. Therefore, it really needs to be seen in a very proper perspective whether this control over the banking system is in the interest of the country, in the interest of the banks themselves.

In 1969 the banks were nationalised for the first time, and in 1991 the Narsimhan Committee recommendations came. Thereafter, the capital adequacy norms were decided, the prudential norms for the banking sector were decided, and provisioning norms were decided to have recognition of income. All those norms were decided after Narsimhan Committee recommendations were made. Thereafter, we also allowed the private banks to come into play. Therefore, we have already taken a very big departure.

We had a bank business entirely nationalised in 1969, but after 1992 we also allowed the private banks to come into play. Therefore, our philosophy is not that the Government should control the entire banking business. If that is the philosophy, then I understand your not allowing the private banks to come in. But you have allowed the private banks to come in. But you are not allowing the public sector banks to grow naturally; and you are creating two types of layers and operational fields wherein Government will control some banks. Therefore, as I said, the private banks—who are playing some role—and foreign banks either through their branches or as entities that are set up in India will have some advantages as well as disadvantages as they are also operating in India. Of course, there are cooperative banks besides them. I am just saying that the banking sector today has also got private banks playing into the country. Therefore, the nationalised banks should be allowed to function as independently and as autonomously as possible.

The ownership is one part, but the other part is management. This is a challenge before us not just in banking, but also in other CPSUs. How can we allow functional autonomy to the managers of these banks as well as others without bringing the adverse advantages of the Government controlling it? This is the point that we really need to take into account.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude your speech.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, the second point is that these BASAL norms, which are stipulated, are really besides the capital adequacy. In fact, we are now going to ask the private banks to raise the equity from tier one capital or in some parts from tier two capital.

The Government cannot infuse more capital as they do not have money, and the Government cannot dilute equity because there is some political compulsion. Therefore, we are now trying to introduce different norms wherein even bonds and other type of capital can qualify for BASAL-II norms. Therefore, I think that this disparity exists in private banks and the nationalised banks. I think that this really needs to be looked into.

The other long-term issue that we really need to focus on is this. What is the vision for the Indian banking? The hon. Finance Minister met the RBI Governor and said that: "In a few days we are going to come out with the blueprint for the development of the entire banking sector." I would really request the Finance Minister to clearly let us know his vision for the Indian banking. How the Indian banks are supposed to be developed? What is the role for private banks? What is the role for foreign banks? What is the role for the banks, which are owned by the Government today? This vision will be really helpful. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, if you ask me to conclude, then I will conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next speaker is Shri B. Mahtab.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, it is already 10 minutes past 4 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Dasgupta, I am calling Shri B. Mahtab to speak on this issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I do not stand in anybody's way.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Dasgupta, you were absent at the time of the announcement in the House. This issue will be concluded by 5 o'clock, and after that your issue will be taken up in the House.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): The List of Business also says that whichever is earlier will be taken up at 4.00 p.m.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, when will my discussion start?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, please start as you are the last speaker on this issue.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I do not stand in anybody's way. I am only asking this. Please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dasgupta, he is the last speaker on this issue. Therefore, please take your seat.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : It would have been appropriate on your part to let me know about it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I stand here to deliberate on the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

I have five points to dwell upon. The proposal of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) and Financial Institutions Law (Amendment) Bill intends to bring forth certain changes in the composition of the Board of Directors of nationalised banks by increasing the number of whole-time Directors from two to four, and by doing away with the compulsory nomination of officers of the RBI on the Boards.

This also seeks to provide for the statutory framework for supersession and subsequent management of the banks, which are observed to be functioning to the detriment of the interest of the depositor and the stakeholders. I agree with the broad objectives of the amendment proposals which are aimed at meeting the requirements of the present day complexities as well as expanding activities of the banking system. Therefore, a level playing field is one of the major issues which was to be addressed upon but it did not find a place in the Bill.

It was later suggested that capital structure of the nationalised banks remains to be addressed. The Standing Committee on Finance had proposed for substitution of sub-section 2B of Section 3 of the Nationalisation Act, 1970/1980 for enabling public sector banks to raise

preference capital at par with the private banks. In terms of the existing provisions effective since 1994, the nationalised banks are entitled to raise capital by way of public issues of shares where the Central Government shall always hold a minimum of 51 per cent of the shareholding. The public sector banks have been able to meet the additional capital requirement through public issue of shares without the Government having to infuse additional capital to maintain its shareholding at a level of about 51 per cent. This may not be possible in future particularly in the wake of the implementation of Basal-II Norms as has been mentioned by the previous speakers. There is need to enable public sector banks to meet the capital adequacy requirement of the future in a cost effective manner without infusion of additional capital from the Government or diluting the voting rights. I endorse this view and urge the Government to enact it but I feel the need to emphasise on ensuring that the regulatory aspects relating to the terms and conditions for issue of preference shares by public sector banks are not in variance or detrimental to the public sector banks.

Now I come to the proposed amendment of Section 9(iii) where the number of shareholders and Directors is sought to be restricted to a maximum of three in case of banks where public shareholding ranges from 33 per cent to 49 per cent. Further, the elected Directors rendered to in excess of the prescribed number, namely, three will have to retire following the enactment of the proposed legislation. The Government has a say to appoint nominee Directors. At times non-official Directors including elected Directors continue to hold office even after the expiry of their terms owing to non-appointment of successors. The Standing Committee on Finance had suggested incorporation of appropriate provisions in the scheme to provide for mandatory initiation for prior filling of vacancies on the Boards three months in advance so that neither retiring Directors continue to hold office beyond the expiry of the term nor vacancies caused by the retirement remain unfilled. But nothing has been done. No amendment has been made in this regard. Even the proposal to amend Section 10A to enable the shareholders to adopt and approve the balance-sheet and profit and loss account of banking companies in addition to discussing them as provided for is not there. It is because this is one of the main objectives which has been mentioned in the Bill which was piloted here in 2005. I will just read out from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It says:

"Empower the shareholders of nationalised banks to discuss, adopt and approve the Directors' report, the

annual accounts and the balance-sheet of the bank for the period covered by such accounts at their annual general meeting."

The Standing Committee had also suggested to include this. This proposal is in consonance with the principles of corporate governance and the procedure followed by companies under the Companies Act, but the Government has a different view. I would like to understand it from the Minister.

Sir, I would suggest that it is desirable to have a re-look at the general regulations relating to the convening and conduct of AGMs of banks.

Sir, I am coming to the last aspect. The point that I would like to make is that regarding the suppression of the Board of Directors of banks, new amendments are going to be moved because most of it in the Bill are going to be deleted. That is one of the major reasons as to why many Members on my left were aggrieved and so also many of us were. The Reserve Bank of India is the regulator and I would like to suggest, in a few words, that Government should have a system to accept the proposals for having a mandatory system of consultation with the Reserve Bank of India in the matter of appointment of an Administrator and related authorities and regulations to specific qualifications of Administrator and provide for a system of consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion. I am sorry that I was not here for some part of the discussion but I have looked at the notes prepared by my colleague Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Sir, Shri Prabhu, ofcourse wished me to address some of the larger issues, but I do not know whether there is the time to address some of the larger issues. I will try to be brief.

Sir, what is the purpose of these amendments? The original Nationalisation Act, as we call it, was passed in 1970. Then when some more banks were nationalised, we made another Act in 1980. We are amending those Acts. Of course, some other Acts have consequential provisions.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Sir, let me make it very clear that it is the intention of this Government that the Public Sector Banks shall remain in the Public Sector. We do not support the earlier amendment moved by the NDA Government that the holding of the Government should be brought down to 33 per cent. Government holding in Public Sector Banks will always remain 51 per cent or above and therefore, the essential character of Public Sector Banks will be preserved as Public Sector Banks. In fact, when that suggestion was mooted by the previous Government, I had expressed my surprise in an article that I wrote saying how could the Government reduce the shareholding to 33 per cent and yet retain the Public Sector character of the banks. Our Government's policy is that the Government holding in Public Sector Banks shall always remain 51 per cent or above. However, the policy of successive Governments has been to promote competition in the banking sector which is why we have Indian Private Sector Banks and we have allowed the presence of foreign banks in the country.

Sir, under the WTO agreement, a foreign bank can be present in one of three ways. First is to have a wholly owned subsidiary. The other is to have branches and the third is to acquire stakes in Indian private sector banks. This is subject to the road map which has been announced by the Reserve Bank for the first phase. There is very little space for foreign banks up to the year 2009. The second phase road map will be considered in 2009.

What do we have today? We have Public Sector Banks, we have Indian private sector banks and we have the presence of foreign banks. But the dominant player in the banking sector is the Indian Public Sector Banks. As I see into the future—I cannot see into the distant future, but into the foreseeable future - I think, the Public Sector Banks will continue to remain the dominant player. Why do I say this? It is because the Public Sector Banks have become and are becoming more and more efficient.

Sir, I have given these figures before. The gross NPAs for Public Sector Banks for the year ending 31.03.2006 has come down to 3.71 and the net NPAs have come down to 1.44.

Public sector banks are profitable, their managements have become stronger and their productivity is better. The per capita business of employees is better and many of them have now graduated into very big banks. Apart from the State Bank of India, we have two banks virtually touching Rs. 2 lakh crore business. There are other, banks

with Rs. 1 lakh crore business and there are many others having Rs. 50,000 crore business. What is driving the banking industry is competition and, in course of time, consolidation. We have made it clear that this has to come from within the banking system. We are not going to force anyone. Voluntarily, some consolidation will take place. It will take place between public sector and private sector banks and among private sector banks and private sector banks, consolidation will take place. Banks are consolidating in many other countries as well, like China, Singapore, Malaysia. But this must come voluntarily from the management and the employees. This is our Government's policy.

Competition is also driving growth in banking industry. Because of competition, costs have come down. Apart from macro economic factors which decide the interest rates, our banks today are extremely competitive. That is why, they have the confidence of even venturing abroad, opening branches abroad, opening representative offices abroad. This is how it should be. Banks are flag carriers. When you see Indian Bank or Canara Bank opening a branch in London or New York or Frankfurt or Washington or Singapore, greater confidence will be there for the Indian business community saying that the banks have gone there and we can also go there for doing business.

As I said, the three segments of the banking sector will continue to grow competitively and competition will drive their growth. Credit off-take has been extremely good over the last 24 months and non-food credit is growing by 30 per cent. I think, if we continue to follow the present policies and fine tune them in response to global requirements, our banks will become stronger. We are lending more to farmers and to students by way of education loans. We are lending more to Self-Help Groups and we are lending more virtually to every segment and of course, industry will not be starved of credit and all sectors will get credit. As I say, to sum up in one line, banking industry, in competition among the three segments competing with each other, will grow and public sector banks will lead the growth and help the economic growth of this country.

Our banking system today supports approximately 40 to 45 per cent of the GDP. In developed countries, the banking system supports about 80 per cent of the GDP. So, we still have a long way to go in strengthening our banking system with more branches and with more business. But this will happen. At the rate at which credit is growing, this will happen and the GDP, will be financed

greater and greater by the banking system rather than the non-banking system.

In response to these needs, we are making amendments. We have drafted these amendments in close consultation with the Indian Banks Association and the RBI. Every single word of these amendments have been drafted in very close consultation running for over several months with IBA and the RBI. This has the full support of the banking industry.

What are we doing? In response to the Committee's recommendations, we have incorporated a number of amendments. In response to the suggestions that came out of the discussion with the hon. Members, we have incorporated another amendment. We have an additional amendment where the RBI nominee will continue to remain in the public sector banks. So, that takes care of your apprehension. If the Government holding will always be 51 per cent, then obviously the proportion of private holding can never exceed 49 per cent. Therefore, the composition of the Board of Directors should be with respect to the shareholding which means that the private sector shareholding will be limited to a certain number and the public sector shareholding will be entitled to this number of representatives on the Board of Directors. We are also trying to increase the number of Executive Directors. We may not appoint all the four of them. But surely, a bank with a business of Rs. 2 lakh crore cannot be run with one Chairman and one Executive Director. It is simply not possible.

We need more people. Even our public sector corporations have more people. Every public sector corporation has one Chairman and three or four functional Directors. These are much smaller than our banks today. Our banks are dealing with lakhs of crores of rupees. Therefore, we are taking power to appoint up to three Executive Directors. We may start with two. We have one today. We may go to two; we may go to three; depending upon the size. Obviously, the bigger public sector banks like the Canara Bank and the Union Bank will have to be given immediately another Executive Director at least, and maybe even two Executive Directors. It is because today senior level management is required to address various sections. Farmers must be addressed; then personal finance and consumption credit must be addressed; industrial credit must be addressed; recovery must be addressed; human resource development must be addressed; and systems and computerisation must be addressed. All these require a high level of management skills and supervision. Therefore, we are taking this power.

We are not going to supersede bank Boards on a whim. The RBI will be involved. The maximum period that we can supercede and appoint the administrator is six months, extendable by another six months. In the meanwhile, of course, a new Board will be constituted. I do not think an occasion will arise for this. With such a close supervision by the RBI and with such a constant interaction between the Government and the public sector banks, the question may not arise at all. But nevertheless we must have the power. In the event of something happening, we must have the power to take care of that.

Workmen Directors and other Directors will have a period of three years, extendable by another period of three years. I would urge Members to support it because, I think, we should have fresh blood after six years. Some other Workman Director must come and some other Elected Director must come on the Board. So, fresh thinking and fresh blood will come into the banking system.

We have already discussed about the NPAs so many times. NPAs are not increasing. NPAs are decreasing. Gross NPAs, in absolute numbers, have decreased. As a percentage it has decreased. The net NPA has decreased. India's banking system in comparison to say a country like China is infinitely superior. We have a far stronger banking system than China's. We should be proud of that fact. I mentioned it in an answer, I think, a couple of days ago. We should be proud of the fact that our management, unions and employees together have brought down the NPAs of our banks and have made the banking system much stronger.

Of course, there are always problems. Life is always facing new problems and new challenges. The question is: Are we geared to meet these new problems and new challenges? I believe we are. I think all our banks should be able to meet Basel-II norms, when we go to Basel-II norms. Many of our banks today have a much higher CRAR than Basel-II norms. Our Central Bank Governor, that is the RBI Governor is today a respected member of the Basel Group. Therefore, I think, we are gearing up to meet the challenges of Basel-II norms. I am confident that every public sector bank and the major private sector banks will be able to meet the Basel-II norms. I think, as we go along, as we learn through experience, and as we face problems, we will come back to the House from time to time. But for the present, these amendments are absolutely necessary in order to improve corporate governance in the banks.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Let me say a word about autonomy. This Government has given greater powers to the Chairmen and Executive Directors. We have delegated far greater powers. This has been put on the website of the Ministry and on the website of the RBI. Much greater powers have been given to the banks. Members can access the website and find out that. I meet the Chairman once in three months. As and when new issues come, we do give them more powers. But let us understand that ownership is indeed an issue. Management is a separate matter. We are giving them managerial autonomy. But no Government as long as it holds 51 per cent can say, "I will not exercise my right as an owner". We are the owners. Therefore, they are accountable to the owner. There are private owners also. But we are the majority owners. So, they are accountable to us. That accountability is enforced by the system of having a "Statement of Intent". Every bank, at the beginning of the year, is required to give a "Statement of Intent", as to what are the goals it will achieve. We periodically review it. At the end of the year, we ask them how much has been achieved as against the "Statement of Intent".

That right is the right of every owner. Be it Jack Welch of GE; or be it Ford of Ford Motors; or be it Bill Gates of Microsoft, that is the right which every owner will exercise. That is the right which the Government must continue to exercise. Recently, for example, when the RBI raised the interest rate, we advised the banks, before and after, that if they wish to modify the interest rates, "Please take it to the Board of Directors".

Now, there was a spate of articles criticising this. I cannot understand it. Can the owner not tell the management to take this matter to a Board of Directors, get the Independent Director's view, get the Employee-Director's view, get the Workmen-Director's view, get the RBI nominee's view, get the Government Director's view and take a decision? That is the right of the owner. That owner does not interfere with the micro decision making, but generally guides the process of decision-making and the process of decision-making must be by Boards, must be Board-driven. Every other company has to be Board-managed. The Bank also has to be Board-managed. All that we say about corporate governance with companies should also apply to the banks. Why do they have a Board of Directors if there is no corporate governance there? Therefore, we are introducing corporate

governance. We will continue to emphasise corporate governance in all banks, especially public sector banks and I am confident in the days to come that with these changes, public sector banks will come stronger, more autonomous, more efficient, more competitive and give a big boost to our economic growth.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): The hon. Minister of Finance has just now mentioned about directors. Now, you want to increase the full-time directors from 1 to 4. But do you want to change the present designation of full-time Directors as Executive Directors? In the Act, you are calling them as Directors. Should the definition change or will the designation change?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You can only appoint a director to a Board of Directors. One person is designated as Chairman and Managing Director and other or others will be designated Executive Directors. But all of them are Directors on the Board of Directors.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981 and the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, what is this confusion going on?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no confusion. ... (*Interruptions*) Please let me explain it. There are two clauses. There is no confusion. To the two clauses, originally we had proposed certain amendments. Subsequently another amendment has been proposed which overrides the earlier amendment because those two clause are to be voted negatively. Therefore, we have given two amendments to be voted negatively. Amendment No. 8 is one of them. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): There is confusion over such an important Bill ... *(Interruptions)* That is why economic condition of our country is getting more... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is deviating from the issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SING 'LALAN' (Bengjara): Mr. Chairman, Sir whole economy, even entire UPA is confused ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What are you doing? Why are you taking objection to it?... *(Interruptions)* There is no confusion.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): This is not the way to pass the Bill.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this Bill has to be taken into consideration again. ... *(Interruptions)* If there is any confusion between the hon. Minister and the office, this is not the way to do.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the hon. Member allows me to move the amendment one by one, I will explain. There are two clauses. The amendment to clause 2 is on page 2. The amendment to clause 8 of the amending Bill is on page 8. These have been replaced by a new Section, a new clause. Therefore, these are to be negatived. The other amendments have to be passed. Apparently, our request that these will be voted negatively has not reached the office. Therefore, there is a little confusion. These two have to be negatived.... *(Interruptions)* We have already issued it. There is no confusion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you understand that there is confusion, we will take it up afterwards.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The House must be taken into confidence.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): The procedure is

very simple. The communication of the Ministry comes first to the office. If, by any chance, it has not been reported to the Table, that may be a confusion. The hon. Minister made it very clear in the House which part of the amendment is to be negatived from Government side and which part is to be supported. You know it. All the amendments have been circulated....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The House has not been informed of it.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you agree, this will be taken up tomorrow.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am ready to move it now, but if the Office wishes to verify and have the voting tomorrow, I have no objection, I am willing to cooperate. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Geete, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if there is any confusion, ultimately I am responsible. So, I take responsibility. If there is any miscommunication or confusion, I take responsibility. I know which amendments I have to move, I know which two amendments have to be negatived, but if the office has not got our communication, the mistake could be ours, the mistake could be somewhere on the way. Whoever is responsible for this, I am ultimately responsible and I accept ultimate responsibility. . . . *(Interruptions)* All I am requesting is, either I move it now or I am willing to move it tomorrow. I am not standing in the way.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN, DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the indulgence of the House for a minute. The hon. Finance Minister made it abundantly clear to the House and he owes entire accountability and responsibility for this. He is making it very transparent as to what amendments he wants to move and what amendments he does not want to move. So, why do we not allow the voting of the Bill now?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, we should know what are the amendments. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. This Bill will be taken up tomorrow for voting.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I will move them tomorrow. The discussion is over. We will have the voting tomorrow. I am sorry for causing inconvenience.

16.43 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Report of Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority and Action-Taken Report thereon

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up item no. 24. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely sorry that in an environment of confusion I have to raise an important debate which seeks to dispel the confusion and remove the misgivings which are still there regarding the Report that has been submitted by Justice Pathak. I believe I should not have done it, but I had to do it because the Report has created confusion in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dasgupta, please come to the point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, do I have an advice from the Chair? I do not feel that I need to be advised. My point is simple. I am raising a discussion on the Inquiry Report submitted by Justice Pathak on the corruption or the complaint of corruption that is supposed to have taken place.

16.44 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

The Report says:

"Oil allotted to Sehgal was to oblige Natwar Singh."

This is the statement made by Mr. Pathak. Another statement made by Mr. Pathak says:

"To Iraq, the intended beneficiary was Mr. Natwar of the Congress."

Sir, according to me, the Report is a grey report, truth should have been in black and white. Justice Pathak has taken the right course for investigation, but he has not reached the right conclusion. If he has not engaged in covering up, which I assume he has not, then he has not, at least, uncovered the fundamental link of the nexus.

Sir, I am sorry to say that the tragedy of the Indian reality is that Commissions and Commissions, Inquiries and Inquiries do seldom lead to unambiguous conclusions. Justice Pathak has also landed himself in an ambiguous situation, absolutely ambiguous. The crime has been perpetrated—it has been corroborated by evidence—but the main player has been let off. The main player is a person and not a Party, according to me. It is not a political Party, but a person belonging to a leading Party of the country. Why has he been let off? ... *(Interruptions)* I will come to that.

Mr. Natwar Singh has been let off because there is no material evidence to show that he has been benefited by the contract or his family has gained from the contract. Nobody has seen Mr. Singh to take the money. I have not seen nor Mr. Malhotra has seen it. He has not signed any receipt for receiving the money nor an amount has been credited to the account as yet because the inquiry is not complete till now, according to me. No amount has been credited to his account in Delhi or somewhere else in India, may not be an island, may not be somewhere else. But there is a big 'but'.

There are two front players and there are people who have been back seat driving. Who are the two front players? The two front players are Mr. Khanna and Mr. Sehgal. It is established in the report that these two front players, not the back seat driving people, have earned a commission or any amount paid by somebody, maybe legal or illegal, maybe white or black. They had received a sum of 1,46,000 US dollars.

Mr. Lawyer is taking down the figure. The figure is from this report. Mr. Khanna and Mr. Sehgal have received

1,46,000 US dollars, according to Justice Pathak whom you believe. Out of that amount, 68,293 US dollars have been received in the account of Hamdan. Who is the owner of this account? Who is the owner of this company? The owner of this company is Mr. Sehgal. Mr. Khanna has received 32,558 US dollars. What is the remaining? Something remains. The remaining is 35,735 US dollars. Where has this money gone?

Justice Pathak has not done justice without making a comment on this. Justice Pathak has done the justice to his report without saying where the money has gone and who is the beneficiary. Sir, it is all well known that there are two persons.

Shri Malhotra, do not grudge them. They are more popular than you. There are two persons. One is Mr. Sehgal, a delhi-based businessman. We can do every business in Delhi under the nose of the Government; there is no problem. And the other is Mr. Aditya Khanna.... *(Interruptions)*

You are interested in party affiliations; I am interested in finding out the criminals.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Both of them are being supported by you. That is the point.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : He finds politics in crime; I find crime in politics. That is the difference between him and me. That is why I am raising it.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Dasgupta, please address to the Chair and not to any individual.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is this. These two persons had formed a firm on 50:50 basis. This was registered. Where was this registered? Our Finance Minister must be knowing the fundamentals of this area, namely, the Channel Islands. There are Channel Islands in the world where everything can be done. This company was registered there. The name of the company was 'INDRUS'. It was because they wanted to do business with Russia. How did the collusion develop? Just a company named 'INDRUS' is formed, but INDRUS is run by another accounting firm and, thirdly, this accounting firm owns another accounting firm which is known as 'Hamdaan'. There are three companies together. There is not only one, there is another 'Hamdaan', which means

four companies have been incorporated, four companies have been put together in order to ensure that this political-cum-economic nexus do find way easily and can remain out of the teeth of law.

How the whole thing started? These companies were formed earlier but how they started the operation? How could they start the operation 'fool for oil' —I would call it 'perversion' of food-for-oil—programme? In January, 2001, Shri Sehgal and Mr. Khanna thought that they should do business in oil. They had done enough with Russia. Their business had failed. It was a non-performing business. Therefore, they wanted to perform some business. In order to perform some business, they said that they should look for oil, most lucrative oil and that too from Iraq. This they did; this conclusion they could come to with the help of one Mr. Jamil. Please forgive me for giving his political identity.... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he keeps on looking at me as if I am responsible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have always requested him to address to the Chair.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not answerable to all this.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Fortunately, his is the most beautiful face. Therefore, I can only look at him.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I did not know he were of that kind.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not of that kind; I am only truthful. But, God save me.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That, you have confessed at last.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : God save him; she is not a lady; he is not a lady.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: 'She' is included in 'he' as you said.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The point is this. His political identity is this. This Jamil gives his credential as a former youth General Secretary of Rajasthan, not Congress. Now, they became three. This trio believed

that they can do business of oil in Iraq if they had a political patronage.

Now, there is a search for political patron. Businessmen were searching a political patron. From here it begins because they knew that without political influence, nothing could be done in Iraq. At this point of time, a new angel appears on the scene. He is no other person than Mr. Jagat Singh. Jagat Singh appears on the scene directly from the heaven, and he says: "I can give the political patronage, and do not worry.

[Translation]

"Khannaji, you won't be in trouble. I and my father is there to help you out."

[English]

This was the assurance from him. Obviously they knew that Mr. Natwar Singh was a former Foreign Minister, he had his contacts with the political leadership of Iraq, and therefore, he can do the job. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not present in this House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we are discussing this Report.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I am discussing the Report. It is there in the Report. Should I not quote from this Report? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Kindly let me speak.

[English]

Sir, my voice is bad. Please do not interrupt me. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): He is a nice person. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Everybody who sits there on the Chair is a nice man to me. Madam, do not

make a distinction on the person who is occupying the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, Mr. Jagat Singh appears on the scene and he is assured of the political patronage. He was the one angel. Another thing is that a God-gift opportunity comes to this trio, not trio but to these four people. What is that? They came to know that the Congress Party was sending a goodwill delegation to Iraq to express solidarity with the people who had been under constant attack of America. It was a God-gift opportunity. I do not believe in God but they believed in God and, therefore, God blessed them. Do not blame me, blame them. Please do not blame God and they will be angry.

Earlier, three persons were the official members of the delegation to Baghdad. It was increased to four. Four authorised members were supposed to go in a delegation. But suddenly, two persons joined the delegation unauthorised. Sir, kindly note this point—unauthorised. It is because at no point of time, the Congress Party had said or there is anything on record to say that they were the authorised members of the delegation. At no point of time they have said so. ...*(Interruptions)* I have to say according to my conscience. You have to say according to your conscience. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You believe in sponsorship, and I do not believe.

The point is that two unauthorised people joined the delegation. This could not have been done—this is my point—and this could not have happened if there was no tacit approval of the *ipso facto* leader of the goodwill delegation. The leader was one person but the *ipso facto* leader was Mr. Natwar Singh. Therefore, it could not have been done without the approval, support and, if I may say so, the connivance of the *ipso facto* leader of the delegation. What happened? The diplomatic corps of India in Amman and also in Baghdad arranged for six people. How could they do it? The official delegation was for four people but it is on record that the diplomatic missions in Amman and Baghdad booked six rooms, they booked six tickets, and they made arrangements for travel and stay of six people.

17.00 hrs.

But, interesting, Sir, this is where the mystery begins. The list of the people submitted to the Diplomatic Corps mentioned only five names, and the sixth man was unnamed, which means, the friend of Mr. Jagat Singh was not named. Mr. Jagat Singh was made a part of the delegation but not the friend that he had with him.

Sir, the delegation started from Delhi on 19th for Amman. Just see, how the whole operation was carried out! It is a matter of shame for the whole country. On 19th, the plane took off from Delhi. It was a six-member delegation with two officials and two non-officials. On 22nd January, Mr. Natwar Singh meets the Minister of Oil—it is very interesting. He had always an eye on the oil, not on anti-American fraternity. He meets the Minister of Oil. Why does he meet him? He meets him to express his satisfaction for the solidarity and the support that the Government of India is doing. That is the first part. That is the overt part.

What is the covert part? He talked with him on the oil contract because Mr. Sehgal was present there. Next, on 30th January, after eight days, he writes a letter. Meeting the Minister of Oil did not yield result perhaps. Therefore, he writes a letter. What is there in that letter? In the letter, he shamelessly certifies that 'Mr. Sehgal and his company is well-known to him, and they might be given all support and co-operation.' Is it a language? What is the meaning of this language? What support and cooperation is being talked about? It only means that he said that the contract may be given to them to lift the oil so that they can make money, so that he can be benefited, so that his family can be benefited, so that his son can be benefited.

In all these months between January to August, there have been a number of trips to Baghdad. Mr. Sehgal had been there; Mr. Jagat Singh had been there; and on all occasions, they were armed with a letter from Mr. Natwar Singh. All these three letters talked of anti-imperialist solidarity, which was the corruption under the cover of anti-imperialism. That was the cover. But this was all for procuring oil contracts. How did it work? On 30th January, he received a letter and on 11th February, the first contract is done. He writes to the Minister of Oil on 30th; he meets the Minister on 22nd January; and on 11th February, the contract is signed of 2 million barrel of oil; and the contract is known as M-0954.

Then, goes the second letter. A political man, who has been connected with politics for a long time, has been applauded by the country for his jobs. We clapped him for some of his speeches. He was with me in the other House. How a man can stoop so low just to give benefits to the businessmen! And, one of the businessmen happens to be his son. He wrote a second letter. The first letter got the first oil contract. He wrote a second letter, and the second letter also got them a second contract. The second contract is known as M-09120, but this deal did not succeed ultimately for reasons not known to us.

On 16th August, he writes the third letter stating the same language, stating anti-imperialism, solidarity and salute to President Saddam. At the end four more lines are there.

"Please give your support and co-operation to Mr. Sehgal and his company." Both of them are very well known to me.

See the third letter. As a result of the third letter on 16th August, they got the second or the third contract which is M1057. They got one million barrels on 31st August, 2001. During January to August, as I earlier said, so many foreign trips had taken place. Sir, can I ask you this? Will the Indian Missions therein in Baghdad and Amman kindly clarify? Will the Foreign Minister kindly clarify why this businessman was given out of the way support and co-operation by the Indian Missions there? At whose behest was this businessman given support? What was the reason? What could have been the implication?

Therefore, it is clear that they procured oil because of political patronage, and it was written as 'political allocation'. The contracts were written as political allocation. The words used were 'political allocation'. It is because of the political friendship, because of the political leader Mr. Natwar Singh—because he projected himself—they procured oil. How dare a man, who has committed a fraud, could project himself as a representative of India?

Now I come to circumstantial evidence. It is quite clear that there is enough circumstantial evidence to show that Mr. Natwar Singh colluded with Sehgal and

colluded with his son to give benefit to his son, if not to himself. He cannot have acted without his political credential. There is large unaccounted money. Flow of money has not been traced. What is my charge against Mr. Natwar Singh is that he has abused his position as a member of the delegation. He has misused his position as the *ipso facto* leader of the delegation. He has manipulated the goodwill visit and converted the goodwill visit into a commercial visit for procuring contracts for oil for his son and people known to his son. It is unbelievable that the three letters he had written were without any material interest. There is no philanthropy involved.

Sir, I am really sorry to say that the Congress Party is to be blamed. The Congress Party is to be blamed because it did not monitor the work of its political delegation. Yes, let us laugh at it. People who had joined politics can laugh at it. But the question is that the Indian National Congress should monitor what their representatives are doing outside. This is my first point why I blame.

Secondly, I blame because there were three other members of the delegation and they did not object to be joined in the travel of Sehgal and Jagat. They did not object at the time of the departure. One of them, who is a friend of mine, was in the other House. I know him. He might not have done it because he never wanted to antagonise Mr. Natwar Singh. It may be the reason. I do not know.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): He too had been the Minister of External Affairs.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Yes, he too, has been the Minister of External Affairs. Why is he giving his introduction. Please do not do so.

[*English*]

But more important is that three members of the delegation might have been afraid to antagonise Mr. Natwar Singh. Why did not they report the same to the Congress high command on their return? They returned from Amman, Jordan. Was it not their responsibility to inform the Congress high command?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The same day he has informed. He said he has not concealed it to the Congress President. That is another question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I have a friend to support me. But I do not need any support at the moment. ... (*Interruptions*) My point is that the other members of the delegation have not informed the Congress High Command. He is considered by the Congress friends that he is a colossal failure. Why did he not inform the Congress High Command on their return? Why Mr. Natwar Singh was allowed to have his sway using the All India Congress Committee's letterhead, using its FAX number, using its telephone number, always projecting himself as the most glorious, anti-imperialist fighter India has ever produced? ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I hope the Government will not mind because Government is also in fault. You never wanted an enquiry in full. It is 'enquiry in full' not 'to fool' but it is 'enquiry in the full'. The preposition makes the difference. It is 'not to fool' but 'not in full'. What is that? Why was that withheld under Sections 8-B and 8-C of the Commissions of Inquiries Act? . . . (*Interruptions*) Sometimes, people laugh due to ignorance and sometimes people laugh because they enjoy that one of their old colleagues is being assailed. I do not know why.

Sir, I welcome the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance that there will be an inquiry. But I am opposed to inquiry by multiple agencies separately. If multiple agencies do the inquiry separately, things will not come out. Therefore, I suggest that let there be a united command of all these agencies - the Central Board of Excise and Customs, the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Directorate of Enforcement and the Anti-Corruption wing of the CBI. All these agencies should be combined together to nail down the criminal who had betrayed India's interest in the foreign land. He must be nailed.

Sir, while concluding, may I request you to kindly consider this? As a Member of Parliament, Mr. Natwar Singh has abused his position. As a Member of Parliament he has not discharged his duty. As a Member of Parliament he has acted for self-interest. It is enough ground for losing his membership.

Lastly, I appeal to the Government that in order to exonerate yourself from all possible suspicion that the Congress Party was involved - which my friends are saying and which I am still doubtful to believe - in order to exonerate yourself of the suspicion that has gathered around you, please go to the root of the issue. Please haul up the culprit. Please set up an inquiry under a united command. Please see that nobody goes scot-free however, high may be in the political system.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I wish to congratulate hon. Member Shri Gurudas Dasgupta on his speech. But I find it so amazing that one can say exactly the same facts and twist them around to do whatever you want. As in Alice in Wonderland, once the White Queen says that "I can make words do exactly what I want them to say; they do not necessarily have to do what they are supposed to do". This has been a masterly defence of the Congress Party. I will present the same facts. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I thank you for your compliment. It is nice to receive compliments from a lady. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I will present the same facts, with the half portion ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I said 'it is always nice to receive compliments from the ladies'. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I would like to present the same facts, using a few facts also that were left out in the previous speech because they did not actually suit the world vision of the speaker.

An Inquiry Commission Report for the UN charged that Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party had received as non-contractual beneficiaries eight million barrels of oil that equals \$ 480 million worth of crude oil at present rate of approximately \$ 60 a barrel. Shri Natwar Singh was cited among more than 133 Indian entities in the IIC Report which investigated accusations of abuse of the Oil for Food Programme. The Government responded immediately to give them credit by instituting an Inquiry Committee headed by Justice Pathak.

This Pathak Committee Report has just come in. It needs to be looked at carefully. Let us look at the Report point by point to see where it has failed by simply overlooking or obfuscating the facts. The powers of the Committee were severely limited. Apart from para 4.4 which says that the Report cannot be made the basis of proceedings, criminal or civil, against the person involved in the inquiry, the Government also refused to let it have the powers of Sections 8B and 8C of Commissions of Inquiry Act. Justice Pathak himself has lamented this.

Now, what were these provisions? These provisions would have allowed Shri Natwar Singh, his son and all his relatives, who have been mentioned, to question other members of the Congress Party, like Shri A.R. Antulay, Shri Shiv Shankar or any of the witnesses that testified against them. What was the Congress afraid of that it did not let the principal accused even have the power to interrogate those who were testifying against him?

There are several people named in the Pathak Committee Report in connection with the Oil for Food Programme. Let us examine them individually. One, Aditya Khanna. Who is Aditya Khanna? He is a brother of Arvind Khanna, the Congress MLA from Sangrur and MP-candidate of the Congress Party, the son of Greta Khanna who is the sister of Natwar Singh's wife. He is the nephew of Natwar Singh and the Congress Chief Minister Amrinder Singh and the first cousin of Jagat Singh. Two, Aniel Matherani, the General Secretary of the Congress Foreign Affairs Cell who was later made Ambassador, Croatia by the Congress Party. Three, Jamil Zaidi, the former General-Secretary of the Youth Congress of Rajasthan. Four, Jagat Singh, the Congress MLA and former General-Secretary of Youth Congress and son of the Congress leader Natwar Singh. Five, Andleeb Sehgal, the nephew of Natwar Singh, as stated by him, which is not correct. In actual fact, he is the brother of soon to be daughter-in-law of Natwar Singh. Six, of course, the soon to be former Congress leader, K. Natwar Singh himself. Seven, Vikas Dhar, the son of the OSD to the late Congress Prime Minister. Eight, A.R. Antulay, the ex-Chief Minister of the Congress Party of Maharashtra, who was removed by the Congress Party itself on charges of corruption some years ago. Nine, P. Shiv Shankar, also the ex-Minister of the Congress Party.

*Not recorded.

All of them are connected only by one thing and not by relationships, not by friendship, but by their links to the Congress Party. All of them are active functionaries of the Congress Party. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No running commentary. That will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*) *

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I am not a conspiracy theorist, but this begs the question whether these people are using the Congress' name to get ahead in their lives or they are being used by the Congress as pawns to make money or they have got ahead as MPs, MLAs, Ministers, party functionaries, ambassadors and businessmen by complying and becoming pawns.

The Congress claims that an innocent goodwill delegation was sent to Iraq to proclaim their solidarity with the Iraqi establishment. But this is entirely untrue, and it is seen by the events that are set out by the Pathak Report.

Firstly, Shri Andaleeb Sehgal, Shri Jagat Singh, Shri Vikas Dhar and Shri Arvind Khanna are all Congress people, who make several companies together with the express purpose of making a deal for Iraqi oil. Thereafter, they are informed, and I quote according to paragraph 10.1 of the Report :

"... that the business in oil in Iraq was controlled by the political leadership of the country, and only those persons could manage to do business in oil in Iraq who had some influential standing with the political leadership of the country..."

It was further stated that the oil deals are made by the oil minister of Iraq. They informed Shri K. Natwar Singh of this, and he met the Congress President. Immediately and coincidentally, a Congress delegation to Iraq is set up by the Congress Party at its behest and led by Shri Natwar Singh. This follows a meeting between the Congress President, who takes Shri Natwar Singh with her to meet the Iraqi Vice-President when he comes to Delhi, and also to meet the Oil Minister. Therefore, the message is clear that Shri Natwar Singh is an important functionary of hers, and he will be dealing with Iraq in future.

The delegation, according to Pathak Report, is approved by the President of the Congress Party herself. She authorises Shri Natwar Singh, Shri Aneil Matherani and Shri A. R. Antulay to go to Iraq. Then a fourth person is added. He is Shri Natwar Singh's son Shri Jagat Singh. What does he represent? He represents the Youth Congress according to himself, and the fifth person comes after the fourth person. Shri Jagat Singh is not added at the end. He is added as the fourth person to the delegation. The fifth person is Shri P. Shiv Shankar. These five worthies have their tickets booked. But all the embassies, down the line, and the travel agents of Iraqi Airways are informed that a sixth person is in the delegation, but his name is secret and is kept secret for weeks. A ticket and a room are booked in the name of an unnamed person, who is included not by the Leader of the Delegation, but this comes from the Congress Party. The secret inclusion turns out to be Shri Andaleeb Sehgal, the business partner of Shri Jagat Singh and his cousin Shri Khanna. It is an official delegation, but it has two business members in the delegation in which the Congress President could have taken so much interest by meeting all the Iraqi people and leaders of their countries here in Delhi. Would Shri Shiv Shankar and Shri Antulay not inform her of these two inclusions, that is, if they were included and were not prime movers of the delegation? Shri Shiv Shankar said that they flew with him, they stayed where he stayed, they attended the meetings, they went to the same dinner, they met the same Ministers, and they came back with him. Yet he says that he has no idea what they were doing there. Obviously, Shri Shiv Shankar belongs to the Gandhian tradition of *see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil*.

According to paragraph 11.2 of the Pathak Report, so many preparations were made for this trip, and it was rescheduled several times. So many letters go up and down to embassies and the Congress Party functionaries, but there was no itinerary made for the delegation. I repeat no itinerary was made for the delegation in Iraq. The Congress President has given no direction, and there have been no meetings on what they would do once they reached Iraq. What an important delegation to spread goodwill without any idea as to who they are going to meet, why they are going to meet them, what is the delegation, what will they do there for four days, etc.? There is nothing. How amazing it is? Obviously, there was no itinerary for the delegation made by the Congress

[Shrimati Manaka Gandhi]

President or by Shri K. Natwar Singh because its members knew what they were going to do. It had nothing to do with spreading peace and goodwill. They were going to make money. How else ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, this is not correct. I am raising an objection. ... *(Interruptions)* I am making an objection. Please hear me. ... *(Interruptions)* I will tell you what is my objection. ... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Malhotra, I am asking her to yield. Why are you standing up in between? We are having a discussion on the Justice Pathak Report, and we have to confine ourselves to the matter contained in the Report. ... *(Interruptions)* She I cannot deal in matters, which are outside the Report, and it is out of her personal knowledge that she is speaking. ... *(Interruptions)* We have to talk about all that is contained within the Report. This is not a general discussion. We have to discuss on matters contained in the Report. ... *(Interruptions)* Please read the agenda. This is a discussion on the Report of the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority, and not a general discussion. Therefore she cannot imagine these things. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: She is a Member of this House. How can she make allegations without giving any notice? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, it should be removed from the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: How can she make allegations against a Member of the House without a proper notice?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: She is a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistriji, you please sit down.

[English]

Please sit down.

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Whatever is there in the report, let her say that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): What is the discussion about? The discussion is about R.S. Pathak Report. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Jai Prakashji, you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, you sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Kapil Sibal, who is a very intelligent, good and a senior lawyer. He will reply to what all she has already said.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The Congress Party is responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): She has to substantiate her allegations; she cannot simply make allegations against another Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is anything objectionable I will see to it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a shameful behaviour. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I want to raise a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you have to hear me. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you resume your seats. I would like to hear Shri Kapil Sibalji.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, I am on a point of order. Let me just raise the point of order ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First, all of resume your seats. Let me hear Shri Kapil Sibal.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what is the need of this drama going on here ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what Rule you want to raise the point of order?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kapil Sibalji under which Rule you have raised point of order?

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Under Rule 353. The Rule says: "No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made.." ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Will you not even allow me to speak? ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can you say that? It is a part of the Report.... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Let me speak please ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Justice Pathak has said it, not me.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The Rule says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person."

Any person, including a Member of this House and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is a Member of this House. It further says:

"...unless the Member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make the investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply." ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Which is the Minister?. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It further says:

"Provided that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any Member from making any such allegation

if he is of the opinion that such allegation is defamatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation."

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Where does the Report refer to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? Where does the Report refer to the Congress President? Where does the word 'Congress President' occur in the Report? How can she make such a reference to that?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): It is there in the Report.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is not there. Please show me. If you have not read the Report, it is not my fault... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Sir, I have been listening to the speech made by my colleague. This reaction from the Congress Party side is on this simple statement, which is a part of the Report and which says: 'It is surprising that though the delegation was a high profile delegation, no itinerary has been prepared for the visit of the delegation.' Where is the allegation?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: There is nothing to do with it.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Shri Advani, please see the record.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is too much. At this time, I cannot do this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see that.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go to your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see, if there is anything objectionable. I would expunge that.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, may I respond to what Leader of the Opposition said? ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as long as she spoke about the itinerary, we did not object. When she said that there was no itinerary, we did not object. But when she went further and said that the Congress President sent this delegation to make money, we objected to it... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 6 p.m.

17.41 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eighteen of the Clock.*

*Not recorded.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Eighteen
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Re: Report of the Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry
Authority and the Action Taken Report—Contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi may continue her speech now.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): Sir, I am sorry that the Government.. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. All sections of the House have agreed that this is an important matter and it should be discussed. That is why, an Inquiry Authority was appointed and it has given its Report. An eminent person, a former Chief Justice has headed it. Every hon. Member has a right to make comments but naturally, we have to have a regulated debate. Otherwise, nobody's views will be there on record. Therefore, my respectful request to all of you is to please see that a structured debate takes place. Obviously, we are all aware of the rules and we should avoid saying anything which does not comply with well established rules.

Now, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi may continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, you should take your seat. I am sure you do not want the House to be adjourned if it cannot function.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I am on a point of order under rule 353... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): The Chair has already given his ruling. Sir, how can he raise a point of order now?... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised it earlier.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But there was not ruling given... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is dictating the Chair. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : It is surprising that while Shri Natwar Singh is attacked, everybody is almost keeping quiet.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I may be permitted to raise my point of order.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, he is raising a point of order. Let me hear it.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, he cannot raise the point of order when it has already been overruled. ...*(Interruptions)* Ruling has already been given on it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into the matter. I will discuss it with the hon. Deputy-Speaker. You are slated to speak later and so, you can mention your point at that time.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be seen. Shri Sibal has himself sat down. From the list, I find that he is going to be the next speaker. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, she has levelled an allegation against the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see. We have to conduct the proceedings now. My ruling is, as the ruling of anybody sitting in the Chair, that rules have to be complied with. Therefore, it is our duty to see that rules are complied with.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute to make my point ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak if she yields.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Now, I am not yielding.... (Interruptions) This is not the forum. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Shrimati Maneka has deviated from the issue and used derogatory language. (Interruptions) Sir, both the derogatory words used by Shrimati Maneka Gandhi should be expunged from the proceedings. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It will be looked into. I will see to it. Shrimati Maneka, please continue now.

...(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It should be totally deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate to make such comments. It has to be deleted. The whole thing should be deleted. You cannot insult a Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I had deleted it. That is expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : The Pathak Inquiry Authority was instituted by the Government in order to discover who made money illegally. That was the purpose of the Committee. What did I say? I said — I will repeat exactly what I said — that there was no itinerary for the delegation because its members knew what they were going to do and it had nothing to do with spreading peace and goodwill ** ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just a minute please. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very strange.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How much dictation you would give them. My throat has gone sour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, making an allegation that somebody has done something—obviously you mean “illegally”—is an allegation for which under rule 353 a notice should be given. Therefore, it will stand expunged.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

*Not Recorded.

**Expunged as Ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, continue your speech.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : All right, I will continue my speech.

They did not let me say the next sentence. The next sentence is: "How else would you explain the fact — what they were going for—by the fact that this delegation led by Shri Natwar Singh met the Oil Minister along with Andaleeb Sehgal, whose company wanted the contract? An official political delegation of the Congress Party for spreading peace and goodwill meets normally the President or the Prime Minister or the Vice-President or the Foreign Minister. It certainly does not meet the Oil Minister who has nothing to do with peace and goodwill.

Could it be to discuss India's needs in oil? Then, why would a minor functionary of the then Opposition Party wants to discuss India's needs in oil? Why would his business associates want to be in the same meeting? Why would the Oil Minister want to meet Shri Natwar Singh? Contrary to what Justice Pathak has written about Shri Natwar Singh being the External Affairs Minister for many years and having great contacts with the Iraqis, the truth is that he was a junior Minister in the External Affairs Ministry for three years, more than ten years ago. The Oil Minister met him because he was ordered by his own Government, his own President who thought that since Shri Natwar Singh carried a letter from his President, he represented the entire Congress Party. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : How can she say that?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can anybody be sitting and standing here and creating trouble?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When I say something, I refer to all sides.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please tell him also ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a country of such a highly talented people who are all here. We have to discuss

matters with great importance and seriousness. Therefore, we should all be careful that we should not say or do something which can create unavoidable situations. Therefore, I am requesting Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. I hope I am right.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do, since I am a leftist, so I look at my left.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SEPAKER: I look at everyone. It is not that I donot object to them.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many a ministers from that side are standing up and speaking. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What has gone wrong with you people?

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What was the strategy in sending a delegations by the leader of Congress Party ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into this. Then, I will decide.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Strong words always do not make good friends. I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I fail to see as to why you should get agitated. First, stronger words have been used. Second, Shri Natwar Singh himself has said that he went and he carried a letter from his Congress President. Is there nothing wrong with that? ... (*Interruptions*) Now, when I get too close to the fire, let everybody not get so agitated. Please listen to the words. There is nothing harsh in it. When Shri Natwar Singh

[Shrimati Manaka Gandhi]

carried this letter from the Congress President, the worthy Iraqi Oil Minister gave order to him because he thought that he represented the whole Congress Party. Did he imagine that the Congress Party was asking for financial favours through Shri Natwar Singh and his family members? Did Shri Natwar Singh..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You give a structured reply. I think, a proper reply can be given by you, if you think so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : The pointed issue is did Natwar Singh represent the Congress Party or did he represent himself and his family? This is a question that Justice Pathak has tantalizingly left in the air.

Anil Matherani, a Congressman in the Foreign Affairs Cell of the Congress Party, working with Shri Natwar Singh and who was made the Indian Ambassador to Croatia was in Baghdad and Amman along with Natwar Singh in the year 2001. He says in his taped interview to India Today' that the Iraqis needed a green signal for giving the oil vouchers to the Congress Party and this I quote from him and "Natwar provided it". Sonia Gandhi's meeting with the Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadhan on his visit to Delhi on November 27, 2000 accompanied by Natwar Singh gives the first indication to the Iraqi authorities that Natwar Singh carried the weight of the Congress President. This is a quotation. "As if to confirm to the Iraqi regime that Natwar represented Sonia Gandhi, she also sent a letter to Saddam Hussein through Natwar Singh. Justice Pathak ignores almost all of Matherani's revelations and completely refuses to ask about this incriminating letter that Natwar Singh himself had revealed that he had been given by his Party President to take to Iraq.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri A.R. Antulay, who was also a member of the delegation, was unwilling to talk on this visit when contacted by the newspapers. He, however, did say that the only official meeting that was organised by Shri Natwar Singh was with Mr. Tariq, the Oil Minister of Iraq.

Not only does Natwar Singh and his delegation spread peace and goodwill at the Oil Ministry but he then goes to State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) the next day to spread some more goodwill from the Congress Party and all they discuss is the oil for food

programme. Justice Pathak, being an astute, experienced finder of truth, starts promisingly in paragraph 11.8 by saying that: "It is also well known that at the time the Iraq Government allocated oil only to those entities that were perceived as Iraq friendly." The Judge has arrived at the truth of the delegation's intentions and also that the Iraq Government knows that Natwar Singh is not a private party but a representative of a political party. Yet he exonerates the party by committing the one thing that is not allowed by law. Sir, you being a lawyer, know that clumsily he climbs into the minds of the Iraqis and claims to speak for them.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, she is using the word "clumsily."

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me. I will see that. Let it come.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This is completely unfair.

MR. SPEAKER: Merely using strong words do not help.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I am sorry. Sir. It is a sentence structure. "Clumsiness" is because of the sentence structure.... *(Interruptions)* I am sorry that ..."

MR. SPEAKER: This type of personal allegation may not be made.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is here deciding about the English language.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : We should maintain the dignity of the House and the discussion.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : What dignity?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Otherwise, we shall stoop low in the eyes of the people who are watching us.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, she says: "What dignity?" I agree with her. What dignity!

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: That is what I was going to say. Can you stoop even lower? I come to my

*Not recorded.

point. Clumsily, he climbs into the minds of the Iraqis and claims to speak for them. I quote:

"The Iraqi officials were probably of the belief that Shri Natwar Singh would be able to help their cause in the international community and his influence would be great as he was a senior member of the Indian National Congress."

The Iraqis are not dim by any standards. They are clever. They are resourceful people. They are certainly not, what I would call, stupid. They knew exactly what they were doing. They knew that he was a non-entity, no matter how much his great, so-called friendship with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq is whom he had just recently met. There is no record in the Volker Report that any contracts were handed out anywhere in the world on the basis of friendship to individuals. The Iraqis were clear that they wanted to benefit whole political parties. Justice Pathak writes of the reception given to the delegation by the Oil Ministry and SOMO but again attempts to obfuscate the role of the Congress by writing in 12.1 that "the allocation of two million barrels of oil was made to Andaleeb Singh solely because the Iraqi Government wanted to oblige Shri Natwar Singh."

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot refer to it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Has Justice Pathak interrogated the givers of the contract, the givers of the oil? How can he make an inference that is so patently absurd? Why would the Iraqis want to oblige Natwar Singh? Or, were they completely convinced by the presence of Shri Antulay and Shri P. Shiv Shankar that they were obliging the Congress Party? Justice Pathak has written a great deal about the meetings of Natwar Singh, Andaleeb Sehgal, Anil Matherani and Jagat Singh with the Ministers and the oil officials. He has neglected to tell us what Shri Antulay and Shri P. Shiv Shankar were doing at the time. They never went to any meeting. They went on wandering along the Mosque. They went to sight seeing in a desert! What were they doing? They had no itinerary. Is that a deliberate omission? Or, were they present as well to endorse this party deal? The significance of Natwar Singh personally being sympathetic to the cause and the people of Iraq is minimal since he was at that time largely a political non-entity. The Iraqi Government was interested in currying favour with the Indian National Congress and not with Shri Natwar Singh but through Natwar Singh. The Congress Party knew this. Otherwise, why would they have sent other senior people

with him who met nobody to spread peace and goodwill by themselves? Did Shri Antulay go, did Shri P. Shiv Shankar go and met the President, the Vice-President? Surely, they must have spread peace and goodwill. But they did not go anywhere either. So, for what were they sent with Shri Natwar Singh? Is it to reinforce Shri Natwar Singh's claim that he represents the Congress Party?

How does Justice Pathak come to the conclusion that the Iraqis misunderstood a personal request from Natwar Singh as a request from the Congress Party?

How does Justice Pathak come to this astounding conclusion? On what basis? After all, Natwar Singh leads the Congress Delegation, delivers a letter from the Congress President, expresses solidarity on behalf of the Congress Party to the Baath Party. Where does Natwar the Congressman end and Natwar the self-serving favour seeker begin and on what material evidence can we divorce one from the other? The fact that this entire trip has been made by these Congress members in coordination with an already tied up buyer company is borne out by the letter written by the Masfield representative Nick Swan who writes to SOMO from England the very next day after the delegation meets SOMO that he would like a visa in connection with, I quote from paragraph 12.1: "political allocation of two million barrels of Basrah Light Crude". This is further borne out by a letter written to the Oil Minister of Iraq by an Iraqi bureaucrat in which approval is sought for the contract and the name of the purchasing company is already listed as Masfield AG and the purchaser is Natwar Singh, member of the Indian Congress Party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Is there any time limit?

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down, I am allowing him. You should have no objection while he is speaking, therefore, you may sit down.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I will sit down.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Now Justice Pathak is faced by the fact that Natwar Singh comes back and writes a letter to the Government of Iraq specifically to the Oil Minister in which he recommends Andaleeb Sehgal

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

as a person of his confidence for many years. If the Government of Iraq wanted to oblige Natwar Singh and people of his confidence for many years and his sons and sons-in-law, would Natwar Singh, As Justice Pathak claims, put him in his letter of that extra baggage about the Congress Party and how he greatly values its fraternal links with the Arab Baath Socialist Party? Obviously, he wants the Iraqis to believe at every point the simple fact that this is the Congress Party and that the Iraqis are simply giving oil through him.

However, Justice, Pathak chooses to believe Shri Moti Lal Vohra's interpretation that it was a personal letter, after all that were said about the Congress Party and the Baath Party being brothers in arms. So, they get a contract, they get a contract of millions of dollars.

Sir, what happens next is even more curious. Suddenly, a meeting of the Congress Party is called in Bangalore and a Foreign Policy Resolution concerning the Middle East is passed by the All India Congress Committee which states that the Indian National Congress supports the Government's attempts to restore the relationship of India with Iraq and unequivocally calls for termination of sanctions. What an amazing coincidence! Natwar Singh writes a letter then immediately enclosing this Resolution passed by his President and asks for a second contract ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are all inferences.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Still some time is left.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I can only say ignorance is bliss.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: This is what Justice Pathak has said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let her finish. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make too many inferences, but go on.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I am quoting word for word from the Pathak Report. I am not making it up. So, according to Justice Pathak, he sends a second letter just after this Resolution and he encloses this Resolution which has so fortuitously been passed. He says, 'this further proves how close we are to you and how the Congress Party is close'. This is his letter and he says, 'Thank you very much. Will you please give a second contract for the Congress Party?' This is his letter in the name of his son and his cousin Andaleeb Sehgal and the Congress MLA Jagat Singh carries this letter to Iraq personally with the Resolution passed by the Congress Party. The Iraqis now are completely convinced that they are dealing with the Congress Party. So they give another... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is an inference.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that she is making an inference.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not denied it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: So, they give another contract of two million barrels... *(Interruptions)* Sir, as a lawyer you know that 'a' and 'b' always add up. If Shri Natwar Singh did not believe, if Shri Natwar Singh had to get oil for his personal relations, he would not have included the Congress Party Resolution passed so quickly. However, Shri Jagat Singh, who is a Congress MLA, goes again to Iraq and he gets another contract of two million barrels, which is not given to Shri Jagat Singh, the son of Shri Natwar Singh and... * but, I quote from para 14.8, 'Shri Jagat Singh of the Congress Party'... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, if it is there, it is there. I hope it is there. I will see that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I have been working on this report for a long time.

Para 14.14 of the Pathak Committee Report... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Karnal): He is reading out his speech, is it allowed to read out?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: She is reading a report, how can I stop her?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have got a very competent person speaking here.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, para 14.14 of the Pathak Report...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hisar): ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, they should be ashamed of themselves talking like this ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): (*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jai Prakash, sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: All this has been expunged. Both the observations are expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You donot listen when they speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: She has not yielded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged that.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It has been expunged, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want a debate. I would like to know from the hon. Leaders from all sides, do you want the debate to continue or not.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request all the hon. Members, including the hon. Member on her legs, to please conclude now. You are using strong words, and you are making good points. They have to reply. Let us not only try for the sake of abuse. Please do not do that.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I have not used a single strong word...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request all sides to please cooperate. It is an important issue. Let there be a structured debate.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I am trying to make a legal argument in favour of the point that I am trying to make and if that legal argument does not please

the accused, then they will have a chance to reply. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, this is not fair. . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would also, at the same time, request the hon. Member, she is making good points, that if she avoids all those inferences, it will be helpful.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Congress Party and its President ...(Interruptions) The debate is going on the oil coupons. ...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, your interpretations are not being noted. Everybody is teaching everybody else.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, please conclude now. You have taken a lot of time.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, para 14.14 of the Pathak Report is truly unworthy of such an eminent and fine jurist. Again he cannot avoid the facts that the Iraqis are giving money to the Congress Party. He again attempts to sidestep the Congress involvement by saying that it was a misunderstanding.

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to see that.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I am sorry. I am reading the Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Which paragraph?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I am reading Para 14.14 of the Report.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : She is reading out a typed speech. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask whether none of the leaders reads out the typed speech ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed it. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Do not record it.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed. I have not stopped her from reading out.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is all this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I am sorry to say that people who live in glass house should not throw stones. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You sit there. What are you doing here.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you so impatient? You are all the time dictating the Chair, trying to bulldoze the proceedings.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Justice Pathak again attempts to sidestep the Congress involvement by saying that it was a misunderstanding that the Iraqis thought that they were giving it to the Congress Party. How would he know that they understood the situation? He has not talked to a single Iraqi. Now, he attempts to save Natwar Singh as well by saying that his role as facilitator was a limited one. Natwar Singh writes the letters; he arranges the trips; he meets the Ministers; he gets the deals not

*Not recorded.

once but twice; he gets the moneys into the accounts of his relatives and he has a limited role? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not there. There is no such finding. Do not say that. That is an allegation. If there is no finding, then that is an allegation.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : There is a finding.

MR. SPEAKER: Show that. If it is there, I will allow it; I will certainly allow it. Where has it been said in that paragraph?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Whatever ruling you will decide, you are most welcome to correct me if I am wrong.

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me I will see to that.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Natwar Singh's role is as a prime mover and not as a bye stand side facilitator. Everybody involved is either related to him and with the Congress Party. How is he just a bye stand or a facilitator? And what is the role of the other two Congressmen who accompanied him? After all, Shri Natwar Singh put his address down as 1, Akbar Road - this is in the Pathak Report New Delhi. Sorry, Sir, this is in the Pathak Report. While he comments that he wrote the letters of 1, Akbar Road which is the Office of the Indira Gandhi Trust headed by the President of the Congress Party of which he is the Treasurer. Shri K. Natwar Singh was so close to the President that he was chosen by her to administer the moneys in her personal trust for many-many years. Do you think she would not be aware of his goings on from her own trust?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have made very strong points.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I want five minutes more.

MR. SPEAKER: Hold patience for five minutes more.

[*Translation*]

Please speak, please continue.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Another omission by the Pathak Committee is looking into the ownership of

Masefield AG. Whatever is known about the company is through the deposition of Aditya Khanna. Maybe the company is through the deposition of Aditya Khanna. Maybe the main money making conduit that should be looked at is not Natwar Singh but Masefield which, according to some information, may be owned by a Congress MLA's family. Andaleeb Sehgal and Nick Swan went. ...(*Interruptions*)

Listen to the evidence. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: She has agreed. If some reference is made which is not in the report, then that need not be contained. That we will find out.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If it is not in the Report, it will be omitted.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Why do you not investigate it now? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: She has made a very good research.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You show me the Report where it is mentioned that Masefield AG is owned by a Congress MLA's family. You tell me from the Report. We are discussing the Report, and not her personal knowledge and matters. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. You have to speak. Please do not get exhausted. You will be called to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Shri Jaiprakash, please sit down. Nothing is going on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you yourself agreed that whatever you are saying is based on the Report. If it is not based on the Report, then it will be omitted. You have to take that responsibility. Do not say anything by your inference only.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I have clearly said that this is an omission made by the Pathak Inquiry. Now, how do I infer this? Sir, later on you can decide but please listen.

Andaleeb Sehgal and Nick Swan went to Iraq to execute the contract. Nick Swan was a conduit of Aditya Khanna by Justice Pathak's own writing but he is also an employee of Masfield AG. This link has been ignored by Justice Pathak and I am sure that if the Enforcement Department were to open this can of worms, they would reach the truth that Justice Pathak left undone.

The amount of money made by Hamdaan Exports is but a fraction of the amount of money made by Masfield AG by selling the oil in the open market. If the Pathak Report had investigated the link between the Congress Party and Masfield AG for which the conduits are Aditya and Vipin Khanna, who, Mr. Anil Matherani said that he introduced to the Congress President and his son.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, please do not bring personal knowledge.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want any debate, then the whole speech will be expunged. If you do not allow the reply to be given, then the whole speech will be expunged. Please sit down. Give an opportunity for them to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am controlling the House. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb her.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let Shrimati Maneka Gandhi to speak. I have allowed one of the members from your party. Why are you disturbing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I am about to wind up. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Unless each Party allows others to speak, I do not know what will remain of the speech because it is not fair. Allegations are made. If others are not allowed to reply to them, that will not be fair, and that speech cannot remain.

Therefore, Madam, you please continue your speech and conclude as soon as possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit patiently. Please let the Speaker do his work.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, what I have said is that Justice Pathak was asked to look into the veracity of the Volcker Report. By ignoring Masfield's role in it, he has potentially left a much bigger can of worms unopened.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Anil Matherani—who is an eyewitness to the business transacted by Natwar Singh, Jagat and Andaleeb at Baghdad from where they later got oil vouchers and Amman where they paid

*Not recorded.

kickbacks out of their gains to Saddam, which is what Justice Pathak says himself—asserts that Natwar Singh and Congress party, and I quote him, were 'one and the same', in the oil allocation list. He says, it is 'hogwash' that Natwar and Congress did not know that their names figured in the allottees' list.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it in the Report?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, it is not in the Report.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Then, it cannot go like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is Aniel Matherani's statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: She cannot refer to somebody's statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I can, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 3. It is outside the proceedings.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: It is not outside the proceedings ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Manekaji, please come to your next point.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Aniel Matherani is a witness.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: But he has not said so.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: These are my charges that Mr. Pathak ignored.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken it up.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. She can look after herself. She is very competent.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Aniel Matherani, Sir, was a witness. You can expunge whatever you deem fit. But he was a witness here... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is, what he may have said outside, in the newspaper, cannot come here.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: No, Sir. That has also figured in this House here... (*Interruptions*) I am sorry, Aniel Matherani thing also figured here, and what I am doing today has come before in Parliament, when he gave this report to the *India Today*. He has not denied what he said it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. Very well, what he has said in the *India Today* is not relevant here.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : That is also on Parliament's record...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why can he not be quoted?(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra sahib, what is this?

[*English*]

She is competent to look after herself.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There was a whole conspiracy, should it remain there? ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, you cannot cover up your sins. Do not try to bully us ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will see to this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thousands of statements have been made against your leader outside. Should they be part of the proceedings?(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go no record except Shrimati Maneka Gandhi's speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak, otherwise somebody also will comment

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dushyant Singh, do not be too clever. You are trying to be too clever today. Do not dictate to the Chair.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I have only one submission to make. The hon. Member is going to conclude her speech. Then, our speaker would also speak. If there is an attempt not to listen to others, then her entire speech may be expunged ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide. It is not for him to decide. Please sit down.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir these people are not allowing over member to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But I am allowing. Please sit down right now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Mr. Ananth Kumar. You are a senior Member. I have to decide whom to allow and not to allow. I have asked her to continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : They are threatening to get whole of the speech expunged.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Who is to decide? I have to decide.

As you are sometimes threatening me, he is also threatening me.

Now, let her conclude her speech. Kindly take your seat.

Manekaji, please conclude now. Your time is over. Your time is more than over, rather. I admire your thorough research.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Thank you Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: But please, remain within the bounds of the Report so that there is no disruption.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am, Sir. I am remaining within the bounds. So. I have only quoted all the witnesses in that.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go to *India Today*.

[Translation]

Malhotraji, please sit down. I am speaking to him. Why are you making interruptions.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : *India Today* is very relevant to this. As a lawyer, you would know that we have to take materials ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have forgotten law after sitting here.

[Translation]

Please sit down and let the Speaker do his job.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: But I hope you have not because it calls for scanner.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very-very fortunate for us that you never became a lawyer. Otherwise, you should have been finished.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I was hoping that my son would become one. Unfortunately, he is going to politics.

MR. SPEAKER: My best wishes to him. But I am sure such an angry mother would not help him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Convey my best wishes to him.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I will ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): He cannot pass personal comments about her family ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you shouting? Nothing is being recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sangita ji, please sit down. Nobody is addressing the chair.

[*English*]

You should have a very handsome Speaker. Then you will look at the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Oh, you are not able to see. Still you should see. Please look a little bit at the chair ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: That will not be truly worthy of somebody of Mr. Lalu Prasad's Party.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do that. That is not be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): That is why the Woman's Reservation Bill is not being introduced. If it happens so. There will be so many women members that the House will not be able to transact its business ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It will do even better.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Gandhi, though there is sufficient provocation, I would request you that you do not widen the scope.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I am already done. The Pathak Inquiry finds that the former External Affairs Minister, Natwar Singh, and his son Jagat Singh misused their positions. But it holds that no money was transferred to them. Then, what exactly was the motivation for the father-son duo? Why were they exerting themselves going up and down? If they were not making money, if their relatives were not making money and if nobody was making money, were they doing national service for their Party?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Instead of being pained that his name is involved in the deal, the former Minister is very happy that he stands 'vindicated'. What is he saying as his vindication? He says: "I have not done anything in Iraq without the knowledge of Sonia Gandhi. Not even a leaf moves in the Congress without Mrs. Gandhi's knowledge." That is what he has said. We have not said this.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not a Member of this House. You cannot deal with it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: He has said this in the Upper House. He has said this to the Press. He has said it in the Upper House as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not refer to them.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: The amount found to have been*by the friends and relative of Natwar Singh is a very small fraction of the money realised from the vouchers.

MR. SPEAKER: That word will not be recorded.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Where did the rest go? Perhaps, did it go to the HSBC Bank in Hong Kong. Or did it go to the bank in Turin that Mr. Fernandes referred to? Maybe, they will know.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Minister of your Party is speaking. Why are you disturbing him?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a funny thing.

Shri Kapil Sibal to speak now.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, rise to participate in this debate on the Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority. I have to say this that for us it is a sad day, a sad day because an individual who still is a member of the Congress Party, was authorised to lead a delegation on a goodwill mission to Iraq. There was a reference by an independent Authority, namely Paul A. Volcker, the ex-Chairman of the Federal Reserve who gave a report on the Iraq Oil-for-food programme and the name of Natwar Singh and the Congress Party appeared in an annexure to the fifth Report. Sir, this is a matter of great concern to us. That is why, I say without much ado, because I remember this was some time in October, 2005 that the revelations were made public and, I think, it was on November 7, 2005 when we decided to set up a Committee. The Report of that Committee now is before us. I think never in the history of this country has a Report been furnished so quickly, without granting a number of extensions(Interruptions) Madam, I did not interfere when you were speaking(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If there was unauthorised intervention by Mr. Kapil Sibal, I am sure he is not your idol. Do not follow him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kapil Sibal, you carry on.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I give my solemn assurance to this House that I will try my very best not to move outside the four corners of this Report, not to make any allegations against anybody. But I do request hon. Members to listen to the facts, not figments of somebody else's imagination and then please appreciate the facts as I place them in the context of what the findings of the Pathak Authority are. I would request that I be given that opportunity to do that this evening.

Sir, there are three players in this scenario of the entire Oil-for-food programme in the context of the Pathak Authority Report. The one set of players is Andaleeb

Sehgal, Jamil Zaidi and Asad Khan. The other set of players is Aditya Khanna, George Kurmi and Nick Swan. The third set of players is Jagat Singh and Natwar Singh(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you say he is a Congressman or not a Congressman? Your running commentary will not make him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Now, Sir, the whole thing started some time, and that is what the Pathak Authority says, I do not say that, some time in November-December, 2000 in respect of a firm called IndRuss. Incidentally IndRuss stands for short of India and short of Russia. The two players in IndRuss were Andaleeb Sehgal and Aditya Khanna. The Pathak Authority finds that they were partners in IndRuss. This company, IndRuss, was in the business of doing business in Russia. But, apparently, that business venture failed. No business was done and they decided to start doing business in Iraq and their intention was to start doing business in food and things relating to food.

So, the Pathak Authority said that one Jamil Zaidi knew Andaleeb Sehgal. They got together Jamil told Andaleeb -"Look, I can actually help you do business in Iraq'(Interruptions) And a friend of theirs, Asad Khan, who was known to Andaleeb Sehgal got together.

This is not the finding of the Pathak Authority that either Jamil Zaidi is presently a Congressman or Asad Khan is a Congressman. It is not a finding. I will stand corrected if she says so(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Mr. Zaidi is a Member of the Congress Party....(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : It is not a finding in the Pathak Authority(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kapil Sibal, do not respond to that. That is not being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): How can he say that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You just cannot make allegations like this without notice, without following the proper procedure. You are very senior Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have been saying since long that Pathak report is a cover up, a fraud ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you go on speaking and speaking? Are there no rules and regulations ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You cannot say this in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Jamil Zaidi told Andaleeb Sehgal: "Look, I have got good relations with somebody in Delhi and I will introduce you to him and let us start doing business in Iraq." At that point in time, Andaleeb Sehgal met with Jamil, met with Asad and they all decided to do that. Aditya Khanna was already a 50 per cent partner in IndRuss. So, andaleeb Sehgal got in touch with Aditya Khanna and told Aditya Khanna 'we want to do business in Iraq. Now to do business in Iraq, we need actually a company, which is registered under the UN programme with the authorities in the United Nations, who can actually enter into a contract. Do you have any connections in that regard?' At that point, Aditya Khanna got in touch with George Curmi, who in turn got in touch with Nick Swan. Nick Swan happens to be a representative of Masfield. So, this connection between IndRuss and Aditya Khanna and the connection with Masfield is established by the Pathak Authority in the facts that I have recited just now.

Once that happened, they said: "we cannot get allocations. How do we get the allocations?" So, at that point in time, Jamil suggested that they should get in touch with Jagat Singh—that is what the Pathak Authority has said—and maybe use the good offices of his father to get the allocations ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying nothing beyond the Pathak Authority. That is what happened.

At that point in time, a Delegation was going in January, 2001 to Iraq, which was a goodwill mission sent by the Congress Party. The Pathak Authority says that there were only four members in that Delegation. The finding of the Pathak Authority is that the other two people who accompanied the Delegation were not part of the official delegation. It is the finding of the Pathak Authority. That Delegation was supposed to go to Iraq on January 9, 2001. Unfortunately, that got postponed. So, ultimately, they all reached Amman on January 19, 2001. January 20 was Saturday and January 21 was Sunday. On January 22, 2001, a meeting took place among three persons only ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, can I seek a clarification?

MR. SPEAKER: Unless he yields, I cannot allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has not yielded.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Shri Dasgupta, I did not interrupt you. There have been said certain things in this House outside the Pathak Authority. The nation must know what the facts are ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded. He has not yielded. I will not allow this.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I did not deny that, but that is not part of the Pathak Authority Report ...*(Interruptions)* Pathak Authority Report says that there were only three members present ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Even senior Members of the House have become so impatient that they do not have the patience to hear other hon. Member's speech. The hon. Member who is actually on his legs, unless he yields, you know very well that you cannot just go on putting questions ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are asking not to cover it up.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you have spoken a number of times ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Again, this is part of the Pathak Authority Report, not what I have said. Three members went and met the Oil Minister of Iraq. No member of the Congress Delegation other than Shri Natwar Singh, who was the leader, was there at that meeting on January 22, 2001, which was a Monday. Who were the other two along with Shri Natwar Singh? They were Andaleeb Sehgal and Jagat Singh. Now a meeting took place.

Naturally, we do not know, because the only persons who know what transpired in the meeting were Jagat Singh, Andaleeb Sehgal and Natwar Singh. Unless they tell us what transpired in the meeting, we cannot guess what happened, but we know the circumstances that happened thereafter. On January 22, when this meeting took place, the very next day—this is very important—Jagat Singh and Andaleeb Sehgal went to the office of SOMO, State Oil Marketing Organisation. On 23rd, something happened between Jagat Singh and Andaleeb Sehgal. There is no member of the Congress Delegation there and they met SOMO.

19.00 hrs.

They met the Director of SOMO. One Saddam Zibu Hassan. They met him, and something transpired. We do not know what transpired, but we do know that on January 24, they came to Amman. On January 25, 2001, they came back to New Delhi. On January 25, 2001, a very interesting thing happens and that is that a Fax was sent by Andaleeb Sehgal to SOMO. That Fax states the following. I will read from page 36 of the Pathak Inquiry Authority Report. It says:

"The Congress delegation and Jagat Singh and Andaleeb Sehgal returned from Amman to India on January 25 (as I have said). Immediately upon their arrival, Sehgal sends a Fax to SOMO wherein he referred to the meeting which was held on January 23 in the office of SOMO regarding allocation of two million barrels of crude

oil. In the said letter which was written on the letterhead of Hamadaan Exports, a partnership firm in which Sehgal was a partner, it was stated that Shri Sehgal would be providing SOMO with the following documents."

Now, the first document is very important; that is at the heart of this controversy. One, an authorisation letter from the leader of the Indian Delegation to Andaleeb Sehgal of Hamadaan Exports to lift or negotiate the allocation from SOMO. So, the condition that was imposed by SOMO in the meeting between Andaleeb Sehgal, Jagat Singh and SOMO on January 23 was 'that we cannot give you an allocation till you get a letter from the leader of the Delegation.' ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: From the leader of the Congress Party.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: They wanted an authorisation letter from the leader of the Indian Delegation to Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. This is the Fax, Madam. I am not reading outside the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Gandhi, he is saying that they wanted a letter from the leader of the Indian Delegation.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Now, the moment this happens on January 25, on January 26 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): That was not an Indian Delegation, but that was a Congress Delegation ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: On January 26, another very interesting event takes place. As I told you, Nick Swan was a representative of Masefield. Nick Swan writes a letter to SOMO just the next day saying 'please give me a visa because I and Andaleeb Sehgal want to come to Iraq to get the allocation of oil.'

Now, see the events ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? You cannot dictate what he will read.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : He is leaving out words from the so-called report ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, you cannot dictate. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Please tell me which words I have left out. She is getting agitated because she has not told the correct facts to the people of this country. Do not get agitated ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Gandhi, this is not fair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Andaleeb Sehgal could not have contacted Masefield in one day. If Andaleeb Sehgal sent a Fax to SOMO on 25th, he could not have contacted Masefield. Obviously, this was something that was pre-decided. That is exactly what the Pathak Inquiry Authority Report says that one month earlier when these conversations took place, it was pre-decided as to how the allocation was to come. Therefore, on January 26, Nick Swan writes a letter to SOMO saying 'please allow me to get a visa so that I can come to Iraq.'

Now, on January 30, very conveniently, Shri Natwar Singh writes a letter consistent with the requirement of SOMO, which was set out on January 25. What does that letter state? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not note down any running commentaries.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am reading from page 31 of the Report.

"He was present when I called on you on January 22, 2001 (no member of the Congress Delegation was present) at your office in Baghdad."

"He is well-known to me (Shri Andaleeb Sehgal is well-known to me) for many years and so is the Company he owns. He enjoys my full support and confidence. I would appreciate you giving him your full assistance and cooperation. May I take this opportunity to thank you for receiving me and giving me so much of your time out of your busy schedule? This was written on January 30th. Why was that written? It was written because a meeting took place on January 22. No Member of the Congress Party was present ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[*English*]

You cannot go on speaking. You are putting running questions to him. What is all this going on? Please do not do that. Please restrain yourself.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Nobody is going to believe you after I have spoken in the House.

On January 30th this letter was written. The reason why Shri Andaleeb Sehgal along with Shri Jagat Singh was there on January 22 is reflected by Shri Natwar Singh's letter on April 26, 2001. It is so stated in that letter. I would come to that letter later. Immediately once this letter was written on February 3, Shri Andaleeb Sehgal sent a FAX.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You can walk out if you feel any inconvenience here ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, no, Shrimati Gandhi, I will not allow you to speak. You have made your point. He is entitled to make his points. I am sorry. You are not here to rectify him in every minute.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This letter was ultimately given to SOMO by Shri Andaleeb Sehgal on February 8, 2001 the contract took place between SOMO and Masefield because by this time the representative of Masefield was in Iraq. So, the whole process starts on January 22 and ends with grant of contract on February 11, 2001. No Member of the Congress delegation other than Shri Natwar Singh was involved. That was the finding of the Pathak Authority and there is not an iota of evidence that in any of these meetings the Congress delegation was there. I stand challenged if anybody in this House says otherwise.

Now, what is the deal? Let me tell you that also. It is very important. The deal is, for what price a barrel of oil could be sold was fixed by the United Nations under

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

the Oil for Food Programme. The barrel at which Iraq could sell its oil—Iraq could sell its oil only to a company registered in the United Nations. It could not sell oil to anybody else. So, Hamdaan Exports could not have purchased the oil and that is why they are called non-contractual beneficiaries. The contractual beneficiary is Masfield. That is why the reference in the United Nations Report of Paul Volcker is that Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party are the non-contractual beneficiaries. I am only trying to explain what that means. What that meant was, when the Oil Minister met with Shri Andaleeb Sehgal, obviously the price of the barrel of oil was fixed by the United Nations. He could not sell for more than 18 to 20 dollars but in-between have to make money. So, Hamdaan Exports Limited was the company which was incorporated in the British Virgin Island and that company was to get the commission. It is because the contract says that out of every barrel of oil that is sold 30 cents would be given to Hamdaan.

MR. SPEAKER: Paise or cents?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: About 30 cents would be given to Hamdaan. This is the finding of the Pathak Authority and not what I am saying. Out of these 30 cents, 25 cents would be the surcharge which would go into an account nominated by SOMO and 5 cents would be the commission that Shri Andaleeb Sehgal and Shri Aditya Khanna would earn. The Pathak Report also says that out of 5 cents, one cent would go to Shri Aditya Khanna and four cents would go to Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. That was the distribution. Congress was not involved there. Nobody has ever said so. There is no document that says so. Of course, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi says so. Only she says so and nobody else. Even Mr. Natwar Singh does not say so. Only Shrimati Maneka Gandhi says so and we must believe her because she said so ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Sibal's observations are to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Now what happens is that out of 30 cents, five cents go to Mr. Andaleeb and Mr. Aditya Khanna and 25 cents go for surcharge. But many of these companies including Masfield are not companies that would actually pick up oil because these are companies those are registered under the UN Oil-for-Food

*Not recorded.

Programme. They do not have companies which can pick up the oil because that will be picked up by larger companies. There were five such companies then operating under the Oil-for-Food Programme. One of those companies was called Vitol. Now in turn, Masfield assigned this contract to Vitol and Masfield got another five cents on top of that. So who was making money? The surcharge goes to Iraq, *i.e.*, 25 cents, five cents go to Mr. Andaleeb and Mr. Aditya Khanna and five cents go to Masfield. Then the oil is picked up and five cents go to Masfield ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She is entitled to go.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Then the oil sold in the international market and the price that it was sold at in the international market at that time was around 40 dollars. So what was picked up by Vitol at 20 dollars, people earned a commission in between and the person who made the money was a company like Vitol, which has nothing again to do with the Congress Party. These are again findings of the Pathak Authority. Now Vitol therefore made the money under the first contract.

Now a question arose that Mr. Natwar Singh was mentioned. How was he mentioned? It was because when an allocation is made to Hamdaan Exports, Hamdaan has to give an undertaking to SOMO that they will pay the guaranteed amount of the surcharge. That undertaking was given to SOMO. At that time, SOMO is to receive 10 per cent of the total allocation, that SOMO was to receive within 30 days of the opening of the bill of lading, the balance amount of the surcharge to be paid. All that was done and the total amount that went as a commission to Mr. Aditya Khanna and to Mr. Andaleeb Sehgal which was given to INDRUS under this contract was around 96,000 dollars. Of the 96,000 dollars, 7,000 dollars were sent to Sehgal Consultants in Delhi and 89,000 dollars were transferred from INDRUS to an account in Switzerland called Cobourg. Of that 89,000 dollars which were transferred to Cobourg, 40,000 dollars in one tranche and 3,000 and odd dollars in another tranche were sent to Hamdaan Exports in India and the balance 46,000 dollars remained in the Cobourg account ...*(Interruptions)*. I am only stating what the Pathak Authority said.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibal, you address the Chair.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am saying nothing outside the report. If I do, please correct me. Now that is how 96,000 dollars were dealt with. In the meantime, while this contract was being completed, negotiations under the second contract, *i.e.*, M/9/120 were gone into and under that contract again the beneficiary is Mr. Andaleeb Sehgal and

Mr. Aditya Khanna. Unfortunately, that contract did not fructify but an advance of 65,000 dollars were paid to SOMO as surcharge even under that contract.

Then came the third contract, *i.e.*, M/10/57. In terms of the third contract, the story is even more interesting.

Under the third contract, the negotiations started some time in August. What happened was that sometime in the end of July, Shri Andaleeb Saigal wrote to SOMO asking for a date saying that he would like to come to Iraq and that he would like to negotiate the third contract. On July 30, 2001 M/s Masfield wrote to SOMO saying that this time Shri Andaleeb Saigal will represent M/s Masfield. Since Shri Andaleeb Saigal was representing M/s Hamdaan Exports. So, Shri Andaleeb Saigal took one Asad Khan from India to Iraq. Asad Khan signed on behalf of M/s Masfield somebody had to do the documentation on behalf of M/s Hamdaan Exports and Andaleeb Saigal signed on behalf of M/s Masfield. The second contract was entered into.

Sir, I would like to point out to you that this contract was entered into on August 21, 2001. It was for one million barrel of Kirkut crude oil. The first contract, that is, M/7/54 was for two million dollars of Basra oil. This was for one million barrel of Kirkut crude oil.

Sir, yet another letter was written on August 16 by Shri Natwar Singh. What did that letter say? I would only like to read the relevant lines of that letter. After line 4 of that letter it read, "I am sending this letter with Shri Andaleeb Saigal who has come to Baghdad to continue the co-operation extended by yourself". Again, no member of the Congress Party was involved; no member of the Congress official delegation was involved; no member of the Congress delegation met any of these officials *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Shri Natwar Singh himself belonged to the Congress party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he say that? You cannot compel anybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am saying other than Shri Natwar Singh. I have already said about Shri Natwar Singh...*(Interruption)* He was the lynchpin. I have said it.

*Not recorded.

That is why I started by saying that it is a very sad day for the Congress Party. It is a sad day for the Congress Party because he is an individual who had a long association with the Congress Party. It is unfortunate that as a leader of a delegation sent on a goodwill mission used his offices as a leader of the delegation on a goodwill mission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He misused his offices...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: He used it for the purpose of benefiting members of his family and a cousin of his son. That is the whole case. There is nothing short of it; there is nothing more than that. They want to make more out of it because they find the Congress Party behind everything.

Sir, for example, I remember when we saw a gentleman, who was the President of the BJP, take money on camera, I never said Vajpayeeji was involved. I never said so. I did not believe that either. He may have been prosecuted; he may have gone to jail; he may have got bail. But we never accused the BJP of that. They should have been sad about it. We have set up an inquiry, but they chose not to set up an enquiry, instead they questioned the tapes. Please look at the difference in the way we deal with our people. This is the sad part...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I want to read out to you another letter dated April 26 *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has admitted that. He is saying it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, please turn to page 56 of the Report. This will tell you as to who was present in the January 22 meeting. It is because the letter of 30th January only says that Shri Andaleeb Saigal was present. But this letter of April 26 will tell you who else was present. This is at page page 56. I am only quoting the relevant portion. It says:

"I am sending this letter with my son Shri Jagat Singh who is the General-Secretary of the youth wing of the Congress Party. He and Shri Andaleeb Saigal were with me when I called on you about three months ago."

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

There were three people involved. In other words, this conversation with SOMO, this deal with SOMO, this political allocation of oil takes place in the knowledge of only three persons, namely, Shri Natwar Singh, Shri Jagat Singh and Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. That is why, Pathak Authority says that there seems to be no other person involved in this political allocation. There is no evidence that is given. After all, why do we have judges and why do we have authorities? Why do we repose confidence in them? It is because if we give it to Members of Parliament, ...**

MR. SPEAKER: No. I have deleted it.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am sorry. I have taken it back
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has withdrawn it. Leave it. I have expunged it. Then why are you again raising it? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I was only saying that the reason why we have confidence in judges is because they have experience.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes, there should be introspection on all sides. It is very easy to throw mud. There should be introspection on what we are doing in the House.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Basically, they have huge experience. He had been a judge of the International Court of Justice and he had been the Chief Justice of India. He has the training to sift facts, to analyse facts and to come to conclusions. That is why, we repose confidence in these authorities. Otherwise, any of us could do that job. But that is not the purpose. The purpose is to give the responsibility of an inquiry to a judicial authority who could apply his judicial mind and come to conclusions. You may or may not agree with the conclusions. That is a separate issue which is why we are debating it here. That is why I am saying from the record here that is no reason to believe that any member of the Congress Party who was part of the official delegation other than Shri Natwar Singh was involved in these transactions and that is exactly what the Pathak Authority has held.

There was one problem that arose. What was that problem? When the third contract was entered into, that is M/10/57, at the time when the allocation was made on 21st August, the allocation was made ultimately after the documentation was complete. Then the Executive Director

of SOMO wrote to the Minister in charge, that is, the Oil Minister, Shri Amir Rasheed. He sought his approval. In the letter of 21st August that the Director wrote to Shri Amir Rasheed, this is what he says. This is why the name of the Congress Party was dragged into this controversy. In page 67, he sought: "It remains to be stated that on 21st August, the Executive Director, SOMO, wrote to Iraqi Oil Minister seeking the approval of one million barrel of Kirkut oil under contract M/10/57 for the benefit of the Indian Congress Party."

Now, the Pathak Authority asks itself a question. Why was the name of the Congress Party mentioned here? Then the Pathak Authority says that there is no document on record to show any involvement of the Congress. There is nothing to show that the Congress Party or any of its delegates were at the meeting of 22nd January. Shri Andaleeb Sehgal does not belong to the Congress Party. Shri Aditya Khanna does not belong to the Congress Party. Shri Asad Khan does not belong to the Congress Party. Shri Jamil Saidi is not a member of the Congress Party ... *(Interruptions)* He was. I am myself saying it. But he is not a member of the Congress Party. So, these people were all doing business. They have set up companies. The Congress Party is not a shareholder in any of these companies. So, Justice Pathak says that obviously the Iraqi authorities were under the impression that as long as you get the letter of recommendation for Shri Natwar Singh, the allocation should be made. So, obviously, this allocation also where the Congress Party is mentioned in the document, that is, the letter of 21st August, was done at the instance of Shri Natwar Singh and the Congress Party is not involved at all in the meeting.

In paragraph 15.9, this is what the Pathak Authority says: "How the name of the Indian Congress Party came to be mentioned in this letter is not known. And rightly so, however, what appears to be the reason is that Shri Natwar Singh and Shri Jagat Singh so projected this that the Iraqi authorities formed an impression that Shri Natwar Singh and Shri Jagat Singh were representatives of the Congress Party."

The Pathak Authority has absolutely no evidence whatsoever to link the Congress Party to the transactions discussed in its Report, except for the fact that Shri Natwar Singh and Shri Jagat Singh belong to the Indian National Congress. There is not a shred of evidence to link the Congress Party to the said transactions. The Inquiry Authority believes, upon examination of all the documents and materials which exist before it, that no wrong doing can be attributed to the Congress Party. I ask this House: Can anybody differ with this conclusion? Can anybody differ with this? Therefore, it is quite clear that the Congress Party is not involved.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Shri Natwar Singh could have said that the Congress Party is involved in. He does not say so. Who is the person who best knows the facts? It is Shri Natwar Singh ...*(Interruptions)* He gave an affidavit ... *(Interruptions)* The people who know the facts are three people. The three people who know the facts are Shri Natwar Singh, Shri Jagat Singh and Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. None of them talk of the Congress Party. These are the only three players. There is no fourth player in the scenario ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Jamil Saidi never went to the meeting of January 22. Shri Jamil Saidi never wrote any of those letters. The letters were all written for Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. Therefore, those who are part of the transactions, whether they name the Congress Party or not is irrelevant. Political parties may name the Congress Party for whatever motives they might have. But we are on a Report of an Authority set up by this House for the purposes of ascertaining the facts.

Now, one can say or argue that since Shri Natwar Singh was the leader of the delegation, obviously the Congress Party was also involved. But see what Shri Natwar Singh said to the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority. When he was shown the letter of January 30, what did he say? First, he said: "No, no letter was written by me." Then he was shown the signatures. Then he said, "Signatures are forged." Then he said, "No, they are genuine. But the contents have not been written by me." Now, what do we do? The man who knows all the facts does not tell us the facts. On the facts that are in existence, he had contradictory versions, in respect of each letter. Before the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority he said that Shri Andaleeb Sehgal was not his cousin. But unfortunately the facts are staring him in the face. That why we must go by what the Report says.

Let me go to the other aspect. What has happened to the money trail? As far as Shri Natwar Singh's contract, that is M/7/54 is concerned, the moneys went to the INDRUS account contract. I have already shown you where the money ultimately went. As far as the second contract is concerned, do you know who actually signed the contract? I am reading at page 67. Who signed the second contract? It is in para 15.7. Contract no. M/10/57 was entered into on August 21 for one million barrel of Kirkut oil and was signed by Shri Sehgal on behalf of Masfield AG. It was not on behalf of the Congress Party. The contract itself was signed by Shri Andaleeb Sehgal. Shri Andaleeb Sehgal has nothing to do with the Congress Party. So, how can anybody say that the Congress Party was the beneficiary of this contract? This is the finding of the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority. I do not say it myself. Now, where did the money go? What was the amount of money that came under this contract? The amount of money that came under this contract was 50,000 dollars. Where did that amount go? Part of that amount went to Shri Andaleeb Sehgal and part of that

amount went to Shri Aditya Khanna. So, the contract was signed by Shri Andaleeb Sehgal and the moneys were received by Shri Aditya Khanna and Shri Andaleeb Sehgal and not by the Congress Party. This is proved by the Inquiry Authority. I am not saying it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not respond to that. Nothing to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I have known of treasures who have received monies and not given receipt. We know of those treasures also. We all know of those treasurers. He got bail day before yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am addressing. I am only stating a fact that we all know about. Yes, we know of such treasurers also. Now, the fact of the matter is that the Congress Party was also investigated. It is not that the Congress Party was not investigated. If you look at the Justice Pathak Authority, the Congress Party was called, the treasurer of the Congress Party was called as a witness. Please see at page 12 and you will find all the names. People who were in the delegation were called. Shri P. Shiv Shankar was called, Shri A. R. Antulay was called, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala was called, who had allegedly written that letter and Shri Moti Lal Vohra was called on June 1, 2006. A notice was given to the Congress Party to come and explain. In none of the affidavits and in none of the documents, the name of the Congress Party was mentioned. So, the obvious and fair inference is that the Congress Party, neither the trail of money, which went under the third contract to Andaleeb Sehgal and Aditya Khanna, nor the Signing of the contract, nor the involvement of any Congressman other than Shri Natwar Singh and his son, have been shown to have been proved by the Justice Pathak Authority. That is why, the Pathak Authority says because of the fact that they all got together some time in November-December, 2000 to hatch this particular scheme to make money, ultimately led to the three letters being written, viz., January 30th, April 26th and August 16 by Shri Natwar Singh himself, handed over either to Andaleeb Sehgal or his son for the benefit of the Iraqi Oil Minister to get the political allocations. The other beneficiaries were Masfield which has nothing to do with Congress, Vitol which has nothing to do with Congress, Hamdaan Exports which has nothing to do with Congress, Hamdaan Exports Limited which has nothing to do with Congress,

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

INDRUS which has nothing to do with Congress. So, no company, no recipient, no beneficiary and no other Congressman was involved.

Now, the question remains that there is an amount of US \$ 32,000 which is with INDRUS which has not been investigated. There is also an amount of US \$ 46,000 which is lying in Cobourg, which is a London Account. Now, we have to find out and I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance will do the needful ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are responding to them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : The Authority finds that. As I said, throughout the course of my intervention, I have not stated any fact outside the findings of the Authority.

Now, this aspect has to be investigated who was the beneficiary of that US \$ 32,000 and who was the beneficiary of the US \$ 46,000 which is the Cobourg amount. Now, that will be investigated and I am sure it is being investigated. Once it is investigated, that also will be revealed to the public at the appropriate stage. So, why should anybody, at this stage, only for getting some headlines in newspapers make allegations? It is unfortunate. We never make allegations like this against anybody.

I, in fact, want to congratulate and I say so on record, the Leader of my Party, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who despite the long association with Shri Natwar Singh, rose above that association and directed an inquiry to be held and said, whoever is guilty will be punished. This kind of morality and these kind of ethical standards she has displayed even earlier. But it shows that Party leaders can rise above friendship, can rise above petty politics and do the right thing and that exactly what has happened. I also want to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister of India for having set up this inquiry as quickly as possible. At the end of October, the revelations were made and on 7th November, the inquiry was set up ...*(Interruptions)* He kept him out of the Office. That shows the standards that the Congress Party adopts when it deals with its own people who may have been involved in some kind of controversy.

There is a famous saying by Faber: "For right is right, since God is God for right, the day must win, to doubt it would be disloyalty, to falter would be sin".

Please do not falter. The Pathak Authority has done the right thing. Accept the report. Do not make political capital about an issue which affects the entire polity of this country. We have to see how we should rise above our petty self-interest to serve the larger cause of the public for which we are here. I therefore commend this report to the House.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, a slightly peaceful atmosphere has prevailed now otherwise the way the personal charges and countercharges were being leveled over the Justice Pathak Report and the Action Take Report thereon made me felt that there existed no other problem other than this in our country. We had discussions over the Volcker Report and the Government constituted the Enquiry Authority and at present we find how we divert from the entire gamut of issues and view it from a narrow consideration. We became oblivious of UN Sanctions imposed on Iraq in August, 1990 and also forgot the Oil-For-Food Programme. We had stated at that time also and are reiterating it even today. We had demanded the Government to hold investigations into the Indian entities there while you are constituting a Commission of Enquiry. But I regret to say that even after the assurance of the Minister given in this regard only two entries—m/09/54 and M/10/57 were mentioned regarding the non-contractual beneficiaries when the terms of reference of the Commission were decided while if we see the page no-2 in the Pathak Report we find a mention of table d-3 in the upper line. This Report consists of 60 pages and I have got all the Tables. We observe that Justice Pathak States at page no 2 regarding the entries no. 57 and 54 of the Report in the following words:

[English]

"Among them. Table-3 contained the following entries under the head: "Summary of Oil Sales by Non-Contractual Beneficiary".

[Translation]

While there are four entries, the Government have responded to only two entries and there is a mention regarding the Indian Congress Party and the entry number M/10/57 appearing table NO-3 on page no-25. There is an entry no-M/10/57 on page No. 50 regarding Shri Natwar Singh ji which also covered the terms of reference. Even the entry No. M/09/120 which is not under terms of reference wherein transaction has not taken place, but Justice Pathak is mentioning it as entry

number three by taking it from the Table at page 2. The Hon'ble Minister, the Government and Justice Pathak moved to page No. 60 from the page the no. 40 but they did not turn to page No. 50. In Table No. 3 at page No. 50 there is a mention of three entries M/09/35, M/10/17 and M/11/25 which are related to the Reliance Petroleum Limited. We have difficulty neither with Shri Natwar Singh nor with the Congress Party. We had sought enquiry into all the Indian entities under terms of reference. The Minister had also given assurance but we find mention of only two entities in Justice has Pathak Report while Justice Pathak also referred to an entry M-120 in his report which is not even under terms of reference.

[English]

because it is related to the person.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You have to relate this with that.

MD. SALIM: Yes. But I am not making any comment.

[Translation]

We need not be a minister of any judge when we scan the Table-3. These entries are there. They suggest that the company lifted 15.78 million Barrel of oil. All references to cents, Dollar's or Millions, Billions, Lakhs or thousands notwithstanding, it is a blot on our country's image if there has been any corruption or fault in this regard. We should see to it. I would like to have an assurance from the Government to order inquiries into all the entries M-35, M-935, M-1017, 1125 which I have mentioned. It is a matter of regret that the opposition have to raise this issue while every thing in it has been given in detailed manner. The BJP have also been keeping silent since then. They do not say anything about these entities. Perhaps it could be due to some brand of a particular company. In my view if any mistake has been committed, guilty should be punished for it and everyone should be given equal treatment in this regard ...*(Interruptions)* Dare not ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : He is talking of arrest.

MR. SPEAKER: It is okay if you say so but nobody else will speak.

MD. SALIM: I would not like to speak too much.

MR. SPEAKER: All speak well. You also speak well.

MD. SALIM: It seems we do not have time to speak on the problems of farmers. We do not discuss the issue of rising prices but this issue is being revised in such a way as if it were the biggest issue before the nation. We had stated in the very beginning that there should be enquiry in the matter and the Government have shown courage in holding the enquiry.

We congratulate Government for investigating into the matter and presenting the report alongwith it ATR when I had been in Rajya Sabha I used to ask the Government to present the report but this time the Government has promptly presented the report and ATR as well.

Our honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in his anguish had uttered something when Maneka Gandhi was speaking and perhaps he had made some allegation on her party or the leader and said that we can also say about the then Minister Shri Ram Naik. I am afraid as to whether there had been a *quite pro quo* on part of both sides that's why I am talking about reliance.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my statement is on record. There is no *quid pro quo*, there is no understanding between this side and that side. I only made a reference because there was a statement of Shri Ram Naik.

MR. SPEAKER: But there should be understanding for running the House.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: I keep all my cards on my table. I have taken my card out in apprehension that Honourable Minister may say something.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Everybody plays the cards but few people play cards efficiently.

MD. SALIM: You and me, all will play the cards and I would like to say categorically. I am not quoting the then Ambassador in Iraq, his name has appeared in this report. He had said that there is some confusion. There was no difference between the position of the Government and the political parties in Iraq at that time. He thought that it is a Government delegation. At that time Government was sleeping and it was NDA Government whenever any person or a delegation used to go to Andman or Baghdad, our ambassador used to report to the Ministry of External Affairs. Why were we waiting and whether we were waiting for the report of Volkar Committee or the UN Investigating Committee or the constitution of a Commission today people are asking as to how did it or how did it not happen and when look into the basis of that report, it seems that NDA Government was sleeping. I am saying even today that a delegation had been sent under the leadership of Ram Naikji because Manekaji was saying again and again that it was a Goodwill delegation which had met there with the Minister of oil. Why did NDA Government sent him to the Minister of oil and whether any private company had also accompanied him, we should know it because despite of not being a Minister and the Member of Parliament, Natwar Singh went as a Member of Congress delegation.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Let it be exposed ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He has not yielded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please look at the Chair. Do not look at the other hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record it.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Mr. Salim, why are you replying to them? Do not reply to him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SALIM: It is his habit. If he has objection in his name.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot take the name. Mr. Salim, you know that very well ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, we want that proper inquiry must be made and the nation should know what the then hon. Minister of Petroleum was doing there in Baghdad and who were accompanying them, who were the beneficiaries and what is the end use of money incurred in this 15.78 million barrels of oil transactions.

[Translation]

We should have known it. BJP leaders also say that we must know the truth. We must also know the truth.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Who stops you?

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you discuss with each other.

[English]

This is not method of debate. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Our party knew about it even in the past and today also.

[English]

Shri Natwar Singh went as a member of the delegation of Indian National Congress Naturally

[Translation]

It is an internal matter of Congress Party and whatever steps it takes in this regard. It is free to do it. Neither Parliament nor our party was responsible for it. But in spite of that an investigation Commission was constituted officially. But even today we say that if we send a delegation from our party, we accept the responsibility

*Not recorded.

of everything whether it is right or wrong. For example we are destroying the forests and are searching a tree. Why had the Oil for Food scheme been introduced? It was scheme introduced because people were in trouble there. USA and its allies have used these sanctions to displace Iraq and Iraq was devastated. Sanctions were imposed for six days. I said six days because today Israel has entered into Lebanon but no sanctions was imposed for one month. Sanctions had been imposed there, in August, in August, 1990 when they entered into Kuwait for six days and those sanctions were used as a political instrument.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing Pathak Committee Report.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: This was the only programme to save people. For the treatment of people, for medicine and for in that situation. Therefore, my party says categorically that calling it a misuse, is wrong. In these circumstances countries of third world will behaving great difficulties. So it is not a wrong thing if a nation provides medicines food etc to its citizens in such circumstances. No country across the world has taken Volkar Committee Report seriously except our country. I am afraid that we forgetting the facts and are leading the politics and diplomacy of our country towards such a direction where American interests are served and the interests of poor people of that country is not served. That is why at the outset only I said that many journalists, newspapers are included in entries of this table but no country of the world has taken it seriously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion will continue tomorrow.

The matter relating to special mentions may be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): I would request the Government of India's Aviation Ministry to name the upcoming 'International Airport' at Devanahalli near Bangalore as "Kempegowda—Bangalore International Airport" to honour the farmers of that area who lost their valuable thousands of Acres of agricultural land for the sake of service to the mankind.

"Nada Prabhu" Kempegowda was the founder of the capital of Karnataka today's garden city "Bangaluru" who was a visionary who planned city so well to accommodate artisans, business people, religious people, cottage industry and he also developed hundreds of lakes to preserve the cool pleasant atmosphere of the city. He also built the 4 Gopuras to restrict the city's growth beyond that border. He deserves to name the "Airport after his name and capital's name".

I also urge the Ministry to build a separate Haj Avenue to facilitate the elderly Haj yatries who has to travel 40 km from Bangalore to reach new Airport. If Haj Avenue build, they can stay overnight and happily fly to Haj.

Hope Government will consider it and act.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 23rd August 2006, at 11 a.m.

19.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 23, 2006/ Bhadra 1, 1928 (Saka).

*The speech was laid on the Table.

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