

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[Translation]

Friday, March 10, 2006/Phalguna 19, 1927 (Saka)

MR. SPEAKER : All the leaders, please be seated.

(Interruptions)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not to allow you. I will allow you. He is not a 'Super Speaker'.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. There was a grave security lapse...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not the Super Speaker. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you at 12 O' clock.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you to please cooperate. I will allow you at 12 O' clock. It is only 58 minutes from now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This is a very serious issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Wait till 12 O' clock.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of the security of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall make my observations.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for your cooperation. Q.No.282.

Bonus on Monthly Income Accounts

+

*282. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to do away with the 10% bonus on the maturity value of post office monthly income accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for reducing the effective returns on the small saving instrument of the Government;

(d) the extent to which this decision of the Government is likely to affect the small savings in the post offices; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of persons who propose to opt for the monthly income scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bonus will not be paid on the deposits made in accounts opened on or after 13.2.2006 under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme. However, deposits in accounts opened before 13.2.2006 shall continue to be eligible for bonus as hithertofore. The amendment has been made to align the effective yield on deposits under this scheme with other comparable savings instruments.

Simultaneously the rates of penalty for premature withdrawal of deposits under the POMIA Scheme have also been modified with effect from 10.2.2006. If the account is closed between 1 to 3 years from the date of opening of the account, deduction at the rate of 2% of the deposit (as against the earlier rate of 3.5%) and if the account is closed after 3 years, deduction at the rate of 1% of the deposit shall be made.

(d) and (e) POMIA is one of the small savings instruments offered by the Government. The amendments are not expected to impact the growth of small savings nor adversely affect the interest of small savers. The effective return under the POMIA scheme at 8% per annum payable monthly is still higher than returns on other comparable savings instruments. While the revised penalty rates will provide relief to the depositors who need to close their accounts before 3 years, the nominal penalty of 1% after 3 years is expected to encourage the depositors to hold their deposits till maturity.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, in the statement the hon. Minister has said that the amendments are not expected to impact the growth in small savings nor adversely affect the interest of small savers. As we all know, these post office savings, and for that matter, the small savings as a whole, is meant for small and medium income group people who are retired and people who do not have anything to depend upon. Now, with this amendment the Government had proposed firstly that the small savings will be discouraged and secondly the

income of the small saver will be less than what he used to get.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this is an attempt to totally discourage the small savings or make them pauper by giving them hardly anything.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it is neither. The small savings are being encouraged and will be encouraged. But where do the small savings go? The entire small savings has to be mandatorily borrowed by the State Governments. If 'x' thousand crores are collected from a State, that 'x' thousand crores have to be borrowed by the State Government. Having regard to the weighted cost of small savings in the NSSF over a period of time and adding a very small management cost, the cost now is 9.9 per cent. The States are being given this at 9.5 per cent and the States are protesting. The States are saying "We do not want this at 9.5 per cent. We can borrow in the market at a lower rate." I have, on the one hand, States which say "We do not want to have this money, we can borrow in the market at a lower rate" and on the other hand I have a duty to small savers that they have to be encouraged to save.

Therefore, based on recommendations of Committees we are rationalising small savings rates keeping only - and I repeat only - the senior citizens' rate at the level of 9 per cent. If the senior citizens' rate is 9 per cent, all other rates are being rationalised and after rationalisation the POMIA still has an effective return of 8.2 per cent which is higher after the senior citizens' rate.

So, POMIA still remains the most attractive small savings rate after the senior citizens' savings rate of nine per cent. There is no attempt to minimise the importance of small savings. There is no attempt to discourage small savings. In fact, it is growing at a clipping pace year after year after year. My figures show that last year the small savings increased by about 14 per cent. Therefore, Sir, let there be no apprehension. This is simply a rationalisation in order to bring small savings' effective rate around eight per cent because it is payable monthly. It is 8.2 per cent. It is still the highest rate, barring senior citizens' savings rate.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : The hon. Minister has said that this is still the highest rate available in the market. There the problem comes. Now the Government is abdicating its responsibility towards the weaker sections. In this House, we have discussed several times about the interest rate of the Provident Fund. The same is the answer 'the market rate'. The market rate is coming down and the victims of that is the weaker section. As he said, he is taking 'a little responsibility'. My appeal is to take 'a little more responsibility' and make this more attractive and help the people.

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered the same thing. An appeal is not a supplementary.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : My supplementary is whether it will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, without getting into any ideological or technical arguments, the broad approach must be to keep inflation rate low and give to the saver a rate which is higher than the inflation rate. Today, for example, in Japan, any industry can borrow at zero per cent or at the most 0.5 per cent

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Are we going to that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Effectively, we should if we have to be competitive.

Today, inflation rate is between 4 and 4.5 per cent. When inflation rate was 8 or 9 per cent, there was a justification for an interest rate on savings or bank deposits of 12 and 13 per cent. When a saver gets 12 per cent or 13 per cent, the borrower will get it at a even higher rate of 14 per cent and 15 per cent. Interest rates are declining because inflation is declining. If inflation is 4 per cent to 4.5 per cent. I submit with the greatest respect and humility, a saving rate of 8.2 per cent is quite ideal.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

through you, I would like to elicit some information from the hon'ble Minister about the decision to reduce the bonus. Has any survey been conducted to find out the amount of bonus payable to those people who invest their money in small savings? The hon'ble Minister, in his reply, has stated that the Senior Citizens are being given interest at the rate of 9%. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the definition of the Senior Citizens. On the one hand the Central Government is treating people crossing if age 60 years as Senior Citizens while on the other hand State Governments consider sometimes 62 years as the cut off age and at other times this goes up to 65 years. One should be treated as a Senior Citizen once he crosses 60 but the Ministry of Finance is not acknowledging it. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Ministry of Finance will consider the cut off age of Senior Citizens as 60 years.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is the age of a senior citizen? Whom do you consider a senior citizen?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Subject to confirming it, under senior citizen scheme, the age is 60 years.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will take a little more time. Shuri Ram Kripal Yadav.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have reduced the rate of interests under the small savings scheme. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether keeping in mind the interests of the employees, the Government propose to increase this rate in future?

MR. SPEAKER : It is one and the same thing.

[English]

Hon'ble Minister, you can reiterate your answer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I missed the Question of the hon'ble Member.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon'ble Member asked whether you would increase the rate of interest.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that as a result of reducing the rate of interest under the small savings scheme, the common people are facing a lots of difficulties. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you should, at least, pay attention to Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Would he consider it so that the employees who deposit a particular sum under the small savings schemes are not deprived of these benefits? is he contemplating any step in regard threats.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Will out increase the interest rate?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, as I explained, the effective rate for senior citizens comes to 9.1 per cent as the interest is payable quarterly. On the other hand, the effective rate on the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme comes to 8.2 per cent because the interest rate is payable monthly. In my view, and my submission, these two interest rates are attractive rates given the rate of inflation. Nobody wishes inflation to rise. If inflation remains between 4 per cent and 4.5 per cent or between 4.5 per cent and 5 per cent, and effective rate of return remains at 8.2 per cent for POMIA Scheme and 9.1 per cent for senior citizens – they are attractive rates – then there is no proposal to reconsider them now.

[Translation]

India-Pakistan Telecommunication Links

+

*283. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Pakistan in regard to the telecommunication links;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether security aspects have also been taken into account while signing the agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The various International long distance service providers are free to enter into agreements with service providers of other countries to provide international long distance services.

M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL), M/s. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and M/s Bharti Tele Ventures Ltd. have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) for the establishment of a telecommunication link deploying Terrestrial Optical Fibre Cable System between India and Pakistan. However, the links have so far not been established.

(c) and (d) The security agencies are aware of the proposed optical fibre cable system between the two countries. The ILD service providers can pass the commercial traffic on the terrestrial optical fibre system only after obtaining clearance from the security agencies.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given an erosive reply to my question saying that there was an agreement between Pakistan and India in the area of telecommunications. I had asked the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have addressed the security concerns and the hon'ble Minister

did not give a pointed reply. Instead he has not given any clear and pointed reply.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Minister whether in view of the fact that Pakistan is routinely sponsoring terrorist activities, in our country, is it desirable to further increase the telecommunication encourage terrorism through the medium of links between the two countries as the terrorists are likely to take advantage of the same. I want the Hon'ble Minister give clarification in this regard.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member and the House seem to be in a state of confusion. From his question, it seems as if the telecommunication Links with Pakistan has been established for the first time. Not only with Pakistan, but we have telecommunication links with about more than 200 countries of the world and in this regard our leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi deserves all praises. It was on his initiative and the hardwork of our Engineers and Technicians that we have established such a vast telecommunication network. We can converse with more than 200 countries of the world which includes Pakistan also through this telecommunication service. Jammers have been installed in this House. If someone wishes, he can go out of this House to the Central Hall and make a call to Pakistan from his mobile phone if ISD facility is available in it. You had enquired whether any agreement or MoU has been signed with Pakistan or not? No MoU has been signed by India and Pakistan at the Government level. The Department of telecommunications which issues licences to private telecom operators, and also I gives permission to them to enter into MoU at international level to establish international long distance links if they so desire. The security agencies of our department have been intimated about the MoU. Only after getting green signal from them, they have been given the provisional permission. After it is established, the security agencies will check it and after their checking they will be given the right for its commercial use. That is why permission has been given for a direct link but indirect links have already been put in place. This is not something amazing.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the security agency is not even good Parliament not

to talk about Pakistan. I am of the opinion that the country cannot be run by taking into account as to what was said or visualised said by Rajiv Gandhi. If the country is to be governed, the strategy will have to be prepared keeping in view the ground realities of the present.

MR. SPEAKER : You put question in this regard.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the same. I would like to say that the hon. Minister has replied as if there has not been any agreement between India and Pakistan and the agencies belong to some other countries even though the agencies are very much thereown. I would like to know as to why a compromise is being made in regard to the security of the country? Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what preventive measures have been taken to safeguard the security of the country?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to clarify that BSNL has not signed any MoU in this regard. Three companies namely Videsh Sanchar Nigam, Bharati Televenture, Reliance Infocom have signed MoU with the Telecommunication company of Pakistan. As far security agencies are concerned, hon. Minister of Home Affairs will reply to it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has raised the issue of security in Parliament, I would like to say that such an issue of political nature should not be raised in the Question Hour. I would like to ask the hon. Member to please remember which party was in the Government when the attack on Parliament took place. I would only like to ask him not to preach us in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the ISD calls are made, two safeguards have been provided in that regard. Firstly, when the call is passed through the telephone exchange and secondly at the place where the call is received in some other countries, security agencies do keep a track of the same. Under the right of lawful interruption, security of the country is not compromised. Therefore, I would like to assure the House that UPA Government will not compromise at any front of the national security.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to make a telephone call from Jammu and Kashmir to other parts of the country because the system remains out of order or interrupted for long. It is not possible for someone to talk on mobile phone but it is very easy to connect to Pakistan from there and terrorists can make early calls to Pakistan. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government to make telephone conversation possible from Jammu & Kashmir?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : The MoU that has been signed is for Lahor-Amritsar Cable Link. In regard to the question of hon. Member regarding Jammu & Kashmir, I would like to tell him that as per the existing stipulation, no tower could be installed within ten kilometers along with inter-national border and the signals from the mobile phones cannot go outside as per the existing regulation of the department of Telecommunications. If there is a need to set up any such link, it is the Home Ministry that gives it permission after investigating into the various security aspects. The UPA Government are committed not to compromise with the security of the country and to take every care while issuing licence in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Chaudhary Lal Singh, it must be a relevant supplementary.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : It is very much relevant, sir,

[Translation]

With your leave, I would like to say that private companies have been entrusted with the task of laying long distance cable in Pakistan. I would like to tell him that the villages along the Indo-Pak Border viz. Hiranagar, Gangwal, RS Pura, Punch, Rajouri do not have telecom facility and the mobile phone do not function there. On one hand, the Government is providing telecommunication link with Pakistan, on the other, whether the Government seeks to take measures to provide mobile connectivity to the people of villages along the border who have been taking this

facility and facing great hardships from Pakistan side for centuries together?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That pertains to an entirely different Ministry and it does not have anything to do with present question.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the MoU signed is related to landline telephone. As far the mobile connectivity is concerned, I have clearly stated about the existing provisions in this regard. However the government wish to provide telecom facilities to the people of villages along the border without diluting the security of the country which cannot be compromised. However given the present scenario of confidence building measures, in which people to people contact is being promoted among the citizens of both countries for which trains and bus linkage are also being restored, we would try to provide more facilities for the people of our own country and try to rectify whatever shortcomings we have in the existing system?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, would like to tell the hon. Minister that it is a proven thing that Pakistan is the epicenter of all the terrorist incidents taking place in the country. It was reported in the newspapers that the terrorists responsible for Varanasi incident have gone to Pakistan via Nepal. The Minister in this reply has stated that we have telephone links with more than 210 countries and efforts are underway to improve the relations with Pakistan. However, I would like to ask whether the Government propose to do away with any telecommunication link with Pakistan until Pakistan stands clear of any sponsored terrorist incidents in our country?

MR. SPEAKER : Oh, what a Question? You reply in 'Yes' or 'No'.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell know as to why this line is being laid. Today hon. Prabhunath Singhji can talk to someone in Pakistan through mobile phone while sitting in central Hall. This conversation

takes places in two ways namely through satellite communication and through cable. With the former, direct link is made while the cable has to pass through a third country and it requires more expenditure. Direct optical fibre cable is being used to reduce this expenditure. I have repeatedly said that we seek to lay direct cable line. As far the cable goes through our country, security agencies have a right to make a lawful interruption of the call. Security of the country will not be compromised in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether India would be linked with Pakistan with a cable line from Wagah border. If so, where will the landing station be located in India?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated in my reply, cables from both sides are being laid between Amritsar and Lahore up to Wagah border. The telecom operators in both countries are waiting for the go ahead signal from the security agencies of the respective countries.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question regarding the MoU signed with Pakistan for laying optical fibre line.

Whenever an issue in regard to Pakistan comes up it gets directly related to terrorism. It is very unfortunate that we have been fighting terrorism for the past many years. Terrorism is the most serious problem before the country today. Terrorist activities have increased in the country since the Government opened the border at certain points and it has terrorised the public. We are apprehensive that the terrorists would infiltrate into our country during laying of optical fibre cable. No doubt, the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible to check infiltration but what steps the Ministry of Communications has taken to ensure security during the said period as the Ministry has signed an M.O.U? If not, what steps it purposes to take?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Has full security been looked after?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already said that even today we have telephone links with Pakistan. Geete ji is our senior Member and he knows it. We can send voice data, SMS etc. The proposed project is just to bring down the cost. I have said repeatedly that IB is its nodal agency, therefore, more agencies will monitor it. These are, IB, Narcotics Control Bureau, Revenue Intelligence, CBI and Enforcement Directorate. The Army also monitors it. I would like to assure him that we would go ahead with the work only after ensuring full security.

MD. SALIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever any issue of establishing communication links with Pakistan comes up we are apprehensive of security, especially on the basis of historical and political reasons. The Hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that though there is a telephone link but through a third country. Laying of optical fibre cable will in no way result in increase in terrorist activities. On the contrary, availability of a green channel will facilitate communication link between the public, the traders and business men of both the countries and people will become more cautious about terrorism. Terrorists use sophisticated satellite telephone equipments. There is a saying in Bangla, 'Bajo atuni farka gero' which means if we tie some thing very fast it gets loosened. The people, who made political fortune out of Mushraf-Vajpayee handshake, are apprehensive today. When they established links, there were praises and since Government are trying to establish relations, they are creating hurdles. I fail to understand it.

[English]

Private place is involved that is why I am not telling the name. But the TV Communication Company in Pakistan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Come to the question.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : The service provider operating in Pakistan is trying through its international arms, to control service providing private mobile companies in India.

[English]

The same company is trying to take the control of service providers in Pakistan or even in India. What is the Government doing in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know whether you have control over the private companies?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bharti, Reliance and VSNL have signed an MoU with Pakistan Telecommunication company Ltd. Department of Telecom has granted licence to them provided they can contract other international long distance telephone service provider. It is their business issue. The company is to see as to who is trying to take over whom. They have not only inked an agreement with Pakistan, but with Singapore and Japan also. Our public sector company, BSNL is laying sub-marine cable for Sri Lanka. It is a business contract and not any sort of aggression. Our telecom service providers have voluntarily signed an agreement with their service providers.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a view to further strengthen Indo-Pak bilateral relations Bus, Train and even air-services between these two countries have been resumed. And India has signed an agreement with Pakistan. I want to say that with a view to curb terrorism, we need to have good mobile services. And we need to improve it further for further improvement of relations between India and Pakistan. I urge the Hon. Minister to expedite completion of said work, if we want to have better relations between both the countries. What the hon. Minister is doing in this regard? There is a need for him to take a quick decision in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Most of the telecommunications in our country...*(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the Government propose to start mobile service soon or not?

MR. SPEAKER : You may start it with his suggestion.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Sir, I have noted the suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No.284.

Shri Anant Gudhe-Not present.

Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

[English]

Closure of Post Offices

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*284. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the rapid improvement in the banking sector, telephone facilities and other means of communication, the workload on post offices has considerably decreased in urban as well as in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of post offices so far closed down by the Government or recommended for closure during the last three years;

(d) the rehabilitation plan drawn to utilise the services of surplus postal staff; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to streamline the postal services to ensure that the loss suffered by the Government on this account is minimised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (e) a statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The post office network provides a wide range of services such as collection, transmission and delivery of mail (including premium products), money transfer, financial services such as banking and insurance and a variety of retail services. Fluctuations in demand for the various services are normal and, given the wide spectrum of services which the Department offers, it is felt that the overall business is not adversely affected. In terms of revenue, the business of the Department has shown an increasing trend over the past few years.

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

(d) Since the Department of Posts has no policy of retrenchment of staff, the question of rehabilitation does not arise.

(e) There is no loss suffered by the Government. The services of the Department of Posts are subsidized from the Central budget. Largely, the subsidy arises out of the fact that the Department has a social obligation in extending its services, at subsidized cost to it, across the country to urban, rural, tribal, remote, hilly, desert and other areas. The services and products for the common man are priced so as to be affordable. Details of revenue, expenditure and deficit in the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as below:

Item	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Revenue	3697.11	4009.65	4256.93
Expenditure	5108.62	5374.05	5632.15
Deficit	1411.51	1364.40	1375.22

It will be seen that the deficit has been more or less constant, despite the fact that salaries went up with

increase in Dearness Allowance from 38% to 61% in this period. The Department also absorbs pension payments to its past employees, which amounted to Rs. 1107 crores in 2003-2004. It is heartening to note that the Department of Posts has increased its revenue from Rs.3697.11 crores in 2001-2002 to Rs.4256.93 crores in 2003-2004.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the revenues of the Department of Posts are constantly increasing. Further, he has stated that the Department also fulfills its social obligation in rural, tribal and remote areas. Further, the Central Government provides subsidy also. Despite all this, some of the post offices in some rural areas have been closed down. Yet, he says that the post offices have not been closed. I can definitely say that some of the post offices have been closed and services of Panchayat Sanchar Agents have been withdrawn which has adversely affected postal services in rural and remote areas, depriving postal services to the rural folk.

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the post offices have been closed or not, as he has clarified in the reply. If so, what steps the Government propose to take to restore the services of closed down post offices?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Sir, this year, the Government have not closed any post office. At certain places it has been done, if the building having post offices was not in good condition and suitable alternative building also could not be arranged or in case of some dispute over the building, the court ordered to do so. But no post office has been closed on account of being financially or economically not viable. Some post offices have been relocated and not closed. Post offices have been closed either on the orders of the court or because of some specific condition. I have a circle wise list. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

Merging mens merging. Merging does not mean 'closing down'.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you have the list please send it.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : The Hon. Minister has stated that post offices have not been closed because they were running in losses. I can definitely say that 45 post offices under my parliamentary constituency, as has been mentioned in the written reply to the question, have been closed on grounds of running in losses.

Will the hon'ble Minister look into the matter and order reopening of all those post offices which are stated to have been closed down on account of running into losses?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? I am told, last week also a similar question was put.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that if the post offices have been closed down because they did not have a building to house post office and if he could make arrangement for a building, then certainly we would make efforts to reopen those post offices. But if there is any order of the court or they have been closed down because of the order of the court, then the order has to be implemented.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, we seek your protection. He is playing with the words. The post offices have been closed. What is the meaning of this? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, will the Minister give an assurance ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, your matter is not being recorded. Shri Swain, your matter is not being recorded because I have not called you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you that if this is a matter where you are so agitated, give a notice for Half-an-Hour Discussion on this Question, I would allow it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the tribal and hilly areas are concerned, we would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, on the one hand, he is claiming that he did not order for the closure of the post offices on the other, we see that post offices have been closed in hilly and tribal areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not get a satisfactory reply, will you keep on speaking, how is this justified? I have already told you that I will allow a discussion thereon if I receive a request for half an hour discussion in this regard.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, give me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If it is not relevant, I would disallow it.

[Translation]

On this issue, except Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari I won't allow anybody else to speak. All of you, please keep quiet. I would allow half an hour.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. speaker, Sir, just now on being asked by the hon'ble Member, the hon'ble Minister said that two pot offices have been merged but not closed down. Through you, sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the local people are being

benefited from the merger of those two post offices into one? Sir, I would like to point out that those two post offices were located at extreme ends and both of them were inevitable, but the hon'ble Minister is saying that those two post offices have been merged and he also stated that while doing so, they did not take into consideration the financial or economical losses but they just considered the convenience and interest of the public. I would like to ask him how it is in the interest of the public? When one post office was located in the east and the other was in the west and he merged both the post offices, as such those people who were getting post office facilities till now and not hereafter, would they still be getting these facilities after the merger of two post offices, where does the public interest lie in it?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question. You are very articulate; do not make a speech.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, precisely my question to the hon'ble Minister in this regard is as to what are the figures of those post offices which have been closed down? Secondly, the hon'ble Minister is saying that they have not closed down the post offices which is not correct. He must prove that they have not closed down the post offices and he should also furnish the state-wise figures of the post offices which are operational. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, I cannot permit such details.

[Translation]

I would allow only the specific question.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my specific question is this as to how many postmen have been recruited during the last three years, Hon'ble Minister must furnish the complete details thereof alongwith the reasons why recruitment of postmen in the rural areas is not being carried out and if it goes like this, how the delivery of post would be done.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, it does not arise out of this Question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Since I have decided to give permission for Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question, we may go to the next Question, that is, Question No.285.

[Translation]

Export of Readymade Garments

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*285. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the total value of ready-made garments exports made during each of the last three years to various countries, country-wise;
- (b) the projection of exports made for the next three years;
- (c) the role of Export Promotion Councils in exploring new markets in foreign countries for ready-made garments; and
- (d) the assistance provided by the Council to the exporters in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Total value of readymade garment exports during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is as under:—

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Value (in Million US\$)	5753.32	6259.66	6214.44

source:- DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Export of Readymade garment to some of the major countries is as under:-

In Million US\$			
Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Country			
USA	1732.29	1622.21	1858.56
UK	516.42	539.48	619.14
UAE	399.27	615.34	509.58
France	398.74	437.46	448.23
Germany	477.33	498.45	424.30
Italy	171.85	223.58	271.98
Canada	258.33	241.81	233.23

(b) Tentative year-wise projection for exports of knitwear and apparels are as under:-

In Billion US\$			
Clothing	2006	2007	2008
61-Knitwear	4.01	5.41	7.31
62-Apparel	5.41	7.03	9.14

(c) With a view to explore new markets for export of readymade garments, the Apparel Export Promotion Council organises India International Garment Fair and participates in other important fairs like Hong Kong Fashion Week, Hong Kong; SIMM fair, Spain; Magic Fair, USA, etc. Some of the important countries who have participated in Council's export promotion programme are USA, UK, EU, Greece, France, Vietnam, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Italy, etc.

(d) The Council is providing assistance to its members in the following areas:

- (i) procuring duty free import of trimmings and embellishments.
- (ii) Issuance of Certificate of Origin.
- (iii) benefits under Market Development Assistance/ Market Access Initiative scheme.
- (iv) overseas participation in international fairs/ Buyer-Seller Meets.
- (v) attending to problems relating to customs.
- (vi) collection of cost data for duty drawback.
- (vii) providing training facilities to augment skilled manpower at the shop floor level.
- (viii) providing a channel of coordination between the Industry and the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures provided in the reply of hon'ble Minister, envisages the vision 2010 of the Government, in which they hope to raise the export of textile to 50 billion dollar mark. However, the recent economic survey says that the total export of the textile industry in the year 2003-04 amounted to 13.4 billion dollars and during year 2004-05 it came down to 13.00 billion dollar mark. During the current financial year, exports worth Rs.9.3 billion dollar were made till November which may reach to 13 billion dollar till the end of March. If we go by this way, the target fixed for the export to the tune of 50 billion dollars in the next five years can never be achieved by us.

Sir, not only this, the hon'ble Minister has stated that by 2014 we would be in a position to export textile products worth 70 billion dollars, however, I would like to submit that this much export is unattainable, rather I would say if you want to achieve this target then you will have to make large investment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please put question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a target of making an investment worth 30 billion dollars

and the investment made in 2005 was between 1.8 billion dollars to 3 billion dollars only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ask, what do you want to ask?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister how an investment of 30 billion dollars would be made and an export target of 50 billion dollars would be achieved? I want to know from the hon'ble Minister, will the Government of India provide the same type of facilities to the exporters as provided by the China to its exporters to achieve targets and whether the hon'ble Minister will take up this issue with the Finance Minister and Commerce Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kashiram Rana, your knowledge of the Ministry is so deep.

[Translation]

Please pull the question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The types of facilities and economic status such as TUF etc. which have so far been extended to exporters, through its enhancement and simplification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please give opportunity to the hon'ble Minister to reply the question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the manner in which the facilities being provided to exporters are to be easily increased? Will he consider about it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member's question has three parts or rather four parts. I will definitely say this that target which has been fixed is according to Crisil report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, it is becoming a debate on Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER : Naturally, the former Minister has such an expertise on the subject.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Export to America has increased by 26 percent after quota regime ended and it has increased by 19-20 percent to European countries till September. There are all chances of it reaching 15 percent mark in 2005-06. Today the growth rate is between 9-10 percent.

All efforts are being made as per the suggestions of the Ministry of Finance CENVAT was removed from first budget and after 'Inspector Raj' was removed after making excise duty zero it, will give fillip to export. It got support in second budget and I thank the hon'ble Minister of Finance that it got support in third budget also. Wherever we were short they bailed us out and hence our export target will be achieved in time. Secondly under 'Tapska' there has been growth of 181 percent and rise of crores of rupees and even today the increase is 268 percent. What was less during your time its export has been nearly 43,550 in the last three years. In the year 2005-06 there has been total cumulative investment. Under 'Tapska', Rs. 14 thousand crore only have been invested. As far as China is concerned, its operational strategy is different. In China power is 30-40 percent cheaper, there are no labour laws, economy is controlled, there are big joint infrastructure projects and hence we cannot compete with China. However, the Finance Minister has given incentive of 5 percent in the rate of interest under 'Tapska' 10 to 20 percent capital subsidy in import duty is given and on import of machine only 5 percent custom duty is levied. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This has turned into a debate.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : In detail, we have given many incentives. Whatever targets we have fixed, we will achieve in time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It was an exhaustive question and also an exhaustive answer.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : It has been replied. However, still I have supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : You did not like the reply. Ok. Please ask supplementary.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The hon'ble Minister said that export has increased by 22-23 percent. It is in the Economic Survey, which is a government document. It is mentioned therein that during the last year man made textile export has decreased. I would like to give figures. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has the figures.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : It was 1.3 billion dollars in April-November, 2004-05, but has decreased to 1.1 billion dollars. And there has also been decrease in export of manmade fabric. I want to know whether the Ministry of Textile would like to provide any other relief or benefit in export of manmade fabric?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : This question is about readymade garments. Its export has increased by 8.2 percent. There is an increase of nearly 45 percent in it. This is true that there is a decrease in the case of man-made fabric. In budget, duty on manmade fibers has been decreased from 16 to 8 percent, which is a part and parcel of Government of India's incentive in this regard.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : It is still 16 percent.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in India today textile industry stands second after agriculture in providing employment on a large scale. Even today India is known in the world for its textiles. We are also earning good foreign exchanges through export of readymade garments. This industry also provides employment on a

large scale. Woolen and manmade garments export is decreasing and this year export is less in comparison to previous two years. Due to problems in China our readymade garment export has shown marginal increase. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Put question. This is a big problem.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : It is some detail.

MR. SPEAKER : It has become a long preface.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : It is correct but there is some details in it. However, it is not possible that there will always be problem in China. Hence we need to find out new markets for readymade garments and need to sort out the export problem... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, I will not allow this.

[Translation]

Please put question. This question alone is not going to solve your problem.

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : I want to know whether the Government are facing labour problem in export of readymade garments? If so, what are the steps taken by the Government to sort out this problem?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is 15 percent increase in the export of readymade garments. We cannot compete with China. They have cheap power. Labour laws are flexible there and they have controlled economy. In the whole world China is number one in export and our country is at number two and all other countries have almost negligible presence. Our exporters even today make a lot of efforts and Government of India, and Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce also provide necessary help through our Ministry.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, in quota-free world to face the competition apart from price and quality in the

European countries as also US, Canada, etc. proper acquaintance with fashion, design and taste is one of the important factors. We do have a National Institution of Fashion Technology for all these things. What is happening to the exporters and the producers? The change in fashion is taking place according to the taste. We find that there is a decline in respect of Germany and Canada in terms of participation and they are not participating in the Fairs organised by India. What I want to know from the Government is what steps the Government proposes to take to make available the desired design and fashion so that the producers outside import our goods.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that I partially agree with this that European countries, America or other countries of the world are ahead of us in fashion and designing. It is not that, India is lagging behind in this sector. I had been to Paris and Germany. As far as fashion is concerned we are comparatively going ahead. NIFT, NIT and other private institutions are also doing a lot of marketing. In the next five years our country will become a hub of fashion designing and I think that it will become number one country in fashion designing in the world.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : After listening to the Minister's answer, China will be very happy that India is not going to pose any competition to them because the Minister seems to be saying that we cannot compete with China at all. Considering all these drawbacks that he has mentioned – the cost of power, the cost of labour, rigid labour laws – the Government may be thinking of tiding over with that and try to come out with a policy to find out how we can progress ahead. Considering the fact that India is one of the largest cotton growing countries and considering the fact that Indian labour has traditional skills of making garments, is the Government of India thinking of coming out with a policy framework to compete with China in a manner that will create more employment in India because this is one of the most labour incentive industries?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Suresh has asked a very good question, there is a political difference between China and India. We are a democratic nation, whereas China is a communist nation. They have a regulated economy. Our exporter are unhappy because rupee remains strong. Apart from that in labour incentive sector twenty lakh new employment avenues have been generated in two years.

[English]

More foreign exchange is earned. It is creating more employment.

[Translation]

They have controlled economy and dumping takes place there. But we are far ahead of them in quality control. China will face problem in future and we have Russia's examples is before us. China will also face such situation in future. In China power is cheap. If Maharashtra Government wishes to give compensation it can do so. We have made a move for labour policy and we are going to set up SEZ and textile parks, in which labour hours will be increased. Apart from it, if they get separate orders there could be relaxation in deploying labour for three months. we are initiating such a thing from labour Ministry. The Government of India are concerned about this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, it is over.

[English]

It is becoming a debate on this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : We cannot compete with China. There are big hostels for labourers, where they are provided with boarding & lodging both. We don't have such infrastructure.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would appeal for relevance and brevity to all the hon. Members on both sides.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, is he trying to say that Communist country is not a democratic country? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Communities Countries have such facilities, therefore we should follow them.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : The production of cotton garments is going down because of the exports from China, Pakistan and Egypt. Will the Government organise purchasing centres to facilitate small cotton exporters? As we have gone closer to US, will the Government get the Most Favoured Nation status from the United States?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is the largest producer of cotton. We are exporting 25 lakhs bales of cotton to China. Last year, production of cotton was 243 lakh bales and it is the same this time also. CCI is carrying out MSP and commercial operations at all the places. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Rawale to ask the supplementary question. I would appeal to you also for brevity and relevance.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated that we are going to achieve the target by 2010. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister whether he is satisfied with process? NTC mills in Mumbai are being closed down. The question of competition does not arise when there is no production. You had earlier replied that the money received from the sale of property of the closed NTC mills at Mumbai will be utilized in Mumbai itself. Will new mills be set up in Maharashtra to retain the money received from the sale of the NTC mills? Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had nationalized. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Entire money will remain in Mumbai.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite nationalization of the mills the employees who used to work there are still getting their salaries. The mills were closed in due course. I don't want to speak about the responsibility of modernisation etc. We raised 1800 crore rupees by issuing private Bonds on behalf of the Government of India to meet the liabilities of VRS, that money was raised not only from Mumbai but from outside Mumbai too. We have received an amount of Rs.2020 crore by selling of mills in Mumbai apart from rupees 1800 crores. Maximum amount will be put in use for Mumbai but keeping in view the national interest the money that will be collected will be utilized for modernization of 22 mills of Mumbai. Money shall be released for modernisation programme. There is no need to worry about Mumbai, interest of Mumbai will be safeguarded. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rawale, nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please do not answer that.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after agriculture, the textile sector provides highest avenues of employment, but it has been seen that the mills are being closed down at several places. There is an NTC mill at Allahabad. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is about the export of readymade garments.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : My question is...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have disallowed that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : The NTC mill at Allahabad. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Rewati ji, please give another notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Vaghela ji, you invite him to discuss this matter.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : We have selected 22 mills. You may discuss the matter with me.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, lots of zari and embroidery work is done on the textiles which are exported. Lakhs of people including women are engaged in that work, hence certain sections of society earn their livelihood from textile sector. The western countries have restricted the import of zari textiles to Bengal, Bihar and North India, America and other Western countries have imposed this restriction saying that child labour is engaged in this sector. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether there Government will formulate any specific scheme to meet such losses and export the zari textile so that more and more people can get employment.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Sir, such restrictions are there in handicraft sector. No such restriction has been imposed by America. This practice was prevalent in the earlier quota system, but presently there is no such restriction. Presently, there is free export regime. Child labour is a matter of human rights. In the existing regime to protect human rights it is ensured that child labour are not engaged in this sector or they should not be exploited. These things are ensured to protect human rights. There is no such restriction on us. And we do not have any official information that America has imposed any such restriction on us.

Suggestion of NCRPB

*286. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Capital Region Planning Board had called meeting in Delhi of the representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi for an Integrated Transport System in the 33000 sq.km. of the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the Board's demand in this regard;

(d) if so, the decisions taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The National Capital Region Planning Board prepared a proposal for a Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) to provide connectivity amongst different towns of the National Capital Region and with Delhi. The first phase of this proposal comprises an Integrated Rail-cum-Bus Transit (IRBT) system covering three corridors, namely:

1. Shahdara to Ghaziabad
2. Tri Nagar to Gurgaon
3. Sahibabad to Shivaji Bridge

The above three corridors would be rail based systems and would be linked to feeder bus systems to draw people from a wider catchment area. The total length of these three corridors is 62.81 Kms. at an estimated cost of Rs.2684 crores. The project is proposed to be implemented with a

debt-equity structure of 1:1 and through Special Purpose Vehicles comprising of Government of India through the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Railways and the Government of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. The proposal was referred to the Planning Commission for in principle approval on 28.6.2004.

The various pending issues and progress on the proposed project were reviewed in a meeting of the Steering Committee on the Regional Rapid Transit System held in the Ministry of Urban Development on 25.8.2005. This was, inter-alia, attended by representatives of the Govt. of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the national capital Region Planning Board had called meeting in Delhi of the representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi for an Integrated Transport System in the 33000 square kilometer of National Capital Region? If so, the details thereof?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, this supplementary has been answered already. Even so, I would like to reiterate that the Regional Rapid Transit System was proposed it is still being envisaged and it is on.

[Translation]

SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government have considered the demands made by the Board in this regard? If so, the decisions taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the proposal has been referred to the Planning Commission for in principle approval. The Planning Commission is holding further consultations on this question on the 20th of this month itself. However, I may, on my own, volunteer to disclose

that the first phase of the RRTS, namely, the Integrated Rail-cum-Bus Transit (IRBT) may have to be reworked in view of the fact that there are proposals to extend the lines of DMRC to Gurgaon, NOIDA and Ghaziabad.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that National Capital Region Planning Board had taken a decision four year ago to construct a National Express Highway to provide the facility of transport in the National Capital Region. Land was also acquired for the purpose. The compensation is being given to the farmers the acquire land, but the work has not yet been started for the last one and half to two years. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister as to by when the construction work of national Highway will be started; the time schedule of the projected by when it will be completed? Secondly, the farmers are being paid Rs. 16-17 lakh per acre as compensation while the value of the said land is not less than one crore rupees. The farmers have also submitted their representation in this regard. I would like to know whether hon'ble Minister propose in increase the amount of compensation.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I am afraid that the supplementary which the hon. Member has put is not related to the main Question. No land has been acquired. As and when the land is acquired, we shall make an effort to provide adequate compensation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that a meeting of the representatives of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi was convened under the aegis of National capital Region Planning Board. But the hon'ble Minister has not touched Rajasthan in his original reply. So he may state as to by which time this scheme would be implemented including in the state of Rajasthan.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, originally Rajasthan was not included. At the moment this matter is under serious consideration of the Planning Commission. If necessary, I am sure the Planning Commission will bestow consideration on the proposal to include some towns in Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No.287. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

Commonwealth Games, 2010

*287. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the new infrastructure projects launched/likely to be launched by the Government for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, 2010; and

(b) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has reported that 18 venues have been identified for 15 approved and 3 proposed disciplines, for the Commonwealth Games, 2010. Upgradation/construction work in connection with the Games is to be undertaken by the Sports Authority of India, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi University and All India Tennis Association, for the venues under their respective control.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has also prepared an Action Plan for improvement and beautification of roads, construction of flyovers, improvement of transport system, setting up of hospital and health posts etc. with a total estimated cost of Rs.1314.40 crore.

In addition to the above, DDA has been entrusted with the responsibility for construction of a Games Village for

the Commonwealth Games, 2010 at a site near the National Highway 24, off the new Nizamuddin Bridge.

The above projects proposes for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 are at various stages of preparation and planning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Question House is over.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, it happens with me every time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Better luck next time.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your reply has also gone on record.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Weather Forecasting

*288. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

(a) the progress made by the country to achieve global standards in the field of weather forecasting; and

(b) the assistance provided by the Government of India to the Meteorological Department in achieving this standard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Countries which are at the forefront of weather forecasting have a dense network of observation

system, high computing capacity and therefore are able to run sophisticated numerical weather prediction models of very high resolution. They have the capability of ingesting non-conventional data from observational platforms like satellites, Doppler Weather Radar, buoys, aircraft etc. which are now available round the clock. Their facilities enable them to effectively monitor high impact weather events which occur in small space and time domains.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has a mandate to issue short-range forecasts (validity of 2-3 days) and long range seasonal forecast. National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) has the mandate for medium range (validity 4-10 days) forecasting. Many of the Numerical Models such as the Limited Area Model (LAM) and 5th Generation Meso Scale Model (MM5) are being used for short range weather forecasts. IMD's long range forecast is based on statistical model that uses a number of global parameters called predictors which have high correlation with monsoon rainfall. At present, IMD uses 8 to 10 parameter models for long range forecast. In view of potential of numerical models, IMD has adopted an experimental prediction system based on numerical models. For this purpose, IMD under a collaborative research programme with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has adopted a numerical model developed at the Experimental Climate Prediction Centre (ECPC), Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA.

The model resolution and the accuracy has limitation vis-a-vis the more advanced countries because of the inadequate infrastructure such as observational network, computing capacity and human resources. upgradation of observational network, enhancement of computing facility for running high resolution numerical weather prediction models and improvement of communication network are required to meet the present requirements and to achieve global standards in weather forecasting. Plan schemes through annual budget and five year plans of IMD seek to achieve the above objective. IMD has continuously endeavored to keep pace with the modern advancements with resources made available through the budget grants of the Government under plan schemes. Government grant for Plan Budget outlays to IMD for the 8th, 9th and 10th

Five Year Plans were Rupees 130 crores, Rupees 254 crores and Rupees 309 crores respectively.

Upgradation of C-DOT

*289. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHAN BHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of technology based products manufactured by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some manufacturing units are facing closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether lack of upgradation of C-DoT has affected its role as a premier R&D Centre; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken to retain its position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) C-DOT does not manufacture technology-based products on its own. C-DOT licenses its technology to various manufacturers. As per the available information, the value of C-DOT switching technology based products manufactured in the country during last three years is given below:

2002-03	Rs. 245 crores
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2003-04	Rs. 147 crores
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2004-05	Rs. 60 crores
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(b) and (c) Indian manufacturers who were solely manufacturing fixed line switching technology faced lack of orders, as operators are moving from fixed line technologies to mobile networks.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. C-DOT has been upgrading its technologies regularly. Role of C-DOT as premier R&D

center will not be affected as it is revamping itself by refocusing its activities to work on contemporary technologies required in the changing telecom scenario. It has taken various steps to develop state-of-art technologies such as:

- (i) Software intensive solutions like Network Management System.
- (ii) Systems required for strategic sectors
- (iii) Operation Support and Intelligent Network Systems
- (iv) Broadband Wireless Systems for rural applications
- (v) IP Based Next Generation Systems
- (iv) Optical Fibre Systems for high speed backbone

Some of the above technologies are already being deployed in the networks.

C-DOT is also working on strategic alliances with other organizations to pool mutual strengths.

[Translation]

Diversion of Funds

*290. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the funds allocated for computerisation of land records have been diverted by certain States to certain other works;

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) the names of the States which have diverted the said funds indicating the amount that has been diverted during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No State/UT Government is reported to have diverted the funds allocated for computerisation of land records.

(b) A Statement showing funds released to State Governments during the last three years and the current year under the Scheme of computerisation of land records is enclosed.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/U.T	Funds		Released	
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	389.41	—	531.50	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	542.50
3.	Bihar	—	—	100.00	264.46
4.	Gujarat	912.66	372.50	495.00	—
5.	Haryana	—	—	—	465.76
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46.70	81.40	438.00	224.00
7.	Karnataka	—	389.50	497.40	—
8.	Kerala	78.70	—	—	305.90

1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Madhya Pradesh	—	542.50	286.30	388.00	
10. Maharashtra	—	826.54	296.00	787.60	
11. Mizoram	—	20.00	—	127.00	
12. Nagaland	8.25	—	15.00	—	
13. Orissa	658.28	277.00	230.00	599.40	
14. Rajasthan	—	—	—	980.20	
15. Sikkim	—	82.70	—	—	
16. Tamil Nadu	347.15	406.50	605.20	—	
17. Tripura	—	—	148.00	—	
18. Uttar Pradesh	376.00	—	—	711.99	
19. West Bengal	—	—	355.00	870.20	
20. Chhattisgarh	281.10	—	164.00	459.60	
21. Jharkhand	—	547.20	—	—	
22. Uttaranchal	—	—	400.60	266.20	
23. Delhi	19.27	—	—	—	
24. Pondicherry	—	31.55	—	—	
Total	3117.52	3577.19	4562.00	6992.81	

*(As on 28.2.06)

[English]

Vigilance and Monitoring Committees

*291. SHRI P.C THOMAS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rural developmental schemes coming under the purview of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees indicating the manner in which the proposals are to be made, scrutinized and approved.

(b) the performance of Vigilance and Monitoring

Committees formed by the Government in various districts and States during the Tenth Plan period;

(c) whether the Government intends to take cognizance of reports made by such committees;

(d) if so, the details indicating the manner thereof;

(e) whether there is any scheme to monitor such committees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) As per the guidelines for Vigilance & Monitoring Committees (V&MCs) at State and District level, the Committees at State level supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The District level Committees monitor all the Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development implemented in the district and in particular closely watch the flow of funds at various channels and monitor the works under different schemes with special reference to Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), DRDA Administration, Watershed Development Programme under DPAP, DDP and IWDP (Hariyali), Computerization of Land Records, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Swajaldhara, Rural Sanitation Programme, National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and any other Scheme of the Ministry. The Member Secretary of the District level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee submits the details about the implementation of various programmes to the District Level Committee in prescribed formats.

(b) As per reports received from the State Governments/District administration, during the year 2003 and 2004, the meetings of the State Level V&MCs were held in 18 States and District level. V&MCs in 203 Districts and after the reconstitution of these Committees in October, 2004, 17 States have organized meetings of the State level V&MCs and 326 Districts have held meetings of District level V&MCs, at least once, wherein various aspects

relating to the implementation of Rural Development Programmes at the State and District levels were discussed.

(c) to (f) The District Vigilance and Monitoring committees may refer any matter for enquiry to the Deputy Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer/Project Director or suggest suitable action to be taken as per rules which shall be acted upon within a period of 30 days. If such action is not intimated within this time, the relevant programme funds can be withheld. When any specific case of diversion from/violation of, the guidelines is brought to the notice of the Government of India, suitable action is taken in the matter in consultation with the State Government. The Government of India is repeatedly writing to the States/District administrations and Chairmen of the District level Vigilance Committees to hold meetings of the Committees once in a quarter and send reports to the Government of India regularly.

Achievements of CAPART

*292. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of steps taken by the Councillor Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for improving the quality of life of rural people; and

(b) the achievements made in this regard during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) While the Ministry of Rural Development engages itself in improving the general quality of life of Rural Poor, the mandate of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is to encourage, promote and assist voluntary action and inject new technological inputs in the implementation of the rural development projects with particular emphasis on people living Below Poverty Line (BPL), SC, ST and other disadvantaged sections of the society for improving the quality of life of rural people.

CAPART provided funds to voluntary organizations under the following schemes upto 1998-1999:-

- (i) Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP),
- (ii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP),
- (iii) Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS),
- (iv) Public Cooperation (PC),
- (v) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP),
- (vi) Social Forestry (SF) and
- (vii) Disability.

These schemes were revised and streamlined in 1999-2000 into the following 5 schemes;—

- (i) Public Cooperation (PC)
- (ii) Advancement of Rural Technology Scheme (ARTS),
- (iii) Organisation of Beneficiaries (OB)
- (iv) Watershed Development and
- (v) Disability.

CAPART also supports NGOs for Gamshree Melas, sponsors significant rural events, workshops and seminars. In addition CAPART implements a Young Professionals Scheme under which post graduates from various fields relating to rural development are recruited from reputed institutions for a period of 3 years. The main objective of the scheme is to promote professionalism in the field of rural development.

(b) During the Tenth Plan period commencing from 2002-2003, CAPART has sanctioned 3458 projects involving Rs.218.90 crores. The state-wise and year-wise number of projects sanctioned and amount sanctioned by CAPART during the Tenth Plan Period upto February, 2006 are given in the enclosed statement-I. The number of beneficiaries covered under these projects is

16.41 lakhs. CAPART has organized 109 Gramshree Melas during the above period. The state-wise number of melas organized is given in the enclosed statement-II. The

recruitment of 443 Young Professionals (YPs) was done during the period out of which 383 YPs were trained under CAPART.

Statement-I

(Amount Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	112	8.64	103	8.08	91	6.60	77	4.78
2.	Assam	17	0.47	24	0.58	18	1.01	10	0.37
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0.04	2	0.06	0	0
4.	Bihar	134	10.20	187	14.19	11	1.75	15	0.61
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	0.22	1	0.11	7	0.34	5	0.09
6.	Chandigarh	1	2.34	4	0.24	0	0	0	0
7.	Delhi	17	1.32	23	1.43	4	0.87	1	0.18
8.	Gujarat	18	1.81	44	3.61	13	1.87	49	3.11
9.	Haryana	82	5.17	60	5.16	30	1.23	51	2.99
10.	Himachal Pradesh	20	1.24	27	2.43	33	2.07	9	0.84
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	1.51	18	0.86	13	0.43	11	0.51
12.	Jharkhand	16	0.76	18	2.53	1	0.01	2	0.06
13.	Karnataka	44	1.57	82	4.07	86	2.49	57	2.65
14.	Kerala	29	1.29	58	2.38	50	2.43	48	2.30
15.	Madhya Pradesh	14	1.34	20	1.72	19	1.53	20	0.56
16.	Maharashtra	31	3.05	73	7.84	23	4.92	11	0.28
17.	Manipur	24	0.82	17	0.76	40	1.37	15	0.58

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18. Meghalaya		1	0.02	1	0.06	0	0	1	0.01
19. Mizoram		1	0.09	5	0.14	3	0.05	3	0.06
20. Nagaland		3	0.01	5	0.17	4	0.09	7	0.40
21. Orissa		59	2.31	55	3.75	30	1.39	45	1.79
22. Punjab		11	0.74	6	0.40	11	0.44	2	0.09
23. Rajasthan		33	2.49	50	4.85	27	0.73	35	1.29
24. Sikkim		0	0	1	0.01	0	0	0	0
25. Tamil Nadu		55	3.44	44	2.97	46	2.49	8	0.33
26. Tripura		6	0.09	4	0.10	2	0.11	3	0.05
27. Uttar Pradesh		33	5.46	263	14.14	32	1.99	40	1.57
28. Uttaranchal		25	1.68	41	3.19	12	1.18	7	0.36
29. West Bengal		58	3.55	60	4.68	35	2.24	26	1.09
30. Goa		1	0.006	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Pondicherry		2	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		961	61.77	1296	90.49	643	39.69	558	26.95

Statement-II

State wise No. of Gram Shree Mela organized during the 10th Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Melas
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	8

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	2
6.	Delhi	—
7.	Goa	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6
9.	Haryana	4
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6

1	2	3
12.	Kerala	6
13.	Karnataka	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1
15.	Maharashtra	9
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Meghalaya	—
19.	Nagaland	1
20.	Orissa	7
21.	Punjab	3
22.	Rajasthan	2
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7
26.	Uttaranchal	4
27.	West Bengal	1
28.	Sikkim	2
29.	Chandigarh	2
30.	Lakshadweep	—
31.	Gujarat	5
Total		109

Basic Facilities In Slums

*293. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from various States to provide basic facilities in slum areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon so far alongwith the financial assistance proposed to be provided to each State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) After the launch of the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) on 3rd December, 2005, Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has received detailed project reports (DPRs) from the following States:—

Name of the State DPRs for cities/towns

Andhra Pradesh	3 (under BSUP in Hyderabad-I to XII)
Madhya Pradesh	4 (under BSUP in Bhopal)
West Bengal	57 (under IHSDP)

(c) The technical agencies are appraising DPRs before they are considered by the Central Sanctioning & Monitoring committee under the BSUP and Central Sanctioning Committee under IHSDP. Project proposals, complete in all respects, and fulfilling the basic formalities such as submitting City Development Plans (for BSUP projects) and signing Memorandum of Agreement on reforms (for BSUP & IHSDP projects) with Ministry of Urban Development will be recommended to Ministry of Finance for release of Central Assistance. The Central fund under BSUP and IHSDP will be provided in the form of Additional Central Assistance.

Fast Track Courts

*294. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

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

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts at present;

(c) the role of Fast Track Courts in the speedy disposal of cases;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more Fast Track Courts in the country;

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

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Fast Track courts were set up for speeding up quick disposal of long pending cases in sessions courts. As per the information available with the Department as on 28.2.2006, out of the 15.28 lakh cases entrusted to FTCs, 8.3 lakh cases have been disposed of.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(f) It is not proposed to set up any more fast track courts at present at the sessions level.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs.	No. of FTCs made functional	Pendency in FTC
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	41006
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1301
3.	Assam	20	1700
4.	Bihar	150	40980
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	9597

1	2	3	4
6.	Goa	5	1260
7.	Gujarat	166	232225
8.	Haryana	16	2051
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	975
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		0
11.	Jharkhand	89	18392
12.	Karnataka	93	9748
13.	Kerala	31	10703
14.	Madhya Pradesh	66	18720
15.	Maharashtra	187	135111
16.	Manipur	2	366
17.	Meghalaya	3	216
18.	Mizoram	3	61
19.	Nagaland	2	190
20.	Orissa	41	8561
21.	Punjab	18	3869
22.	Rajasthan	83	21173
23.	Sikkim		0
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	26407
25.	Tripura	3	18
26.	Uttar Pradesh	242	86251
27.	Uttaranchal	45	16577
28.	West Bengal	119	10721
Total		1562	698179

[Translation]

Mobilisation of Deposits

*295. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits in nationalised banks are showing a downward trend during the last three years owing to the surge in the deposit mobilisation activities by the foreign/private banks;

(b) if so, the details of the comparative deposit charts by all the nationalised banks and the foreign/private banks during the above period, year wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase deposits in nationalised banks;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints from the public sector banks against some of the foreign/private banks for adopting unethical methods of deposit mobilisation and recovery of dues; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) There has been no downward trend in the deposits of Public Sector Banks during the last three years as indicated in the table given below:

	(Rs. Crore)		
	March, 03	March, 04	March, 05
	1	2	3
Public Sector Banks			
Total Deposits	1079394	1226838	1435853
Annual Absolute Increase	110645	147444	209015
Annual Growth in%	11.4	13.7	17.0

	1	2	3	4
Private Sector Banks				
Total Deposits	200253	262150	314762	
Annual Absolute Increase	37256	61897	52612	
Annual Growth in%	22.9	30.9	20.1	
Foreign Banks				
Total Deposits	67937	78692	86505	
Annual Absolute Increase	5087	10755	7813	
Annual Growth in%	8.1	15.8	9.9	

(c) Deposit mobilisation is the responsibility of individual banks. In terms of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) extant guidelines, banks may launch new domestic deposit mobilization schemes with the approval of their Board of Directors.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

*296. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for modernisation of existing telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of telephone exchanges likely to be modernised during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) are continuously modernizing the telephone exchanges and the network. Replacement of obsolete, worn out and life expired switching equipment is a continuous process. All the new exchanges and associated equipments are of latest state-of-art technology. List of Prominent technologies of various manufacturers in use in the telephone exchanges of BSNL and MTNL is given below:—

Technologies in use for telephone exchanges in BSNL & MTNL

S. No.	Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) network	Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) network	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network
1.	OCB-283	Ericsson	Motorola
2.	EWSD	Motorola	Fujitsu
3.	5-ESS	Nokia	HFCL-Huawei
4.	AXE-10	ITI-Lucent	LG
5.	FETEX-150L	Siemens	ITI-Lucent
6.	NEAX-61E	Nortel	ITI-ZTE
7.	C-DOT	ITI-Alcatel	ICOMM-ZTE
8.	E-10B		

(c) and (d) MTNL and BSNL has proposed to incur Rs.61.8 crore and Rs.44.93 crore respectively during 2006-07 to replace E-10B switching equipment with New technology, fully Digital exchanges. State-wise details of the switching capacity proposed to be replaced during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Plans for MTNL & BSNL Replacement of E-10 B Switches

MTNL

Sl. No.	Unit/Telecom Circle	Capacity of E-10B switching equipment to be replaced (In K lines)
1.	Delhi	41.0
2.	Mumbai	166.1

BSNL

Sl. No.	Unit/Telecom Circle	Capacity of E-10B switching equipment to be replaced (In K lines)
1	2	3
1.	Assam	6
2.	Bihar	24
3.	Chhattisgarh	6
4.	Haryana	20
5.	Jharkhand	2
6.	Kerala	25
7.	Madhya Pradesh	18
8.	North East-I	8
9.	North East-II	6
10.	Orissa	2
11.	Punjab	7
12.	Tamil Nadu	13
13.	Uttaranchal	6
14.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	3

1	2	3
15. Uttar Pradesh (W)		17
16. West Bengal		5
17. Kolkatta		11
Total		179

Bank Dacoities

*297. DR. K. DHANARAJU :

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the cases of bank dacoities, missing of jewellery from the bank lockers and other cases taking place in various States during the last one year;

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

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in such cases in each State as on date;

(d) whether security personnel deputed in banks are not adequate;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the measures being taken by the Government in regard to the foolproof security in banks; and

(g) the total loss suffered by banks as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The bank-wise and State-wise details of the case of robberies/dacoities and burglary (which includes incidents of removal of jewellery from the bank lockers) etc. which were reported by the banks to RBI during the year 2005 are given in the Annex.

(c) Action against the bank officials involved in the incidents is taken by each bank under its respective Conduct Regulations. Police complaints are also filed by the banks.

(d) and (e) Security arrangements at bank branches are primarily the responsibility of each bank. The strength of security personnel at each branch is dependent on security threat perception depending on the prevailing law and order situation, area specific issues, vulnerability of the branch etc. RBI stipulates deployment of armed police guards in so far as currency chest branches are concerned. At other branches, ATMs etc., the banks can devise their own arrangements with the approval of their respective Boards. Indian Banks Association (IBA) has reported that the security personnel deputed in banks are adequate as per the risk perception of the banks.

(f) The security measures implemented by public sector banks are reviewed in State level security committee meetings convened periodically by RBI. The meetings are required to be attended by the bankers and State Govt. officials including Senior Police officials. The Committee takes stock of the security environment in the State and requisite instructions are given to the banks. IBA has issued detailed guidelines in the form of a report called "Report of the working group to review security arrangements in banks". The report provides measures for assessing the risk faced by a branch and thereby determining the number of security guards required for guarding it. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factors involved and posted armed guards and installed anti-burglary/robbery devices etc. wherever necessary. Apart from other security equipment, alarm systems, Time lock devices and CC TV system have also been provided towards security arrangements at the branches.

(g) The details of loss suffered by banks as a result of robbery/dacoities and burglaries are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Amount in lakhs of Rs.)

State	Name of the bank	No. of incidents	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Loss suffered (4-5)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	State Bank of India	2	4.59		4.59
Andhra Pradesh	State Bank of India	2	67.36		67.36
	Andhra Bank	1	2.00	2.00	0.00
Bihar	Allahabad Bank	5	7.83		7.83
	Punjab National Bank	7	21.13		21.13
	Indian Bank	1	0.11		0.11
	Indian Overseas Bank	1	23.45	5.02	18.43
	Central Bank of India	4	17.24	1.80	15.44
	United Bank of India	1	32.50		32.50
	United Bank of India	4	21.84	13.53	8.31
	UCO Bank	2	3.51		3.51
	State Bank of India	2	1.40		1.40
Chhattisgarh	State Bank of India	1			0.00
Delhi	Canara Bank	1	5.27		5.27
Gujarat	Bank of Baroda	2	8.00		8.00
	Central Bank of India	1	0.70	0.70	0.00
	UCO Bank	1	1.00		1.00
	State Bank of Saurashtra	2	13.00		13.00
Haryana	Allahabad Bank	1	5.30		5.30
	Bank of Baroda	1	2.34		2.34
	Canara Bank	1	0.65		0.65

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Central Bank of India	2	3.18	2.42	0.76
	Corporation Bank	1	15.00		15.00
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	0.63		0.63
	Punjab National Bank	6	33.18		33.18
	Union Bank of India	1	0.51	0.00	0.51
	State Bank of Patiala	1	2.39	1.80	0.59
	State Bank of India	1	3.78		3.78
Jammu and Kashmir	The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	4	29.45		29.45
Jharkhand	Bank of India	6	7.33		7.33
	Central Bank of India	1	29.19		29.19
	Allahabad Bank	1			2.00
	United Bank of India	2	2.00	4.00	5.03
	Union Bank of India	1	9.03		0.21
	Indian Overseas Bank	1	0.21	5.02	18.43
	State Bank of India	2	23.45		8.00
Madhya Pradesh	Central Bank of India	1	8.00		3.00
	Allahabad Bank	1	3.00		0.00
	Union Bank of India	2	1.10		1.10
	State Bank of Indore	1	6.00		6.00
	State Bank of India	1	1.93		1.93
Karnataka	State Bank of Hyderabad	1	2.00		2.00
	Citi Bank	1	90.00	90.00	0.00
Maharashtra	Bank of Maharashtra	3	15.34		15.34
	Bank of Baroda	1	1.00		1.00
	Corporation Bank	1	16.97		16.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Syndicate Bank	1	7.39		7.39
	UCO Bank	1	5.39		5.39
	The Catholic Syriana Bank Ltd.	2	20.82		20.82
	The South Indian Bank Ltd.	1	5.00		5.00
Meghalaya	Bank of India	1	10.00		10.00
Nagaland	UCO Bank	1	7.30		7.30
Orissa	Indian Overseas Bank	1	17.73	12.88	4.85
	Andhra Bank	1	19.61		19.61
	Union Bank of India	1	1.67		1.67
	United Bank of India	1	3.32		3.32
	State Bank of India	2	0.18	0.02	0.16
Punjab	State Bank of Patiala	1	2.39		2.39
	Punjab National Bank	2	8.47		8.47
	Punjab & Sind Bank	1	0.90		0.90
	UCO Bank	1	63.00	61.00	2.00
	Allhabad Bank	1	4.00		4.00
Rajasthan	Bank of Baroda	1	3.00		3.00
	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	1	22.00		22.00
	Punjab & Sind Bank	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Punjab National Bank	2	29.18	3.00	26.18
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	State Bank of India	1	10.00	0.00	10.00
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Bank	5	14.00		14.00
	Bank of Baroda	3	5.50		5.50
	Bank of India	2	5.92		5.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Central Bank of India	1	21.43	0.00	21.43
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2	3.38	0.00	3.38
	Punjab National Bank	2	16.91	0.00	16.91
	Union Bank of India	2	20.98	0.00	20.98
Uttaranchal	Allahabad Bank	1	2.00	0.00	2.00
	Bank of Baroda	1	2.41	2.38	0.03
	UCO Bank	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	Allahabad Bank	1	3.80	0.00	3.80
	Bank of India	2	1.97	0.00	1.97
	Indian Overseas Bank	2	0.00	0.00	0.00
	UCO Bank	2	1.28	1.28	0.00
	Union Bank of India	1	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State Bank of India	2	6.78		6.78
	Punjab National Bank	1	2.00		2.00
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	1	99.00	99.00	0.00
	Total	145	992.60	305.85	686.75

FDI in Insurance and Banking Sectors

255. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether foreign direct investment has beneficial effects on insurance and banking sectors in India;
- if so, the details thereof;
- if not, the reasons therefor;
- whether the foreign investors are interested only

in gaining control over India's domestic savings;

- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken to save the domestic banking and insurance sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has helped the banking sector in achieving greater financial stability, better capitalization, wider diversification, improved corporate governance and managing uncertainty & controlling risks. FDI has brought additional capital besides other beneficial effects for the

insurance sector in the shape of increased coverage, new products, awareness and improvement in services to consumers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All the banking and insurance companies are regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) respectively under various banking and insurance laws and regulations.

[Translation]

Community Information Centres

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced Community Information Centres (CIC) for common people in the rural areas of each State;

(b) if so, the details so such Centres set up so far, State-wise;

(c) if not, whether any target has been fixed for implementing the said scheme;

(d) whether efforts are being made to complete the works for providing the benefits of Communication and Information Technology to the people through CIC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Department of Information Technology (DIT) has implemented a scheme for setting up of 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in the 8 North Eastern States in August 2002. 113 CICs at block level are operational in Jammu &

Kashmir. A project on setting up of 71 CICs in Government schools of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands has been approved.

CICs set up - Arunachal Pradesh (56), Assam (219), Manipur (33), Meghalaya (32), Mizoram (26), Nagaland (52), Tripura (29), Sikkim (40), Jammu & Kashmir (113) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2).

The government has prepared a draft framework to create an enabling environment with policy interventions and financial support, so that roll out of Internet enabled Common Service Centres (CSCs), especially in rural areas of the country can take place at a faster pace. The government has also prepared a scheme for establishment of 100,000 CSCs for service delivery in rural areas. No specific time frame has been fixed for setting up these CSCs.

(d) and (e) Significant efforts have been made to provide benefits of Communication and Information Technology to the local community. Basic services provided by CICs include Internet Access, E-mail, Printing, Data Entry, Word Processing and Training for the local populace on fundamentals of computers. In addition, several citizen-centric or Government to Citizen (G2C) services are delivered from the CICs. Services offered are in the five main categories viz. IT Education and Training, E-mail and Internet access, Information Dissemination, Citizen Centric applications, and Entertainment & News.

[English]

Delay in Investigation By SFIO

*300. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the time taken between detection and prosecution of the cases processed by Serious Fraud Investigation Office is abnormally long;

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

(c) the remedial steps the Government proposes to take to ensure early completion of investigation of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The SFIO is already vigorously pursuing the investigation of the cases assigned to it within the specified time limit and prosecution cases are being filed immediately after the instructions are issued by the Ministry.

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns

*301. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and medium towns brought under the integrated development of small and medium town schemes as on March 31, 2005, State-wise;

(b) the new towns in various States Proposed to be brought under the scheme in 2005-2006 and 2006-07;

(c) the amount allocated/earmarked therefor;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken any evaluation of the operation of the schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) As on March 31, 2005 1854 small and medium towns have been brought under the Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT). State-wise list is enclosed as statement.

(b) New projects to be taken up in small and medium town in future shall be covered under the recently launched new scheme called Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Projects already undertaken under IDSMT scheme shall, however, be completed, for which Rs.100 crore and Rs.110 crore have been allocated in 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

(c) The allocations for Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) including Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are Rs.834 crore and Rs.4595.93 crore respectively (excluding provision for Union Territories).

(d) and (e) The above scheme has been launched on December 3, 2005. Therefore, question of evaluation of the scheme does not arise at this stage.

Statement

State-wise Number of Towns Covered under IDSMT Scheme since 1979-80 upto 31st March, 2005.

Sl. No.	State	Towns Covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131
2.	Amachal Pradesh	16
3.	Assam	56
4.	Bihar	51
5.	Chhattisgarh	39
6.	Goa	9
7.	Gujarat	115
8.	Haryana	35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	24
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	23
11.	Jharkhand	13
12.	Karnataka	169
13.	Kerala	58
14.	Madhya Pradesh	146

1	2	3
15. Maharashtra		178
16. Manipur		22
17. Meghalaya		8
18. Mizoram		13
19. Nagaland		10
20. Orissa		67
21. Punjab		38
22. Rajasthan		78
23. Sikkim		10
24. Tamil Nadu		172
25. Tripura		18
26. Uttaranchal		15
27. Uttar Pradesh		206
28. West Bengal		121
29. Daman and Nicobar Islands		1
30. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		2
31. Daman and Diu		1

1	2	3
32. Lakshadweep		1
33. Pondicherry		8
Grand Total		1854

[Translation]

Manipulation in Accounts

2164. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of manipulation in the accounts of customers in the branches of nationalized and other banks by the officials and employees of banks have come to light during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such cases, bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken effective steps to check the decline in the quality of bank services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) RBI has reported that the number of cases and amount involved in actual/suspected cases of frauds in deposit accounts wherein the staff of the banks were involved during the calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are as under:

Banks	Year 2003		Year 2004		Year 2005	
	Number	Amt. (in lacs)	Number	Amt. (in lacs)	Number	Amt. (in lacs)
Public Sector Banks	105	1062.76	102	1180.56	88	895.09
Private Banks	19	380.88	10	136.24	10	149.96
Foreign Banks	3	10.96	3	12.55	—	—
Total	127	1454.60	115	1309.35	98	1045.05

The Bank-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) RBI has been taking various pro-active measures to improve the quality of Customer Service in banks which include, inter-alia, Setting up of the Committee

on Procedure and Performance Audit on Public Services and notification of the revised Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006 with effect from January 1, 2006 with enlarged scope to include customer complaints in several new areas.

Statement

Year-wise/Bank-wise Details on Manipulation of Accounts in Public Sector Banks/Private Sector Banks/ Foreign Banks for the last three Years (2003, 2004, & 2005)

Public Sector Banks

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	1	28.61	3	16.87	4	33.78
2.	Andhra Bank	4	12.16	4	22.23	4	8.07
3.	Bank of Baroda	5	44.18	5	23.78	2	17.02
4.	Bank of India	—	—	3	5.59	6	17.74
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	1	12.60
6.	Canara Bank	3	5.55	3	73.53	9	58.69
7.	Central Bank of India	9	181.58	7	49.14	7	167.77
8.	Corporation Bank	2	6.21	—	—	3	14.83
9.	Dena Bank	1	1.73	—	—	—	—
10.	Indian Bank	7	46.60	3	15.51	3	17.15
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	4	63.75	7	18.99	5	13.03
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2	7.75	5	30.46	2	51.15
13.	Punjab & Sindh Bank	2	12.45	2	13.96	2	39.36
14.	Punjab National Bank	11	77.46	13	367.32	8	183.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Syndicate Bank	3	5.87	1	1.36	2	5.56
16.	UCO Bank	3	14.19	7	58.00	3	50.83
17.	Union Bank of India	2	10.54	7	117.22	1	45.65
18.	United Bank of India	2	33.72	4	21.22	1	2.95
19.	Vijaya Bank	3	28.20	2	8.51	2	10.63
20.	State Bank of India	23	237.59	21	283.26	15	118.09
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	5	165.93	2	21.76	—	—
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	4	23.16	2	6.05	1	2.03
23.	State Bank of Indore	1	6.99	1	5.81	—	—
24.	State Bank of Patiala	1	1.79	—	—	2	5.80
25.	State Bank of Mysore	4	43.64	—	—	—	—
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	State Bank of Travancore	2	3.13	—	—	3	1.19
28.	IDBI Ltd.	—	—	—	—	2	6.74
Total		105	1062.76	102	1160.56	88	895.09

Private Sector Banks

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bank of Punjab	2	19.85	—	—	—	—
2.	Bank of Rajasthan	3	24.46	—	—	—	—
3.	HDFC	3	10.34	—	—	—	—
4.	Indus Ind Bank	2	4.36	—	—	1	13.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	ING Vyasa	2	58.02	1	2.45	2	68.65
6.	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank	2	252.95	2	80.54	—	—
7.	Karnataka Bank	1	1.58	1	3.16	—	—
8.	GTB	1	4.75	—	—	—	—
9.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	1	1.02	—	—	—	—
10.	ICICI Bank	1	1.00	—	—	1	10.40
11.	Bharat Overseas Bank	—	—	—	—	1	1.14
12.	Karur Vyasa Bank	—	—	—	—	2	11.49
13.	Federal Bank	1	2.55	3	33.22	2	36.93
14.	Jammu and Kashmir Bank	—	—	2	15.12	1	7.85
15.	UTI Bank	—	—	1	1.75	—	—
Total		19	380.88	10	136.24	10	149.96

Foreign Banks

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount	No. of cases	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Standard Chartered Bank	2	9.42	3	12.55	—	—
2.	Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	1	1.54	—	—	—	—
Total		3	10.96	3	12.55	—	—

Stamp Duty for Farmers

enacted any law to recover stamp duty from the farmers who have been issued credit cards;

2165. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab have

(b) if so, whether the Government of Punjab have initiated action to recover stamp duty from the farmers; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to stop the same?

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

[English]

New Bio-Tech Parks

2166. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up new bio-technology parks in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the amount allocated and the areas identified for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Department of Biotechnology provides need based technical as well as financial assistance to States for setting up of Biotechnology Incubators, Pilot level facilities and Biotech Parks in the country and at present no proposals are pending before the Government for consideration to set up new biotechnology parks.

(c) A consolidated amount of Rs.1500.00 lakhs are allocated during the financial year 2006-07 for setting up of Biotechnology Incubators, Pilot level facilities and Biotech Parks in the areas as identified by the States.

Desalination Plants

2167. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in installing desalination plants all along the coromandel coast;

(b) whether the Government proposes to install any desalination plants in the country including one at Karaikal of the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union-Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) Rural drinking Water is a State subject. Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development provides technical and financial assistance to States through the Centrally Sponsored Programme called Accelerated Rural water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas. In the rural sector, full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling water quality problems, including salinity, for which 15% of annual ARWSP funds released to States, are specifically earmarked. In February 2006, this has been revised and it has now been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds at the Centre for tackling water quality problems, including salinity. These funds will be released to projects approved by the State Governments for tackling water quality problems, including salinity. No proposal has been received from States including Karaikal, UT of Pondicherry.

Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, including water supply through desalination is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State/Union Territory (UT)/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain water supply and sanitation project with State Plan funds. It is, therefore, the prerogative of the State/ UT Government whether to install Desalination plants along Coromandel coast including one at Karaikal, Pondicherry, if need be.

Pursuant to the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the budget speech of the year 2004-05, proposals were requested from various States by the Ministry of Urban Development for setting up of

Desalination plants in the urban areas along Coromandel coast. The proposals received from various States and their status is given in enclosed statement. The Planning Commission opines that the aforesaid scheme can be considered under the new scheme of Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)/ Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Government of Tamil Nadu/ Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) have entered into a Bulk Water Purchase Agreement with M/s IVCRL in association with M/s BEFESA Construction Y Technologia Ambiental, Spain for setting up of a 100 ML Desalination Plant at Minjur near Chennai on Design, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBOOT) basis. Environmental

clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests is awaited. In regard to laying of pipeline from the proposed desalination plant, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board has called for tenders for 1100 mm dia DI pipe (K9) for a length of 25 km.

(b) and (c) Under JNNURM and UIDSSMT programmes launched in December 2005, State/UT Governments can propose/install Desalination Plants and to avail Central assistance, the guidelines envisage setting up of such schemes within 20 kms from sea shore and other urban areas predominantly facing water scarcity due to brackish water and non-availability of surface source. So far, the Ministry of Urban Development has not received any proposal from Government of Pondicherry for setting up of Desalination Plant at Karaikal.

Statement

Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization, CPHEEO, Ministry of Urban Development

Desalination based Water Supply Schemes approved by Ministry of Urban Development in Coromandel Coast

Name of the State/Town	Population	Capacity in Million litres per day	Date of Technical approval by CPHEEO)	Estimate cost (Rs. lakh)		Funds released (Rs. lakh)	Period of Implementation	Remarks
				As proposed by State Government	As proposed by CPHEEO			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamil Nadu								
Ramanathapuram	52879	2.50	29/1/2005	2009	1741*	Nil	2 years	Scheme returned to State for posing under UIDSSMT/ JNNURM
Keelakarai	29928							
Andhra Pradesh								
Bheemunipatnam	42054	2.86		1155	635*			-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bapatla	68103	2.00		1150	NA			Scheme returned to the State Govt. as per capita supply is more than 70 lpcd
Chirlala	53455	2.00		1123	NA			-do-
Orissa								
Gopalpur	5403	0.50	31/1/2006	483	461#	115.41	2 years	Financial sanction issued on 23/2/05 under AUWSP
Pondicherry								
Muthialpet, Pondicherry	40000	4.00	28/1/2005	1350	1074*	Nil	2 years	Scheme returned to State Govt. for posing under UIDSSMT/ JNNURM

NA – Not Approved

AUWSP – Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

* Financial sanction could not be issued for want of decision regarding financing of the scheme

Gopalpur Town had a population less than 20,000, therefore, considered under AUWSP scheme and funds released. But the State has requested for 100% financing.

[Translation]

New Mode of Transport

2168. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are likely to build-up another mode of transport in additions to metro rail to improve the traffic flow during the Commonwealth games;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan is under consideration to run mono rail in Delhi;

(d) if so, whether it would cover the whole of N.C.R.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has planned a public transport network which includes about 115 km of metro, 294 km corridor of high capacity bus system, about 74 km of elevated light rail transit system and 48 km of elevated mono rail. This is proposed to be implemented in three phases over the next 15 years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Banking Reforms

2169. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is shortly going to unveil the new road map for banking reforms;

(b) if so, whether this policy is also going to address the issues of the cooperative banking sector;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up a separate regulator for cooperative banks; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up and the extent to which it would be helpful to cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) To improve the health of the banking sector in India in general and that of Public Sector Banks in particular and also to bring them at par with the international standards, the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed measures for strengthening of prudential supervision coupled with wide ranging steps undertaken by the Government. However, there is no proposal to unveil a new road map for banking reforms, for the present.

(b) to (d) The Task Force under Prof. Vaidynathan in its report submitted to the Government in February, 2005 suggested, inter-alia, provision of financial assistance to the rural cooperative credit institutions subject to introduction of certain legal and institutional reforms in the cooperative sector. Government of India has approved a package for revival of short term rural cooperative credit structure and communicated it to all State Governments. The package also requires State Governments to take measures for enabling RBI to exercise its regulatory powers over cooperative banks, more effectively.

[Translation]

Priority to Proposals of MPs

2170. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on any concrete policy to give priority to proposals of the Members of Parliament (MPs) in various rural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that no priority is being given to them at present; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The proposals received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are given due priority as per the existing guidelines. Such proposals are examined with reference to the guidelines of the respective scheme/programme. The proposals of the Annual Plan of the District Rural Development Agency/Zilla Panchayat are also finalized in consultation with the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any report from the State Governments stating that no priority is being given to Members of Parliament in respect of the proposals submitted by them.

Registration of New Companies

2171. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for online registration of new companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other services provided to the companies on line?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) is in the process of implementing an e-Governance programme called 'MCA21 e-Governance Project'. The Project aims at transforming MCA into a paperless, modern, service-

oriented, quality conscious and customer centric organization. It envisages registration of new companies on line through Internet. The Project has been rolled out at Registrar of Companies, Coimbatore on 18th February, 2006 as the first pilot and is scheduled to be implemented at all other locations in a phased manner by the end of April, 2006.

(c) After implementation, other services provided online through Internet are filing of annual returns and balance sheets, filing of event based documents and viewing of documents etc. to existing as well as new companies.

[English]

Release of Postal Stamp

2172. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to release some postal stamps in the memory of great personalities particularly *Gur-da-Gaddi*;

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

(c) the time by which these postal stamps are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Postal stamps in memory of great personalities are being released every year, on the basis of proposals received. However, no proposal has been received by the Department for a stamp on *Gur-da-Gaddi* so far.

(b) and (c) Stamps to be released on personalities during 2006 and time by which these stamps are likely to be released is given below:—

Sl. No.	Names	Proposed release schedule
1	2	3
1.	Panna Lal Barupal	April, 2006

1	2	3
2.	Pankaj Mallick	May, 2006
3.	Lala Deen Dayal	05-07-2006
4. to 8.	Legendary Filmmakers	December, 2006
	L.V. Prasad (Telgu)	
	Pramatheshu Baru (Assamese)	
	Mehboob Khan (Hindi)	
	Bimal Roy (Hindi)	

[Translation]

Complaints Received in DOT

2173. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government in regard to irregularities and corruption pertaining to telecommunications from all over the country during the last three years and the number out of them disposed of so far, till date;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of all the pending complaints;

(c) whether there is no any Chief Vigilance Officer in the Department of Telecommunications; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Chief Vigilance Officer is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) As on 01-01-2003 a total number of 1760 complaints in regard to irregularities and corruption pertaining to telecommunications were under investigation. Thereafter, 13466 such complaints were received during the last three years from all over the

country. Out of them, 14583 complaints have been disposed of during the last three years.

(b) As and when complaints/cases of irregularities and corruption are received, the same are investigated by the Departmental Vigilance Machinery and necessary disciplinary action as per rules is taken in cases where the charges are established. Also, help of specialized investigating agencies like Police and CBI is taken in cases where deemed fit and action initiated/taken against the delinquent officers/officials.

(c) and (d) There is a post of Senior Deputy Director General (Vigilance) in the Department of Telecommunications, which is currently vacant, consequent upon the appointment of the previous incumbent as a Board Director in the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Efforts are underway, in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission, to fill up the post shortly.

[English]

Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies

2174. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to regularize 1,500 unauthorized colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of terms and conditions for regularization together with the details of the charges proposed to be imposed for regularization of unauthorized colonies, colony-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The Union Government had initially finalized guidelines for regularization of unauthorized colonies in February 2001. These guidelines were subsequently revised in February 2004. The guidelines provide the policy/framework for regularization including the cut off date, eligibility criteria for regularization, the applicability of development control

norms etc. Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has requested for further revision of certain provisions of the guidelines such as land cost and development charges etc. No decision has been taken in the matter.

Meanwhile, GNCTD has reported that in October, 2004 it had invited applications from Residents Welfare Associations/Societies of unauthorized colonies existing as on 31.3.2002. GNCTD received 1432 applications and has taken up verifications of the same.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and South Korea

2175. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and South Korea for extending cooperation in the area of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefit likely to accrue to India after signing of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes Sir. An Agreement for cooperation in the fields of science and technology was signed during the State Visit of Hon'ble President of India to Republic of Korea (ROK) in Seoul on February 7, 2006. This was in supersession to the S&T agreement signed in Seoul in 1976. This Agreement envisages to increase the competitiveness of India and the Republic of Korea.

(b) Salient features of the Agreement are:

1. Designation of the Department of Science and Technology and the ROK Ministry of Science & Technology as the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of this Agreement.

2. A Joint Committee will be established for identification of areas of cooperation. This Committee will also review the progress. Cooperation will be enhanced through (i) exploratory missions; (ii) organisation of bilateral seminars/workshops/courses; (iii) Joint research projects etc.
3. This Agreement will also enable Indian S&T organizations to enter into separate implementing arrangements.
4. The Agreement shall come into force on the date of exchange of diplomatic notes, and shall remain in force for a period of 5 years and shall be automatically extended for a further period of 5 years, unless either party gives a 12 months written notice of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

(c) The implementation of the Agreement would bring together the academia, research laboratories and the industries leading to, in some cases commercialization of products/processes.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Unemployed Youth

2176. SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to unemployed, disabled and Youth of North-Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed Youths benefited in the financial year 2004-2005 State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c)

Yes, Sir. As reported by reserve Bank of India (RBI), details of financial assistance to Unemployed Youth, disabled persons including Youth of North Eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh under Credit subsidy linked schemes, viz. Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS, for the year 2004-05 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	PMRY No. of applications disbursed	SGSY No. of benefi- ciaries	SJSRY Total No. of loans	NSLRS Total No. of loans
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	440	1745	5	0
2.	Assam	8226	47188	635	29
3.	Manipur	387	406	4	0
4.	Meghalaya	565	1650	219	6
5.	Mizoram	142	793	3	0
6.	Nagaland	109	2029	428	0
7.	Tripura	1747	6750	370	0
Total		11616	60561	1664	35

ADB Assistance for Development Project

2177. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has offered to double assistance to India to \$ 3 billion per annum and expressed keenness to invest in energy, urban development, rail freight corridor, roads and airways; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance and investment made by ADB, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government of India and Asian Development Bank have tentatively finalized the ADB's Country Strategy Program for 2006-2008. The ADB will make efforts to increase its lending to India from US \$ 2.25 billion in 2006 to US \$ 2.45 billion in 2007 to US \$ 2.65 billion in 2008 should there be demand for it from the States and other Executing Agencies. The loans are in sectors identified by the Government of India to combat poverty through infrastructure-led growth. Nearly 77% of the three-year program focuses on core infrastructure projects including Transport (National Highways, State Roads, Rural Roads, Railways and Urban Transport); Urban Development (Water and Sanitation, City Development, Municipal Reform); Irrigation; and Energy (Power Sector Reforms, Transmission and Distribution, Hydropower).

**Infrastructure Projects with the help
of Financial Institutions**

2178. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the specific infrastructure projects started and completed by the financial institutions which were allowed to float Infrastructure Bonds, during the last three years, institution-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of such projects started during the above period but not yet completed;

(c) the normal time taken by the institutions to complete such projects;

(d) the reasons for delay, if any, in completing the pending projects; and

(e) the steps taken to expeditiously complete such pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) The tenure of Infrastructure Bonds floated by Financial Institutions (FI's) cannot be matched with project completion.

The role of FI's is linked only to financing the projects and not to its implementation.

**Establishment of National Fluoride Research
Institute**

2179. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Fluoride Research Institute at Hyderabad;

(b) whether the Government has received any request from Andhra Pradesh in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A request from Andhra Pradesh to set up National Fluoride Research Institute at Hyderabad was received in 2004.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Utilisation of Funds in IEPF

2180. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fund for 2005-06 under Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) to be utilized through Investors Association, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have been disbursed till now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner by which NGOs to complete the utilisation before March, 2006; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of small investors?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) and (b) An amount of Rs.2.50 crores was provided under BE 2005-2006 for IEPF which has been increased to Rs.3.00 crores in RE 2005-2006 for carrying out various activities under IEPF. During the year, an amount of Rs.2,16,98,525/- has been sanctioned for various activities/schemes under IEPF, out of which an amount of Rs.66,02,179/- has been disbursed to various Investor Associations/ Non Government Organizations (NGOs)/Institutions. Further an amount of Rs.1,50,96,346/- has been utilized for various other activities relating to investor's education, awareness and protection.

(c) NGOs are required to utilize the grant for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned and disbursed by 31st March as per Rules and submit Utilisation Certificates duly audited.

(d) The following steps are being taken under IEPF relating to investor's education, awareness and protection to protect the interests of small investors:

- (i) Education programmes through Media (Electronic as well as print media);
- (ii) Registration of voluntary associations or institution or other organizations engaged in Investor Education and Protection activities and providing financial assistance to them for projects for Investor's Education and Protection including research activities;
- (iii) Coordinating with other institutions/ organizations engaged in Investor education, awareness, and protection activities.

Urban Haats

2181. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to encourage the marketing of handicrafts in the country;

(b) the total number of Urban Haats sanctioned by Government, State-wise;

(c) the details of Urban Haats which have become operational;

(d) the details of Urban haats which have not yet been operationalised indicating the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to make them operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) to encourage Marketing of Handicrafts in the Country, Marketing Support & Services scheme is being implemented under which grant-in-aid is provided to implementing agencies like Apex societies, State Handicraft Development Corporations, NGOs etc. to organize marketing events like exhibitions, craft bazaar and handicraft expos. To provide infrastructure facility for better marketing of handicraft products, financial assistance is also provided for setting up of Urban Haats and Emporia.

(b) 37 (Thirty Seven) Urban Haats have been approved so far, State-wise detail of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) 5 (Five) Urban Haats have become operational which are at Bhubaneshwar (Orissa), Uchana, Karnal (Haryana), Jammu (J&K), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Gohar Mahal, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

(d) The remaining Urban Haats are yet to be operationalized. These Urban Haats have been approved in different years from 1998-99 to 2005-06. Urban Haats being a primarily construction activity, require clearances from a number of agencies including approval of design and architectural plan. Besides, a few cases are reported to have gone under litigation. Work of setting up of remaining Haats is at various stages.

(e) Progress is reviewed from time to time with the implementing agencies and State Governments and implementing agencies/State Governments are prompted to expedite accomplishment of the projects by taking all necessary measures.

Statement**State-wise Detail of Urban Haats**

State	No. of Urban Haats	Location
1	2	3
Haryana	1	Uchange (Karnal)
Jammu and Kashmir	2	Jammu, Srinagar
Punjab	1	Patiala
Rajasthan	2	Jodhpur, Jaipur
Delhi	2	Pitampura, Mehauli
Uttar Pradesh	6	Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Rampur & Bareilly.
Utaranchal	1	Dehradun
West Bengal	1	Kolkata
Orissa	3	Bhubaneswar, Puri and Konark
Jharkhand	2	Ranchi, Hazaribagh
Andhra Pradesh	1	Tirupati
Kerala	1	Trivandrum
Pondicherry	1	Pondicherry
Karnataka	1	Mysore
Gujarat	3	Ghandi Nagar, Surat, Bhuj
Maharashtra	2	Pune, Mumbai.
Goa	1	Panaji
Madhya Pradesh	2	Bhopal, Indore

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur
Assam	1	Guwahati
Nagaland	1	Dimapur
Tripura	1	Agartala
Total	37	

Raising Additional Funds by Banks

2182. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nationalised banks and the banks in private sector have floated shares for raising additional funds aiming to bolster capital;

(b) if so, the funds raised by each of these banks during the last two years;

(c) whether these banks have met the target fixed for disbursement of loans in rural sector;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the reasons for raising the interest rates on housing loans by some of these banks; and

(f) the criteria for fixing the interest rates on various schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and 15 Private Sector Banks have raised funds by increasing their share capital since April 2004, as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) During the year 2004-05, public sector and private sector banks have advanced 15.3% and 12.1% respectively, of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to agriculture sector against the target of 18% of NBC. Low capital formation in agriculture sector, lesser number of applications

being sponsored by the sponsoring State Government agencies, lack of adequate infrastructure, and increase in bank credit to other sectors at a faster pace are some of the reasons for lower credit ratio in agriculture sector. In absolute terms, lending to agriculture has increased from Rs.86,187 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.1,25,309 crore in 2004-05, which is an increase of 44%.

(e) and (f) Reserve Bank of India has deregulated the interest rates on advances including housing and other retail loans above Rs.2 lakh w.e.f. 18th October 1994, The interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Board of Directors after taking into consideration factors like cost of funds, operating expenses, transaction cost, risk etc.

Statement

Increase in Share Capital of Public and Private Sector Banks (Since April 2004)

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Amount
1	2	3
1.	Dena Bank	80
2.	Punjab National Bank	80
3.	Allahabad Bank	100
4.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	58
5.	Syndicate Bank	50
6.	Andhra Bank	85
7.	Union Bank of India.	45
Private Sector Banks		
1.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	0.04
2.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	71.32
3.	Federal Bank Ltd.	43.84

1	2	3
4.	HDFC Bank Ltd.	27.39
5.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	207.14
6.	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	67.91
7.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	80.84
8.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	249.56
9.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	7.94
10.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	37.75
11.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	15
12.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	1.04
13.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	11.9
14.	UTI Bank Ltd.	57.89
15.	Yes Bank Ltd.	70

Schemes for Development of Ocean

2183. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes aimed at the developmental activities in coastal areas along various States;

(b) the funds allocated to these states during each of the last three years for the purpose;

(c) whether any criteria has been fixed for allocation of funds to States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Development of coastal areas is the subject matter of States. The Ministry of Ocean Development does not allocate any funds directly to

State Governments for any developmental work. However, the Ministry under Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) programme has been implementing research activities in respect of management of coastal areas. The year-wise funds allocated for implementing ICMAM programme for the past three years are:

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Rupees in lakhs			
227.57	126.76	110.00	464.33

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Community Development Programmes by Banks

2184. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the specific community development as well as welfare programmes, if any, taken-up by nationalised banks in their operational area as a part of their social obligation;

(b) whether the Nationalized/rural Banks are implementing any scheme for training for self-employment of youths, farmers as well as women in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of training centers being set up, bank-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The Scheduled Commercial Banks including nationalized banks are implementing the Central Government Credit Subsidy linked schemes viz. a holistic rural poverty alleviation programme (Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana), an urban poverty alleviation programme (Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana), an employment generation scheme for specific segment (Scheme of Liberation and

Rehabilitation of Scavengers) and a self employment programme for educated un-employed youth within the age group of 18 to 35 years (Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana) through their branches in all states.

(b) to (d) The banks have been advised to set up training institutes on the lines of Rural Development & Self Employment Training Institutes (RUDSETIs) jointly with State Governments by utilizing existing infrastructures of ITIs and Small Industries Service Institutes. Reserve Bank of India has reported that they do not collate information regarding number of training centers set up by the banks for training for self-employed. However, information available with RBI shows that Syndicate Bank in association with Canara Bank and Sri Dharamasthala Manjunatheswara Education (SDME) Trust has set up 20 RUDSETIs in 12 states so far. They have set up a Central Secretariat of RUDSETI at Ujire through which they have extended guidance to several banks in both public and private sector, viz. Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank, UCO Bank, Andhra Bank, Vijaya Bank, State Bank of Saurashtra and officials from the state governments of Gujarat, Chattisgarh and also certain NGOs in setting up training institutes on the lines of RUDSETIs.

Interest Rates for Self Help Groups

2185. MS. INGRID MCLEOD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to lower the interest rate for the self help groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representation from various quarters in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) The Government has received representations from various

quarters to lower the interest rate for the Self Help Groups (SHGs). Interest on loans and advances at ground level has been deregulated by RBI and the Banks have the freedom to decide the interest rate to be charged depending on cost of funds, transaction cost and other allied factors.

However, RBI has stipulated that interest rate on loans by Commercial Banks upto Rs.2.00 lakhs should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR)

Penny Stock Movements

2186. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI is investigating the Penny Stock movements recently which have shown tremendous increase in their share prices;

(b) is so, complete details of such stocks; and

(c) the details of investigations by SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been keeping a close watch on the trading and sharp rise in a short period in shares of companies with low market capitalization commonly referred to as "small cap stocks" or "penny stocks" in the recent times.

(b and c) SEBI initiated quick investigation into several such scrips and the entitles who were active in such scrips. Since September 2005, SEBI has passed 17 interim exparte orders including those against the promoters and directors of the companies. The names of these companies are:

1. IFSL Ltd.
2. Prime Capital Mkt. Ltd.,

3. Subh Laxmi Projects Ltd.,
4. Global Capital Markets Ltd.,
5. Bankam Investments Ltd.,
6. St Services, Amluckie Investment Co. Ltd.
7. Konkan Tyres Ltd.
8. Consortex Karl Doelitzsch (India) Ltd.
9. Minal Engineering
10. Prime Property Development Corporation Ltd.
11. Pentamedia Graphics Ltd.
12. IND TRA DECO Ltd.
13. ELTROL Ltd.
14. Mega Corporation Ltd.
15. Karuna Cables Ltd.
16. Nageshwar Investment Ltd.,
17. Adinath Biolabs Ltd.,
18. Globe Stocks & Securities Ltd.
19. Goenka Business & Finance Ltd.
20. Coronet Industries Ltd.
21. Millennium Cybertech Ltd.

Orders are in the nature of "suspending trading" in specific scrips and prohibiting the promoters, directors, persons acting in concert, brokers and clients from buying, selling or dealing in the company's shares till further orders. Further, these companies have been debarred from accessing capital markets till further orders.

Mega Project for Infrastructure

2187. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a committee to appraise projects involving public-private partnership where the capital cost or the cost of the underlying assets of the projects exceeds Rs.100 crore;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee; and

(c) the details of progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government has set up a Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), with the following composition.

- (i) Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (in the Chair)
- (ii) Secretary, Planning Commission
- (iii) Secretary, Department of Expenditure;
- (iv) Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs; and
- (v) Secretary of the Department sponsoring a project.

The Committee will appraise Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects in the Central sector. While all PPP Projects, whether involving Public funding or not have been put under the purview of the PPPAC, projects where the capital costs or the cost of underlying assets are less than Rs.100 crores have been exempted from the purview of PPPAC. No proposals have been received so far by PPPAC.

Privatisation of Bank Deposits and Loans

2188. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued a directive to the Banking Institutions to hand over the

basic services like deposits and loans to private organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of this decision on the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Banks have been permitted to use the services of intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Business Correspondent models. The guidelines have been issued to banks in January 2006.

Under the "Business Facilitator" model, banks may use intermediaries such as NGOs/Farmers Clubs, cooperatives, community based organisations, Post Offices, Insurance Agents, well functioning Panchayats, Village Knowledge Centres, Agri Clinics/ Agri Business Centres, etc. for providing facilitation services. Such services may include- identification of borrowers; collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data; creating awareness about savings and other products and education and advice on managing money and debt counselling, etc.

Under the "Business Correspondent Model, NGOs/ MFIs set up under Societies/Trust Act, Societies registered under Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Acts or the Cooperative Societies Acts of States, Section 25 companies and Post Office may act as Business Correspondents. The scope of activities under taken by Business Correspondents will include - disbursement of small value credit; recovery of principal/collection of interest; collection of small value deposits; sale of micro insurance/mutual fund products/ pension products/other third party products and receipt and delivery of small value remittances/other payment instruments.

The guidelines have been issued with the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing the outreach of the banking sector.

[Translation]

Contribution towards RGNDWM

2189. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the people or the authority who can contribute 10 percent or 5 per cent share of the cost incurred on the Centrally sponsored Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM);

(b) the conditions under which a Member of Parliament can contribute the said share from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(c) whether the Union Government is aware that some State Governments have refused to take the money for this purpose from the funds under the MPLADS;

(d) if so, the details of such States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) The cost sharing for projects taken up for rural drinking water supply is a part of the Swajaldhara Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. Under Swajaldhara, 90% of the project cost is borne by the Central Government and the remaining 10% is generated through community contribution.

(b) As per para 3.20 of MPLADS Guidelines, MPLADS funds shall not be used to substitute the public and community contribution in any Central/State Government Programme/Scheme, which includes a component of such contribution.

(c) No such report has been received.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Implementation of Rural Development Schemes through Forest Department

2190. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to implement rural development schemes through Forest Department in all villages bordering forest areas for better coordination and constructive effort in the implementation of work relating to these schemes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development under its guidelines for the programme of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) stipulates that forest villages which are not part of any existing village panchayat will be treated as village panchayats and the forest department in the district will implement the programmes in forest villages in consultation with the people of such villages. Similarly, the guidelines of watershed development lay emphasis on the pre dominance of non forest wastelands. However, watershed may encompass forest land under the ownership of State Forest Department requiring treatment as under these programmes entire watershed is to be treated in an integrated manner. According to the guidelines for Haryali, such areas are treated simultaneously with the technical sanction for treatment plan approved by the divisional forest officer. Such plans are implemented by the village forest development committees in close coordination with the village panchayat, micro watershed development plan.

(b) and (c) The projects are already being implemented as per the programme guidelines.

[English]

R&D Activities in Pharmaceutical Sector

2191. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to expand research and development activities in the pharmaceutical sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the public sector undertakings in the pharmaceutical sector units in this regard;

(c) whether the private sector companies including Multi-National Companies are very keen to make India their destination to expand R&D activities; and

(d) if so, the aid/assistance given to such companies?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Government have taken several steps and measures including restructuring of Public Sector undertakings to expand Research and Development (R&D) activities in the pharmaceutical sector.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, private sector companies are keen to expand the R&D activities in the country. Many multinational companies, as reported in World Investment Report 2005, released by UNCTAD have mentioned India as a favoured destination in various sectors including pharmaceuticals. Government have been providing various fiscal incentives to industry including Drugs and Pharma companies to promote research. During the year 2004-05 the Government have extended financial support in the form of Loan Assistance to the tune of Rs.1275 lakhs to 6 Drugs & Pharma companies for R&D under Pharmaceutical Research & Development Support Fund (PRDSF) Programme of Department of Science & Technology (DST)

and New Millennium India Technology Leadership Initiatives (NMITLI) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Credit to Small Scale Industries

2192. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total credit available by the Government to Small Scale Industries (SSI) during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the credit provided to SSI is less as compared to their requirements;

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

(d) whether any Committee has been set up to examine the various issues pertaining to SSI;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(f) the status of the implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The outstanding advances to SSI sector by public sector banks during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and upto Sept, 2005 are Rs.52988, Rs.58278, Rs.67634 and Rs.71793 crores, respectively.

(b) and (c) Banks provide loans for viable proposals received from the SSI sector. However, a "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to SME sector" has been announced in the Parliament on August 10, 2005 which inter-alia includes fixing self targets for funding Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to achieve a minimum 20% year on year growth in credit to SMEs.

(d) to (f) The RBI had set up four Committees to examine the various issues pertaining to SSI viz. Nayak Committee to examine the Adequacy of Institutional Credit

to SSI Sector and Related Aspects in 1992, High Level Committee on Credit to SSI (Kapur Committee) in 1998, Working Group on Flow of Credit to SSI Sector (Ganguly Committee) in 2004 and an Internal Group to Review Guidelines on Flow of Credit to SME Sector (Murthy Committee) in 2005. The majority of the recommendations of these Committees have been accepted. Based on these recommendations, the "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to SME sector" has been announced. The RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks to implement these policy measures.

Tsunami and Cyclone Prone Indian Coast

2193. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified the Indian Coasts which are prone to Tsunami and Cyclone;

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

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide advance warning on the occurrence of Tsunami and cyclone and also to build shelters for the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have identified thirteen coastal States/Union Territories as vulnerable to cyclones/Tsunami. These are States/Union Territories of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, Gujarat and the island territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(c) and (d) Apart from normal conventional communication channels for cyclone warnings, India Meteorological Department has installed a network of 352 Cyclone Warning Dissemination System (CWDS) which works via the INSAT satellite and provides area-specific service for dissemination of cyclone warnings.

Ministry of Ocean Development is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean Region covering the entire Indian coastline. The warning system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007. A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad on a 24x7 basis.

Model designs for construction of cyclone shelters have been developed and shared with the concerned State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations.

Variation in Budget Estimate and Expenditure

2194. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been significant variations in the budgeted estimates and actual expenditure under the head "Modernisation of Office System" for the works undertaken by the C.P.W.D. during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government will project realistic budget estimates and ensure proper and effective utilisation of the budgeted amounts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The scheme on modernisation of Government Offices is a Plan Scheme of the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG) and the budget for this is controlled by them. All the works under the scheme are not entrusted to CPWD. The Budgetary Estimates as reported by DAR&PG for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as follows:

Year	Funds available	Funds sanctioned	Actual expenditure*
2003-04	Rs. 2.70 crores	Rs. 2.68 crores	Rs. 1.95 crores
2004-05	Rs. 3.00 crores	Rs. 3.00 crores	Rs. 2.41 crores

*Some of the utilization certificates are awaited from the concerned Ministries/Department..

(c) All attempts are made for realistic projection of budget and effective utilisation. The progress of works and consequent utilization of budget is dependent on a number of factors which leads to some variations in actual expenditure vis-a-vis budget allotment.

(d) The progress of works & utilization of budget is closely monitored to ensure that there is very little or no discrepancy in budget allotment & expenditure.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to Rural Poor

2195. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that only 29 to 30 per cent funds out of the total allocation made for rural development and welfare of poor people are reaching the poor in rural areas;

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

(c) the strategy worked out to check the administrative expenditure as well as expenditure incurred on amenities for the officers involved in these schemes; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on this strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any report stating that only 29 to 30 percent funds out of the total allocation made for rural development and welfare of poor people are reaching the poor in rural areas. According to the progress reports received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the average expenditure of the major Rural Development Scheme is satisfactory during 2004-05.

(c) and (d) In order to implement the schemes properly, the Ministry of Rural Development placed special emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of its programmes. The important instruments of monitoring mechanism include Review by Union Ministers, Meetings of Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Field Visits, Monitoring of Release of Funds. Analysis of Periodical Progress Reports, Receipt of Audit Reports and Utilization Certificates, Monitoring by National level Monitors (NLMs) & District Level Monitors (DLMs), Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies. The State Governments have been advised to adhere to multi pronged strategy including awareness about the Rural Development Schemes at grass root level, transparency, accountability and social audit by the Gram Panchayat to provide benefits of the rural development programmes to the target groups. The Ministry of Rural Development has also adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the Schemes (ii) transparency (iii) peoples partnership and (iv) accountability, in order to expedite the works related to all these schemes. In addition to this, constitution of Village Level Monitoring Committee for each work under SGRY and NFFWP is mandatory which will monitor the progress and quality while work is in progress and final report of the Committee would be attached along with the completion certificate of work for consideration of Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat where work has been executed.

[English]

Privatisation of Government Presses

2196. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a proposal for the privatization of Government-owned textbook presses in Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers recommended that the privatization should include reasonable operational land area, excess land of these Presses should be developed, if necessary in collaboration with the respective State Governments;

(c) if so, whether the Government also approved proposals for modernization of Government Press in Shimla and its conversion to a production-cum-training centre;

(d) if so, the decisions taken in this regard; and

(e) the estimated cost of these projects and the extent to which State Governments have been instructed accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Government on 1.02.2006 has decided to privatize Government of India Text Book Presses at Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar along with reasonable operational land area with the condition that the employees will continue to be in service till completion of their balance service period. Excess land of these presses may be developed, if necessary, in collaboration with the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved the retention and modernization of Government of India Press, Shimla by converting into a production-cum-training centre at an estimated cost of Rs.2.19 crore.

(e) Surplus land in these States will be developed in collaboration with State Governments.

Kochi Metro Project

2197. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal with regard to the Kochi Metro Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the project?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has proposed construction of a 25.3 km long elevated rail-based Light Metro for Kochi from Alwaye to Petta (Tripunithura) at an estimated cost of Rs.1966 crore (May '05 prices) without taxes and duties. The State Government has proposed implementation of the project through a public private partnership, for which they have to identify a private partner. As such, question of any action by the Government of India would arise only after the bidding process is complete and a firm estimate of the financial requirements becomes available.

[Translation]

**Mobile Phone Connectivity in Chhitorgarh,
Rajasthan**

2198. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether networking work is being carried out presently by BSNL for providing mobile services;

(b) the number of cities under district Chhitorgarh in Rajasthan included under it;

(c) the number of cities where the work is in progress; and

(d) the time limit fixed for providing mobile services in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of expanding its mobile services network across the country.

(b) to (d) BSNL has so far provided mobile services at 18 stations/places of Chhitorgarh district. BSNL has further planned for provision of its mobile services in 10 additional stations/places of Chhitorgarh district out of which installation work at 8 places are already in progress. The mobile services at all the 10 places are planned to be rolled out progressively during the current year i.e. by 31.12.2006.

[English]

Engagement of Unemployed Rural Youths in Postal Services

2199. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to engage rural unemployed youths in providing postal facilities in villages;

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

(c) the details of the schemes implemented by the Government to counter the private courier services particularly in rural areas; and

(d) the extent to which these schemes are effective to counter the private courier services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(c) and (d) The Department provides economical postal services through daily delivery of mail and collection of letters in every part of the country, including rural, hilly, tribal, and desert areas whereas private courier services operate primarily within or between urban agglomerations. Postal Services are available through an unparalleled network of 1,39,120 rural post offices, out of the total network of 1,55,516 post offices (as on 31.03.2005) in the country. The Department has an elaborate system in place for collection and delivery of mail. The system is regularly monitored, reviewed and rationalized to ensure provision of efficient services. Products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post, Logistic Post, e-Post and Bill Mail that are being offered by the Department are showing steady growth. Speed Post is operated through 163 National Speed Post Centres and 951 State Speed Post Centres. Speed Post is a guaranteed, time bound, premium service, and has a traffic growth of 23% per annum. e-Post provides a bridge to those customers who do not have easy access to computers and internet by utilizing the last mile reach of the post office. This is of special value in the rural areas.

E-Governance

2200. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that as per the e-governance index of UN, India is lagging behind at 87th rank whereas the other developing countries like China and Brazil stand much above our country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has devised a national e-governance scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the physical and financial targets fixed thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to seek assistance from multinational IT companies to improve its level of e-governance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) As per the UN Global E-Government Readiness Report 2005: From E-government to E-Inclusion, presents an assessment of countries according to their state of e-government readiness and the extent of e-participation worldwide. India is ranked at 87th position out of 191 Member countries.

(b) The E-government Readiness Index is a composite index comprising the Web measure index, the Telecommunication Infrastructure index and the Human Capital index:

India - E-government Readiness Index - 0.4001 Web measure index - 0.5827 (33rd rank) Telecom. Infrastructure index - 0.0277 Human Capital index - 0.5900.

China - E-government Readiness Index - 0.5078 (57th position) Web measure index - 0.5692 (34th rank) Telecom. Infrastructure index - 0.1241 Human Capital index - 0.8300.

Brazil - E-government readiness Index - 0.5981 (33rd Position) We measure index - 0.7500 (16th rank) Telecom. Infrastructure index - 0.1644 Human Capital index - 0.8800.

(c) and (d) A National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been drawn which seeks to implement 26 Mission Mode Projects for the present. This covers 9 mission-mode projects in the category of Central Government, 10 projects in the State Sector and 7 projects in the Integrated Services category. The NeGP also includes establishment of Common Core Infrastructure comprising State Wide Area Networks (SWANs), State Data Centres (SDCs) and

Common Service Centres (CSCs). There is no specific allocation of funds for the entire programme; individual projects are considered for approval and allocation of funds based on proposals submitted to the relevant authority. Brief details of core infrastructure projects aimed at improving the e-Readiness index, is given below:

- (i) Department of Information Technology (DIT) through its National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing backbone e-governance network and technical support to the Central Government Departments, States, UTs and District Administrations in the country. In line with this, NIC is also providing e-Governance support to the State/UT Governments. Video Conferencing facility has also been provided in many of the District headquarters.
- (ii) A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 Mbps up to the block level, has been approved by the Government in March, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs.3,334 crores with Central Assistance component of Rs.2005 crores covering capital and operating expenditure over a period of 5 years.
- (iii) All the states/UTs have also been provided funds for Capacity Building under the special scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States for National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
- (iv) Government has formulated a proposal for establishing 100,000+ Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country. These CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government, including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

- (v) As part of the core infrastructure under NeGP, it is planned to create Central Repositories of Data, at National and State Level. DIT shall be providing technical and financial assistance to the States/UTs for creating common technology infrastructure.

(e) and (f) Technical inputs and suggestions from the IT industry, including multinational IT Companies are obtained and incorporated into the various e-governance initiatives as appropriate.

Grant-in-Aid to States

2201. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received by the Union Government for grants-in-aid for supply of potable water, improvement of drainage system and development of slums by various State Governments during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released to the States during the above period, State-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for the purpose for 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Development of Telecommunication

2202. SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent for the development of communication system in various States, particularly for

West Bengal during each of the last three years, State wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for the improvement of communication system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, the total amount spent by the BSNL and MTNL for the development of communication system in various States including West Bengal during each of the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by BSNL and MTNL for the improvement of communication system in the country are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

(Amount in Rs. in Crores)

BSNL

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	13.36	7.62	770
2.	Andhra Pradesh	993.35	367.83	429.33
3.	Assam	195.54	163.51	131.45
4.	Bihar	486.14	159.28	233.84
5.	Chhattisgarh	126.12	78.90	58.86
6.	Gujarat	896.19	337.21	211.20
7.	Haryana	309.74	190.24	279.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	179.51	79.90	46.43
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	144.25	82.53	102.45
10.	Jharkhand	265.88	103.52	103.12

1	2	3	4	5
11. Karnataka		785.08	309.26	379.07
12. Kerala		670.59	565.81	756.48
13. Madhya Pradesh		466.69	222.39	195.84
14. Maharashtra		1149.18	681.41	579.77
15. North East		132.89	156.39	125.86
16. Orissa		361.60	155.13	156.88
17. Punjab		572.89	268.22	432.77
18. Rajasthan		503.01	347.10	385.28
19. Tamil Nadu		971.08	438.22	495.33
20. Uttar Pradesh		1237.20	633.23	879.74
21. Uttaranchal		174.01	83.26	50.88
22. West Bengal		596.63	461.44	443.59
23. Other ¹		826.19	674.76	960.18
Total		12057.12	653716	7445.66

MTNL

1. Delhi		741.06	518.26	535.79
2. Mumbai		312.75	443.18	502.69
Total		1053.91	961.44	1038.48

Note:

*1. Others include Project Circles, Maintenance Regions, Telecom Factories, Training Centres etc.

2. Maharashtra Circle includes Goa

3. North East includes NE-I and NE-II Circles, Tamil Nadu Circle includes Chennai Phones, Uttar Pradesh includes UP(W) and UP(E) Circles, West Bengal includes Kolkata Phones and Sikkim.

Statement-II

The following are the steps taken by BSNL and MTNL for the Improvement of communication system in the country.

- (i) All exchanges have been connected on reliable media.
- (ii) All exchanges have been converted to digital exchanges.
- (iii) Expansion of Wireless in Local Loop system and Cellular Mobile service up to Block Head Quarters level.
- (iv) Provisioning of Digital Line Concentrators to eliminate Under Ground Cable.
- (v) Coverage of National Highways, State Highways and Railway routes on Cellular Mobile services.
- (vi) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by jelly filed cable in a phased manner.
- (vii) Creation of pole less network.
- (viii) Opening of more telephone exchange (RSUs/ RLU's).
- (ix) Conversion of SBM into RSUs.
- (x) Conversion of CDOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (xi) Centralized fault booking at SDCC (short Distant Charging Center).
- (xii) Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
- (xiii) Bill Payments made easy through more centers.
- (xiv) Attractive tariff packages including One India Plan.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Staff in Telephone
Exchanges in H.P.**

2203. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether tribal districts of Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Pagi and Bharnmaur division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh remain cut off due to snow-fall in winter months thereby affecting telecommunication services to this area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is shortage of staff in telephone exchanges in this region; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to ensure trouble free telecommunication services to this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, the telecommunication facilities in tribal districts of Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti and Pagi and Bharnmaur division of Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh are available throughout the year except during heavy snow fall/land slides in winters, when movement of staff and diesel etc. is affected which sometimes affect the operation of telecom services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Besides redeployment of officers and staff, installation of additional systems like WLL and Mobile and upgradation of existing transmission media are taken up to ensure better telecom services to this region.

[English]

Interest Rate on NRI deposit

2204. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened the norms for fixing interest rates on Non-resident Indian Deposits;

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

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

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

[Translation]

Loan by NTC

2205. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation has taken loan from the market during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision in regard to use of this amount; and

(d) the rate of interest of the loan and the time by which the said loan is to be repaid?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Textile Corporation Ltd. has mobilized funds to the tune of Rs. 2028.04 crores by way of issue of bonds on private placement basis against the guarantee given by the Government of India. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The funds were mobilized for making payments under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) to the employees, payment to Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) towards One Time Settlement (OTS) of their old dues and payment of old accumulated dues of provident fund and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) under

the Revival Scheme approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in February/March, 2002.

(d) The rate of interest of the loan and time by which the said loan is to be repaid have been given in column 4, 6 and 7 of the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of funds mobilised through issue of bonds

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Nature of Bonds	Amount Mobilized	Interest Rate	Date of Allotment	Term	Date of Maturity	Purpose of loan
1.	OTS Taxfree Bonds	248.69	9.50%	1.1.02	5 Years	31.12.06	OTS Payment to Banks/Fis
2.	Taxable Bonds (Series I)	133.05	10.00%	3.5.02	5 Years	2.5.07	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
3.	Taxable Bonds (Series II)	200.30	10.00%	20.7.02	5 Years	19.7.07	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
4.	Taxable Bonds (Series III)	166.00	9.70%	13.9.02	5 Years	12.9.07	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
5.	Taxable Bonds (Series IV)	75.60	7.00%	15.2.03	5 Years	14.2.08	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
6.	Taxable Bonds (Series V)	174.40	7.75%	28.3.03	5 Years	27.3.08	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
7.	Taxable Bonds (Series VI)	500.00	6.35%	22.10.03	5 Years	21.10.08	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
8.	Taxable Bonds (Series VII)	330.00	6.10%	15.4.04	5 Years	15.4.09	MVRS (Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme)
9.	Taxable Bonds (Series VIII)	82.10	6.15%	12.7.04	5 Years	12.7.09	Payment of Provident Fund and ESI Dues
10.	Taxable Bonds (Series IX)	117.90	7.05%	06.01.05	5 Years	06.01.10	Payment of Provident Fund and ESI Dues
Grand Total (1 to 10)		2,028.04					

*[English]***Recovery of Unpaid Bills**

2206. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dues from unpaid telephone bills for BSNL and MTNL has reached in several crores which is increasing day-by-day;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to recover such unpaid bills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) While the outstanding dues, in terms of figures, show an increasing trend, the amounts actually constitute a small fraction of the total amounts of related bills; and show a declining trend in terms of percentages over a period of years.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported net outstanding dues of Rs. 3345 Crores as on 30th November, 2005, including the unpaid bills of November, 2005. The dues constitute about 1.63% of total bills. The similar net outstanding dues of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are Rs. 1174 Crores as on 31-1-2006 and constitute 1.69% of the concerned billed amount.

(c) and (d) The collection of outstanding dues is the direct responsibility of BSNL and MTNL. The Government, however, monitors the performance of the two PSUs in this regard. BSNL and MTNL are inter-alia taking the following steps to recover their unpaid bills-

(i) Reminders/notices are sent to defaulters through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) by post.

(ii) Telephones whose bills remain unpaid beyond

pay-by-date are disconnected within specified time.

(iii) Outstanding pursuit cells have been constituted in field units to monitor recovery.

(iv) Targets for liquidation of outstanding dues for different billing periods for each Circle/ Metro District are fixed and reviewed from time to time.

(v) Private Recovery Agents are appointed to recover outstanding dues on commission basis.

(vi) In appropriate cases legal remedies are also adopted to realize the dues.

*[Translation]***Universal Health Scheme for BPL**

2207. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of families benefited from Universal Health Scheme for Below Poverty Line families as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Since the introduction of re-designed Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) for BPL families in 2004.05, the number of families covered are 65,718 in 2004-05 and 68,296 upto February, 2006. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of the State	Number of families in 2004-05	Number of families in 2005-06
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	18591	12587
Assam	185	3158
Bihar	—	2

1	2	3
Chandigarh	174	—
Chhattisgarh	890	—
Delhi	6	27
Gujarat	6775	1379
Haryana	658	452
Himachal Pradesh	381	58
Jammu & Kashmir	168	81
Jharkhand	—	40
Karnataka	2692	2201
Kerala	24067	36829
Madhya Pradesh	962	—
Maharashtra	3008	447
Orissa	71	99
Punjab	671	250
Rajasthan	4227	4272
Tamilnadu	696	492
Uttar Pradesh	1161	714
Uttaranachal	323	5208
West Bengal	14	—
Total	65716	68296

[English]

Loan from International Financial Institutions

2208. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received number of proposals from various State Governments for seeking clearance for receiving loan from certain international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any new norms or directives made by the Union Government to receive loans from such international financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Details of the project proposals received from the various State Governments through line Ministries/ Departments for foreign loan assistance from various international financial institutions are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Union Government receives the foreign loan assistance as per the standard terms and conditions of the development partners and till 31st March, 2005, it was being released to the State Governments by the Union Government as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission to pass on external assistance on the same terms and conditions on which it was received. The service cost and exchange fluctuations would also be passed on to the States under this arrangement. Accordingly, in case of new projects signed on or after April 1, 2005, the external assistance will be passed on 'back to back' basis. However, it has been decided to continue with the earlier arrangements for ongoing projects as on 31st March, 2005. Further release to such projects will continue to be provided in the form of ACA. The Government of India has also issued revised guidelines on 24th October, 2005 providing for analysis of debt sustainability of States for availing external assistance for development and structural adjustment purposes.

Statement**Loan from International Financial Institutions**

Sl.No.	State	Name of the projects	Amount involved
1	2	3	4
Asian Development Bank (ADB)			
1.	West Bengal	West Bengal Development Finance Project	US \$400 million
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Urban Sector Development Project	US \$300 million
3.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal State Roads Project	US \$300 million
4.	Assam	Assam Governance and Public Resources Management Project	US \$100 million
5.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Urban Development Project	US \$200 million
6.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Urban Development Project	US \$150 million
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh State Roads Sector Development Project II	US \$250 million
8.	Assam	Assam Integrated Flood Control and River Erosion Mitigation Project	US \$200 million
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Power Development Project II	US \$300 million
10.	Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Tourism Development Project	US \$150 million
11.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Roads Project II	US \$300 million
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir State Roads Project	US \$300 million
World Bank			
13.	West Bengal	Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project	Rs. 1143 crores
14.	Abdhra Pradesh	Water Sector Improvement Project	Rs. 3000 crores
15.	Maharashtra	Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL)	US\$ 750 million
16.	Punjab	Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL)	US\$ 800 million
17.	Rajasthan	Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL)	US\$ 2200 million
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL)	US\$ 245 million
19.	Himachal Pradesh	Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL)	Amount not specified

1	2	3	4
20.	Karnataka	SAL-III	US\$ 250 million
21.	Orissa	SAL-II	US\$ 200 Million
22.	Andhra Pradesh	SAL-III	US\$ 200 million
23.	Karnataka	Karnataka Health System Development & Reform Project	US\$ 142 million
24.	West Bengal	West Bengal Health System Development Project	US\$ 100 million
25.	Andhra Pradesh	AP Urban Reform & Municipal Sanitation Project	US\$ 233 million
26.	Karnataka	Karnataka Municipal Reform Project	US\$ 216 million
27.	Punjab	Punjab State Road Project	US\$ 150 million
28.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh State Road Project	US\$ 150 million
29.	Assam	Upgradation of State Highways & Major District Roads in Assam	US\$ 200 million
30.	Andhra Pradesh	Improvement of 4,286 kms of high density core network roads in Andhra Pradesh	US\$ 250 million
31.	Orissa	Orissa State Roads Project	US\$ 100 million
32.	Gujarat	Gujarat Urban Reforms Project	US\$ 130 million
33.	Gujarat	Integrated Rural Development Support Programme in Gujarat	Rs. 489.65 crores
34.	Tripura	Tripura Agricultural Development Project	Rs. 403 crores
35.	Karnataka	CHETANA - renamed as Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening Project	US\$ 240 million
36.	Uttar Pradesh	UP-Diversified Agricultural Support Project-II	Rs. 1001 crores
37.	Punjab	Participatory Watershed Development & Management Project in Punjab	Rs. 259.36 crores
38.	Jammu & Kashmir	Participatory Watershed Management Project in Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 968.75 crores
39.	Bihar	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project	US\$ 70 million
40.	Multi-states	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-II	US\$ 500 million
41.	Tamil Nadu	TN Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Rs. 700 crores

1	2	3	4
42.	Uttanchal	Uttanchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project II	Rs. 500 crores
43.	Punjab	Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Rs. 2791.26 crores
44.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand Participatory Forest Management	Rs. 1146.77 crores
45.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	US\$ 141.92 million
IFAD			
46.	Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh	Tejaswini-Rural Women's Empowerment Programme	Rs. 230 crores

[Translation]

Interest Rate for Exporters

2209. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has approved a scheme to reduce the rate of interest on bank loan for the exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has implemented the recommendations of the task force constituted to look into the issue of reducing the rate of interest for exporters; and

(d) if so, the details of recommendations of the task force and the number of the recommendations accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) A Working Group constituted by RBI consisting of officials of RBI, select banks and representatives of exporters' organizations set up to review the scheme of export credit, conducted a review of the current interest rate on export credit in Rupees and in foreign currency.

Taking into account the request of the exporters' organizations the Group has recommended vide its report dated May 9, 2005 that the present interest rate prescription by RBI may continue for the time being in respect of export credit in Rupees, in the interest of the small and medium exporters.

In respect of export credit in foreign currency, in order to sufficiently cover the cost of funds borrowed by banks from abroad, the Group recommended that the interest rates may be raised by 25 basis points, (i.e. LIBOR + 1.00% for the first slab and additional 2% for the second slab). Reserve Bank of India has not accepted this proposal so far.

Loans Written off by Cooperative Banks

2210. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loans written off by co-operative sector banks during the last financial year;

(b) whether the loan written off in the last financial year is more than previous year;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the details of the recoveries made by these banks during last financial year in comparison to the previous financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The date generating system of NABARD/RBI does not capture the data in the manner asked for. As part of the farm credit package announced by the Government of India on 18th June 2004, certain debt relief measures including One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme were introduced. Under One Time Settlement Scheme, the amount settled by the Cooperative Banks during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as on 31st January 2006) is furnished below :

(Rs. Crore)

Year	OTS
2004-05	220.88
2005-06*	61.16

*Data provisional (April 2005 to 31st January 2006)

Bank Boards have the freedom to implement any compromise scheme as a part of Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Management, subject to their bye-laws and prior approval of Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS).

(d) The details of recoveries as a percentage to demand made by State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) as on 30th June 2004 and 2005 are as under :-

Banks	Recovery as % to demand-2004	Recovery as % to demand-2005
SCBs	83.32	83.51
DCCBs	61.87	71.23
SCARDBs	43.80	43.70
PCARDBs	43.90	50.60

Schemes with the help of World Bank/IMF

2211. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various schemes of the country which have been granted financial assistance from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund during the last three years;

(b) the schemes which have been granted loans;

(c) whether any special conditions have been imposed for these loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the rate of interest being paid on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The loans from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and credits under International Development Association (IDA) carry standard terms & conditions which are as under :

Terms and conditions	IBRD	IDA
Repayment Period	20 years inclusive of 5 years grace Period.	35 years inclusive of 10 years grace period.
Commitment Fee	0.75% p.a. on undisbursed balance	0.5% p.a. on undisbursed balance
Front-end Fee	1% of the loan amount.	Nil
Interest Rate	It is based on 6 months LIBOR plus a variable spread.	Nil
Service Charge	Nil	0.75% p.a. on amount disbursed.

Statement

Details of Grants and Loans/Credits approved by the World Bank during the last three years (upto 28.02.2006)

US \$ Million)

S.No.	Project Name	Financial Year	Total Amt
1	2	3	4
Grants			
1.	Linking Bio-diversity Con. & Rural Livelihood Project	2005-06	0.4
2.	Punjab Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	2005-06	0.45
3.	Preparation of India HIV/AIDS III	2005-06	0.9
4.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project	2004-05	0.5
5.	Building Capacity of Village Level Institutional Collaborative	2004-05	0.4
6.	Capacity Building for Community Forest Management	2004-05	2.0
7.	Modernisation of CGA	2004-05	0.5
8.	Technical Assistance to the Competition Commission of India	2004-05	0.5
9.	Preparation of Bio-diversity Cons. and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project	2004-05	0.3
10.	Preparation of Slum upgrading and National Sanitation Project	2004-05	0.7
11.	Preparation of Urban Reforms Initiatives Fund Project	2004-05	0.6
12.	Jharkhand Participatory Forest Management Capacity Building Project	2004-05	0.4
13.	Improving Public Expenditure Management Capacity Building Project	2004-05	0.5
14.	Pilot ICT Program for Rural Areas of Pune District	2004-05	1.0
15.	Uttanchal Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	2004-05	0.9
16.	Institutional Strengthening of AAAD of the MoF	2004-05	0.4
17.	Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation	2003-04	0.4
18.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project	2003-04	0.6
19.	Capacity Building for Reforming India's Pension System	2003-04	0.45

1	2	3	4
20.	Capacity building for Implementation of Cartagena Protocol	2003-04	1.0
	Loans/Credits		
21.	Power System Development Project-III	2005-06	400
22.	Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project	2005-06	60
23.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction	2005-06	120
24.	Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project (TNUDP III)	2005-06	300
25.	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project	2005-06	325
26.	India: Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	2005-06	465
			1670
27.	Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project	2004-05	620
28.	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	2004-05	110.83
29.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	2004-05	154
30.	SME Financing & Development	2004-05	120
31.	Orissa Socio-Economic Development Loan/Credit	2004-05	125
32.	Rural Roads Project	2004-05	399.5
33.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	2004-05	394.02
34.	Hydrology Project Phase II	2004-05	104.98
35.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	2004-05	68
36.	Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project	2004-05	69.62
37.	Elementary Education Project	2004-05	500
38.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	2004-05	39.5
39.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	2003-04	89
40.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program II	2003-04	220
41.	India Immunization Strengthening Project-Supplement	2003-04	83.41
42.	Allahabad Bypass Project	2003-04	240

1	2	3	4
43.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation "Jalswarajya" Project	2003-04	181
44.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	2003-04	348
45.	Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project	2003-04	54.03
46.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Reduction Project	2003-04	112.56

India has not availed of any assistance from International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 1993.

[English]

Stamping on Textile Articles

2212. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a Committee has been set up to make recommendations on standards for stamping and working on textile articles;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no representation has been given to handloom and powerloom sector in the Committee;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted by the Textile Commissioner to suggest and recommend the requirements for stamping of markings on textiles. This Committee comprises representatives of manufactures, traders, importers, exporters and retailers.

(c) and (d) The powerloom sector is represented in the Committee by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

(e) The Committee has not made any recommendation till date.

[Translation]

Phone Cloning

2213. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any case of phone cloning in 'Garuda' and other telephones has come to the notice of the Government recently;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check phone-cloning in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. 1166 cases in Delhi and one case in Mumbai on the cloning of Garuda (post paid WLL mobile service) telephone have come to the notice of MTNL. Similarly, one case of cloning in 'Tarang' (post paid WLL mobile service) telephone has come to the notice of BSNL.

(b) and (c) In MTNL Mumbai, a case has been registered with the local police. Steps taken by BSNL and MTNL to check phone cloning are given below :

- To check phone cloning in future, authentication process in CDMA MSC was made more secure by implementing an additional A-Key based authentication feature. It has been ensured that

the subscriber terminals now being procured by MTNL would also have this secure authentication feature based on A-Key.

- Further, the handsets already working in CDMA network were also programmed with A-Key to make them "cloning proof".
- Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) has been requested to incorporate the security features in the specifications of Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) WLL systems to avoid cloning of phones in the future.
- New 400K CDMA network is also having A-Key based authentication and OTA feature for secure transmission on A-Key in subscriber terminals.
- In those cases where the subscriber's handset did not support A-Key implementation, STD/ISD facility has been temporarily withdrawn to limit the misuse.
- Old IS-95 handsets were replaced with new cloning proof IX CDMA handset under special discount scheme.
- Help of Police authorities has also been taken by lodging of FIRs with the Police.
- Booking in Plan B (customer own handset) stopped.
- Monitoring of fortnightly calling pattern to identify abnormally high calling numbers for temporary disconnection.

[English]

Fake Credit Card

2214. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many fake credit card rackets have been busted during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide foolproof system in credit card dealings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of frauds perpetrated using fake credit cards, as reported by the banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the last three years are as under :-

Name of the Bank	No. of instances	Amount involved (Rs. in lakh)
HSBC Ltd.	27	41.04
Standard Chartered Bank	7	11.31
SBI Cards & Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.	5	9.36
HDFC Bank	8	14.07
ICICI Bank	7	11.28
Andhra Bank	1	19.50

(c) Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to set up internal control systems to combat frauds committed at application stage and through misuse of lost/stolen, counterfeit/alterd credit cards. RBI has issued guidelines on credit card operations on 21.11.2005 advising the banks to fulfill 'Know Your Customer (KYC)' requirements, assessing credit risk of customers, specifying terms and conditions in a transparent manner, etc.

[Translation]

Pucca Houses to Jhuggi Jhonpari Dwellers

2215. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide with pucca-houses in multi-storied buildings to Jhuggi-Jhonpari dwellers in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any preventive measures to ensure that these houses are not sold to anybody else by the Jhuggi dwellers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that it has formulated a proposal for construction of multi-storeyed tenements for slum dwellers.

The Union Government has also accorded in principle approval to DDA to take up a pilot project for construction of multi-storeyed tenements for relocation of slum dwellers at Tehkhand using land as resource. An area of about 16 hectares of land has been identified for the purpose, which will provide about 3200 EWS tenements for slum relocation.

(c) and (d) GNCTD has further informed that it is proposed to incorporate adequate safeguards against re-sale of tenements in the final scheme.

Working Conditions of Scientists

2216. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to constitute an expert committee to review the working conditions of the Indian scientists and to provide them with necessary assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such an expert committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Government.

[English]

Review of Health Cover Product

2217. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item appeared in Business Line on January 30, 2006 captioned, "IRDA seeks review of health cover products";

(b) whether the Committee on product innovation in health insurance set by the regulator has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee therein;

(d) whether lowering the minimum capital norms for inclusive health insurer as recommended by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) would attract more companies in this field; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Working Group on Health Insurance was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority comprising representatives drawn from various stakeholders to look into specific areas related to the promotion and development of health insurance. One sub-group appointed by this working group has examined the issue of product innovation. The major recommendations of this sub-group are as under :

— Multiple health insurance options at various price points should be offered to the customers.

- Awareness of health insurance needs to be increased through concerted efforts of the industry, the IRDA and the Government.
- Health insurance needs to be 'sold'; towards this objective alternative channels of sales need to be explored and regulations enabling the same should be looked into.
- The distribution infrastructure of life insurance should be used to sell health insurance as well.
- Saving linked products (such as 'Medical Savings Products') should be considered as it will be a step in creating a corpus for financing long-term care.
- Creation of a common pool for providing insurance for people who in the ordinary course do not have access to medical insurance.
- Establish a common definition and interpretation of pre-existing ailments and conditions.
- While on one side the insurers should deliver value to the customer, on the other, insurance companies should be encouraged to implement sub-limits, voluntary deductibles, co-payments and co-sharing as part of their product. In addition, there should be regulation whereby insurance companies can initiate criminal proceedings against anyone submitting a fraudulent claim.

(d) and (e) Since the market potential of health insurance is very large, lowering the minimum capital requirement might attract more companies into the sector.

NTC

2218. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operations of National Textile Corporation are being gradually curtailed;

(b) if not, the steps being taken to boost its production and sales;

(c) the details of the employees welfare schemes in operation including premature retirement schemes; and

(d) the details of guidelines issued to Government procurement agencies for exclusive procurement from NTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of 52 viable mills under National Textile Corporation (NTC), 40 mills are in operation at present. Majority of workers of remaining 12 mills have opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). In order to boost production and sales, some of the viable mills are proposed to be modernised by NTC itself and other with private partnership.

(c) All welfare schemes as admissible under various statutory provisions of Factories Act, Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Act, Gratuity Act etc. are being extended to the workers/employees. Further, non-statutory welfare schemes such as housing accommodation, labour welfare fund and scholarship etc. are also provided by different mills under the NTC Group of Companies. Besides this, Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) has also been implemented in NTC w.e.f. 1st Jan., 2002.

(d) The Government has not issued any guidelines to Government procurement agencies for exclusive procurement from NTC Ltd.

[Translation]

Alternative Routes for Metro

2219. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the alternative routes for metro rail from Central Secretariat to IIT Gate have been identified;

(b) if so, the details of these routes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Route between Central Secretariat to IIT Gate has been decided upon. There is no proposal to identify any alternative routes in this segment. The route follows the alignment Central Secretariat, Udyog Bhavan, Race Course, Jor Bagh, INA, AIIMS, Green Park and IIT.

(c) Work on this has commenced.

[English]

Infrastructural Weaknesses In Big Cities

2220. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any programme to focus on infrastructural weaknesses of big cities where recent rains exposed their vulnerability; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission has been launched on 3rd, December 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of infrastructural facilities in 63 select cities which include all cities with one million population and above.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of JNNURM and its objectives

* The Mission comprises two sub-missions, viz., Sub-Mission-I for Urban Infrastructure and Governance and Sub-Mission-II for Basic Services for the Urban Poor.

- * The Mission provides focussed attention to 63 select cities in different States, (Annexure)
- * For cities/towns not covered under the Mission, the Ministry of Urban Development has launched a scheme known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) while the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has formulated a scheme known as Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).
- * The following on-going schemes of the Ministries of Urban Development and Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation have been subsumed in JNNURM :-
 - i) Infrastructure Development in Mega cities.
 - ii) Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns.
 - iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.
 - iv) Urban Reform Incentive Fund.
- * Provision of Central assistance is linked to implementation of certain mandatory as well as optional reforms at the State and ULB/Parastatal levels.
- * Implementation of all mandatory and optional reforms has to be completed during the Mission period of 7 years beginning from 2005-06.
- * Central assistance is in the form of 100% grant to be funded as Additional Central Assistance (ACA).
- * Cities have to prepare City Development Plans (CDPs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
- * 5% of the Central grant or actual requirement, whichever is less, is provided for preparation of City Development Plans, Detailed Project Reports, Capacity Building, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities etc.

- * Signing of Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) by the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies/Parastatals with Central Government is a necessary condition to access Central funds. MoA should indicate commitments and milestones to be achieved in the implementation of reforms at the State & ULB/Parastatal levels.

- * Financing Pattern

Depending upon population, geographical location of the cities and category to which a city belongs, fund is provided as indicated below :-

- (i) 35% / 50% / 80% / 90% of the cost of projects would be funded by Govt. of India through 100% ACA and
- (ii) 65% / 50% / 20% / 10% would be funded by State/ULBs/Financial Institutions.

- * Funds to be released in four installments.

- * First installment shall be released on signing of MoA and approval of City Development Plans (CDPs)/ Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

- * Release of subsequent installment to be linked to achievement of reform/milestones and progress of projects.

- * A provision of Rs. 50,000 crore will be made available as Central assistance over the Mission period.

Objectives of JNNURM are :

1. To provide focused attention to integrated development of infrastructural services in the cities.
2. To secure effective linkages between asset creation and asset management so that the infrastructural services created in the cities are not only maintained efficiently but also become self-sustaining over time.

3. To ensure adequate investment of funds to fulfill deficiencies in the urban sector.
4. To have planned development of identified cities including peri-urban areas, out growths, urban corridors.
5. To scale up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor.
6. To take up urban renewal programme, i.e., re-development of inner (old) cities area to reduce congestion.

Annexure

Name of state	Name of City	Population (in lakh)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	57.42
	Vijayawada	10.39
	Visakhapatnam	13.45
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	0.35
Assam	Guwahati	8.19
Bihar	Bodh Gaya	3.94
	Patna	16.98
Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	8.08
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	7.00
Delhi	Delhi	128.77
Goa	Panaji	0.99
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	45.25
	Rajkot	10.03
	Surat	28.11

1	2	3	1	2	3
	Vadodara	14.91	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	6.56
Haryana	Faridabad	10.56		Puri	1.57
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1.45	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	6.12	Punjab	Amritsar	10.03
	Srinagar	9.88		Ludhiana	13.98
Jharkhand	Dhanbad	10.65	Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar	5.04
	Jamshedpur	11.04		Jaipur	23.27
	Ranchi	8.63	Sikkim	Gangtok	0.29
Karnataka	Bangalore	57.01	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	65.60
	Mysore	7.99		Coimbatore	14.61
Kerala	Cochin	13.55		Madurai	12.03
	Thiruvananthapuram	8.90	Tripura	Agartala	1.90
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	14.58	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	13.31
	Indore	16.40		Allahabad	10.42
	Jabalpur	10.98		Kanpur	27.15
	Ujjain	4.31		Lucknow	22.46
Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai	164.34		Mathura	3.23
	Nagpur	21.29		Meerut	11.61
	Nanded	4.31		Varanasi	12.04
	Nashik	11.52	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	5.30
	Pune	37.60		Hardwar	2.21
Manipur	Imphal	2.50		Nainital	2.20
Meghalaya	Shillong	2.68			
Mizoram	Aizawal	2.28	West Bengal	Asansol	10.67
Nagaland	Kohima	0.77		Kolkata	132.06

[Translation]

Permission to Industries in Residential Colonies

2221. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether DDA has decided to allow 119 types of industries to run in the residential colonies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any criteria has been fixed for the selection of such industries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (e) According to the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2001, 118 household industries as mentioned in Annexure III(A) of MPD-2001 can be set up in residential areas, subject to adherence to the following norms :-

- (i) Maximum number of workers - 50
- (ii) Maximum power load permissible - 50 kw.
- (iii) None of the industries mentioned in the category of household industries shall carry out the following processes:

Anodising	Varnishing
Bleaching	Moulding works
Canning Facility	Washing
Dyeing	Burning of coal
Electroplating	Use of CFC gases

- (iv) Storing of chemicals listed under Schedule I and/or II of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of

Hazardous Chemical Rules 1989 and Public Liability Insurance Act 1990 shall be prohibited.

(v) No effluent/emissions shall be allowed to be generated by the unity and the units shall adhere to the noise standards stipulated by M/o Environment and Forest, Government of India.

Further, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that as per directions of Supreme Court, small scale industries covered under the household category can be set up in residential areas, subject to obtaining No Objection Certificate from the High Powered Committee and adherence to MPD norms.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana

2222. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

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

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the amount spend under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof year-wise and state-wise;
- (c) the total estimated number of urban unemployed persons alongwith the population of people living below poverty line, state-wise;
- (d) the amount spent out of the funds allocated for this Yojana till the end of December, 2005;
- (e) whether the funds allocated under this Yojana to the States have been spent on eradication of poverty; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The expenditure (both central and state share) under

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), as reported by the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs), during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, year-wise and state-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) As per the data available with Directorate General of Employment & Training through Employment Exchanges (live register in urban areas), the number of persons registered, state-wise is given in the enclosed statement-II.

The number of persons living below the poverty line in urban areas, State-wise, as estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) Out of the total central allocation of Rs. 160.00 crore under SJSRY for 2005-06, as on 31.12.2005, Rs. 98.06 crore were released to the State/UTs for the implementation of the scheme.

(e) and (f) The funds allocated to the States/UTs are utilized under the Scheme, as per the guidelines, for the eradication of urban poverty.

Statement-I

State-wise Expenditure (both Central + State share) as reported upto 1.3 2006 by the States/UTs under SJSRY, during the last 3 years.

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1137.27	6015.78	149.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	132.68	209.49	41.79
3.	Assam	253.94	669.94	415.94
4.	Bihar	575.54	0.00	468.09

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	307.58	73.53	159.08
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	447.39	226.73	377.49
8.	Haryana	155.99	580.70	576.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	34.84	80.22	51.47
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	295.41	309.49	326.76
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	1017.10	1676.07	970.30
13.	Kerala	451.99	872.75	172.10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1250.63	875.43	1455.18
15.	Maharashtra	2493.87	1843.71	2447.52
16.	Manipur	151.41	252.50	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	151.47	536.39	174.06
19.	Nagaland	54.00	264.27	146.92
20.	Orissa	398.67	382.65	180.60
21.	Punjab	81.60	280.58	121.13
22.	Rajasthan	581.81	392.47	353.68
23.	Sikkim	64.77	73.59	134.81
24.	Tamil Nadu	1001.62	864.10	252.06
25.	Tripura	55.18	189.76	444.68
26.	Uttanchal	122.76	99.56	21.45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1648.18	2576.96	3437.18
28.	West Bengal	763.35	893.53	1114.17
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	77.76	31.97	58.16

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Chandigarh	20.75	73.90	49.84
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	90.87	69.29	7.35
32.	Daman & Diu	5.34	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	55.08	26.50	69.82
34.	Pondicherry	113.64	197.89	183.45
Total		13992.49	20639.75	14361.63

Statement-II*Live Register in Urban Areas as on August 2005*

SI.No.	State/Union Territories	In thousands
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	933.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22.3
3.	Assam	617.3
4.	Bihar	466.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	365.4
6.	Delhi	564.4
7.	Goa	30.9
8.	Gujarat	379.3
9.	Haryana	430.0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	117.2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	59.5
12.	Jharkhand	447.2
13.	Karnataka	748.8
14.	Kerala	895.7

1	2	3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	987.7
16.	Maharashtra	1985.4
17.	Manipur	153.4
18.	Meghalaya	23.4
19.	Mizoram	28.4
20.	Nagaland	29.8
21.	Orissa	284.6
22.	Punjab	220.8
23.	Rajasthan	405.1
24.	Sikkim*	
25.	Tamil Nadu	1883.3
26.	Tripura	168.9
27.	Uttaranchal	131.5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	955.2
29.	West Bengal	3058.7
Union Territories		
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	39.4
31.	Chandigarh	47.6
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
33.	Daman & Diu	7.2
34.	Lakshadweep	-
35.	Pondicherry	151.1
Total		16639.9

Note- * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Statement-III

The Number of persons living below the poverty line in urban areas, as estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of Persons (in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18
3.	Assam	2.38
4.	Bihar	36.85
5.	Chhattisgarh	21.93
6.	Goa	0.59
7.	Gujarat	28.09
8.	Haryana	5.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.29
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.49
11.	Jharkhand	12.28
12.	Karnataka	44.49
13.	Kerala	20.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	59.29
15.	Maharashtra	102.87
16.	Manipur	0.66
17.	Meghalaya	0.34
18.	Mizoram	0.45
19.	Nagaland	0.28

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	25.40
21.	Punjab	4.29
22.	Rajasthan	26.78
23.	Sikkim	0.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	49.97
25.	Tripura	0.49
26.	Uttaranchal	5.90
27.	Uttar Pradesh	111.98
28.	West Bengal	33.38
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.24
30.	Chandigarh	0.45
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.03
32.	Daman and Diu	0.05
33.	Delhi	11.42
34.	Pondicherry	1.77
35.	Lakshadweep	0.08
Total		670.07

[English]

Revenue Reserve

2223. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reserved 20 per cent of its revenue as surplus with Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which it will help the Government to curtail fiscal deficit and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Collection of Cess

2224. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various cesses being collected by the Government for additional resource mobilization in different sectors, sector-wise;

(b) the total cess collected during 2005-06 and the break-up cess collected for each purpose; and

(c) the amount spent in the last year in respective programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) So far as direct taxes are concerned, there is only one cess on direct taxes i.e. Education Cess. Figures for collection of Education Cess on direct taxes for 2005-06 are not yet available. With regard to indirect taxes, the revenue collected in 2005-06 (April-Nov) from various cesses commodity-wise relating to Customs and Central Excise is given in the enclosed statement

Information relating to other Ministries is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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

Statement

Customs : Revenue collection in 2005-06 (Apr-Nov) from various cesses

(Rs. in crore)

(Provisional)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Revenue Realized 2005-06 (Apr-Nov)
1	2	3
1.	Coffee	0.2
2.	Coir	0.8
3.	Lac	0.001
4.	Mica	1.5
5.	Tobacco (un-manufactured)	2.8
6.	Oil cakes & Meal	1.3
7.	Marine products	11.2
8.	Cashew kernels	1.3
9.	Black pepper	0.02
10.	Cardamom (Act. 1965)	0.03
11.	Cardamom (A.P. CESS)	0.8
12.	Other agriculture products	26.5
13.	Iron ore	6.6
14.	Manganese Ore	0.1
15.	Chrome Ore	0.4
16.	Animal feed	0.3
17.	Turmeric	0.1
18.	Turmeric powder	0.1
19.	Other articles	32.6

1	2	3
20.	Motor Spirit	119.5
21.	High Speed Diesel	185.0
22.	Education Cess	989.08
Total		1360.0

Excise: Revenue collection in 2005-06 (Apr-Nov) from various cesses

(Rs. in crore)

(Provisional)

Sl. No.	Commodity	Revenue Realized 2005-06 (Apr-Nov)
1	2	3
1.	Handloom cess on fabrics	0.1
2.	Sugar	157.4
3.	Tea	21.7
4.	Biris	85.9
5.	Paper	12.9
6.	Jute manufactures	25.3
7.	Automobiles	65.6
8.	Indigenous crude oil	3185.2
9.	Pharmaceutical products	0.04
10.	Motor Spirit	1513.0
11.	High Speed Diesel	5814.9
12.	Education Cess	1426.1
Total (I)		12308.1

[Translation]

Metro rail to Greater Noida

2225. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- whether any proposal to connect Greater Noida with Metro rail under consideration of the Government;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to connect Greater NOIDA with Delhi Metro.

[English]

Land Occupied by Jhuggi Clusters

2226. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- whether there is a huge cluster of Jhuggis on DDA Land in Phase-I and Phase-II of Okhla Industrial Areas;
- if so, the market value of land being occupied by these Jhuggi clusters;
- whether the Government is taking any action to relocate these Jhuggis; and
- if so, the time by which such relocation is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that there are 34 identified jhuggi clusters in Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I and Phase-II. However, the market value of the land under encroachment, has not been assessed.

(c) and (d) DDA has further stated that action for relocation of jhuggies can be taken after availability of relocation plots in terms of the existing relocation policy.

Import of Hardware

2227. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether IT hardware worth Rs. 15,750 crore is expected to be imported in the current financial year;

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

(c) the target fixed for domestic production for the next year; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase indigenous manufactures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) As per import data provided by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, IT hardware worth Rs. 6664.97 crore was imported during 2004-05 and Rs. 3722.16 crore was imported during April to September, 2005. Since parts of computers such as microprocessors and storage devices are not being manufactured in the country, these have to be imported. The target for domestic production of IT hardware for 2006-07 is Rs. 10,000 crore. The steps taken by the Government to promote indigenous manufacturing of IT hardware is give in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Industry

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 12.5% Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/ inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0% Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.

4. Excise duty on computers is 12% Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives, USB Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.

5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/ Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).

7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area

(DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

DDA Project in Dwarka

2228. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the projects initiated by Delhi Development Authority on which the work is continuing in Dwarka scheduled for their completion; and
- (b) the projects likely to be undertaken in the next three years in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that major ongoing projects in Dwarka are as under :-

- (i) Arterial roads in newly acquired Sectors 24,25 & 26, Dwarka.
- (ii) Peripheral sewer lines in newly acquired land of Sectors 24,25 & 26, Dwarka.
- (iii) Construction of 440 Higher Income Group (HIG) Houses in Sector-19, Dwarka.

- (iv) Construction of 620 Lower Income Group Houses in Sector-11, Dwarka.
- (v) Construction of 760 Dwelling Units in Sector 14, Dwarka.
- (vi) Construction of 947 HIG Houses in Sector 18(B), Dwarka.
- (vii) Construction of 45m road from Dabri to Madhu Vihar by covering of Palam Drain.
- (viii) Construction of Command Tank No. 5.
- (ix) Connectivity to Metro Stations in Dwarka.

(b) Important Projects likely/proposed to be undertaken in next three years are as under :

- (i) Internal development of Sectoral 24,25 & 26, Dwarka.
- (ii) Construction of Integrated Freight Complex.
- (iii) Construction of Urban Extension Road-II joining NH-8 to Nh-10.
- (iv) Development of Information Technology Park, International Convention Centre and Dwarka Habitat Centre.

Performance of NGOs in Rural Development Sector

2229. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working in the rural areas under the Centrally sponsored schemes have been able to produce desired results in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of such NGO's and the funds allocated to them in the last financial year, scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) In so far as CAPART is concerned, it works in project mode. The projects sanctioned by CAPART under various schemes to the NGO's in Orissa state where the total amount has been released, have been implemented by and large

satisfactorily. The projects where the first installment has been released are at different stages of implementation.

(c) 28 Non-Government Organisations in Orissa State have been supported during the last financial year. The scheme-wise funds allocated to them during the last financial year is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Orissa (2004-2005)

Sl. No.	Name & address of the NGOs	Scheme	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Amount utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	House of Economical Liberty and Prosperity (HELP), Plot No. 235 (Display Line Campus), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, Orissa-751 007	PC	1,48,935/-	86,885/-	UC awaited
2.	Khairpanga Paika Akhada, At. Khairpanga, PO. Gopapur, Dist. Cuttack, Orissa	PC	2,46,949/-	2,46,949/-	1,25,729/-
3.	MIGHTY CLUB, At. Uttarpara, PO. Rela, Jeleswar, Dist. Balasoe	PC	1,91,062/-	1,11,062/-	1,11,062/-
4.	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD), At/PO. Atgaon, Via. Rajendra College, Block: Puintala, Dist. Balagir, Orissa	PC	3,74,488/-	1,86,112/-	1,86,112/-
5.	Socio Afforestation Rural Agriculture and Divinity Association, At. Mobarakpur, Po/Block: Bhandari Pokhari, Dist. Bhadrak, Orissa	PC	73,994/-	73,994/-	39,675/-
6.	Centre for Human Action & Resource Management, At/PO. Khajuripada, Dist. Kandhamal, Orissa-762012	PC	3,87,900/-	3,87,900/-	2,19,800/-
7.	Janamangal Club, At. Belajitpur, PO. Tipuri, Dist. Puri, Orissa	PC	1,83,314/-	91,400/-	UC awaited
8.	Self Employed Workers' Association Kendra, At. Ranglamunda, PO. Garh Mahulpali, PS. Sadar, Dist. Sundargarh, Orissa	PC	4,85,755/-	3,49,000/-	3,49,000/-

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Swami Vivekananda Youth Club At. Mainshamunda, PO. Srirampur Road, PS. Baliapal, Dist. Balasore, Orissa	PC	3,66,507/-	3,66,507/-	1,75,389/-
10.	PALLY SAMRUDHI, At. Gudipalli, PO. Kanabhang, Via. Tanarada, Block: Bhanjanagar, Dist. Ganjam	PC	3,53,319/-	3,53,319/-	1,58,135/-
11.	Centre for Integrated Social Development (CISD), At. Rasasingh, PO. Belapada, Gadasila, Block: Odapada, Dist. Dhenkanal, Orissa	OB	45,450/-	41,450/-	41,450/-
12.	Ideal Development Agency, At. Bonajodi, PO. Padmapur, Dist. Keonjhar, Orissa	ARTS	11,08,625/-	5,11,000/-	5,11,000/-
13.	National Youth Service Action and Social Development Research Institute, At. Santhasara, PO. Santhapur, Via. Gondia, Dist. Dhenkanal	PC	5,99,024/-	2,99,414/-	2,99,414/-
14.	Organisation for Rural Reconstruction and Integrated Soc. Service Activities, Plot No. 11, Bapuji Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda	PC	4,53,713/-	2,26,810/-	2,26,810/-
15.	SAMBANDH, 56 Basant Vihar, Brahmeswar Patna, Tankapani road, Bhubaneswar-751 002, Dist. Khurda, Orissa	PC	7,69,098/-	3,83,880/-	3,83,880/-
16.	Women Organisation for Rural Development, At. Khajuria, PO. Akul, Via. Sirigida, Dist. Keonjhar	PC	2,63,494/-	2,63,494/-	1,50,918/-
17.	AGRAGAMEE, A/PO. Kashipur, Dist. Rayagada	OB	1,50,000/-	1,20,000/-	1,20,000/-
18.	Gram Vikas, PO. Mohuda, Via. Berhampur, Dist. Ganjam, Orissa	OB	1,50,000/-	0	0
19.	K.N. Memorial Foundation Trust, Hotel Keshari Complex, 113, Station Square, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda	OB	2,50,000/-	2,50,000/-	2,50,000/-
20.	Kalinga Harijan Adivasi Voluntary Organisation, A/PO, Mangalpur, Via/Block: Sukinda, Dist. Jajpur, Orissa	PC	3,14,190/-	1,57,095/-	UC awaited

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Asian Institute for Rural Regeneration, At. Kalamishri, PO. Lendura, Dist. Cuttack, Orissa	PC	2,82,000/-	1,36,400/-	UC awaited
22.	Centre for Education Empowerment & Rehabilitation. Action, MIG-72, Rajiv Nagar, Aiginia Square, Bhubaneswar, Dist. Khurda, Orissa-751 019	PC	1,49,825/-	76,741/-	76,741/-
23.	Shaktirupa Sangathan, At. Ghadimul, Badamundilo, Mundasahi, Dist. Jagatsinghpur	PC	1,54,205/-	77,000/-	UC awaited
24.	Indian National Trust for the Welfare of Tribals (INTWOT), Houstr No. 230, Pocket C-7, Sector-7, Rohini, New Delhi-110085	ARTS	3,63,200/-	1,82,600/-	UC awaited
25.	Orissa Rural Development and Marketing Society, Panchayati Raj Department, Scretariat, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	OB	4,00,000/-	4,00,000/-	4,00,000/-
26.	Aragamee, At+PO. Kashipur, Blk-Kasipur Rayagada	WSD	100000	100000	UC awaited
27.	Aragamee, At+PO. Kashipur, Blk-Kasipur, Rayagada	WSD	400000	400000	-do-
28.	Indian Management and Technical Society, Madhukunj 3rd Floor, 116 Station Square, Bhubaneshwar, Khurda	PC	2953000	1370300	-do-
29.	Narichetna Mahila Institute (Nami). At-M/1 Housing Board Colony, PO/Distt-Dhenkanal, Blk-Sadar, Orissa.	IRH	1887715	943857	UC awaited
30.	Vikash, D-2/7, Industrial Estate, Resulgarh, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.	ARTS	532125	271000	-do-

DA To Central Government Employees

2230. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Dearness Allowance due for payment to the Central Government employees with effect from January 1, 2006; and

(b) the steps taken to release the Dearness Allowance?

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

Dearness Allowance (DA)/Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government Employess/Pensioners is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July and normally payable with salary for the months of March and September respectively. The revised amount of DA/DR will be notified in due course.

[Translation]

Undue Benefits in Export

2231. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in respect of companies/individuals for taking under benefits in export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of individuals/companies against whom action has been taken by the Directorate of Revenue

Intelligence during the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the action taken by DRI in respect of individuals/companies taking undue export benefit are as follows :

Year	Number of individuals/companies against whom action taken for taking under benefits in exports;	Action taken
2003-2004	132	Show Cause Notices have been issued. 30 persons were arrested out of which 12 persons were detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1975.
2004-2005	79	Show Cause Notices have been issued. 16 persons were arrested out of which 5 persons were detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1975.
2005-2006 (UPTO FEB 06)	91	Show Cause Notices have been issued in 33 cases. 25 persons were arrested out of which 3 persons were detained under COFEPOSA Act, 1975

[English]

Installation of Mobile Phone Towers in Gujarat

2232. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of towers set up for providing telecommunication facilities and proper functioning of cellular telephone facilities in Gojarat State is adequate;

(b) if not, the number of towers proposed to be utilized and the population likely to be covered; and

(c) the time by which the telephone facilities are likely to be made available through MCPP at the places

in Gujarat State and where landline telephone facility is not possible under new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, there is a requirement of additional Mobile Base Stations (Towers) to cater to the additional demands and to increase the coverage of BSNL's cellular services in Gujarat State. Accordingly, BSNL is in the process of augmenting its network by adding about 1000 Base Station (Towers) thereby extending the population covered by mobile services to about 4 crores in the State.

(c) Multi Channel Per Carrier (MCPC) systems are employed for providing long distance junctions through satellite and not for providing telephone to end users.

BSNL has not envisaged provision of MCPC system for the State.

Pilot Programme under SGSY

2233. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government in implementing Inter-Ministerial Group recommendations for launching pilot programme under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for unemployed youth in rural areas for 2005-07;

(b) the names of the districts selected for launching the programme in the first and second phase, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated for the programme for the year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) had recommended that a demand-driven skill development programme may be designed to equip the unemployed rural youths from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) households with marketable skills which would enable them to either secure placement in the organized establishments or secure sustainable self-employment through micro enterprise. Subsequent to the recommendation of IMG, the Government decided to launch a pilot programme for skill development under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for unemployed youths from BPL families in the rural areas. The guidelines of the pilot scheme have been issued and circulated to the states.

During the pilot phase of the scheme, it is proposed to cover at least 1000-2000 rural youth per year in 100 districts. These pilot projects are to be funded as Special Projects under SGSY, with the same pattern of assistance (75:25) applied mutatis mutandis to the training programme under SGSY and no separate year-wise or state-wise

allocation of funds is made for the purpose. So far no such pilot projects have been sanctioned.

Rates of Foodgrains under SGRY

2234. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States including Maharashtra have requested the Government to fix the rates of foodgrains to be sold/distributed under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) below the rate of Below Poverty Line foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMANTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. No such requests have been received from other State Governments.

(c) According to the Guidelines of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the rate of foodgrains cannot be lower than the BPL rate.

Legislation for Textile sector

2235. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering a legislation for regulating the textile sector;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the new legislation is likely to protect the domestic textile industry and consumer interests?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

National Urban Transport Policy

2236. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of national urban transport policy declared by the Government alongwith the works to be undertaken and benefits thereof;

(b) whether any work has been started under this policy; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The draft National Urban Transport Policy seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning as well as greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel. It also recommends increased provision of parking space and the coordinated planning & management of public transport.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Metro rail in various Cities

2237. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Metro Rail projects in various cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other modes of transports planned for the cities of the country; and

(d) the extent to which these modes of transports

likely to ease the transportation problem of cities in the exploding population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The respective State Governments have submitted proposals for setting up rail-based mass repid transit systems in the cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kochi, State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. The Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have also proposed extension of the Delhi Metro to Noida and Gurgaon respectively.

(c) A wide range of Public transport technologies that include Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRTS), Sky Bus, Monorail, Electric trolley bus, light rail, etc. are possible in various cities. However, Urban Transport being a State Subject, a decision on the choice of technology is required to be taken by the concerned State Governments, based on factors like the demand, city shape, finances available, etc.

(d) Since public transport occupies less road space and emits less pollution per unit of passenger-km carried, compared to personal motor vehicles, improved public transport is a recommended strategy for reducing congestion and air pollution in a city.

Statement

Name of the State	Details of proposal for Introduction of metro rail system in
1	2
Karnataka	Bangalore : Total length-33 kms in two corridors. (estimated current cost Rs. 5453 cr.) East-West Corridor-18.1 Km: Baiyapanahalli to Mysore Road. North-South Corridor-14.9 Km: Yeshwanthpur to R.V. Road Jayanagar.

1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad : Total length-38.05 kms. in two corridors (estimated completion cost-Rs. 4206 crore). Miyapur-Chaitanyapuri (25.57 kms.) and Secunderabad-Falakanuna (12.48 kms)
Maharashtra	Mumbai : Total length-15 kms. in the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor at an estimated cost of Rs. 1488 crore.
Gujarat	Ahmedabad : Total length (all elevated) of 43.55 Kms in two corridors (at an estimated cost of Rs. 4305 crores). (a) North-South (Aksharadham-APMC Vasana via Motera. Ashram Road)-32.65 Kms. (b) East-West Corridor (Ahmedabad-Thaltej via Delhi Darvaza)-10.9 Kms.
Kerala	Kochi : Total Length of 25.3 kms from Alwaye to Petta (Tripunithura) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1966 crores.
Delhi	Delhi : Phase II of Delhi Metro covering a total length of 53.02 kms. in six corridors. at an estimated completion cost of Rs. 8118 crore.
Haryana	Gurgaon : Extension of Delhi Metro to Gurgaon (from Qutab Minar to Sushant Lok) at an estimated cost of Rs. 573 crore.

[Translation]

Government Printing Press

2238. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government printing presses in the country alongwith the number of printing presses actually functioning at present;

(b) whether the Government has decided to close down some of the loss incurring printing presses; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in implementation of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) At present there are 13 Government of India Presses and 3 Government of India Text Book Presses functioning under Directorate of Printing, Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) No, Sir. These Presses are operating on no-profit no-loss basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Mobile Services in Maharashtra

2239. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided the mobile services in all the districts at tehsil level in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard, particularly in the naxalite affected areas of Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL and MTNL have provided the cellular mobile services in all the 33 districts and all 350 Tehsil Head quarters including Mumbai in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network by 13.5 lakh lines in the State of Maharashtra and Goa, which also includes naxalite affected districts viz. Nanded, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Bhandara of Vidarbha as well. The same is planned to be rolled out progressively during the current year.

[English]

Committee on Demolitions

2240. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted any Committee on the issue of demolitions;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and the composition thereof; and

(c) the time by which its report would be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Government of India has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Tejendra Khanna, former Lt. Governor, Delhi to assess the magnitude of the problem and issues involved in the matter of unauthorized constructions and misuse of premises in various parts of Delhi and to suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with it. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows :-

- (i) To make an assessment about the magnitude of the problem of unauthorized constructions and misuse of premises;
- (ii) To assess various types of violations and put them in broad categories in terms of the nature and extent of these violations;
- (iii) To identify the underlying causes leading to these violations;
- (iv) In the light of the above, suggest a feasible strategy to deal with various issues involved in the matter;

(v) To recommend policy guidelines and development control norms for regulating construction activities in Lal Dora and extended Lal Dora areas of Delhi;

(vi) To recommend measures to prevent recurrence of such violations in the future, including the structure and accountability of the enforcement machinery; and

(vii) To consider any other matter incidental or related to the terms of References mentioned above.

The Committee has been requested to submit its recommendations within a period of three months.

Silk Technology Mission

2241. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has launched Silk Technology Mission on the lines of Cotton Technology Mission;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any subsidy to the entrepreneurs for the project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the domestic production of silk and to cut our dependence on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Silk Board is in the process of preparing a document for Technology Mission for Indian Silk in consultation with various state Governments and stake holders of the industry. The document is in the initial stages and a lot of work and consultation is yet to be done.

(d) Several programmes and schemes to boost the domestic production of silk and to cut our dependence

on imports have been instituted. The important ones are :

1. During the X Plan period, under the Catalytic Development Programme, a provision of Rs. 181.00 crores has been made for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity;
2. The Central Silk Board (CSB) has evolved new bivoltine breeds with assistance from the Japan International Co-Operation Agency (JICA). The commercial exploitation of these breeds has resulted in the production of international standard import substitute grade of mulberry raw silk in the country;
3. Through R&D efforts the CSB has made a break through in tricalising the bivoltine silkworm and has developed new varieties of mulberry plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity;
4. The CSB has developed improved multi-end reeling units to encourage large scale production of international grade quality silk. These improved machines are being popularized among the reelers through the Catalytic Developmental Programme at important reeling clusters all over the country and are producing gradable quality raw silk using the reeling package developed by Central Silk Technological Research Institute of Central Silk Board;
5. The quality of yarn and fabrics in non-mulberry sector has also improved considerably through the introduction of motorized silk reeling/spinning machines and setting up of Common Facility Centres. The CSB has developed new designs in non-mulberry sector and same are being popularized under the brand "Vanya Silk";

6. Following specific collaborative projects are being implemented in different states to exploit the region specific potentialities for sericulture development to enhance silk production :

- Special Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) for tasar and eri culture in Bihar and Jharkhand;
- Development of eri culture in Andhra Pradesh;
- Pilot project for the development of eri culture in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala;
- Micro project for introduction of eri culture in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh;
- Special SGSY project for the development of mulberry sericulture in Mizoram;
- Project for the development of oak tasar in Uttranchal and Manipur;
- Manipur Sericulture Project and Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project with the assistance of Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC);
- Special SGSY Project for the development of muga silk in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland;
- Project for development of muga and eri silk in Bodoland areas of Assam; and
- Cluster development project for the development of sericulture in Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal.

Physical Possession of Acquired Land

2242. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply

given to USQ. No. 3800 dated April 19, 2005 regarding physical possession of acquired land and state;

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The requisite information relating to Unstarred Question No. 3800 due for 19.4.2005, is still awaited from the concerned agency. The matter is being pursued.

Development of Urban Areas

2243. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made assessment of resources necessary for providing public conveniences and proper development of urban areas during the Tenth Five Year-Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sources identified by the Government to raise these resources and the quantum of resources likely to be raised from each source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Technology Research Centres by CAPART

2244. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of CAPART in promoting innovative rural technologies in the villages, especially those catering to disadvantaged sections of the society;

(b) whether CAPART has accepted only 26 out of

879 projects developed by the Department of Science through a process of intensive field studies;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-acceptance of all the projects;

(d) the number of Technology Research Centres functioning in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(e) the time-frame within which each district of the country will have a Technology Research Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) promotes and supports projects on innovative rural technologies for the benefit of rural masses, especially the disadvantaged sections of society. Since inception, CAPART has sanctioned 2420 projects involving an amount of Rs. 114.75 crores till 28-02-2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Twenty three (23) Technology Resource Centres (TRCs) are functioning in the country in the following States:-

Sr.No.	State	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02
2.	Jharkhand	02
3.	Gujarat	01
4.	Himachal Pradesh	02
5.	Karnataka	01
6.	Kerala	02
7.	Maharashtra	03

1	2	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	01
9.	Rajasthan	01
10.	Tamil Nadu	05
11.	Tripura	01
12.	Uttaranchal	01
13.	West Bengal	01

(e) CAPART's mandate includes identification of eligible and appropriate technical capacity building NGOs so as to increase the number of Technology Resource Centres (TRCs) in different areas of the country. Indication of a specific time frame is linked to this development of technical expertise of selected NGOs in each District.

Research by Students

2245. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a programme to promote science, research and innovation among students and youths;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes prepared by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the incentives provided to youths and students during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science & Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. The Government has instituted several schemes to promote science, research and innovation among students and youths. Some of them are as follows -

- * Ramanujan fellowships to attract brilliant scientists including young scientists from all over the world (Fellowship of Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- pm);
- * JC Bose fellowships to recognize active scientists who have a proven outstanding track record (Fellowship of Rs. 20,000/- pm);
- * Ramanna fellowships aimed at supporting outstanding project investigators on a continuous basis (Fellowship of Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- pm);
- * Shyama Prasad Mukherjee fellowships targeted at talented post-graduate students (Fellowship of Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- pm);
- * CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Awards for Innovators for developing technology of highest benchmarks of competitiveness (Fellowship of Rs. 7,500/- pm);
- * Swarnajayanti fellowships for Basic Sciences to outstanding young scientists (Fellowship of Rs. 10,000/- pm for employed scientists and Rs. 25,000/- pm for scientists without regular employment);
- * Women Scientists Scheme to provide opportunities to women scientists to re-enter mainstream research (Fellowship of Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- pm);
- * Biotechnology Post-Doctoral fellowships Bioscience Awards for career development (Cash Prize of Rs. 1 lakh);
- * Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists for granting research projects to young scientists with or without employment (Fellowship of Rs. 20,000/- pm for unemployed scientists);
- * Kishore Vaigyanik Prothshahan Yojana (KVPY) targets the young science students at the school and college level with research bent of mind and

motivates them through suitable scholarships and other incentives to pursue a research career in sciences, engineering and medical sciences (Fellowship of Rs. 2,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- pm);

- * Junior/Senior Research Fellowships target pre-doctoral research students (Fellowship of Rs. 8,000/- Rs. 9,000/ pm);
- * CSIR Young Scientists Award (Citation, plaque and Rs. 50,000/- as prize money) etc.

In promoting science, innovation, research and development approximately Rs. 43 cr., Rs. 52 cr. and Rs. 53 cr. have been sanctioned to young scientists and students during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively which includes incentives as mentioned above. All these initiatives are aimed at providing encouragement and assistance to students and young scientists.

Interconnect User Charges

2246. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private telephone operators have paid a substantial amount as levy to BSNL on dispute on fixed wireless telephone phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for charging this amount;

(c) whether some operators have opposed the deposit of levy from retrospective date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The private telephone operators namely M/s Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL), M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited (TTML) and

M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) were asked by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to pay Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) including Access Deficit Charges as per the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement for wrong handover of traffic from Wireless in Local Loop (Limited Mobile) services network to BSNL on ports meant for traffic originated from fixed/wireline services network. BSNL has raised supplementary bills for approximately Rs. 207.6 crores on M/s Tata Teleservice including TTML and Rs. 183.6 crores on M/s RIL. These operators have disputed the claim of BSNL.

(c) M/s TTL, M/s TTML and M/s RIL had challenged the action of BSNL in Hon'ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) where their petitions were dismissed. Subsequently, they challenged the judgements of Hon'ble TDSAT in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The case is still sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As per interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, M/s Tata Teleservices Limited and M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited have paid Rs. 10 crores each to BSNL. Further, as per interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 6th February 2006, M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited has paid Rs. 40 crores to BSNL within a period of four weeks of the order.

(d) Raising of demand for IUC is governed by Interconnect Agreement between the operators and dispute is adjudicated as per provisions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act.

[Translation]

Loan to Small Scale Industrial Units

2247. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to make loan available to small scale industrial units from co-operative banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted Urban Co-operative Banks to partake in the 'Small Enterprises Financing Centres Scheme;

(d) if so, the details of small scale industrial sectors identified for the purpose in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether any ceiling has been fixed on loans to be given to such industrial units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India on 9.1.2006 has extended

the Small Enterprises Financing Centres (SEFC) Scheme to Urban Co-operative Banks.

((d) The State-wise details of SSI clusters covered by the branches of Small Industries Development Bank of India are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) All tiny units irrespective of loan size and new Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) units (including service sector units) are eligible for coverage under SEFC Scheme. All proposals from existing units for expansion/modernization/diversification/technology upgradation/marketing/exports and units which are not having banking linkage or having limited banking linkage, are also eligible under SEFC Scheme. SEFCs will take up co-financing or exclusive financing of term loan requirements of SSI units along with the bank branches.

Statement

Sr. No.	State	No. of SSI clusters	Product
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Ceiling Fan, Electronic Goods, Pharmaceuticals-Bulk Drugs, Hand Pump sets & Foundry.
2.	Bihar	1	Brass and German Utensils.
3.	Delhi	19	Stainless Steel Utensils & Cutlery, Chemicals, Electrical Engineering Equipment, Electronic Goods, Food Products, Leather Products, Mechanical Engineering Equipment, Packaging Material, Paper Products, Plastic Products, Wire Drawing, Metal Fabrication, Furniture, Electro Plating, Auto Components, Hosiery, Readymade Garments, Sanitary Fittings.
4.	Gujarat	24	Pharmaceuticals, Dyes & Intermediates, Moulded Plastic Products, Readymade Garments, Textile Machinery Parts, Diamond Processing, Machine Tools, Casting & Forging, Steel Utensils, Wood Product & Furniture, Paper Products, Leather Footwear, Washing Powder & Soap, Marble Slabs, Power Driven Pumps, Electronic Goods, Auto Parts, Diamond

1	2	3	4
			Processing, Powerloom, Wood Product & Furniture, Textile Machinery, Pharmaceutical-Bulk drugs, Plastic processing & Wood product * furniture.
5.	Goa	1	Pharmaceutical
6.	Haryana	8	Auto components, Engineering Cluster, Stone Crushing, Electronic Goods, Electrical Engineering Equipment, Readymade Garments, Mechanical Engineering Equipment.
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Engineering Equipment.
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Steel Re-rolling, Oil Mills, Rice Mills.
9.	Jharkhand	1	Engineering & Fabrication.
10.	Karnataka	6	Powerloom, Electronic goods, Readymade garments, Light engineering, Leather products.
11.	Kerala	3	Rubber products, Powerlooms & Sea Food processing.
12.	Maharashtra	28	Auto components & Pharmaceuticals-Bulk drugs, Electronic Goods, Pharmaceutical-Basic drugs, Toys (plastic), Ready made garments, Hosiery, Machine Tools, Engineering equipment, Chemicals, Packaging material, Handtools, Plastic products, Powerlooms, Engineering & Fabrication, Steel furniture, Ready made, garments, Handtools, Food processing, Auto components, Electronic goods, Food products, Ready-made Garments, Pharmaceuticals-Bulk Drugs, Fibre glass, Pharmaceuticals-Bulk Drugs & Sea food, Steel Furniture.
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Engineering equipment, Pharmaceuticals-Bulk drugs, Readymade garments, food processing, Auto components.
14.	Punjab	9	Auto Components, Bicycle Parts, Hosiery, Sewing M/C Components, Industrial Fastners, Handtools, Machine tools, Forging, Electroplating.
15.	Rajasthan	7	Gems & Jewellery, Ball Bearing, Electrical Engineering Equipment, Food Products, Garments, Lime, Mechanical Engineering Equipment.

1	2	3	4
16.	Tamil Nadu	10	Auto components, Leather products, Electroplating, Diesel Engines, Agricultural Implements, Machine Tools, Castings & Forging, Powerloom, Wet Grinding Machines, Hosiery.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	17	Electronic goods, Toys, Chemicals, Electrical engineering equipment, Garments, Mechanical engineering equipment, Packaging Material, Plastic products, Chemicals, Saddlery, Cotton hosiery, Leather products, Sheetwork (Globe Lamp), Powerloom, Agriculture implements, Electric fan.
18.	Uttaranchal	1	Miniature Vacuum Bulb.
		149	

[English]

Cotton Export

2248. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's exports of cotton yarn fabric increased and cotton apparel to the conventionally non-quota markets dropped sharply during April-September, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether exports to non-quota markets were 20 per cent lower in the period compared to the corresponding period in the previous year; and

(d) if so, the main reason for sharp drop and the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) Yes, Sir. India's exports of cotton yarn, fabric, made ups and cotton apparel to the conventionally non-quota markets dropped during April-September, 2005.

(b) and (c) The export of cotton yarn dropped by 11.53% cotton fabric dropped by 21.3%, cotton garments

dropped by 32.96% where as export of cotton made ups increased by 2.49% during April-September, 2005 compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) The reasons for drop in the exports include appreciation of the Indian Rupee against US Dollar, shift in demand pattern from raw material/semi finished goods to finished/value added items like processed fabrics and made-ups, steep reduction in the rates of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) credit and Duty Drawback for cotton textile items.

The steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of textiles and clothing including cotton items are given in the statement attached.

Statement

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of \$50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced

w.e.f 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFs in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

- (x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Project of Maharashtra

2249. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has forwarded a proposal for grant/credit/loan from world Bank for Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to this Ministry for seeking the World Bank assistance for Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II Works.

(b) and (c) The State Government proposal consists of two parts, namely, Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II for US \$ 432 million and Slum Sanitation Programme of US \$ 110 million. Components under the Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II are rehabilitation of sewers and manholes, diversion of all illegal connections (house connections discharging to storm water drains or nallahs) to the foul sewer system, provision of new and

up-sized sewers to carry predicted flows, remedy of problems at the pumping stations, replacement of old pumps and equipments, modification of the treatment works, etc. The areas to be covered under Sewerage Works include Colaba, Worli, Bandra, Versova, Malad, Bhandup & Ghatkopar.

Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II was recommended to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for financial assistance through World Bank in the year 2004. The State was, however, categorized as 'debt stressed' State from debt sustainability point of view. Accordingly, the Deptt. of Economic Affairs informed that since Maharashtra is a debt stressed State, these proposals could not be forwarded to the World Bank.

In addition to above, Deptt. of economic Affairs also informed that in November, 2004, Chief Minister of Maharashtra requested for engaging the World Bank to prepare a five year business plan for transforming Mumbai into a world class city and to include Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II in the comprehensive plan for the city. Subsequently, Deptt. of Economic Affairs requested the World Bank in February, 2005 to field a dedicated multi-sectoral team to draft a comprehensive strategy for the city.

The World Bank teams visited Mumbai twice last year and held extensive discussion with officials of Government of Maharashtra and with Task Force, appointed by the Chief Minister for preparing an Action Plan to develop Mumbai into a world class city. The World Bank team, which visited Mumbai from 8th to 21st November, 2005, has proposed a time schedule for Action Plan preparation, relating to the Mumbai Development Action Plan. The proposed Action Plan involves action by State Government on a comprehensive package of key reforms, investing and financing. As per time schedule, prepared by World Bank, the Action Plan is expected to be launched in December, 2006. The State Government has been requested to adhere to the time schedule.

Defunct Companies

2250. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame new laws for defunct companies in view of the changing scenario in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the instructions issued earlier for these companies;

(d) the final decision likely to be taken for issue of new guidelines; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government and companies from these new instructions?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Government are considering a new Companies Bill for comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956, including provisions relating to defunct companies.

(c) This Ministry issued instructions for the implementation of Simplified Exit Schemes (SES) in the years 2003 and 2005, to enable defunct companies an opportunity for easy exit from the Register of Companies through a simplified Procedure. The schemes were under implementation from 25th March 2003 to 31st March 2004 and 01st February 2005 to 31st August 2005 respectively. The details of the companies that applied and were approved for striking off pursuant to the above schemes, as on 28.02.2006, are as under :-

Schemes	Received	Approved for Striking Off
SES 2003	28050	21004
SES 2005	26626	14947

(d) As at (a) and (b) above.

(e) Striking off the names of defunct Companies will help reduce the cost of public maintenance of statutory company records and focus monitoring and supervision effort on active companies. The companies would benefit in terms of compliance cost for such entities as are not functioning and have neither assets nor liabilities.

Revamping of Postal Services

2251. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the postal services network in the country, particularly in the rural and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal mooted during the current Plan period;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for the current Plan period in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to market financial products such as mutual fund, insurance through post offices effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Improvement in the postal services network is an ongoing process, covering post offices across the country including those in rural and tribal areas. The improvement covers computerization, modernization, training, marketing, ergonomics etc.

(b) During the current plan period, the significant proposals taken up are opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/Departmental Sub Post Offices and Panchyat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the first two years of the Plan, Computerization of Post Offices, Postal Account Offices and Administrative Offices, Computerization and Networking of Mail Offices, Computerization of International Mail processing, Modernization of operative/

working Systems, Mechanization/Modernization of Mail Movement, Modernization/upgradation of Premium Products, Modernization of Circle Stamps Depots, setting up of two Automatic Mail Processing Centres at Delhi and Kolkata, Promotion of Philately, Construction of Building, Establishment of a National Data Centre and of Finance Marts, Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres and Development of financial products and services.

(c) In order to achieve Plan targets, various steps such as intense monitoring, close liaison with suppliers and implementing units, periodic review of progress etc. are undertaken.

(d) Financial products include money transfer, banking and postal life insurance. The Department also utilizes its retailing strength for extending the services of other service providers through its network. All financial products are marketed through the field organization of the Department of Posts, using the approach of advertisement through mass media, direct mailing and distribution of publicity material.

Grant to Orissa Under SJSRY

2252. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of grant under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) to Orissa has been reduced since 2004-05;

(b) if so, the main reasons for reducing the financial allocation by the Union Government to the State;

(c) the amount allocated to Orissa during the current financial year;

(d) whether Government is releasing additional funds to the State during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The tentative allocation on the basis of incidence of urban poverty for the State of Orissa under SJSRY for 2004-05 was Rs. 322.65 lakhs and for 2005-06, it is Rs. 469.86 lakhs. Therefore, the central allocation to Orissa has not been reduced.

(d) to (f) During the course of financial year, Ministry releases additional funds to the States/UTs as per the demands of the States/UTs and also subject to the availability of surplus funds, not released to other States/UTs because of non-receipt of Utilization Certificates etc. and also after reviewing the physical and financial progress of the scheme in the State.

Diversion of funds by Karnataka

2253. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has not utilized the funds allocated under various urban development schemes particularly during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any diversion of funds has taken place; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such diversions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

IT Exemption

2254. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Leh-Laddakh and North Eastern States are exempted from income tax on the ground of their geographical conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons for not granting similar facilities to the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh which have identical geographical condition;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider to exempt tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh on the lines of North Eastern States and Leh-Laddakh region of Jammu and Kashmir from income tax; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Clause (26) of Section 10 of the Income-tax Act provides exemption to income accruing or arising to a member of a Scheduled Tribe as defined in clause (25) of article 366 of the Constitution, residing in the following areas from any source in the said area or states or by way of dividend or interest on securities :-

(i) any area specified in Part I or Part II of the Table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, or

(ii) in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, or

(iii) in the areas covered by notification No. TAD/R/35/50/109, dated the 23rd February, 1951, issued by the Governor of Assam under the proviso to sub-paragraph (3) of Paragraph 20 of the sixth schedule of the Constitution as it stood immediately before the commencement of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (81 of 1971), or

(iv) in the Ladakh region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The exemption is not available to all residents of the said geographical areas but only to a certain section of

individual assesseees i.e., the members of the Scheduled Tribes residing in that area. This exemption is provided both in the interests of the Scheduled Tribes and also in the interest of the areas which the tribes inhabit.

(b) As stated in a) above, the exemption is not intended to be granted solely on grounds of geographical conditions but it is meant for certain sections of people i.e., the Scheduled Tribes residing in specified areas.

(c) No proposal to extend the exemption under section 10(26) to the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh is under consideration.

(d) Not applicable.

Prices of Gold/Silver

2255. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been unprecedented increase in the prices of gold and silver in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India is the largest consumer of gold in the world;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the average consumption of gold in the country and the parts of demand met through imports and indigenous production; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the indigenous production of gold and also to check its spiralling prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The average price of gold per 10 grams in India rose from Rs. 5192 in April 2003 to Rs. 6551 in November, 2004, but eased lower during the subsequent months to Rs. 6058 in July 2005. The price thereafter firmed up to reach a high of Rs. 7925 in January 2006. Silver prices were also generally easy during 2003 but gained during 2004. The

price was subdued during most of 2005, but showed a firm trend towards the year-end, with the price reaching Rs. 12983 per kg in January, 2006. The movements in prices of gold and silver in India are generally in tandem with similar movements in international markets. The rise in the prices in the recent periods in India largely reflects the rise abroad.

(c) to (e) According to World Gold Council, total consumer demand of gold in India during 2005 amounted to 724 tonnes. The major portion of gold jewellery demand in India is met out of imports, as domestic production is almost negligible. According to the "Committee to examine the regulatory structure of the Gold industry to make India a gold trading hub" the domestic production of gold is only around 2 tonnes per year. In the Budget 2006-07, Government has reduced import duty on gold concentrate to 2 per cent. Provisions are there in the Mineral policy, 1993 in which preference is given to those who propose to take up mining for captive use.

[English]

Jute Products

2256. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the productivity of jute products at every stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Government plan to make jute and jute products more competitive in comparison to other products available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has been taking a series of steps to improve the productivity of jute and jute products. The National Jute Policy, 2005 lays special thrust on enhancement of productivity/yield of raw jute and also to modernize the jute industry to improve efficiency in production and processing. In fact, due to these measures, there has been an improvement in the agronomical

practices, retting, and fiber upgradation of jute fiber. Under the proposed Jute Technology Mission, steps are to be taken, inter alia, to assist the jute sector to attain higher productivity.

(c) The Government has taken following measures to make jute and jute products more competitive in comparison to other available products :-

- (i) Implementation of new technology in the field of machinery under Jute Machinery Fund Scheme and Country Cooperation Framework (CCF-1) of United Nation Development Programme (UNDP).
- (ii) Providing interest subsidy to Jute Mills under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).
- (iii) Allowing Capital Subsidy Scheme on Plant and Machinery under Jute Manufactures and Development Council's Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry (ISMJI).
- (iv) Allowing Capital Subsidy on Plants and Machineries and Projects as per Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme (JEAS) of National Centre for Jute Diversification.

Tele-Density

2257. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the tele-density at present in each State;
- (b) whether BSNL has chalked out a plan to increase the tele-density in the country;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) the projection made by BSNL for Village Public Telephones, mobile and WLL phones in these States during the current financial year; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to achieve the said targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to increase tele-density include efforts to increase coverage by large-scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and mobile network to cater to the existing uncovered regions which can't be economically covered by wired line. BSNL have also relaxed the distance norm for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km for landline exchanges to facilitate more landline connections.

(d) and (e) Item wise targets/achievements of BSNL for 2005-06 is given below :

Item	Target	Achievement (in Nos.) (as on 31.1.2006)
VPTs	12,500	11,178
Mobile	65,00,000	59,75,713
WLL	6,83,589	6,48,993

Sufficient equipment has been received and it is expected that the targets will be achieved.

Statement

State-wise teledensity in the country as on 31.01.2006

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Telecom Circle	Teledensity (in percent)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	14.84
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12.23

1	2	3
3.	Assam	4.75
4.	Bihar	4.52
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.92
6.	Gujarat	15.97
7.	Haryana	13.69
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17.98
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.83
10.	Jharkhand	2.72
11.	Karnataka	15.98
12.	Kerala	24.10
13.	Madhya Pradesh	6.47
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	12.33
15.	North East	5.61
16.	Orissa	6.60
17.	Punjab	26.33
18.	Rajasthan	8.82
19.	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	13.73
20.	Uttaranchal	7.11
21.	Uttar Pradesh	6.26
22.	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	4.90
23.	Kolkata	30.62
24.	Chennai	57.67
25.	Delhi	60.96
26.	Mumbai	53.49
Overall		11.76

Setting up of Cooperative Banks

2258. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up co-operative banks in the different States of the country;

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

(c) the effective measures initiated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Translation]

Smuggling of Gold

2259. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of smuggling of gold came to light during each of the last three years as on date;

(b) whether the Government has taken or proposed to be taken any steps to check the smuggling of gold; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The number of cases of smuggling of gold booked during each of the last 3 years as on date are as follows :-

Year	Number of cases of smuggling of Gold
1	2
2002-2003	167
2003-2004	137

1	2
2004-2005	82
2005-2006 (UPTO FEB 06)	52

(b) and (c) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods, including Gold.

Metro Rail for NCR

2260. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether details schemes for Metro Rail construction has been formulated in respect of Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurgao of National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether negotiation in this regard with the concerned State Governments has been made;

(d) if so, whether the share of proposed expenditure in this regard has been fixed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Detailed Project Reports for Metro rail to NOIDA and Gurgaon have been prepared. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Ghaziad has not been prepared.

(b) As per the DPR for extension of Metro to Gurgaon, the proposed alignment is from Qutab Minar to Sushant Lok (Gurgaon) covering a length of 16 km, estimated to cost Rs. 1320 crore at June 2004 prices. As per DPR for the extension of Metro to NOIDA, the alignment is from New Ashok Nagar (Delhi-Uttar Pradesh Border) to NOIDA city centre covering a length of 7.05 km. The completion cost is expected to Rs. 736 crore.

(c) to (e) As regards extension of Metro to Gurgaon, the Government of Delhi and Government of Haryana are studying alternative alinments. As for the extension of Metro to NOIDA, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has accorded 'in principle' approval and the proposal has been referred to the Planning Commission. The expenditure is to be shared in proportion to the length of the extension in each State. This would be finalised in respect of extension to Gurgaon after the final alignment is agreed upon. In respect of the alignment to NOIDA, the entire cost is to be borne by the Government of Uttar Pradesh/NOIDA, with a share of 15% proposed to be borne by the Government of India.

[English]

Business of Foreign and Nationalised Banks

2261. DR. K. DHANARAJU :

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign banks are doing more business than nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have examined the issue and total business done by the nationalised banks and foreign banks during 2005-06; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that nationalised banks do more business than foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. During the fiscal 2005, the public sector banks have recorded tatal business of Rs. 22,90,524 crore as compared to Rs. 1,61,823 crore by foreign banks. The details of business of public sector banks and foreign banks and their share in total banking business for the last two years are as under :-

Total Business		(Rs. in crore)	
Bank group	March 2004	March 2005	
Scheduled Commercial Banks	24,39,285	29,88,531 (22.5)	
Foreign Banks	1,40,263	1,61,823 (15.4)	
Public Sector Banks	18,59,577	22,90,524 (23.2)	
Share of Business		(In %)	
Bank group	March 2004	March 2005	
Foreign Banks	5.8	5.4	
Public sector banks	76.2	76.6	

Figures in brackets is percentage growth in business over the last year.

(d) To facilitate quick and efficient decision-making and to improve their competitiveness, the Government announced an Autonomy Package on 22.02.2005 for the public sector banks. Further, the Government has put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of all Public Sector Banks on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' submitted by them.

JMDC Incentive Scheme

2262. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

Release of Payments

(Rs. in lakhs)

Period	Own sources			Bank finance			Total		
	No. of cases	Investment amount	Incentive amount	No. of cases	Investment amount	Incentive amount	No. of cases	Investment amount	Incentive amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2002-03*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(a) the target set under Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry;

(b) the date on which JMDC came into effect;

(c) the total fund allocated under the scheme during the last three years till date;

(d) whether the National Centre for Jute Diversification also implements some schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and total funds allocated during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) There is no target set for JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry for the year 2005-06 JMDC releases all the incentive amounts after the claims are scrutinized and found eligible, subject to availability of funds. So far JMDC has not faced any funds shortage in this regard.

(b) The Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) a Statutory Body under the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983 was established w.e.f. 1st May 1984.

(c) The position regarding the no. of cases submitted, sanctioned and the amount of investment involved as well as amount of susidy released during the last 3 years under the JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry is given below :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2003-04	6	317.22	47.58	3	50.18	7.53	9	367.40	55.11
2004-05	17	867.33	130.14	4	129.18	19.39	21	996.51	149.53
2005-06 (April' 05- 15th Feb, 2006)	21	1732.49	259.87	5	351.04	52.65	26	2083.53	312.52
	44	2917.04	437.59	12	530.40	79.57	56	3447.44	517.16

*The scheme was launched in July 2002 and no claims were received in 2002-03.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) implements the following schemes.

1. Jute Service Centre Scheme.
2. Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme.
3. Market Support Scheme.
4. Design Development Scheme.
5. Jute Entrepreneurs (Capital Subsidy) Assistance Scheme (JEAS).
6. Micro Finance/NGO Assistance Scheme.
7. North East Development Scheme.

The details of funds allocated to NCJD during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Rs. in Lakhs
2002-03	583.00
2003-04	745.00
2004-05	748.00
2005-06	740.00

LIC Policies

2263. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government proposes to withdraw Government guarantees on 16 crore LIC policies under the fiscal responsibilities and budget management practice as reported in The Economic Times dated February 13, 2006;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether private players in life insurance have influenced the Government policies with regard to the said proposal;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether the Government proposes to extend it to the LIC policy holders in lieu of its decision to withdraw Government guarantees of LIC policies;

(f) If so, the details thereof;

(g) Whether the Government proposes to amend LIC Act; and

(h) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases funds by DRI

2264. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of corruption unearthed by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in each of the State of the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of the cases and other recoveries made by the DRI during the said period;

(c) whether the team of the DRI has seized tonnes of papers recently imported from various countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the persons involved in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir. DRI has not booked any corruption cases.

(b) Details of the cases booked by DRI pertaining to import/export and recoveries made by DRI are given below:

Year	Number of the cases made by DRI	Details of the recoveries made (Rs. in crores)	Details of the action taken against the persons involved in these cases	
			Arrested	Detained Under COFEPOSA/ NDPS Act.
02-03	422	62.81	195	62
03-04	356	70.50	267	61
04-05	293	154.47	222	71
05-06	319	74.08	191	58
(upto FEB 06)				

(c) Yes, Sir.

[English]

Poor Infrastructure and It Collection

2265. MS. INGRID MCLEOD :
SHRI BHUVAESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether collection of Income Tax suffered a set back due to poor infrastructure as reported in *The Times of India*, dated December 29,2005; and

(d) DRI has recently seized paper weighing 1047.86 MT valued at Rs. 4.81 crores in Delhi. Further paper lying in 11 godowns weighing 2634.50 MT valued at Rs. 11.60 crores has also been seized recently. In another case DRI has seized 160 MT of paper valued at Rs. 40 lakhs on 18-2-06 at Kolkata.

(e) Six persons have been arrested for their involvement in these cases.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir. In fact, Income Tax collections have shown good growth over the last few years from Rs. 69,178 crores in Financial year 2001-02 to Rs. 1,31,948 crores in financial year 2004-05.

(b) The Government is aware that improvement in infrastructure facilities would facilitate better revenue collection. The Government is accordingly taking appropriate steps for further development of infrastructure in the Income Tax Department.

Bank Credit in Priority Sector

2266. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, banks have to deploy 40 per cent of the total Net Bank Credit (NBC) in the priority sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that actual credit disbursement by most of the banks was far short of stipulated level;

(d) if so, details of total agricultural advances given by banks as on date; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the NBC targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have stipulated a target of 40% of Net Bank Credit (NBC) for lending to the priority sector by domestic scheduled commercial banks both in the public and private sector. Within this, sub-targets of 18% and 10% of NBC have been stipulated for lending to agriculture and weaker sections respectively.

(c) and (d) The advances granted to various sectors under priority sector by the public and private sector banks as on the last reporting Friday of March, 2003, 2004 and

2005 are furnished below from which it will be observed that the target of 40% stipulated for priority sector lending has been achieved :

Public Sector Banks : (Rs. in crore)

As on the last reporting Friday of	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005
Total priority sector advances	199786 (41.2%)	244456 (43.6%)	307046 (42.8%)
Total advances to agriculture	70501 (14.5%)	84435 (15.1%)	109917 (15.3%)

Private Sector Banks : (Rs. in crore)

As on the last reporting Friday of	March 2003	March 2004	March 2005
Total priority sector advances	36648 (44.1%)	48920 (47.3%)	69886 (43.6%)
Total advances to agriculture	9924 (12.0%)	14730 (14.2%)	21636 (12.3%)

*figures in parentheses show percentage of advances to net bank credit.

(e) Several steps have been taken by the RBI to increase institutional finance to agriculture.

These include :

- (i) Formulation of Special Agricultural Credit Plan (SACP) by public sector banks.
- (ii) Introduction of Kisan Credit Card Scheme (KCC).
- (iii) Waiver of margin/security norms for agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000 and in case of agri clinics upto Rs. 5,00,000.

The Union Finance Minister announced in June, 2004, certain measures for improving the flow of credit to agriculture, which include as under :

- (i) Fresh finance to farmers whose earlier debts have been settled.
- (ii) Relief measures for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.
- (iii) Scheme for providing relief to farmers in arrears.

Kisan Credit Card

2267. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued by various banks during the last three year, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Kisan Credit Cards operationalised;
- (c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed through Kisan Credit Cards by the nationalised banks during the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) the manner in which the amount disbursed during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(e) the steps taken to facilitate more and more use of Kisan Credit Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The cumulative total number of KCCs issued to farmers by all agencies as on 31st December 2005 was 5.60 crore. State-wise details of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued by Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Commercial Banks during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement-I, II and III respectively.

(d) KCC limit is in the nature of revolving cash credit facility involving any number of drawals and repayments within the limit prescribed.

(e) With a view to facilitate more and more use of Kisan Credit Card and to make available all the credit requirement of the farmers under a single window, the scope of KCC has been widened to cover term loans/working capital loans for agriculture and allied activities including a reasonable component to meet the consumption needs also. Accordingly, banks have been advised to issue KCC to all eligible farmers including oral lessees, tenant farmers and share croppers. Banks have been further advised to route crop loans only through KCC and give wide publicity to the sector.

Statement-I

Kisan Credit Card Scheme—Progress as on 31 March 2003 (Statewise-Cooperative Bank, RRBs & Commercial Banks)

(Rs. lakh)

Sr. No.	State/UT	Cooperative Bank			Regional Rural Banks			Commercial Banks		Total	
		No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	No.*	issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	230516	160543.44	16	209692	59467.84	455888	96538.20	896096	316549.48
2.	Assam	1	560	54.4	5	7327	1396.46	34679	3006.22	42566	4457.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh#	1	191	21.20	1	48	1.05	1835	150.46	2074	172.71
4.	Bihar	25	172716	13325.74	16	9380	1201.50	79999	18631.87	262095	33159.11
5.	Gujarat	18	305319	178509.32	9	36440	18739.38	113644	30419.77	455403	227668.47
6.	Goa\$	1	1337	218.66	0	0	0.00	603	346.78	1940	565.44
7.	Haryana	19	291690	96902.10	4	22593	12591.00	72287	41744.03	386570	151237.13
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1393	1309.31	2	516	90.05	23213	5380.91	25122	6780.27
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	4531	513.10	3	1078	822.14	801	185.95	6410	1521.19
10.	Karnataka	19	174500	37433.53	13	98722	52304.67	157413	67815.51	430635	157553.71
11.	Kerala	14	179065	32569.22	2	24273	6886.16	152447	34285.96	355785	73741.34
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38	383773	225201.42	19	40120	6300.84	83756	34281.11	507649	265783.37
13.	Maharashtra	29	621069	365814.99	10	35515	6888.05	186817	60453.54	843401	433156.58
14.	Meghalaya #	1	120	12.25	1	46	4.17	1927	209.44	2093	225.86
15.	Mizoram #	1	920	46.01	1	61	0.81	519	21.16	1500	67.98
16.	Manipur #	0	0	0	1	0	0	1458	210.39	1458	210.39
17.	Nagaland #	1	284	5.44	1	55	4.60	1012	60.10	1351	70.14
18.	Orissa	17	395890	35876.11	9	29335	2037.32	81516	9691.32	506741	47604.75
19.	Punjab	19	65741	67164.82	5	16958	7881.92	114665	66164.56	197364	141211.30
20.	Rajasthan	26	52812	108155.67	14	34357	20488.59	97245	43823.47	184414	172467.73
21.	Sikkim #	1	265	25.41	0	0	0	361	55.54	626	80.95
22.	Tamil Nadu	22	312716	87486.41	3	23791	2092.25	268814	54869.53	605321	144448.19
23.	Tripura #	1	332	36.11	1	1216	26.12	3043	200.36	4591	262.59
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	1142267	122596	36	340403	91262.16	550955	134819.30	2033625	348677.46
25.	West bengal	19	83029	13660.93	9	10311	1265.98	113909	15886.55	207249	30813.46
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Island #	1	534	47.95	0	0	0	81	14.25	615	62.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
27. Chandigarh#	\$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
28. Daman & Diu	@	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
29. New Delhi#	\$	1	98	40.00	0	0	0	337	214.26	435	254.26
30. Dadar and Nagar Haveli	@	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5.56	4	5.56
31. Lakhdweep	@	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	9.56	34	9.56
32. Pondicherry#	\$	1	1562	260.17	0	0	0	1947	412.63	3509	672.80
33. Jharkhand		9	3294	5841.09	6	4967	618.63	24884	3424.02	33145	9883.74
34. Chhattisgarh		7	115116	22270.12	5	14268	2228	21875	5365.47	151259	29863.59
35. Uttaranchal		9	37283	8181.98	4	2478	943.11	32925	10025.34	72686	19150.43
Total		380	4578923	1584122.90	196	963950	295542.80	2680893	738723.12	8223766	2618388.82

Note: #SCB functions as CFA

*No of banks implementing the Scheme

@No Cooperative Banks in these UTs

Amount sanctioned data provisional

\$No RRB in these States/UTs

Statement-II

Kisan Credit Card Scheme—Progress as on 31 March 2004 (Statewise-Cooperative Bank, RRBs, & Commercial Bank)

(Rs. lakh)

Sr. No.	State/UT	Cooperative Bank			Regional Rural Banks			Commercial Banks		Total	
		No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	36346	1409	16	252205	2546.7	632852	135217.02	921403	139173
2.	Assam	1	930	86	5	11421	1064.13	42330	3880.93	54681	5031
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	283	57	1	385	87	2592	212.34	3260	356
4.	Bihar	25	339641	33240	16	38908	9350	102071	23324.91	480620	65916
5.	Gujarat	18	127036	176109	9	13144	13923	106233	31840.23	246413	221872

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6.	Goa \$	1	954	224	0	0	0	865	393.32	1819	617
7.	Haryana	19	149602	53741	4	37363	27266	81542	58761.89	268507	139769
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	7177	1186	2	2447	1211	27608	7331.64	37232	9728
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	3267	1036	3	1584	280	671	168.82	5522	1484
10.	Karnataka	19	291557	71370	13	96739	55170	167343	74026.75	555639	200566
11.	Kerala	14	214243	37773	2	38216	14284	140509	40352.12	392968	92409
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38	1068058	42862	19	68487	9130	133651	59019.94	1270196	111012
13.	Maharashtra	29	130294	264928	10	730	16419	169434	60015.64	300458	341363
14.	Meghalaya #	1	901	114	1	3451	249.53	4129	297.68	8481	661
15.	Mizoram #	1	23	10	1	222	41.13	1124	88.79	1369	140
16.	Manipur #	0	427	47	1	609	35	2094	325.71	3130	408
17.	Nagaland #	1	337	5	1	218	28	1911	107.78	2466	140
18.	Orissa	17	400436	16557	9	52237	11103	84027	12764.91	536700	40424
19.	Punjab	19	18962	22104	5	7374	16371	126286	91774.54	152622	130249
20.	Rajasthan	26	397944	36125	14	36986	23114.78	142596	67119.43	577526	126359
21.	Sikkim #	1	602	88	0	0	0	542	84.18	1144	152
22.	Tamil Nadu	22	20776	8250	3	14272	197	322698	64918.91	357746	73365
23.	Tripura #	1	414	82	1	2920	485.45	4995	594.18	8329	1161
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	1216276	80932	36	499514	33596	567980	161438.19	2283770	275966
25.	West Bengal	19	290657	58731	9	49400	17498	137645	17114.17	477702	93343
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island#	1	329	33	0	0	0	67	15.34	396	49
27.	Chandigarh#	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	5
28.	Daman & Diu @#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	New Delhi#	1	153	128	0	0	0	424	315.02	577	443

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli@\$	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.5	3	4
31.	Lakshdweep@#	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	28.95	80	29
32.	Pondicherry#\$	1	350	51	0	0	0	2262	483.71	2612	535
33.	Jharkhand	9	6452	766	6	14955	229	36424	5071.87	57831	6067
34.	Chhattisgarh	7	103939	54885	5	27658	4928.83	24344	5501.87	155941	65316
35.	Uttaranchal	9	49870	22612	4	2844	1276	26775	10527.49	79489	34415
Total		380	4878236	985541	196	1274289	259882	3094108	933106.77	9246633	2178529

Note: # SCB functions as CFA

\$No RRB in these States/UTs.

@ No Cooperative Banks in these UTs.

*No of banks implementing the Scheme.

Amount sanctioned data provisional.

Statement-III

*Kisan Credit Card Scheme-Progress as on 31 March 2005 (Statewise—Cooperative Bank,
RRBs & Commercial Banks)*

(Rs. lakh)

Sr. No.	State/UT	Cooperative Bank			Regional Rural Banks			Commercial Banks		Total	
		No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh**	22			16	301128	47039	1281352	286686	1582480	333725
2.	Assam	1	1375	114	5	18675	2674	63366	8878	83416	11666
3.	Arunachal Pradesh#	1	225	56	1	304	31	3816	613	4345	700
4.	Bihar**	25			16	89859	23462	141922	35767	231781	59229
5.	Gujarat	18	63759	318605	9	18265	32225	127734	48205	209758	399035
6.	Goa \$	1	177	54				1954	791	2131	845
7.	Haryana	19	28148	104742	4	47999	38949	82294	76488	158441	220179

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	5913	2825	2	7464	1517	18814	6988	32191	11330
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	10286	1396	3	1716	894	676	243	12678	2533
10.	Karnataka	19	41268	68690	13	141866	41880	223455	116061	406589	226631
11.	Keral	14	130059	48602	2	53957	16185	134883	43145	318899	107932
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38	529710	120747	19	52819	42253	176919	101813	759448	264813
13.	Maharashtra	29	323558	457067	10	46048	253	221117	78741	590723	536061
14.	Meghalaya #	1	840	89	1	1043	252	9000	839	10883	1180
15.	Mizoram #	1	61	13	1	779	204	2655	507	3495	724
16.	Manipur #	1			1	155	74	5614	1010	5769	1084
17.	Nagaland #	1	578	15	1	376	17	3323	487	4277	519
18.	Orissa	17	381109	87901	9	86586	10713	134910	24358	602605	122972
19.	Punjab	19	25650	76229	5	11522	3711	115071	113106	152243	193046
20.	Rajasthan	26	592946	166276	14	67254	83039	215018	111740	875218	361055
21.	Sikkim #	1	418	13				1020	198	1438	211
22.	Tamil Nadu	22	185038	52043	3	25711	4291	403892	106113	614641	162447
23.	Tripura #	1	465	77	1	4373	455	5577	813	10415	1345
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	733177	3663	36	558907	3264	706294	240960	1998378	247887
25.	West Bengal	19	253180	47413	9	69746	13209	175168	36278	498094	96900
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands#	1	782	155				120	27	902	182
27.	Chandigarh#							928	164	928	164
28.	Daman & Diu#										
29.	New Delhi#	1	124	68				1015	589	1139	657
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli#							3	1	3	1
31.	Lakshdweep#							75	32	75	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
32. Pondicherry#	\$	1	1284	212				4094	1351	5378	1563
33. Jharkhand		9	12140	622	6	78769	7458	67563	8884	158472	16964
34. Chhattisgarh		7	181813	1242	5	38273	8167	31858	9096	251944	18505
35. Uttaranchal		9	51700	738	4	5433	1051	34064	14603	91197	16392
Total		381	3555783	1559667	196	1729027	383267	4395564	1475577	9680374	3418511

Note: # SCB functions as CFA

*No of banks implementing the Scheme

@ No Cooperative Banks in these UTs

**Data for Co-op under reconciliation

\$ No RRB in these States/UTs.

Amount sanctioned data provisional

Mission 2007 for Rural Knowledge Centres

2268. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mission 2007 aims to provide knowledge connectivity to every village of India by August 15, 2007 through rural knowledge centers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the work on this project is going on and the details of organization which are helping in implementing this Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The village Knowledge Centre is a concept propagated by Mission 2007 of the Ministry of Information Technology. It aims to achieve a knowledge revolution in India by making every village a Knowledge Centre. It seeks to do so by launching a self propelling, self replicating and self sustaining model of Information Communication Technology (ICT) for rural regeneration and

prosperity by creating a platform different partner institutions to work together.

(b) The Mission's objective is to facilitate and accelerate, through multi-stakeholder collaborations, the provision of knowledge centres in each village. Each of these centres would be a center for knowledge-based livelihoods and income-generation opportunities for poor women and men, farming communities and all disadvantaged people. Such Knowledge Centres can be put together on a sustainable platform through multi-stakeholder partnerships between the private sector, the government and civil society organizations.

(c) There are innumerable organizations who are partners of Mission 2007, the details of which are available with Ministry of Information Technology. The Government of India has also decided to support the alliance and in the budget of 2005-06 a provision of Rs. 100 crores was made for supporting this initiative, with the fund to be routed through NABARD. Further, the Government has also prepared a draft framework to create an enabling environment with policy interventions and financial support, to facilitate establishment of 1,00,000 + Common Service Centres, across the country, primarily in rural areas. These Centres would aim to

provide Government and other services at the doorstep of the citizen and would also meet the objectives of Mission 2007.

[Translation]

Loan through Post Offices

2269. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide loan to the needy persons through the post offices; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) There is presently no proposal to provide loans to the needy persons through the Post Offices.

Merger of RRBs

2270. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the process of merger of Regional Rural Banks has been completed by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the number of banks that have been merged during the year 2005-06 so far alongwith the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Regional Rural Banks have speeded-up the process of clearing loans for rural people;

(d) whether the loan targets for the agriculture sector for the year 2005-06 have been achieved by RRBs;

(e) if so, the total amount ear-marked for the said purpose;

(f) whether there has been an increase in the amount of loan granted by RRBs during the current year as compared to be previous year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The process for structural consolidation of RRBs by way of amalgamation of RRBs sponsored by the same Bank within a State was initiated. The notifications for amalgamation of 78 RRBs to form 23 amalgamated entities have so far been issued and the process is still on. A detailed statement is enclosed.

(c) As a part of doubling of credit flow to agriculture in 3 years, the target for RRBs for the year 2004-05 was fixed at Rs. 8,500 crore at a growth rate of 40%. As against this, RRBs disbursed Rs. 12,404 crore in the year 2004-05.

(d) and (e) A target of Rs. 15,200 crore, has been fixed for RRBs for the year 2005-06. As against this, RRBs have disbursed Rs. 12,471.07 crore as on 31st January 2006.

(f) and (g) The loans disbursed upto 31st January 2006 and during the corresponding period of previous year i.e. 2004-05, in respect of RRBs is given below:

	Rs. crore
2004-05 (April to Jan.)	10457.40
2005-06 (April to Jan.)	12471.07

Loan disbursement during 2005-06 against the corresponding period of 2004-05 has increased by Rs. 2013.67 crore, registering a growth rate of 19.26%.

Statement

Details of RRBs amalgamated as on date

Sr. No.	RRBs amalgamated	Name of the amalgamated entity	Name of the Sponsor Bank	State in which RRB located
1	2	4	5	6
1.	1. Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank 2. Basti Garmin Bank	Purvanchal Gramin Bank HQ - Gorakhpur	State Bank of India	Uttar Pradesh
2.	1. Kashi Gramin Bank 2. Gomti Gramin Bank 3. Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Kashi Gomi Samyut Gramin Bank HQ - Varanasi	Union Bank of India	Uttar Pradesh
3.	1. Gurdaspur-Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank 2. Kapurthala-Ferozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank 3. Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Punjab Gramin Bank HQ - Kapurthala	Punjab National Bank	Punjab
4.	1. Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank 2. Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank 3. Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank	Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank HQ - Bharuch	Bank of Baroda	Gujarat
5.	1. Akola Gramin Bank 2. Yavatmal Gramin Bank 3. Buldhana Gramin Bank	Vidharbha Kshetriya Gramin Bank HQ - Akola	Central Bank of India	Maharashtra
6.	1. Kutch Gramin Bank 2. Banaskantha Behsana Gramin Bank 3. Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank	Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank HQ - Gandhinagar	Dena Bank	Gujarat

1	2	4	5	6
7.	1. Tungghadra Gramain Bank	Pragathi Gramin Bank	Canara Bank	Karnataka
	2. Chitradurga Gramin Bank	HQ - Bellary		
	3. Kolar Gramin Bank			
	4. Sahyadri Gramin Bank			
8.	1. Malaprabha Grameena Bank	Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank	Syndicate Bank	Karnataka
	2. Bijapur Grameena Bank	HQ - Dharwad		
	3. Neitavati Grameena Bank			
	4. Varada Grameena Bank			
	1. Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	UCO Bank	Bihar
	2. Bhagalpur-Banks Kshetriya Gramin Bank	H.O. Monghyr		
	3. Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank			
	1. Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank (HKGB)	Haryana Gramin Bank,	Punjab National Bank	Haryana
	2. Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank (HSKGB)	HQ - Rohtak		
	3. Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank (AKGB)			
11.	1. Vidur Gramin Bank (VGB)	Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank	Punjab National Bank	Uttar Pradesh
	2. Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank (MKGB)	HQ - Meerut		
	3. Hindon Gramin Bank, (HGB)			
12.	1. Cachar gramin Bank	Assam Gramin Vikash Bank	United Bank of India	Assam
	2. Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank	HQ - Guwahati		
	3. Pragjyotish Gramin Bank			
	4. Subansiri Gramin Bank			

1	2	4	5	6
13.	1. Cuttack Gramya Bank	Kalinga Gramin Bank	UCO Bank	Orissa
	2. Balasore Gramya Bank	HQ Cuttack		
14.	1. Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank	Saurashtra Gramin Bank	State Bank of Saurashtra	Gujrat
	2. Surendernagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank	HQ Rajkot		
	3. Junagadh Amreli Gramin Bank			
15.	1. Shekhewati Gramin Bank	Rajasthan Gramin Bank	Punjab National Bank	Rajasthan
	2. Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank	HO, Alwar		
16.	1. Jaipur Nagaur Anchlik Gramin Bank	Jaipur Thar Gramin Bank	UCO Bank	Rajasthan
	2. Thar Anchlik Gramin Bank	HQ Jaipur		
17.	1. Marudhar Ksh. Gramin Bank	Baroda Rajasthan Gramin Bank	Bank of	Rajasthan
	2. Aravali Ksh. Gramin Bank	HQ Ajmer	Baroda	
	3. Bundi Chittorgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank			
	4. Bhilwara Ajmer Ksh. Gramin Bank			
	5. Dungarpur Banswara Ksh. Gramin Bank			
18.	1. Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank	Madhya Bihar Gramin Bank	Punjab National Bank	Bihar
	2. Magadh Gramin Bank	HQ Patna		
	3. Nalanda Gramin Bank			
	4. Patliputra Gramin Bank			
19.	1. Raebareli Ksh. Gramin Bank	Baroda Eastern Uttar Pradesh	Bank of Baroda	Uttar Pradesh
	2. Sultanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	Gramin Bank		
	3. Kanpur Ksh. Gramin Bank	HQ Raebareli		

- | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| 4. Allahabad Ksh. Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 5. Pratapgarh Ksh. Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 6. Fatehpur Ksh. Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 7. Faizabad Ksh. Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 20. 1. Chaitanya Grameena Bank | Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank | Andhra Bank | Andhra Pradesh | |
| 2. Godavari Grameen Bank | HQ Guntur | | | |
| 21. 1. Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Uttar Bihar Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Central Bank of India | Bihar | |
| 2. Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank | HQ Muzaffarpur | | | |
| 3. Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 4. Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 5. Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 6. Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 7. Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank | | | | |
| 22. 1. Bhagirath Gramin Bank | Lucknow Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Allahabad Bank | Uttar Pradesh | |
| 2. Shrivasti Gramin Bank | HQ Sitapur | | | |
| 3. Sarayu Gramin Bank | | | | |
| (CLUSTER I) | | | | |
| 23. 1. Chattarasal Gramin Bank | Triveni Kshetriya Gramin Bank | Allahabad Bank | Uttar Pradesh | |
| 2. Tulsi Gramin Bank | HQ Orai | | | |
| 3. Vindhyavasani Gramin Bank | | | | |
| (CLUSTER II) | | | | |

[English]

**Independent Directors on Board
of PSBs.**

2271. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government appointed some politicians as independent directors on boards of Public sector bank recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the facilities proposed to be given to such directors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Section 9(3A) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 which deals with the nomination of part-time non-official directors on the boards of nationalised banks is as under :-

The Directors to be nominated under clause (h) or to be elected under clause (i) of sub-section (3) shall-

- (A) have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of one or more of the following matters namely :-
1. agricultural and rural economy
 2. banking
 3. co-operative
 4. economics
 5. finance
 6. law
 7. small scale industry
 8. any other matter the special knowledge of, and practical experience in, which would, in the opinion of the Reserve

Bank, be useful to the corresponding new bank:

- (B) represent the interests of depositors; or
- (C) represent the interests of farmers, workers and artisans.

Similarly Section 19 (1)(d) of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 provides that persons having knowledge of the work of co-operative institution and of rural economy or experience in commerce, industry, banking or finance may be nominated as directors. Nomination of director on the boards of public sector banks have been made keeping in mind the above qualifications and in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Scheme framed in this regard by the Government.

The list of recently appointed part-time non-official directors on the boards of public sector banks is enclosed as statement. Some of the Directors indicated in the list may also be politicians, but they fall within the eligible criterion indicated above.

(c) In terms of the Nationalized Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/1980 and as per the provisions contained under Sections 27,28 and 29 of SBI Act, 1955, the directors are entitled for sitting fees for attending the Board meetings or of any Committee of the Board or for attending to any work of the bank. In addition to the fees, these Directors are also entitled for reimbursement of travelling and halting expenses, if any, on such basis as may be fixed from time to time by the Central Government after consultation with RBI.

Statement

List of Part Time Non-Official Directors recently appointed by Government on the boards of public sector banks

S.No.	Name of the Person	Name of the Bank
1	2	3
1.	Shri Maulin Vaishnav	Bank of Baroda

1	2	3
2.	Shri Ramesh Sabharwal	Central Bank of India
3.	Smt. Massarat Shahid	Bank of Baroda
4.	Smt. Shantaben Chavda	Bank of India
5.	A. Ali Azizi	Bank of Maharashtra
6.	Shri Shabeer Pasha	Canara Bank
7.	Shri Pankaj Thakkar	Canara Bank
8.	Shri Kamal Faruqui	Central Bank of India
9.	Dr. Prabha Taviyed	Bank of India
10.	Maj. Ved Prakash	Central Bank of India
11.	Shri Nirmal Khatri	UCO Bank
12.	Major Ms Krishna Mohini	Punjab & Sind Bank
13.	Mrs. Satya Bahin	Central Bank
14.	Shri Harish Chandhok	Central Bank
15.	Mrs. K. Anjanappa	Andhra Bank
16.	Shri Umesh Sharma	Punjab & Sind Bank
17.	Shri H.S. Josh	Punjab & Sind Bank
18.	Shri Sooraj Khatri	Indian Overseas Bank
19.	Shri G. Charthchandran	Indian Bank
20.	Shri M.N. Kandasamy	Indian Overseas Bank
21.	Shri Abdul Rasheed	United Bank of India

1	2	3
22.	Shri P.C. Zoram Sangliana	United Bank of India
23.	Ms Umen Moyong Deori	UCO Bank

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance to Jharkhand

2272. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects undertaken in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh with foreign assistance;

(b) whether the agencies receiving foreign assistance are mainly providing assistance for the poverty alleviation programmes under these projects;

(c) if so, whether the complaints of irregularity have been received in these projects;

(d) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted into these complaints;

(e) if so, the action taken after the investigation; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Details of the projects under implementation in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh with foreign assistance during 2005-06 are furnished in the enclosed Statement. The projects are being implemented in sectors such as Forestry, Health, Power, Road, Land Management, Water Resources and Agriculture which have impact on poverty alleviation also.

(c) to (f) One complaint of irregularity in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Project in Jharkhand was received from the World Bank. Department of Elementary Education & Literacy has advised Government of Jharkhand to cancel the contract for printing of textbooks awarded to M/s Saraswati Press Ltd., Calcutta and re-advertise the contract and invite fresh bids for printing of text book as per procurement guidelines under SSA.

*Statement**Foreign Assistance to Jharkhand*

Sl.No.	Agency	Name of the Project	Agreement data	Loan/Grant amount involed
Jharkhand				
1.	IDA	Jharkhand Participatory Forest Mgt. Project (Advance)	2/11/2004	US \$0.515 million-Loan
2.	IDA	Jharkhand Participatory Forest Mgt. Capacity Bldg.	6/5/2004	US \$0.432 million-Grant
Uttar Pradesh				
1.	France	Supply & Implementation of Medical Equipment-UP	25/01/1998	Euro 4.604 million-Loan
2.	IBRD	UP Power Sector Restructuring Project	19/05/2000	US \$ 140.30 million-Loan
3.	IBRD	UP State Road Project	19/02/2003	US \$ 488 million-Loan
4.	IDA	UP Sodic Land Reclamation Project-II	4/2/1999	XDR* 141.7 million-Loan
5.	IDA	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project	8/3/2002	XDR 90.47 million-Loan
6.	EEC	Ravine Stabilization in UP	17/04/1997	Euro 7.9 million-Grant
7.	Netherlands	Ganga Action Plan Support Project	23/7/1997	Euro 24.12 million-Grant
8.	Netherlands	Bundel Khand Integrated Water Project	12/6/1996	Euro 1.27 million-Grant
9.	UK	Western India Rainfed Farming Project II	21/04/1999	GB Pound 15.09 million Grant

*XDR-Special Drawing Right

[Translation]

Import of Jute Products

2273. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of jute products imported during the current financial year and previous year to meet the shortage, country-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in imports as compared to previous years;

(c) the details of foreign exchange outgo from India during current financial year;

(d) the details of imports from Bangladesh and Nepal;

(e) whether the Government proposes to dilute jute Monopoly mandated at 100 per cent in view of above;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the other corrective measures taken by

the Government to reduce the imports of jute goods and save the foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) As per information received from the Customs Authorities of Department of Revenue, Govt. of India, Kolkata, the comparative figures of imports of Jute Products during the current financial year and previous year (2004-05) is given below :-

Period (April-March)	Import of Jute Products	
	Qty (Thousand MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
2004-05	32.17	70.74
2005-06(April-Jan.)	64.89	142.40

Country-wise figures of imports of jute goods are not readily available from the Customs Authorities. However, as per information received from the field offices the majority of imports are from Bangladesh and Nepal.

(b) The increase in import of jute goods is mainly attributable to the following factors :-

- i. Bangladesh being a member of SAARC enjoys tariff concessions to the extent of 50% on raw jute and 60% on jute goods on standard rate of import duty. With the reduction of import duty and tariff concession imports of raw jute and jute goods are found to be cheaper as compared to the domestic market price of raw jute and jute goods.
- ii. The quality of raw jute produced in Bangladesh is found to be superior which is being used by Indian Jute Industry in manufacturing finer quality yarn and fabrics for export market.

(c) On account of imports of jute and jute goods during April'05-Jan'06, an outgo of foreign exchange equivalent to US\$ 59.73 million has been estimated.

(d) Country wise import figures are not readily available. However the majority of imports are from Bangladesh and Nepal.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to dilute the present level of compulsory packaging fixed for different commodities. The Standing Advisory Committee under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 recommends suitable percentage of compulsory packaging for different commodities keeping in view all relevant matters pertaining to the jute economy.

(g) Keeping in view the sufficient availability of jute products and to discourage import of jute goods, adequate safeguard has been taken by Govt. of India, In this regard, Jute Commissioner issued Gazette Notification No.S.698(E) dated 04.07.2002 making it compulsory for all importers to ensure marking of every imported jute bag with country of origin so that such bags do not find their way into food grains and sugar sector reserved under Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. Another Gazette Notification No.S.O.828(E) dated 28.08.2001 has been issued by the Jute Commissioner directing that no person shall manufacture and/or hold stock of jute goods (including imported jute products) meant for packaging purposes having more than 3% Non-halogenated Hydrocarbons (Jute Batching Oil) by weight. Apart from this the Office of the Jute Commissioner has number of times requested Central Excise and Customs to see that no illegal import of jute product takes place.

Life Insurance for Children

2274. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch the Children's Postal Life Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

- (c) the time by which it is likely to be launched;
- (d) whether Government has also proposed to extend/extended the accidental death insurance coverage for postal savings account holders; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Children Policy in Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance has been launched in January, 2006.

(b) The salient features of the policy are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The "Children Policy" has been launched on 20th January, 2006 all over the Country.

(d) and (e) The Department in a tie up with Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. is providing Accidental Death Insurance cover of Rs. One lakh to Post Office Savings Bank account holders for one year on payment of premium @ Rs.15/- per annum.

Statement

Salient Features of the Children Policy

- * The Scheme is envisaged to provide Insurance cover to the children of PLI/RPLI Policy holders.
- * Maximum two children in a family will be eligible to take children policy.
- * Children between the age of 5 and 20 years are eligible and maximum sum assured is of Rs. 1 lakh each or equivalent to the sum assured of the main policy holder, whichever is less.
- * The main policy holder should not have attained the age of 45 years.
- * No premium shall be required to pay on the children policy on the death of the main policy holder and full sum assured with the accrued

bonus shall be paid to the child after the completion of the term of the children policy. On the death of the child/children, full sum assured with the accrued bonus shall be payable to the main policy holder.

- * Main policy holder shall be responsible for payment of premium for the Children Policy. No loan shall be admissible on Children Policy, however the policy shall have facility for making it paid up provided the premiums are paid continuously for 5 years.
- * No Medical Examination of the Child is necessary however the child should be healthy on the day of proposal and the risk shall start from the date of acceptance of proposal.
- * The policy shall attract the bouns at the rate applicable to Endowment Policy. The POIF Rules amended from time to time shall be applicable to Children Policy.

Agreement with Philippines for PURA

2275. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has recently signed any agreement or MoU with Philippines regarding Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/to be taken towards implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question doesn't arise.

Setting up of Electronic Exchanges in Gujarat

2276. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges to be set up in Gujarat during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the target fixed and achieved during the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated and spent thereon during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Number of Telephone exchanges to be set up in Gujarat during the Tenth Five Year Plan is 18.

(b) Target and achievement during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Target	Achievement
2002-03	18	28
2003-04	No Target Fixed	2*
2004-05	No Target Fixed	2*

*Exchanges are opened as per demand.

(c) The funds allocated and spent thereon during the period is as under :-

Year	Funds Allocated (Rs. in Thousand)	Funds Spent (Rs. in Thousand)
2002-03	85860	133560
2003-04	No funds allocated	9540
2004-05	No funds allocated	9320

[Translation]

NASSCOM

2277. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study undertaken by 'NASSCOM'

revealed that scientists of Indian origin settled abroad have started returning to India;

(b) if so, the number of such scientists who have returned to India during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide research facilities to such scientists;

(d) the amount of funds allocated by the Government for research during the financial year 2005-2006;

(e) whether the said allocation is in accordance with the foreign research norms; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. NASSCOM has not carried out any study to track the number of scientists of Indian Origin settled abroad returning to India.

(c) Government has taken a number of initiatives and measures in order to improve the working conditions of Scientists to encourage their retention/return in the country. The various measures taken from time to time are:

- Intensification of Research in High Priority Areas (IRHPA).
- Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Higher Educational Institutions (FIST).
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.

- Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists.
- Mission HOPE (Higher Education-Opportunities for Promoting Entrepreneurship) with the aim of converting aspirations to real enterprises (CARE).
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R&D as a career.
- Diamond Jubilee Research Interns Award Scheme, JRF-GATE and Entrepreneurship support to research scholars.
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young undergraduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. to take teaching as their career.
- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.
- The Ramanujan Fellowships.
- The JC Bose National Fellowships.
- The Ramanna Fellowships.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships.
- Swarnajayanti Fellowships.
- SERC Visiting Fellowships.
- Junior/Senior research fellowships, research associateships and senior research associateships.
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions.
- SERC Individual Projects.
- Financial assistance to scientists to participate

in international conferences and training programmes.

- Opportunities to distinguished scientists of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S&T.
- Post-doctoral Fellowships in Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

(d) to (f) The Plan Expenditure for Central Government Scientific Department/Agencies has steadily been stepped up. The Plan Outlay for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 6553.74 crores. There are no international norms for this purpose. Each country makes allocation for R&D as per their priorities.

[English]

Development of Villages

2278. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the names of villages selected or proposed to be selected for development under various rural development schemes alongwith the funds sanctioned for the purpose during the current financial year, State-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : The Ministry of Rural Development implements through the State Governments, a number of schemes namely, the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment, the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) as wage employment, the Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY) for providing shelter, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural connectivity, Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) for Area Development through Watersheds Projects, the Accelerated Rural Supply Programme

(ARWSP) and the Swajaldhara for providing safe drinking water and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) for Sanitation Programmes. All these schemes are implemented in the rural areas of the country.

State-wise Central allocation under SGRY, SGSY, IAY, PMGSY and ARWSP schemes during the current financial year i.e. 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Central Allocation under major Rural Development schemes for the year 2005-2006

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year : 2005-2006

State Name	Central Allocation					
	SGRY	NFFWP	SGSY	IAY	PMGSY	ARWSP
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	28139.33	27199.63	5305.97	24399.42	10000.00	21032.00
Arunachal Pradesh	1524.09	425.26	276.91	949.43	5200.00	9060.00
Assam	39560.89	37100.61	7195.18	20994.23	17600.00	15280.00
Bihar	55724.88	58812.89	12623.79	72020.72	33200.00	15324.00
Chhattisgarh	15705.09	23181.35	2802.45	3773.17	33000.00	5154.00
Goa	403.44	0.00	50.00	150.28	500.00	193.00
Gujarat	12320.13	8895.33	1997.27	11966.03	6000.00	12339.00
Haryana	6490.41	627.62	1175.03	1680.04	2500.00	3590.00
Himachal Pradesh	2733.38	676.75	494.85	592.56	13200.00	10605.00
Jammu and Kashmir	3212.07	1100.60	612.44	1840.52	6000.00	20073.00
Jharkhand	37791.40	50315.90	4757.98	6423.93	19500.00	5529.00
Karnataka	21013.87	6514.20	4006.76	9400.43	10500.00	17555.00
Kerala	9428.94	1218.36	1797.82	5227.51	2500.00	5386.00
Madhya Pradesh	33915.78	35201.76	6007.91	7504.14	53500.00	15101.00
Maharashtra	41539.76	34504.70	7920.39	14714.56	14000.00	27591.00
Manipur	2655.16	889.78	482.36	824.15	2800.00	3110.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	2974.57	1212.16	540.42	1435.38	4000.00	3583.00
Mizoram	688.33	212.89	125.06	306.89	2700.00	2569.00
Nagaland	2040.38	1015.71	370.70	949.84	2500.00	2637.00
Orissa	31829.53	49621.06	6068.94	14149.75	26800.00	12405.00
Punjab	7219.10	1595.09	571.05	2077.71	3000.00	3642.00
Rajasthan	15956.71	7866.58	3042.47	6013.11	28600.00	44034.00
Sikkim	762.08	703.70	138.45	181.66	2500.00	1083.00
Tamil Nadu	24606.12	10803.45	4691.65	9768.97	8500.00	11875.00
Tripura	4794.48	3439.89	870.92	1849.42	3500.00	3178.00
Uttar Pradesh	94042.72	58738.53	18173.71	32348.75	44500.00	24764.00
Uttaranchal	6281.04	2259.88	955.10	1621.77	9500.00	5725.00
West Bengal	35372.18	25496.32	6744.42	19518.40	22100.00	13308.00
Andaman and Nicobar Island	264.70	0.00	25.00	309.46	0.00	9.37
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	174.27	0.00	25.00	51.56	0.00	6.25
Damen and Diu	84.46	0.00	25.00	23.07	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.69
Lakshadweep	132.39	0.00	25.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	268.30	0.00	100.00	154.14	0.00	4.69
Total	539650.00	449630.00	100000.00	273240.00	388200.00	315750.00

IWDP, DPAP & DDP are demand driven Schemes, thus State-wise central allocation is not done.

Mill Gate Price Scheme

2279. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of the handlooms in the country that have been covered under the Mill Gate Price Scheme;

(b) the extent to which the scheme has been effective and the reasons for its poor performance;

(c) the steps taken to extend the scheme to weavers outside the cooperative sector; and

(d) the measures taken to make the scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) About 4% of the total requirement of yarn in the handloom sector is presently covered under the Nill Gate Price Scheme.

(b) National Productivity Council (NPC) retained for evaluation of the scheme came out with the conclusions that the scheme has been helpful in creating employment opportunities, ensuring availability of quality yarn at prices lesser than those charged by the local traders, acting as a deterrent to the extent of flexibility in price fixation enjoyed by the yarn traders, protecting weavers from traders exploitation and highly useful in stabilizing employment in the rural economy. It has positive response on loom productivity and also enabled weavers to have reasonably good wages.

(c) Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Association of Weavers, Weavers Societies and NGOs were already covered under the scheme. During the year 2005-06, Master weavers have also been included to obtain yarn and support weavers outside the cooperative fold.

(d) Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (IILM), New Delhi has been retained to study for suggesting the rates for reimbursement of freight as well as depot operation charges on objective basis.

Focused Oublicity and enlargement through deport operation are also contemplated.

Hiring of Security Agencies

2280. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chief General Managers, Telecommunications (BSNL) of six telecom circles engaged security agencies on contract through open tenders instead of getting sponsored ex-servicemen empanelled

from the Directorate General of Resettlement, in violation of the directives of their Corporate Office resulting irregular expenditure of Rs. 6.30 crore on contract labour during the period from August 2001 to March 2004, besides denying ex-servicemen the benefit of resettlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL has also engaged private security agencies on contract instead of ex-servicemen in violation of Directorate General of Resettlement instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred on hiring of these private security agencies; and

(e) the action Government propose to take against officials for causing irregular expenditure worth crores of rupees and for denying job opportunities to ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Six telecom circles in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) engaged security agencies on contract basis involving an expenditure of Rs. 6.30 crores during the transition period before switching over to Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) sponsored security agencies as per the directives of BSNL Corporate Office.

(b) The details of expenditure is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) BSNL is investigating these cases to find out the reasons for under delay and lapses for fixing reponsibility.

Statement**Circle-wise details of Alleged Irregular Expenditure**

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/ SSA	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Mode of Deployment
1	2	3	4
1. Haryana Circle			
	TDM/Rewari	40.21	Deployed through Open Tender.
	GMT/Gurgaon	52.80	Deployed through Open Tender.
2. Tamil Nadu Circle			
	Salem & Vellore	161.18	Deployed through DGR as well as Open Tender.
3. West Bengal Circle			
	GMT/Jalpaiguri	28.99	Deployed through Open Tender.
4. Madhya Pradesh Circle			
	GMTD, Ujjain	8.10	Deployed through Open Tender.
	GMTD, Gwalior	32.09	Deployed through Open Tender.
	GMTD, Indore	60.00	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Dhar	21.56	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Panna	2.50	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Narsinghpur	4.93	Deployed through Open Tender.

1	2	3	4
	TDM, Morena	26.40	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Dewas	13.60	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Vidisha	3.23	Deployed through Open Tender.
	TDM, Seoni	1.53	Deployed through Open Tender.
5. Uttar Pradesh (East) Circle			
	GMTD, Gorakhpur	120.97	Deployed through DGR as well as Open Tender.
6. Karnataka Circle			
	GMTD, Devengare	47.25	Deployed through Open Tender.
	DGM, Bangalore	5.01	Deployed through Open Tender.
Total		630.35	

Indian Technology Centre in Moscow

2281. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement to set up an Indian Technology Centre in Moscow to promote commercial use of Russian Technology was signed during the Union Minister's visit to Moscow;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the aims and objectives of the Centre;

(c) whether Russia is the only country of the World with which India has the largest integrated long term programme of scientific and technological cooperation

involving thousands of scientists of the best labs and research institutes of the two countries; and

(d) the extent to which the setting up of IT centre in Moscow will give further boost to the Science and Technology aspect of the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) During the visit of the Union Minister to Moscow in September 2005, Science Ministers of India and Russia agreed to set up the Indo-Russian Technology Centre in Moscow to promote commercial use of Russian Technology.

(b) The primary aims and objectives of the proposed Centre would be to identify, assess, and facilitate transfer of technologies.

(c) Yes, Sir. India has an Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) with Russia only, which is our biggest scientific collaboration programme, though we have such major scientific interaction with several other countries.

(d) The proposed Centre would greatly boost activities related to transfer of available and jointly developed high technologies to industry.

Artificial Fibres

2282. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is giving more encouragement to the production of artificial fibres than cotton yarns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage the cotton production in the interest of public health;

(d) whether any scientific study has been made to find out the best suited clothing fibre material for the people of our country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken various measures to increase production of both Man Made Fibres and cotton yarn in the country through rationalization of the fiscal duty structure for increased growth and inflow of investment in these sectors.

(c) The Government has taken various steps to increase the production of cotton in the country as under:-

(i) A Technology Mission on cotton has been launched to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(ii) A pest resistant variety of cotton, namely *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), has been released commercially to improve the cotton yield.

(iii) The Government has provided adequate canal water supply and encourages the efficient use of water resources and less use of farm chemicals.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There are no reports of any specific study being conducted to determine the suitability of clothing fibre in the country. The suitability of fibre for various regions of the country varies as per the climatic and local conditions.

[Translation]

Rise in Sensex

2283. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Sensex at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) reached at level of 10000 points which was not consistent with the economic fundamentals of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for Security and Exchange Board of India not intervening after it crossed 10000 points; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The benchmark Index of the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE), Sensex closed above the 10000 level on 7th February, 2006.

The upward movement of the index is a function of increased investment arising of positive perception of the economy, and/or a sector or an index stocks. Movements of stock indices also depend on economic factors, domestic and international events, market sentiments, corporate performance and future economic growth. The stock market capitalises the present and future values of growth opportunities while evaluating the growth of all sectors in economy. The upward movement of the index contributes to the positive perception of the international investment community towards the capital market and is generally associated with higher level of investment in the capital market as well as direct investment in the economy. Generally this is associated with increased financial health of the economy.

(b) and (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is keeping a constant vigil on the market, irrespective of the levels of the sensex and has taken immediate action wherever warranted. Several scrips have been shifted to trade to trade segment to discourage day trading and speculation. Circuit filters/price bands have been imposed on several scrips, SEBI has also been conducting regular and weekly meetings with surveillance officials of the stock exchanges. The stock exchanges have also been advised to step up their own surveillance measures. The stock exchanges have been advised to initiate expeditious demonstrative action wherever warranted so as to protect investors' interest and ensure orderly functioning of the stock market. Additionally, from time to time the stock exchanges also are issuing list of do's and don't's for investors with regard to dealing in securities through leading English and Hindi newspapers. SEBI also emphasises the same through its periodically conducted investor education programmes.

The objective of the Government and SEBI is to ensure that securities markets operate in an orderly, transparent, safe and fair manner so that the interests of investors are protected. In pursuance of this objective, it has been the endeavor of SEBI to make available to investors all relevant information about the issuers, the securities and the institutional arrangements of the market in order to enable investors to take informed decisions.

[English]

Growth In Bank Credit in Mumbai

2284. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mumbai is fast losing its pre-eminence as the financial capital of India despite its historical and geographical advantages and natural harbour;

(b) whether growth in bank credit in Mumbai is far less than other cities;

(c) if so, whether State Government of Maharashtra has submitted any plans for sustained growth of Mumbai in terms of trade, industrial development and bank credit;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Central aid sought for infrastructural and other development for realizing the goals set out under the plan; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Due to larger base of credit disbursed in earlier years, the growth rate as compared to other few towns is lower in Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposals worth Rs. 35333 crore for development of infrastructure in Greater Mumbai under the recently

launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(e) The proposal of Government of Maharashtra is under consideration in the Ministry of Urban Development.

Opening of Offices of NABARD

2285. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has opened District Development Managers Offices in the districts of the different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total such offices opened in each State by February, 2006, State-wise;

(c) the number of districts identified by NABARD for opening such offices in different States; and

(d) the time by which offices at the identified districts are likely to be opened to facilitate farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State/Union Territory-wise details of District Development Manager (DDM) Offices and the number of districts identified by NABARD for opening of such offices in different States in 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of DDM Offices and Districts Identified by NABARD for Opening of such Offices during 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of DDM Offices	Identified District for opening new DDMs office
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	15	1. Dhubri 2. Nalbari

1	2	3	4
			3. Golaghat
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21	
3.	Bihar	21	1. Saharsa 2. Khagaria 3. Nawada
4.	Chhatisgarh	11	1. Kawardha 2. Jashpur
5.	Goa	1	
6.	Gujarat	18	1. Anand
7.	Haryana	14	1. Rewari
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	
10.	Jharkhand	14	1. Godda 2. Chatra 3. Simdega
11.	Karnataka	21	1. Haveri 2. Gadag
12.	Kerala	13	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26	1. Tikamgarh
14.	Maharashtra	30	
15.	Manipur	1	
16.	Meghalaya	2	
17.	Orissa	23	1. Angul 2. Jharsuguda
18.	Pondichery	1	

1	2	3	4
19. Punjab		14	1. Mansa
20. Rajasthan		23	1. Baran 2. Dungarpur 3. Jalore
21. Sikkim		1	
22. Tamil Nadu		27	
23. Tripura		1	
24. Uttar Pradesh		46	
25. Uttranchal		7	1. Uttarkashi
26. West Bengal		14	1. Darjeeling 2. Dakshin Dinajpur
Total		376	25

[Translation]

Amendment to Insurance Law

2286. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has prepared a draft of proposed amendments in insurance laws;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Narsimhan Committee has been constituted to suggest amendments in the present insurance laws;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the said committee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (e) The Law Commission in its 190th Report submitted to the Government has recommended merging, amending, re-grouping, re-casting, re-defining, deleting and re-examining of various provisions of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999 and Insurance Act, 1938. IRDA constituted a Committee of Experts on 7th March 2005 under chairmanship of Sh. K.P. Narasimhan, Ex-Chairman LIC, to deliberate upon the report of Law Commission. The Government has not received the report of the Committee.

[English]

Verification of Houses Constructed under IAY

2287. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has verified all the 1.16 crore houses reportedly built under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) since inception to ensure that the benefits has reached the targeted poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to get the verification of houses done; and

(d) the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Government where ineligible persons have taken the benefits of IAY and the corrective action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS : (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The District Level Monitor Scheme (DLM) is a monitoring mechanism through which monitoring is done by physical verification of works undertaken by the District Rural Development Agencies/ Zilla Parishads (DRDAs/ZPs) under various Rural Development Programmes including the Indira Awaas

Yojana (IAY). The DLM system was introduced during 2001-02 on pilot basis in 60 districts of 18 States to test the new concept. From the year 2004-05, the scope of DLM has been extended to 130 districts of 27 States. As per the information available with the Ministry, till date 2.74 lakh IAY houses have been verified and found to be satisfactory. As regards, the issue of selection of ineligible beneficiaries, as and when any such incident is reported to this Ministry, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned State Governments for suitable remedial action.

Closure of Rural Bank Branches

2288. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rural and semi-rural Bank branches alongwith hilly and remote areas were closed down during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

Universal Service Obligation Funds

2289. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone services to rural India have been badly hit due to delay in releasing the funds under Universal Services Obligation Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be released;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposals from the States Governments for State Wide Area Network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Universal Service Support Policy came into effect from 01-04-2002. Provisions relating to Universal Service Obligation (USO) were incorporated in Indian Telegraph Act in January, 2004. As per the provisions in Indian Telegraph Act, USO Levy Collections are credited into Consolidated Fund of India. Allocations to USO Fund are made through Budgetary Process. Allocations made to USO Fund have been fully utilized in all the years since its inception. The year-wise amount allocated and disbursed is as under :

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)	
	Allocated	Disbursed
2002-03	300	300
2003-04	200	200
2004-05	1,314.58	1,314.58
2005-06	1,750	1,401.2
		(Upto 15-02-2006)

The balance amount of Rs. 348.98 crore will be utilized by 31.03.2006.

(d) and (e) Department of Information Technology has received 25 proposals for State-Wide Area Network from 25 State Governments/Union Territories. Government has so far approved 20 proposals out of the 25 above.

FDI In Real Estate

2290. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allowed FDI in real estate;

(b) If so, whether the Government has set up a regulatory board for development in this sector;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up a regulatory board in real estate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) In order to Catalyse investment in Real Estate as an instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built up infrastructure, the Govt. has vide Press Note 2 (2005 series), allowed FDI upto 100% under automatic route for Townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects, which would include, but not be restricted to housing, commercial premises, hotels resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure, rather than limiting it to only development of integrated townships.

(b) and (d) No, Sir. As on date no proposal has been received from the Stakeholders/Organizations engaged in the Construction activities for setting up a regulatory board for development in real estate sector.

[Translation]

Winding up of Training Institute

2291. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a regional office of Income Tax Department and Training Institute for the officers of Income Tax was opened in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the Government has decided to wind up both the offices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is resentment among the public in Hazaribagh;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the decision in regard to closure of the above offices;

(f) if so, by when; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) There were two offices of the Income Tax Department in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, namely, the Office of the Commissioner of Income Tax and the Regional Training Institute. It was decided to wind up only the Regional Training Institute, in September 2005 due to functional necessities.

(d) The aspect of resentment among the public at Hazaribagh has been brought to the notice of the Department by Shri Yashwant Sinha, Member of Parliament.

(e) and (f) At present there is no such proposal before the Government.

(g) Because of the functional necessities that had led to a decision to wind up the Regional Training Institute, Hazaribagh.

[English]

Broadband Services

2292. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested a review of the policy provisions relating to Broadband Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI) have sent a communication to the Government recommending that Government should conduct a review of various provision of Broadband Policy and should have reconsideration on TRAI's earlier recommendations pertaining to Local Loop unbundling and fiscal incentives for Broadband. The suggestions made by TRAI are under examination.

Prudential Exposure Limits

2293. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Banks that had sanctioned credit in excess of prudential exposure limits during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India on such banks for violation of prudential exposure limits;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a separate 'monitoring cell' for continuous monitoring of compliance of RBI guidelines;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a system of 'Government audits' as a measure of reducing Non-performing Assets in banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) 51, 58 and 59 banks have sanctioned credit in excess of prudential exposure limits during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(b) RBI has granted specific permission in these cases on a case by case basis and has advised these banks to make appropriate disclosures in the 'Notes on Accounts' to the Annual Financial Statements in respect of these cases where prudential exposure limits have been exceeded during the year. The banks are required to report

the exposure on a quarterly basis to RBI and the same is also verified during the Annual Financial Inspection of the concerned banks.

(c) and (d) RBI has a well laid down system of monitoring and inspection to ensure compliance of its guidelines by the Banks.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Govt. However, the banks take appropriate action to recover outstanding loans in accordance with their overall loan recovery policies, which, inter-alia, include regular follow up of loan accounts, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NP As at various levels. Government has also advised PSBs to take effective measures for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers, including in NPA accounts. As a result of efforts made by PSBs, their Gross Non-performing Assets have reduced from 5.5% as on 31st March 2005 to 4.5% as on 31st December, 2005 and Net Non-performing Assets from 2.1% as on 31st March 2005 to 1.5% as on 31st December, 2005. Further, the Government has put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of all Public Sector Banks, including reduction of NPAs, on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' submitted by them.

Review of State's Matching Share

2294. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the existing matching share by the State Governments in rural development sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has also reviewed the existing funding pattern of 50:50 to 90:10 for North Eastern States and 75:25 in the case of other than North Eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS : (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has not undertaken any review of the existing matching share by the State Governments in rural development sector.

(c) and (d) The existing share between the Centre and State Governments is 75:25 in most of the rural development schemes, except Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) where cent percent funds are released by the Ministry to the State Governments for implementation of programmes.

Telephone Tariff

2295. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present domestic telephone tariff is higher than that of mobile phones;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rationalize the telephone tariff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997 empowers the Authority to notify the rates at which telecommunication services shall be provided. In view of this, the Government does not fix tariffs for telecom services in the country.

Under the extant regime notified by TRAI, the tariff for telecom services is under forbearance., except in the case of rural subscribers in fixed line. roaming services in mobile telephony and for leased circuits.

The individual service providers are thus free to offer various tariff plans for their subscribers and these may vary

greatly in terms of the combinations of monthly rental, call charges and free call allowances, depending upon their commercial and cost considerations. In fact, today there exist several alternative plans/schemes in each Service Area for basic as well as cellular service and hence comparison of domestic telephone tariff for basic telephones with that of mobile phones is rather untenable.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Government Presses

2196. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a proposal for the privatization of Government-owned textbook presses in Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers recommended that the privatization should include reasonable operational land area, excess land of these Presses should be developed, if necessary in collaboration with the respective State Governments;

(c) if so, whether the Government also approved proposals for modernization of Government Press in Shimla and its conversion to a production-cum-training centre;

(d) if so, the decisions taken in this regard; and

(e) the estimated cost of these projects and the extent to which State Governments have been instructed accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Government on 1.02.2006 has decided to privatize Government of India Text Book Presses at Mysore, Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar along with reasonable operational land area with the condition that the employees

will continue to be in service till completion of their balance service period. Excess land of these presses may be developed, if necessary, in collaboration with the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved the retention and modernization of Government of India Press, Shimla by converting into a production-cum-training centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.19 crores.

(e) Surplus land in these States will be developed in collaboration with State Governments.

[English]

Flats Under NPRS

2297. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether allottees to whom flats under NPRS were allotted on cash down basis did not made full payment against the demand before possession was handed over to them by DDA;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases where either short payment or no payment was made at all before handing over the possession and the amount involved therein; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the officials of DDA responsible for giving possession of flats to allottees without getting full payment together with the reasons for not taking action against them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the possession of flats allotted on cash down basis to the registrants under New Pattern Registration Scheme (NPRS), 1979 is issued after receipt of full payment of the amount alongwith requisite documents and no such case where possession has been given without receipt of full payment has come to their notice.

Amendment to Banking Regulation Act

2298. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to enhance capacity to ensure sound governance relevant to the banks consistent with global best practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when Banking Regulation Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2005 for amending the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on May 13, 2005. The proposed amendments aim to strengthen regulatory power of RBI. Briefly, the Bill seeks to carry out the following amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

(i) Amendment of Section 5(a) of the Act, which defines the expression 'approved securities' as those securities, which are issued by the Central Government of any State Government or such other securities as may be specified by the RBI from time to time.

(ii) Amendment of Section 12 of the Act to enable banking companies to issue preference shares subject to regulatory guidelines by the RBI. The holders of preference shares issued by the banking company shall not be entitled to exercise voting right as specified in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 87 of the Companies Act, 1956.

(iii) Amendment to remove the restrictions on voting right under sub-section (2) of section 12 concurrently with the insertion of a new section 12B providing for RBI's prior approval for acquisition of 5% or more of shares or voting rights in a banking company by any person and

empowering RBI to impose such conditions as it deems fit in this regard in order to satisfy itself that the acquisition of shares of a banking company is by a person considered fit and proper and that the applicant continues to be fit and proper to hold the shares or voting rights above the specified limit.

- (iv) Amendment of Section 20 to empower the Reserve Bank to grant exemption to banking companies from the provisions of Section 20 in appropriate cases.
- (v) Amendment to section 24 with a view to empower RBI to specify statutory liquidity ratio without any floor.
- (vi) Addition of a new section 29A to empower RBI to call for information and returns from the associate enterprises of banking companies and also inspect them, if necessary.
- (vii) Addition of a new Section 36 ACA to empower RBI to supercede the Board of Directors of a banking company and appoint an administrator to manage the bank till alternate arrangements are made
- (viii) Amendment to section 51 for extending the application of new section 29A to SBI, Subsidiary bank, nationalized banks and regional rural banks.
- (ix) Amendment of the provisions of Section 56 of the Act to provide for primary cooperative societies to carry on the business of banking only after obtaining a licence from RBI.
- (x) To empower Reserve Bank to order a special audit of co-operative banks in public interest.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

2299. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :- Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether for sugar mills were functioning under Kanpur Sugars in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in collaboration with British India Corporation under his Ministry;

(b) whether these mills have been closed for the last ten years;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to provide any package for revival and renovations of these mills;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is also considering to refer these mills to BIFR; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Four sugar mills were running in the name of Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. (CSWL), out of which three were in Uttar Pradesh, and one in Bihar. The CSWL was declared a sick company under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies Act (SICA). The company was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), which approved a Rehabilitation Package in December, 1998.

(e) and (f) As per directions by BIFR, BIC Ltd. transferred all the shares of CSWL in its custody to its new promoter, viz. M/s. Gangotri Enterprises Ltd (GEL). At present, BIC has no administrative control over CSWL.

[English]

Pension Records

2300. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the organization which is entrusted with the task of maintaining the pension records of the new employees who are covered under the New Pension Scheme (NPS);

(b) the number of employees separately of the Central Government, State Governments and Autonomous Institutions who have joined this scheme since 2003-04, year-wise;

(c) the total amount collected from the all employees and the total contributions made by the Government since 2003-04, year-wise;

(d) the total interest amount transferred into the pension accounts of the new employees;

(e) whether a review of the NPS is planned; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) has been entrusted with the task of maintaining the pension records of new employees who are covered under the New Pension System (NPS) in so far as the Government of India is concerned.

(b) CPAO maintains the pension records in respect of only new employees of Central Government who have joined the NPS since 2003-04. The information available in CPAO's database and separately provided by the Controller General of Defence Accounts and the Department of Telecommunications is indicated in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Information on the total amount collected from all employees and total contributions by Government since 2003-04, years-wise, as provided by the office of the Controller General of Accounts, the Controller General of Defence Accounts and the Department of Telecommunications is indicated in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The total interest amount, as calculated by the CPAO is Rs. 1,03,91,776.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e) above.

Statement-I

Number of employees of Central Government who have joined this scheme since 2003-04

Ministry/Department	Year			Total
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	
Information provided by CPAO in respect of civil Ministries/Departments, Department of Posts, Ministry of Railways	9801	46251	9011	65063
Information provided by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (employees under Ministry of Defence)	2221	9793	4013 (upto January 2006)	16027
Information provided by Department of Telecommunications	—	13	25	38

Statement-II**Total Collections**

Year	Employees' Contributions (Rs.)	Government Contributions (Rs.)
Civil Ministries/Departments		
2003-04	33,447	35195
2004-05 (provisional)	27,26,83,494	20,20,24,960
2005-06 (till January 2006)	53,96,96,851	52,77,29,830
Total	81,24,13,792	72,97,89,985
Ministry of Railways		
2003-04	3038417	3038417
2004-05	93253168	93253168
2005-06 (upto 31.12.2005)	267931423	267931423
Department of Posts		
2003-04	59995	-
2004-05	10590531	7237502
2005-06 (upto 31.12.2005)	27254270	16315187
2003-04		
Department of Telecommunications		
2003-04	NII	NII
2004-05	50616	50616
2005-06 (upto January 2006)	4,40,768	4,40,768

Village Public Telephone Scheme

2301. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Village-Public-Telephone-Scheme has proved a failure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has not achieved the targets for the sector during the first three years of the current plan;

(d) if so, the reasons for not achieving the targets; and

(e) the concrete measures taken to achieve the target during the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan and to improve the rural telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 remaining unconnected villages by November, 2007. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Against a target of 13,364 VPTs by November, 2005, a total of 17,182 VPTs have been provided as of December, 2005.

(e) As on 31.12.2005, 49,640 unconnected eligible villages remain to be provided with VPTs Adequate Budgetary provision is being made and the scheme is being closely monitored, so as to ensure that the unconnected villages identified are provided with a Village Public Telephone (VPT) by the targeted date of November, 2007.

Expert Committee on Postal Services

2302. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expert committee on excellence in postal services has laid emphasis on the need for

induction of technology in various postal mail agency functions with a view to transform the traditional postal services into modern high technology services; and

(b) If so, the steps taken by the Government to popularize and streamline the scheme so as to utilize VSAT and to improve the postal services into modern high technology services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Posts has been transmitting Money Orders through 77 VSATs since 1995. Subsequently, it extended the VSAT network to cover 150 Statellite Money Order Stations and 1455 Extended Satellite Money Order Centres. Further, to improve the quality of postal services, the Department has been computerizing the large Departmental Post Offices and till date 6184 Post Offices have been provided with computers. Two Automatic Mail Processing Centres have been set up at Chennai & Mumbai for processing the mails faster. E-Post, e-Bill Post, Instant Money Order Services are some of the Department's information technology based modern services.

Pay Disparity

2303. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is disparity between the pay scales of Inspector of Central Excise and Customs/Income Tax and Assistants of various Ministries of Government of India in spite of the fact that both are Group 'B' posts recruited through a common competitive exam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to revise the pay scales of assistant of various Ministries of Government of India;

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

(e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The higher pay scale to Inspectors in CBDT/CBES was extended in 2004 to bring them on par with Inspectors of CBI.

(c) to (e) No proposal in this regard has been received from Department of Personnel and Training, which is the cadre controlling authority for this post.

[Translation]

Investigation Against Officers of IT

2304. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No.3385 dated August 20, 2004 regarding complaints against Income Tax Officers and state :

(a) whether investigations against Chief Commissioner and Commissioners of Income Tax Department have been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed all the cases extensively and have forwarded these cases to Central Vigilance Commission for legal advice;

(c) if so, the advice given by the Central Vigilance Commission in this regard; and

(d) action taken by the Government against those officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) In the initial reply to Question No.3385 dated 20.8.2004, it was reported that in 11 cases, the complaint against the officers of the rank of Chief Commissioners and Commissioners of Income Tax were taken up for investigation. Out of these eleven cases, investigation reports in respect of eight of these cases have been received, investigation in respect of three of these cases have not been received so far.

(b) In the eight cases, where investigation reports have been received, four cases stand referred to the Central Vigilance Commission and in one case, reference is being made to the Central Vigilance Commission for closure of the complaint. In three cases, investigation reports are under examination.

(c) and (d) Reference to the Central Vigilance Commission was made in four cases. After receiving the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission, in one case major penalty proceedings under the CCA (CCS) Rules, 1965 have been initiated against the officer. In another case, further investigation is being carried out. In two cases, the files have been closed after obtaining the concurrence of the Central Vigilance Commission-of these two, in one case the Central Vigilance Commission has

advised issuing of administrative warning to the officer and accordingly a warning has been issued to the officer.

[English]

Trading by Triumph Securities

2305. MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Triumph Securities is banned from Trading;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of companies whose shares and securities Triumph had dealt;
- (d) the name of companies whose promoters were involved in market manipulation; and
- (e) the action has been taken/proposed to be taken against these promoters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that pursuant to excessive volatility in the stock markets during February-March 2001 and apprehensions of alleged market manipulation, SEBI had initiated investigations into the affairs relating to buying, selling or dealings of various scrips including those in which Triumph Securities and its group companies, known as Ketan Parekh group, were active. Investigation revealed that Ketan Parekh group entities including Triumph Securities indulged in manipulation in the stock markets. Therefore, the entities were banned from trading in securities markets.

(c) Triumph Securities along with its group entities dealt in various scrips viz. Atek Infosys Ltd, Adani Exports Ltd, DSQ Software, Global Tele-Systems Ltd, Global Trust Bank, Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd (HFCL), Lupin Lab Ltd, Shonkh Technologies Ltd, Padmini Technologies, Zee Tele-Films Ltd., etc.

(d) and (e) The names of companies and promoters who were involved in market manipulation are: DSQ Software Ltd., After Infosys Ltd and Global Trust Bank. In case of these companies, investigations have been completed and final orders passed by SEBI.

In case of the following companies, investigations have revealed prima facie involvement of the companies/promoters for violation of SEBI Act, 1992 and regulations made thereunder including market manipulation: Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd, Adani Exports Ltd., Zee Telefilms Ltd., Padmini Technologies Shonkh Technologies and promoters of Ranbaxy, Vidyut Investment Ltd.

The action taken against these companies and their promoters are, inter-alia, in the nature of:

- (i) Prohibiting the promoters, directors, person acting in concert, brokers and clients from buying, selling or dealing in securities for a certain time period;
- (ii) filing of prosecution proceedings against certain companies, promoters and associate entities;
- (iii) issue of show cause notice for violation of SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices Relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 1995.
- (iv) imposition of monetary penalties.

Rural Telecommunications in Uttaranchal

2306. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttaranchal, which have been provided telephone facilities so far;
- (b) the number of villages in these districts which are yet to be provided such facilities separately, district-wise;
- (c) the total funds required for the purpose in these districts;
- (d) whether due to shortage of electricity to energise telephone exchanges in these districts which are not functioning properly;
- (e) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether any time frame has been fixed for providing telephone facility in these district; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) A statement indicating the number of villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttranchal which have been provided with telephone facilities and number of eligible villages which are yet to be provided with such facilities is given below :

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of villages with VPT facility	No. of eligible villages without VPT facility
1.	Pauri	2,215	1,063
2.	Chamoli	638	512
3.	Rudrapryag	349	80
Total		3,202	1,655

This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. An amount of Rs. 28 crore is required to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 1,655 unconnected eligible villages in these three districts of Uttranchal.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Alternative stand by arrangements are in place in the telephone exchanges in the event of any power disruption.

(f) and (g) The unconnected eligible villages in Pauri, Chamoli and Rudrapryag districts of Uttranchal will be provided with VPT facility progressively by November 2007.

Security and Secrecy of Telegraphic Message

2307. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Handling telegrams through private STD PTs and PCOs is detrimental to the security and secrecy of the messages;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to keep up the secrecy of the Telegraphic Messages;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to revoke the present practice of Booking and Delivery of Telegrams through STD, PTs and PCOs; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. Handling telegrams through private STD Public Telephones (PTs) and PCOs is not detrimental to the security and secrecy of the messages as the franchisee is bound by the secrecy clauses and the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885.

(b) Under the existing provisions of franchising, the secrecy of the telegraphic messages are maintained.

(c) BSNL is not contemplating to revoke the present practice of booking and delivery of telegrams through STD, PTs and PCOs as it will reduce the availability and accessibility of the telegraph services.

(d) Does not arise view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Special Court for Fera Cases

2308. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute special court for speedy disposal of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Since the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, stands repealed and no fresh prosecution cases are filed under the repealed Act, it has not been felt necessary to constitute Special Courts at this stage.

*[English]***Outsourcing Companies**

2309. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether outsourcing is a big market for India;

(b) if so, the present turnover of outsourcing market in the country;

(c) the number of companies engaged in outsourcing business in Information Technology sector in the country;

(d) whether the Indian companies engaged in outsourcing are not big enough to compete with the international companies in this field;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to encourage Indian Companies to grow like International Companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the total value of revenues from ITES-BPO (exports and domestic) is estimated to be about US \$ 7.2 billion during 2005-06 as compared to US \$ 5.2 billion in 2004-05.

(c) As per NASSCOM there are about 425 call centers/ITES-BPO companies in IT Sector in India.

(d) No, Sir. Indian companies are equally competing with International companies in ITES-BPO sector.

(e) and (f) The steps taken by the Government to boost the IT sector is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector*

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

2. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 12.5%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to actual user condition. Information Technology (IT) Software is exempted from customs duty. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%. Customs duty on MP3 players and MPEG4 players has been reduced to 5%.
3. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drivers, Floppy Disc Drivers, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives, USB Flash Memory and Combo Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty. Excise duty on MP3 players and MPEG4 players has been reduced to 8%.
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
5. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits is available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
6. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

7. EOU/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
8. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under EOU/Software Technology Park (STP)/EHTP/SEZ schemes.
9. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
10. To induce more investment for Research and Development activities, a weighted deduction of 150% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
11. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
12. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

Issuing of Identity Cards

2310. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the postal department is issuing identity cards to residents of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the facility is available in all the post offices in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by which this facility is likely to be available in all the post offices of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Identity Cards are issued on request to tourists and residents for the limited purpose of establishment of their identity in connection with postal transactions only.

(b) A system of identity cards has been introduced by the Post Office for the benefits of tourists, traveling representatives of firms and other members of the public who experience difficulty in establishing their identity in connection with postal transactions, e.g., receipt of registered and insured articles and payment of money orders in the post town through which they pass. These cards will be obtainable at any Head Post Office by literate persons whose identity is well established in the locality in which they reside or who can be vouched for by substantial permanent residents known to the postmaster. Identity Cards serve as a valuable corroborative evidence in establishing the identity of the presenter in connection with postal transactions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This facility is available at Head Post Offices only and requests are accepted at Sub Post Offices also and forwarded for necessary action to the Head Post Offices.

(e) and (f) Issuing of identity cards by all the post offices in the country is subject to the availability of required establishment as well as infrastructure and demand from the postal users.

Appointment of Dakpals

2311. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of rural 'Dakpals' appointed during each of the last three years State-wise, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the year-wise amount being spent on them;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to regularize these Dakpals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) There is no such category of 'Rural Dakpals' in the Department of Posts. However, the rural areas are served by Extra Departmental Sub Offices and Extra Departmental Branch Offices headed by Gramin Dak Sevak Sub Postmasters (GDS SPM) and Branch Postmasters (GDS BPM) respectively who are like part time employees engaged for a limited duration of 2 to 5 hours based on the work load. During the last three years 450 Post offices have been opened in the rural areas by relocation and redeployment of posts. In U.P. State, 38 Post Offices have been set up by relocation during the last three years. No new establishment of Gramin Dak Sevak Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmaster has been created. The number of Post Offices opened by relocation and redeployment of posts during the last three years, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement. Since the posts of Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Postmasters have been filled up by redeployment, there is on additional expenditure on the establishment.

(c) to (e) As regards regularization of Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDSs), provisions are already available for recruitment to 75% of posts at the Group 'D' level and 50% of postmen's posts in the Department to be made from the Gramin Dak Sevaks to improve their career prospects and enter into regular government service. Gramin Dak Sevaks are also eligible for being considered against the unfilled vacancies of Group 'C' cadre in the promotion quota subject to fulfilling of following prescribed conditions:

- (i) Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDSs) must have minimum qualification of 10+2 (Senior Secondary) and have put in minimum of 3 years of service.
- (ii) Only those GDSs shall be eligible who have secured marks not below the marks secured by the last recruit of the relevant category selected in the previous years.
- (iii) The Gramin Dak Sevaks should be within 28 years of age (33 years for SC/ST and 31 years for OBC).

Statement

State-Wise list of rural Post Offices opened during last three years 2002-2005 and Posts of Gramin Dal Sevaks filled up by re-deployment.

Extra Departmental Branch Offices

Sl.No.	Circle	Year			Total	Remarks
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2	Nil	5	Post of Gramin Dak Sewak Branch Postmaster filled up by re-deployment with no additional expenditure
2.	Assam	15	14	Nil	29	-do-
3.	Bihar	15	15	Nil	30	-do-
4.	Chhattisgarh	20	16	Nil	36	-do-
5.	Delhi	1	1	Nil	2	-do-
6.	Gujarat	15	9	2	26	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Haryana	Nil	2	Nil	2	-do-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	Nil	4	-do-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	7	Nil	12	-do-
10.	Jharkhand	8	6	Nil	14	-do-
11.	Karnataka	8	4	3	15	-do-
12.	Kerala	2	6	1	9	-do-
13.	Madhya Pradesh	16	15	Nil	31	-do-
14.	Maharashtra	30	25	Nil	55	-do-
15.	North West	9	10	Nil	19	-do-
16.	Orissa	10	6	Nil	16	-do-
17.	Punjab	5	5	Nil	10	-do-
18.	Rajasthan	18	15	4	37	-do-
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	6	Nil	11	-do-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	18	20	Nil	38	-do-
21.	Uttaranchal	4	5	Nil	9	-do-
22.	West Bengal	32	6	Nil	38	-do-
23.	Sikkim	Nil	2	Nil	2	-do-
Total		241	199	10	450	-do-

Foreign Exchange Reserves

2312. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of India's total foreign exchange reserves as on January 1, 2006;

(b) whether it is proposed to utilise a part of the foreign exchange reserves to fund the infrastructure development;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines have laid down in this regard; and

(d) the projects likely to be taken up, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (including foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights and the reserve tranche position in the IMF) stood at US\$ 137.2 billion at end-December 2005.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal currently to utilize a part of the foreign exchange reserves directly to fund infrastructure development. However, additional investment, in general, has an impact on foreign exchange reserves through higher imports, if any, occasioned by such investment.

Access Deficit Charge Regime

2313. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether State owned companies have not spent enough amount on rural telephony from the amount collected by them as ADC from various users;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of the amount collected annually through ADC from various users during the last three years;

(d) the amount spent out of that to provide telephone connection in rural India; and

(e) the time by which the entire rural and backward areas are likely to be provided with telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the major recipient of Access Deficit charge (ADC). BSNL has stated that there is no mechanism of maintaining separate records of ADC in its network for traffic originated from its own network. Due to this, the amount of ADC cannot be separately estimated. ADC is not meant only for rural networks but is also meant for providing affordable telecommunication services in semi-urban and urban areas.

(e) Agreements have already been signed with M/s BSNL in November 2004 to provide subsidy for provision of a Village Public Telephone (VPT) in the remaining 66,822 number of uncovered villages in the country excluding those villages having population less than 100 and those affected with insurgency. All the uncovered VPTs are to be provided in these villages within three years of the signing of the Agreement i.e. by November 2007.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the detailed Demands for grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3839/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3840/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3841/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3842/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Rural Roads Development Agency, 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 National Rural Roads Development Agency, 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 3843/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R. 56 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3844/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3845/2006]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Bijoy Handique, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3846/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 4(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.14/2002-E (N.T.) dated the 8th March, 2002, issued under rule 3 of the Central Excise Rules, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3847/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Post Office (Monthly Income Account) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R.59 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3848/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3849/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1)

[Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan]

of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries, Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries, Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3850/2006]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3851/2006]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, 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 3852/2006]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, 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 Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3853/2006]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 10 – Shri Ajay Maken - Not present.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Tenth and Eleventh Reports

- [English]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2005-06):-

(1) Tenth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in Fifth Report of

the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-06.

- (2) Eleventh Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in Sixth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2005-06.

- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd March, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd March, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2006, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd March, 2006 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Status of BPL Census, 2002

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the parliamentary party of CPM Shri Basudeb Acharia raised a question in the House in regard to BPL survey, 2002 and thereafter I informed the House that no further action could be taken thereon due to the pendency of the case in the Supreme Court and the stay. The Supreme Court has vacated the stay and detailed guidelines have been issued to all the Chief Ministers across the country to finalise the BPL list based on BPL census, 2002. To ensure transparency in the process of finalizing the BPL list, instructions have been issued to prepare the draft BPL list by writing the name of the poorest household on the top and serial wise downwards and display it at a prominent place or wall of a house or a public school or panchayat headquarters. It should be computerized and published in the form of a booklet. Sir, I have to make this statement. ...(Interruptions)* Sir, this will facilitate crores of poor people.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

*Placed in Library See No.LT 3855/2006.

[English]

Mr. Minister, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, there are two pages. I will read them aloud, because it cannot be done without the cooperation of the Hon'ble Members.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, read it out.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development organize a countrywide census to identify households below the poverty line through State Governments and UT Administrations at the beginning of every Five Year Plan. The objective is to identify poor households in rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) Mr. Speaker Sir, I had given a notice to raise the issue of security in the House at 12.0'clock. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, have patience for five minutes.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Then, you do not need anybody in the Chair. place some doll in my chair and decide on your own what needs to be done.

[English]

I would request you to bear with me for five minutes. I will call you. I have never said that your matter would not be allowed. I will allow you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, this matter is concerning the poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, what do they have to do with the poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We all think for the poor but everyone has different approach and policies.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This exercise is essential to ensure that the benefits of various anti-poverty programmes, employment generation and other programmes targeted for the rural poor reach them as intended by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not want to listen to him, then, I will go to the next item.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The first such census was conducted for the 8th Five Year Plan in 1992 and second was conducted for the 9th Five Year Plan in 1997.

For the 10th Five Year Plan also, a census was conducted in 2002 applying the improved score based methodology as recommended by the Expert Group set up by the Ministry. Keeping in view past experience, 13 sociol-economic parameters covering matters like land holding size, type of house, availability of clothes, food security, sanitation, literacy, means of livelihood and indebtedness were applied to identify poor households. The survey work was completed but the final list was not finalized because the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5.5.2003 had directed the Government of India not to insist on State Governments deleting any name from the existing BPL list while hearing Writ Petition (Civil) no.196/2001 in the matter of PUCL vs Union of India.

After hearing all parties and examining material placed upon, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has vacated this stay. Detailed guidelines have already been issued to

States/UTs to finalise the new BPL list based on BPL census 2002. To ensure transparency in the process of finalizing the BPL list, instructions have been issued to obtain the approval of the Gram Sabha, to display the draft BPL list at the Panchayat headquarters or in a prominent place in the village along with scores.

States have also been requested to provide to two stage appeal mechanism so that people can file objections, if any, to the Tehsildar, SDM or district collector as the case may be, regarding their ranking in the BPL list. It is expected that with completion of this exercise, all eligible poor people will get included in the BPL list and ineligible will get excluded. The State Governments have also been requested to prepare the permanent IAY wait list separately for SC/ST and non-SC/ST beneficiaries for allotment of houses to the rural poor under Indira Awaas Yojana which shall be painted on the wall at a prominent place. The list so prepared shall also be taken out in the form of booklet and shall be made available on the website of the district for wider publicity and transparency. States have been asked to select beneficiaries under IAY from the permanent IAY wait list depending on the target every year. It is expected that with the introduction of the system of permanent IAY wait list, the process of selection of beneficiaries shall become fair and transparent.

Government are making all out efforts to ensure transparency in the implementation of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. I appeal to all the hon'ble Members of the House who are associated with programmes of the Ministry through District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees to support these efforts so that benefits of the programmes reach deserving rural
...(Interruptions)

[Translation] SHRI PRABHAKAR SWAIN (Balasore) : I would like to

SHRI PRABHAKAR SWAIN : I would like to discuss on this matter. I have given an opportunity to the Minister. Please sit down. You are a Member regard... (Interruptions) I would like to discuss on this please give a prior

*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Why the ordinary school teachers are sent.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give your valuable suggestions during discussion. Nothing will go on record as of now.

12.11 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-THIRD REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th March, 2006."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 9th March, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

12.11½ hrs.

DRUGS (CONTROL) REPEAL BILL, 2006*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill to repeal the Drugs (control) Act, 1950.

*Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2006.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Drugs (Control) Act, 1950.."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.12 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ajay Maken, you have to tender your apology first.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Sir, I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you have to tender your apology.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN : Sir, I tender my apology.

MR. SPEAKER : You may lay the paper now.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3854/2006]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, before you make your submission I have a request to you. The matter of security that you are going to refer is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Speaker, but you seem to be

agitated about it. I request you earnestly that you may refer to just what you think to have been done. I will personally look into it and call a meeting of the leaders so that they may fully apprised of it.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what you have said is right. But there has been a major security lapse. A Committee was constituted after the attack on parliament. Rs.200 crores were spent on beefing up the security as per the recommendation of that Committee and that it had been claimed by that Committee that security was foolproof. In this regard you had written a letter to all the Members requesting them to cooperate by not carrying arms while coming to parliament House. Apart from this the security personnel of the Ministers and others are made to alight two three far long away from Parliament House. No such person can enter the Parliament Precinct. In spite of all this, not only a security guard entered with a revolver but reached the Speaker's Gallery. It was only then this fact came to light. I want to say. ...*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right. I have told you that I am gathering the facts.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have myself said that I am looking into the matter and a report is coming to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is unfair. Don't overreact. F take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am wondering v victim. Somebody has to be the deliberately defying the Chair, the training material has vacated this been issued to

*Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I am not saying anything else. I am only saying that the law is for everybody...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Security rules are equally binding on all... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Malhotra you had been a professor as well. I request you that

[English]

The matter is serious. I have asked for a report. I will personally look into it. Whatever I have come to learn, I will share it with the hon. Leaders. Although, it is a matter within the jurisdiction of the Speaker, I want to inform everybody so that you may know and if any suggestions are there, we shall certainly look into them.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I fully agree with you.

[Translation]

What you are saying is right. But to give the impression...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That should be deleted.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. This is what I need.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : I have given an adjournment motion notice in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said in this regard and Professor Malhotra has also agreed. Your name will also be associated with it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : My name can be associated but I have given an Adjournment Motion notice in this regard...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I call you, you can speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : In the morning you asked me to sit down, that I would get opportunity to speak at 12 O'clock. I accepted your order. Therefore, you also stick to your word. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I never go back on my word. I accept your request. All right you can speak.

[English]

I will decide what is admissible and what is not.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House that while entering the Parliament in the morning, the security personnel asked me to roll down the window glasses of the car and only after recognizing me they left the barricade. If we do not roll down window glasses than we have to wait for a minute or two.

MR. SPEAKER : The window glasses of your car must be tinted.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The Government have made rules regarding security checks of Cabinet Minister and others at airport...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, this should be deleted.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : It is deleted, do not record anything.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You kindly sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not right.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : What is this.....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Low is being openly Hooted...*(Interruptions)* How can it be justified ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

[English]

I have committed myself on the floor of the House that I will share with you the information that I shall get. I have asked for a report.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, why must he make such kind of a statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

I have asked them to sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Each Member is being frisked...*(Interruptions)* But frisking of a person has not been done....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra and all of you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you all. I am resenting it whoever is defying the Chair. Do not think that I am not keeping note of this. I am keeping note of this and one day somebody has to face it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Without any permission do not speak while sitting in your seat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not minimised the importance of the matter. I have been repeatedly making a request to you all. If you do not have the slightest faith in the Chair, I do not know how this House can function. I have given you my submission. Let me get a report. Let me study it. I share the information with you, with all the leaders, and even then you are not satisfied.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? To which issue you are giving importance. Will this add to your stature?

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You can speak after him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have reprimanded him also. I request you whereas I reprimand them as they are Members of the ruling party.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : You are an ex-army man at least you should sit down. Army man are a disciplined lot.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : While reprimanding them you look at us.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is wrong.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : My earnest request to all of you is this. Let us not make it a politically controversial matter for political purpose. Let us at least keep the glory of the institution.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There is a limit*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTR OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, how can he say that? What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is very unfortunate. I am requesting everybody. If these are the languages that are used on the floor of the House, it is very unfortunate. I strongly condemn the use of such language which is nothing but provocating.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Sir, we want you to expunge that expression from the record...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing derogatory will be recorded and all that to be deleted.

Now, Shri Hannan Mollah is raising a very important public matter.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The language you are using it does not behave you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has stopped speaking, now you can do the same.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you tell me what is permitted?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hannan Mollah is raising an important matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have made my position absolutely clear.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, Ministers are defying the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, nobody is defying me. Nobody has courage to do that. Those who dry know in their hearts that they are not serving the cause of democracy.

Now, Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I am raising the matter of brain fever. Probably there may be some brain fever which attacks the House!

*Not recorded.

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

Sir, I raised in the Lok Sabha on 2nd May, 2005 the issue of the outbreak of Meningococciemia and said that many deaths caused due to this disease last year.

I received a reply from the Health Minister last few days back that all the essential steps have been taken. But as per the reports as I found in the media and hospitals, the ground reality is not like that.

As per the reports from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, since last November to till today, 230 people, out of 311 suspected cases, have tested positive. So far 10 people have died in the last two months. Some more cases are already put on notice. Last year, 214 cases were tested, and as per the hospital reports, the number of cases this year is higher.

So, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to check the break out of this dangerous killer fever in the Capital and outside also. I think the Government will take note of this and take immediate action.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. Now, Shri Hansraj Ahir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Those who will disturb me will never get a chance. Your name is here. I will decide whom to call and whom not to call. By shouting you cannot force me to call anybody.

Now, Shri Ahir can speak. We have already lost 25 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister of Power towards the issue of power shortage. At a present, Maharashtra is facing acute shortage of power. Maharashtra consumes and generates maximum electricity in the country. Maharashtra being an industrial state has

been facing shortage of electricity. Due to shortfall of around 24 percent electricity compared to demand various hindrances are coming in agriculture and irrigation. Students have their exams in the coming days. Common people are suffering in Maharashtra due to 8-10 hours of power cut. The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government to supply electricity. I would request the Central Government to supply electricity to Maharashtra to make the shortage of 3600 m.w. so that difficulties being faced by the people of Maharashtra due to power shortage could be obviated.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important problem related to depleting water level in Jharkhand state due to mining in coal area which has created wide spread hue and cry for water in the whole area. The water level has fallen due to coal mining particularly in Buria Khad, Moti Muhalla, Baniadih, Bhandaridah in Giridih district, Gomina, Jhirki, Hosir, Saadam, Hajari, Khugada, Thade, Birsa, Tulbul, Latkhuta, Bandh Basti and Kathara of Gomia block in Pachamba and Bokaro district, Bairmo, Dhori, Phusro, Jardih, Lodkheda, Dhutaland, Kudukmania, Char Nambar, Karo, Baidkaro, Mokoli, Dhugda, Kalyani, Chandrapura, Baidiya, Jarangdih, Jaina Modh in Bairamo block, Chapi, Khaitko, Pichri, Aangwali, Chandi, Rohar etc. in Paitwar block of Bokaro district and katrargarh, Panchgadi, Chatabad, Loyabad, Bhatmudna, Bhatdih, Kapooria, Rudi Kapooria, Salanpur, Guhibandh, Jhinjhinpahari, Bansuria, Maindra, Basjoda, Sijua, Muraidih, Muralidih, Malkera, Bheltand etc. in Baghmara block of Dhanbad district and various sources of water have dried up. Nearly five lakh people in the above areas are facing difficulties due to water shortage. Therefore, I would request in the public interest to urgently make an arrangement to provide drinking water to all these villagers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up rest of the matters at the end of the day.

12.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to run Samata Express between Vishakhapatnam and Nizamuddin daily and provide train connectivity between Raipur and Bhubaneswar**

SHRI BIKRA KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : The KBK districts are poorly connected by the Indian Railways specially district of Kalahandi and old undivided Koraput districts. There is no daily connecting train from Vishakhapatnam to Nizamuddin except that the Samata Express runs thrice a week which touches the stations of KBK districts like Rayagada, Kesinga, Muniguda and Singhpur. So I request the Government in public interest of KBK districts that the Samata Express be run daily. Also there is no direct train connecting Raipur, capital of Chhattisgarh with Bhubaneswar capital of Orissa. These two States depend upon each other commercially and industrially where seven steel plants and two mega green field aluminum complexes are coming up with full swing, a number of top executives and people connected with the steel plants and mineral based industries have to commute between Raipur, Vishakhapatnam, Rourkela, Bokaro, Langigarh, Theruvali, Durgapur and Bhilai. So 1st AC, 2nd AC and 3rd AC should be provided to cater the needs of air travelers with airport connected places like Bhubaneswar and Raipur.

- (i) **Need to set up a Horticulture University at Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.**

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of country's economy. Agricultural scientists are conducting new

researches daily to meet the needs of the increasing population of the country for increasing the production on agricultural land and to grow new type of crops and we are also getting its benefits in various fields. But on the one hand when there is a need to set up an agriculture University for agriculture research to provide its benefit upto grass-root level in rural areas of all states on the other hand there is need to make considerable efforts for the expansion of horticulture area in the country. Alongwith foodgrains, cash crops are also being produced in large quantity in the country which include medicinal plants, chillies spices, vegetables and fruits but keeping in view the extension of horticulture field, there is only one horticulture university in the country which is located in Himachal Pradesh. Climate of Madhya Pradesh is very conducive from horticulture point of view but here also only one agriculture university is located which is working with its full capacity and providing benefits through its graduates. Madhya Pradesh has suitable infrastructure to set up horticulture university and the best suitable place there is Mandsaur in Malwa.

Therefore, I would request to issue necessary direction to set up a horticulture university at Mandsaur in Malwa, Madhya Pradesh so that by getting benefit of basic infrastructure and suitable climate through university and by giving more importance to that region and the area around it farmers could be prepared and country could be taken towards horticulture production and economic prosperity. I would request the Minister of Agriculture to kindly take necessary action in this regard.

- (iii) **Need to check take advertisements inviting applications for employment with a view to prevent exploitation of unemployed youth in the country.**

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the unemployment situation is already grim in our country. Unemployed boys and girls are worried as they are being exploited. Unemployed youth are being exploited by giving advertisements in newspapers in the name of fake private companies to give employment in the country. Some companies are exploiting them by claiming themselves as

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

public undertakings. Unemployed youth deposit their application and bank draft through these advisement. Thereafter they pay thousands and lakhs of rupees to touts to get jobs. Then after some days they come to know that there is no such company or these touts disappear overnight. Hence, Government should impose a ban on such fake advertisements, Advertisements should be published after investigation and government approval so that unemployed youth are not exploited. Such incidents of cheating are continuing for many years. Therefore, fake advertisemtns should be banned.

- (iv) Need to declare Minimum Support Price of paddy at Rs.1000 per quintal for the benefit of farmers in Gondia district, Vidarbha, Maharashtra.**

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE (Bhandara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, farming is the source of livelihood of farmers in Gondia district, Vidarbha Maharashtra. Farmers are growing paddy crop by taking loans. But they are not getting remunerative price for the foodgrains they produce to repay their loan. If the price of paddy is declared at Rs.1000 per quintal, then the farmers of this area will recover their cost and will be able to repay their loan. If this step is not be taken to protect the interests of farmers, then the incidents of suicide by the families of farmers which occurred recently in Vidarbha would continue to occur. Justified prices of agriculture produce should be fixed by evaluating cost of crops immediately so that suicides being committed by farmers could be stopped.

- (v) Need to declare Minimum Support Price of Guar, Moth, Dhania and Jeera cultivated in Rajasthan**

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar) : Rajasthan is a leading State in the production of Guar, Moth, Coriander (Dhaniya) and Cumin (Jeera). The State produces about 80% of the total produce of Guar in the country.

The State ranks number one in the production of Moth in the country.

The average cultivated area of Moth during last five years is 8.69 lakh hectares – producing Moth 1.20 lakh MT per year, while in case of Guar the cultivated are is 20.56 lakh hectares and production is around 3.77 MT per year. The average cultivated area for Cumin and Coriander for the last five years is 2.35 and 1.6 lakh hectares respectively. The average production for Cumin and Coriander for the last five years is 0.75 and 1.68 MT respectively. The total area covered under these crop is approximately and 4 lakh hectares approximately and 4 million farm families depend for their livelihood on these crops. Isabgol and Methi are also important medicinal and spice crops. The average growing area of Isabgol in the past five years is 8800 hectares of land with average production is 6000 MT. while the Methi is grown in 4,70,000 hectares and average production of about 54000 MT.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to declare Minimum Support Price for the above mentioned crops.

- (vi) Need to take steps to solve the crisis in cashew industry due to fall in the price of cashew kernels**

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : The crisis of cashew industry due to fall in the price of cashew kernels has indeed caused a negative impact on our foreign exchange earnings apart from rendering workers jobless. International markets for cashew nuts are characterised by competition, falling prices and a concentration of power with buyers and retailers in Europe and the US creating an unpredictable situation. India's share of the international cashew market has been reduced over time through the entry of other countries, most recently Vietnam. International prices of raw cashew and processed Kernels are volatile and the terms of trade are deteriorating. At the same time, quality requirements and standards are increasingly applied. No action has been taken by the Government in increasing the production of raw cashews in India leaving cashew

processing centers at the mercy of global suppliers. A recent study by International Institute of Environment and Development indicts the Indian Government that there is a notable absence of an active role by government (national and state level) to implement existing labour laws or even to design policies which would allow the Indian Industry to maintain its global position and competitiveness in the future. The industry is in a crisis and the real sufferers are the workers who are rendered jobless and those who are forced to work under private processing centers without any benefits.

(vii) Need to formulate an Action Plan for conservation of Vembanad wet land system in Kerala

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : The Venbanad lake along with the adjacent wetland over the eastern and Southern sides forms Kuttanadu, the rice bowl of Kerala, and the largest wetland system in the West Coast of India. Five rivers originate from Western Ghat drain into this lake. A good portion of the wetland has been converted into paddy fields which remain water logged for six months a year. Every year tonnes of insecticides, weedicides, fungicides and chemical fertilizers reach into the wet land.

The fragile ecosystem of the wet land influences the life and health of people living in and around the region and it is important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform. 'Venbanadu Kayal' are the most productive ecosystem in our nation, the abode of unique species of plants and animals. It is also the cradle of several endemic and rare species of fishes, the nursery of commercially important shrimps, prawns and crabs and the natural habitat of Mussels, Oysters and clams. The wetlands are very important from the point of view of their flora and fauna as well as their water chemistry. The deterioration of water quality and the consequent damage to aquatic organisms are found to be very serious as per the studies conducted

by the various scientific institutions and the pollution level is found alarmingly high. Shrinking of Venbanad lake to 37% occurs as a result of land reclamation. In view of the above it is utmost necessary to evolve a sustainable action plan to conserve the Venbanad wet land system, one of the major wet land systems designated as Ramsar site in India.

(viii) Need to accord clearance by the Forest Department for construction of road and bridge between Rath (Hamirpur) and Garautha (Jhansi)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of major schemes regarding developmental works are being implemented in U.P. The funds for the sanctioned schemes have been transferred to the funds of concerned departments by the Government. After the completion of the tender process, when the contractors or the official staff of the concerned department take up the work, the officers of the forest department obstruct the works of several important schemes of public interest unnecessarily claiming the ownership of the land. This is causing resentment among people. For example, the forest department has obstructed the construction of road between Rath, district Hamirpur and Garautha district Jhansi and high cost bridge over river Betwa in my parliamentary constituency Hamirpur.

I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister that necessary instructions may be issued to remove the impediments coming in the way of the construction of road from Rath to Garautha and high cost bridge over river Betwa in my parliamentary constituency and the obstruction put forth by the forest department in the way of developmental schemes of public interest in Uttar Pradesh.

(ix) Need to review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Lakhimpur Khiri district, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir misuse of funds allocated for centrally sponsored schemes is a

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

common practice in my area Lakhimpur Khiri. This malady cannot be rectified without stringent action.

The employees of rural engineering service are posted in Lakhimpur only over the years.

Through this House I urge the Minister of Rural Development that a CBI probe be conducted into the irregularities being committed in the implementation of the Centrally sponsored schemes so that wastage of the money allocated for the schemes could be prevented.

- (x) **Need to connect Delhi and Bhubaneswar by new flights connecting Bodh Gaya and Varanasi.**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Varanasi and Bodha Gaya are two important religious centres of India which are frequented by internal and foreign tourists in large number. Similar religious attractions are also available in Orissa. Like Varanasi, which is a famous Saiva Centre, Bhubaneswar is also a Saiva Centre. Puri is famous as a Vaishnab Centre. Konark is a World heritage Monument. Dhauli-Ratnagiri - Udayagiri - Lalitgiri - Langudi is another famous Buddhist circuit which needs connection with major Buddhist Centres. There is a need to connect Delhi and Bhubaneswar by new flights which should touch Bodh Gaya and Varanasi, so that it becomes convenient for tourists visiting these two places to visit Orissa as well.

I would suggest that frequency of Delhi-Bhubaneswar flight should be increased from daily to twice a day and one of the flights be routed via Varanasi for 4 days and via Bodh Gaya for 3 days a week during onward journey from Delhi and direct Bhubaneswar - Delhi on return journey. I would also urge upon the Government to consider a Bangkok - Bhubaneswar - Bodh Gaya flight as part of the Buddhist Circuit. This will help in flow of foreign tourist.

- (xi) **Need to ensure that Dearness Allowance is paid by the Bidi Manufacturing Companies to Bidi workers in the country.**

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi) : Beedi workers of the country, after a great struggle and agitation, became eligible for a D.A. of Rs.1.62 on every thousand Beedi rolled. An agreement in this regard was signed on 01.04.2005. But this is being implemented only by few Beedi manufacturers. Majority of the Beedi companies deny this D.A. to the Beedi workers. Such workers in my Tenkasi Constituency and in other parts of the country are agitated by this. Repeater representations to Labour welfare Department is of no avail. Hence, I urge upon the Union Labour Welfare Ministry to intervene and protect the rights of these poor Beedi workers across the country. I would like to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister to take suitable steps urgently to translate into action one of this Common Minimum Programmes of the Government.

[English]

- (xii) **Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.**

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an acute problem and to state that water level in coal fields in the state of Jharkhand has gone down due to mining and there is hue and cry all over the area for water. These areas of Budhia Khaad, Moti Mohalla, Baniadih, Bhandridah, Pachambe in district Giridih, Gomia, Jhirki, Hoseer, Sadam, Hajari, Khudgada, Thede, Birsa, Tulbul, Latkhuta Bandh Basti, Katahara in Gomia Block of district Bokaro and Bermo, Dhori, Fusro, Jaridih, Lodhkeria, Ghutiata taand; Kudukamania, Char number, Karo, Bedkaro, Makoli, Dugda, Kalyanai, Chandrapura, Bedia, Jarangdih, Jaina Morh in Bermo block, Chapi, Khetko, Pichhari, Angwali, Chandi, Rohar in Petarwar Block of district Bokaro and Katrasgarh, Panchgarhi, Chhatabad, Loyabad,

Bhatmudna, Bhatdih, Kapuria, Roodi Kapuria, Salanpur, Guhibandh, Jhinjhipahadi, Bansuria, Mandara, Basjoda, Sijua, Muraidih, Malkera, Bhelatand etc. in Baghmara block in Dhanbad district. Water level has gone down due to coal mining and source of water has dried up in some areas.

Approximately five lakh people of the said area are facing water crisis due to coal mining. I, therefore, in the public interest urge the Government to provide drinking water to the people of these villages at the earliest.

(xiii) Need to encourage setting up of Chip manufacturing units in Bangalore, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : The President of Semindia has been enthusiastic about locating the project on 1500 acres for his company Thanaly near Nanjanghat. The Chief Minister of Karnataka has also stated that ample quality water from the Kabini reservoir is available and the State Government is ready to make provisions for water treatment as required by Company Semindia. Even power also will be provided at a reasonable rate. Sufficient land is also available at Bidadi near Ramanagaram.

Therefore the country's first foray into chip manufacturing should happen in Bangalore as per the preliminary work conducted by the company. The Centre Should come forward to set up this three billion job city project in Karnataka, and encourage the company in its new venture in Karnataka.

(xiv) Need to enact a law providing statutory basis to the extant policy of reservations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for its effective implementation.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : At present the Policy of Reservations is governed by Executive Instructions issued by 'DoPT from time to time. As this arrangement has not provide effective, it is felt that a law should be enacted for giving statutory basis to this policy with a provision for punitive action against persons/

authorities responsible for its non-implementation. This law should be kept in the IX Schedule to the Constitution.

Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be strictly as per the percentage of their population in the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha, services educational institutions and all other organizations, corporations etc.

Representation of SCs and STs should be provided in the Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishads in the States. The reservation should be strictly in proportion to the population.

Urgent action should be taken for effective implementation of Land Reforms Act and distribution of surplus land among SCs and STs.

In the Scheduled Areas implementation of land transfer regulations should be made more effective and where tribal lands have been transferred unauthorisedly immediate action should be taken to restore the lands to their owners.

The interest of the landless workers should be protected and they should be facilitated to form associations to fight for their just causes.

It is requested that necessary action may kindly be taken in this regard immediately.

12.30 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 2006-2007—GENERAL
 DISCUSSION
 DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—
 (GENERAL) 2005-2006 AND
 DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—(GENERAL)
 2003-2004

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We come to item number 17. The hon. Minister of Finance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else will be recorded except the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice since three days. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You will get it; wait, have patience and at the end of the day you will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It would be taken day after tomorrow...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, three days have passed. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : This is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This issue should be taken later. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It has all been agreed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the UPA Government had promised that it would take care of the interests of the common man of the country. But the budget it had presented clearly indicates that it is a budget for the rich class. This budget is responsible for price rise. Prices of oil, foodgrains, soaps, biscuits, and other

commodities are rising day by day. As a result, the common man of the country is not able to fulfill even his basic needs. The import - export scenario is no different. There is 80 percent import while export is 20 percent only. Earlier it was not so. It has become very clear that the ratio of import and export has changed. We are not able to place our products in world market. But domestic market is dumped with the foreign made articles. All this is happening because of anti-people policies of the UPA Government. If we talk about the farmers, then situation is no better.

The farmers in several States are committing suicide in the country. The UPA Government talk about the development in agriculture sector, but does nothing practically. India is predominantly an agricultural country and the farmers are dying of poverty and hunger. It is an irony. The prices of small cars have come down. Who doesn't know that rich people buy cars? What common man has to do with it. If cars are cheaper, rich only will buy. The noteworthy thing in the budget is that from where the service tax would come which has been imposed. Wouldn't it come from the pocket of the common man? Actually tax burden has been increased through some other ways. So it is clear that prosperous and rich people have been considered while women, farmers and youth have been neglected in this budget. Even henna, Sugar, the source of livelihood of the poor have not been spared. Tax imposed on soap is totally unfair.

*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Sir, the budget of the UPA Government for the year 2006-07 is the jugglery of data. There is not mention as to what will be the right direction of economic reforms in it. There is no doubt about it that Finance Minister wants to achieve 10 percent growth rate but the question that is being raised in the country is that when the next green revolution is going to take place? There is no possibility of it in this very budget. Merely providing some facilities in agriculture sector is not going to serve any purpose. There is a need to minimize the risk involved in agricultural activities which this budget lacks.

*Not recorded.

**The speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Wide publicity is being made regarding maximum relief provided to farmers in the budget. Agriculture growth rate has been claimed to be 23 percent which will be instrumental in producing 50 lakh tonnes of more foodgrains. The finance Minister has been quoted as saying so.

On the other hand, we are importing wheat. Can the suicidal cases among farmers be checked by depositing 15 percent interests of old loan i.e. 300 rupees in their accounts? Can you provide relief to those 63 percent small farmers by reducing rate of interest by 7 per cent, who never draw loans from banks. Only 27 percent of farmers draw loans from banks and this truth is evident from the 59th survey of NSS. The Government has announced to double agricultural loans.

The Government has set up a National Commission for farmers under the Chairmanship of Scientist Dr. Swaminathan for the betterment of farmers and agriculture and since then it has submitted its report. But the Finance Minister did not mention about the report in the budget because he was aware of the fact that the Commission had recommended only 4 percent rate of interest for agricultural loans. Apart from this, the Commission has given many important suggestions.

If the Finance Minister really wants to help farmers, he should make arrangements for providing subsidy for bonus on crops of farmers in proportion to the increasing cost of agriculture production. It can only be presumed that the UPA Government has concerns for farmers if provision for irrigation and power for each field alongwith provision of diesel on concessional rates is made in budget.

When, we talk of irrigation projects, we are sidelined by saying that this matter falls within the jurisdiction of States. NDA Government had proposed to interlink rivers. This scheme on one hand will bring relief from the devastation caused by floods and make available water on the other in those regions which witness drought every year. The Governments of MP and UP had given final shape to the proposal of interlinking rivers in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister, but not a single paise was

allocated in the budget. Can we term it a good step in the direction of increasing average rate of irrigation in the country?

Programme of Bharat-Nirman has found mention in the budget with much fanfare. Already existing schemes have been brought under this programme of Bharat Nirman although there is nothing new in that. I find nothing new in the scheme of things meant for improving condition of roads, state of education, means of irrigations, Rojgar Guarantee Yojana and energy generation. The Finance Minister has spoken a good jugglery of words because first of all he himself is Minister of Finance and secondly, Hon'ble Prime Minister had also been a master of this art. They both have given the figures showing improvement in economy which are fully directionless and far from reality.

No concrete measures have been taken in the entire budget to stabilize the prices of essential commodities and that is why the prices of these commodities have gone up by more than 40% and are still going up. Saying that 'Congress ka haath gariban ke saath' is totally wrong. What I perceive is that nothing concrete has been done to provide facilities in the field of health. NDA Government had a proposal to open 6 new AIIMS in the country and the proposal meant to reduce the burden on the AIIMS in Delhi a little bit. But there is no provision of budget for new AIIMS in the budget and contrary to it sufficient allocation of funds as per need of the AIIMS has not been made. The efforts have been made to get cheap popularity by making budgetary allocation for the national level campaigns being run with the foreign assistance.

The Government is not serious about bringing qualitative improvement in education. If the way in which the classification of education is taking place is not checked, the whole country will be divided between rich and poor. Unemployment among educated people is increasing and technical education is a way out for it but no such efforts have been made.

There is no way out for an educated unemployed man of the country except outing for labour involving digging soil upto 100 days or going the wrong way. The white collar

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

jobs are diminishing day by day while labour force is increasing. The youth of the country are totally disappointed on account of that. This budget presents a half baked solution for the burning problems of the country in place of finding solution in a planned manner. Even after 50 years of independence, we are not in a position to say that we have at least found complete solution to any problem.

Our economy is slipping slowly into the grip of foreign capital. The multinationals have resolved to completely undo our trade. Our patent right is being undermined.

Our Finance Minister will not have a sigh of relief until and unless the economy of the country is not paralysed by the slow poison of economic reforms.

The economy will be ruined if schemes are not formulated keeping in view villages, farmers and youth of the country and allocation in the budget is not made in accordance with this very purpose. Nobody can stop it.

Per capita income should not be merely on paper but reflective of the spending capacity of the people. We want a glare of smile on their faces but that is absent from there. Sensex is touching the sky but more than seventy per cent of the common population, has nothing to do with it.

While concluding, I would like to say that this budget has been formulated with a myopic vision. It is just an effort to gain cheap popularity by highlighting some issues. This budget is totally directionless and illusory.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Sir, I would like to clarify by participating in this debate on budget that this budget is in no way beneficial to the general public. If we observe closely we will find that on the whole no

effort has been spared to benefit the foreign companies and empty the pockets of the middle class.

Prices of Cars have been reduced in the Budget whereas excise duty on computers has been increased. Services tax has been increased from 10 to 12 per cent while customs duty on computer has been reduced. Prices of cold drinks has been brought down. 15 new Services including the A.T.M. have been brought under tax net. The people expected relief from the Government which talks of the welfare of the common man, on the contrary there seems to be an attempt to empty pockets of people in the budget.

The Government is bringing all services one by one under the net of service tax. If the facilities available to the middle class people continue to be ignored in this manner, the day is not far when there will remain only two classes-rich and poor and the gap between these two will go on widening. In the union Budget 2006-07, the proposal to impose five percent customs duty on the melting steel scrap will lead to increase in the prices of bicycles and it will also put an impact Indian on steel industry. The claim of the Government of being the Champion of common man cause has proved absolutely hollow as they have lowered the process of cars meant for rich and increased the prices of bicycle - transport of the poor.

The Government keep on harping on being committed to the interests of the common man. It has utterly ignored interests of the common man by curtailing the food subsidy by Rs.2000 crores. There was also an attempt to increase the prices of food grains meant for Public Distribution. Instead of curtailing food subsidy the Government should try to focus on proper targeting of P.D.S. foodgrains.

Sir, I would like to submit specifically that we view the boom and shooting up of sensex of the share market as achievement. In spite of the pleasant development in this important indicator of economic growth, we find in practical life that all of our economic problems still persist as before.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Even today the number of registered unemployed persons in the country is well above three crores. But now-a-days nobody can muster courage to get oneself enrolled with the employment exchange. Those who are employed feel insecure. It was said that the new economic system will provide employment opportunities to the educated youth but could this dream materialize? If it did materialize, a few could take advantage of it. There has been no change in the life standard of people living below the poverty line.

Figures suggest that every third person suffering from malnutrition resides in India. 35% of the population is suffering from malnutrition and what the Government are doing for them is that only making iodised salt is being made compulsory for them. Access of this section of society to the sale of Simple Salt has been restricted. Now they will have to buy salt at higher price. The use of iodised salt may continue but why ban the simple salt? Farmers and people engaged in animal husbandry use salt as an ingredient of cattle feed for milching animals in rural India. It serves as a nutrient for animals. Will now the animals also be fed the iodized salt due to ban on the simple salt? Farmers- the important component of the rural economy will be adversely affected due to the step. The cost of milk will go up but by not increasing the prices of milk we will destabilize the rural economy. I therefore demand from the Government to lift the ban on sale of simple salt.

Now, I would like to draw attention of the Government to impending critical crisis. India is one of the countries which may face water crisis in the coming five-ten years. Consistent decline in the underground water table is a matter of great concern. Meeting requirement of water in future for agriculture, industry and domestic use may pose a problem in view of consistent decline in the underground water table and inability to consume river water polluted by factories in the country. Water conservation campaign is the need of the hour. The Government must pay attention to this. The amount of Rs.4650 crore allocated by the Governments for drinking water is too meagre.

Keeping in view the gravity of the situation, more funds are required to be allocated for drinking water. The Union Government should provide more financial assistance to the States to ensure the supply of safe potable water in the areas which have comparatively high content of fluoride in soil.

In India, the World Trade Organisation Agreement came into force with effect from January 1, 1995. Despite this its advantages are not visible. With over ten years into this agreement, the demands of Indian farmers are still not met, the dream which had been shown to the farmers that they would get higher prices for their agricultural produce as a result of free trade regime of the agricultural produces in the agriculture sector has been shattered. There is not even a distant hope of this in the near future. Owing to this the future of Indian agriculture appears bleak. The continuing trend of suicides by farmers is the fall out of this very phenomena. Economic prosperity in the country is restricted to a few people while standard of living of most countrymen has sharply declined. The news of farmer suicides, malnutrition and starvation prevalent in farmers coming from rural India i.e. Real India amply confirm the above observation. Bitter economic reality cannot be camouflaged under the illusion of higher economic growth rate. The growth rate in the agricultural sector will have to be raised to 4% if we are to achieve 10% growth in the G.D.P. India ranks 127th in the human development index among 177 countries of the world. This reality is not compatible with the dream of an economic super power. The total grain production in the country including pulses stands at 15 crore tonnes while the neighbouring country China produces 55 crore tonnes of foodgrains. The population in China exceeds the population of India by 30 crores while the difference between their foodgrain production comes at 40 crore tonnes. It implies that agricultural sector requires greater focus in India. Today in India the I.T. sector and the agricultural sector stand poles apart. We have made long strides in the I.T. sector but have been lagging behind in the agricultural sector. Backwardness in agriculture cannot be an indicator of a wholesome

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

development process. The farmers are promoted in the developed countries through agricultural subsidies. The pressure for reduction in agricultural subsidies should be mounted on the developed countries through the international forum. India requires hefty investments in agriculture in order to make it competent in terms of export. The farmers should also get remunerative prices commensurate with their costs to make agriculture a profitable profession for the farmers of this country. We can change the image of our country only if the farmer known as provider of foodgrains, is placed at the top priority of economic development by the Government.

The Government have announced 9-7% rates of interest on short-term loans upto Rs.2 lakhs to farmers but the farmers will not have much benefit. Farmers should be provided easy loans at the 4% rate of interest so as to make agriculture a profitable venture and bail them are of the grip of money lenders. Similarly there is a need to develop new farming techniques aimed at enhancing production and make them available to farmers so that production cost of Indian agriculture can be brought down. Only the big farmers have taken advantage of the first Green Revolution. As the Prime Minister is talking about ushering in Second Green Revolution, this time total focus should be on bringing prosperity to the small farmers in the country. The realities of the real India should not be forgotten in the over enthusiasm of higher growth rate of 8% sharing of the Sensex well beyond the mark of ten thousand. If we want to improve the condition of the people we have to adopt the measures aimed at increasing employment opportunities leading to increase in the domestic demand. The growth will not get any momentum despite the availability of easy loans if people do not have any purchasing power. Sale of the production is a must for growth. Efforts, therefore, should be made to enhance to the purchasing power of the people. The employment opportunities can be created only if the investment is made in the hitherto neglected Social and economic sector to strengthen it.

At last, I would like to add that the development of tribal and rural areas of the country have been grossly neglected in this budget. Taking note of this, the Government should pay greater attention to the same.

*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : India is a leading and self respecting country of the world having nuclear power. Accordingly, the budget of the country is responsible for sustainable development of the country and to keep the pace of development fast so that common man could make progress and the age-old saying "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" can be materialised in the world.

We shall have to see our budget in the background. Are we moving ahead in the direction of becoming a self respecting and self relying country. After becoming a nuclear power are we playing our role well in the establishment of harmony, good will and peace in the world? It is true that we are a powerful country and we are committed to harmony, peace and goodwill.

In the budget a special amount of rupees 50015 crore has been allotted for social development schemes and it also indicates an increment in different items. It has been estimated that gross domestic product and inflation will be 81 percent and 4.6 per cent respectively. However, customs duty has been reduced to 12.5 per cent which will cause a tough competition for domestic industries. Allocations have been made for certain schemes started by the NDA government such as Sarvashiksha Abhiyan, National Employment Guarantee scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. There are also indications that allocation has also been increased for mid day meals, sanitation programme and women development. There is provision of Rs.10041 crore for Sarvashiksha Abhiyan in the Budget. For mid day meal Rs.4813 crore have been proposed. For National Drinking Water Scheme Mission and National Rural Health Mission Rs.4180 crore and Rs. 8204 crore have been proposed respectively. It has been

*The speech was laid on the Table.

specially mentioned in the budget and some where else Rs.14300 crore have been proposed for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for education and health and family welfare Rs.24115 crore and Rs. 12546 crore have been provided respectively. Whereas Rs.12041 crore have been allocated for northeastern states, Rs.89000 crore have been earmarked for defence sector. It has been mentioned in the budget that Govt. will make efforts for the betterment of the minorities and a special budget provision has been made for the same. It also announces scholarships for this purpose. Several schemes have been discussed with regard to problems of scheduled castes scheduled tribes and for their development. But the funds allocated for residential hostels for SC/ST students is almost negligible.

For Bharat Nirman Programme Rs.18696 crores have been provided. Government are contemplating to generate more revenue but no effective action plan has been taken to promote foreign trade and exports.

In Energy sector provisions have been made for providing assistance to different states but no attention has been paid towards non conventional energy sources as was expected.

Budget of 2006-07 is a well deliberated budget and it can be called a good budget. But if one goes deep into the budget several loaded questions come out. I don't want to go into the data through which this beautiful picture has been projected and I have already given some data in this regard.

There are several announcements but three are important. Bharat Nirman, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rural Health Mission and Sarvashiksha Abhiyan (though it is an old one) I will express my views on these points later.

Reacting on this budget newspapers have expressed their views that it has caused neither happiness nor unhappiness among the people. But its natural outcome will be price rise. Common consumer will be affected most

by the price rise and the poor and middle class will be worst affected by it. Several announcements have been made for farmers, minorities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Only general procedures have been adopted to accomplish them in the given time frame or as prescribed, and no effective measures have been taken. Status quo has been maintained in income tax also. Scope of service tax has been made broader while several relaxations have been given to companies in respect of fringe benefit tax. A rosy picture of economy has been presented and it is claimed that gross domestic product and inflation will remain at 8.1 percent and 4.6 percent respectively. Customs duty on Industrial products has been reduced from 15 percent to 12.5 percent and that will adversely affect the indigenous products and it will be difficult for them to compete in the open market.

National Rural Employment Scheme has been described elaborately in the budget. National Rural Health Mission and urban renewal schemes have also been announced. Rs.10041 have been allocated for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In the budget it has been provided for five lakh additional class rooms and appointment of one and a half lakh teachers even though it is a less than the required ratio. Rs.4680 crores have been allocated for the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission but this amount is not sufficient to provide safe drinking water to villages as per their requirement.

Though Finance Minister has accorded greater importance and priority to health and education in the back drop of the scheme Bharat Nirman but no action plan has been proposed accordingly.

It is true that assistance money for old persons (above the age of 65 years) has been raised from Rs.75 to Rs.200 under the national social assistance programme, it will certainly give some relief to old persons but this amount should have been raised to Rs.500.

While discussing on agriculture it also mentioned about irrigation but what is the situation today? A sizable

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

portion of cultivable land does not having irrigation facilities. Though afforestation schemes have been mentioned but a very meagre amount has been allocated for this purpose. Even after industrial expansion it is still important is before 65 to 75 per cent people are still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood or it may be said that 65 to 70 per cent employment is generated by agricultural sector. Farmers are not given sufficient power, they are not being given remunerative price, farmers are committing suicide due to continuous loss incurred in agriculture and agriculture being rendered unremunerative. In this context, it is important to pay more attention on backward but agricultural states in which Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh are prominent. Another aspect is that employment opportunities are reducing, Villagers are migrating towards urban areas. Urban population is growing, there is scarcity of space, there is no provision for jobs, consequently urban life is also becoming unmanageable. Due to growing population in Jhuggi Joparis, children, the future of India are compelled to live in slums, Environmental problems are also growing and due to unavailability of jobs anti social activities, thefts decoitees, kidnapping are growing. They have no access to education and medical facilities. The dream of 'Bharat Nirman' is great but from where money will come for it? Picture is not clear. Lot of things will have to be done.

Industrial units in the cities whether they are textile mills or sugar mills or cement factories, or small-medium industries, they are incurring loss continuously. We are far behind in global competition. Global market is expanding. We are lagging behind in modernisation, many industrial areas are still unaware of new technologies. Farmers are in trouble, people living in villages are facing problems. There are hard conditions in the cities and farmers are committing suicide as I have said earlier, workers are starving. It is good that employment for hundred days has been guaranteed under employment guarantee scheme but it has to be transformed into reality. Today generation

of power is 12 per cent which is less than the demand. Farmers are not getting water and power for their fields, Youth are not getting jobs. There is not proper arrangement for education, medical treatment and housing. In cities, there are high rise buildings but the poor have no roof over their heads. In this situation how can we talk of Bharat Nirman?

What we really need is schemes suitable to our local requirements, a self reliant and self-sufficient India as dreamt by Gandhiji and Pt. Dindayal.

Today per capita average income has increased but at the same time prices of essential commodities have also gone up. Income has not increased in proportion to expenditure and this is the root cause of imbalance. It has widened the gap between the rich and the poor. We have not been able to reduce the percentage of people living below poverty line. Instead we have paved the way for capitalists. All the assets of the country are slipping into the hands of a handful capitalists.

If one sees the glitter of cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Surat and Ahmedabad and on the other side picture of the rest of the cities of India, then one would come to know differences. It has been mentioned that work will be started for the planned development and upgradation of cities under the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urbanization Scheme. It also mentions Mumbai and Bangalore metro. If the allocation is made as per the action plan then development will definitely take place, otherwise, it is evident that the expenditure will escalate and the scheme will not be able to be completed in time. In this regard the projects launched by the previous NDA government should be completed first. During a discussion on health programme we talked about eradication of leprosy and polio as per the target of World Health Organization but supply of potable water in rural areas is more essential than that. Though it is proposed to test the quality of drinking water but stressing on sanitation is equally important.

Previous government had started various important works in number of areas and also various action plans were formulated and implemented. But a number of schemes are still under consideration.

Many important schemes launched by the previous government are progressing at a slow pace. In the same way, Schemes regarding the Information Technology launched by the previous Government are proving successful and they require momentum.

Hon'ble Minister has also mentioned about the outcome of budget in his speech. We are competing with China, whether. Have we been able to encourage investments on the line of East Asian countries and China? How much foreign direct investment has been received in our country. There are huge opportunities in the field of petroleum and automobiles in our country but for this adequate investment is required. Non-resident Indians can extend their optimum cooperation in this regard. In this context, we can also see that more or less our heavy industries are on the verge of closure. For their revival we need to go ahead with the plans that were prepared by the previous NDA Government. There are number of areas that can be brought under export net, though there has been discussions regarding manufacturing and export of jewellery and ornaments, we need to boost this sector as well as promote occasional exporters. Though, discussions have been held on agriculture earlier. Electricity and irrigation facilities should be made available but State Governments are required to be given special incentives in this regard. It is a welcome announcement that Union Government will co-operate with Madhya Pradesh for power generation but in view of the need of that State more power projects are required to be sanctioned, Special attention is required for rural electrification. In the same way, special attention is required to be paid towards Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Golden Quadrilateral Scheme etc. Even today, thousands of villages of the country are deprived of electricity. Electricity and water supply are essential to increase our agricultural produce but at the same time facilities like loans on long term

should also be made available to farmers. Regional rural development banks and scheduled commercial banks should take a keen interest in this regard so that the small farmers could also be benefited. We have also discussed the ways and methods of developing rural infrastructure. In this regard more allocation is required under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna launched by the previous Government so that the villages could be connected to the roads. At the same time, a comprehensive action plan must be prepared for adequate availability of irrigation facilities and potable water.

Today, we need to extend special assistance to North-Eastern States so that their speedy development could be ensured.

Special assistance plan is required for Jammu and Kashmir, and this Government has made efforts in this direction. There are also adequate opportunities in Life Insurance Sector. The markets need to be strengthened, the corporate sector, Government securities, mutual funds, etc. should contribute in the development of the country.

Industrial zones are being developed but rural industries like handloom including khadi and hand-crafts industries need to be promoted. Handloom goods are getting competitive; markets must be made available to it.

Establishment of more and more food processing industries is very important. I am cutting short.

There are ample industrial opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. It is pre-dominantly an agricultural state. But it requires adequate assistance, as it is mainly tribal dominated area. It should be provided assistance through a special package so that Madhya Pradesh could find a place of its own in Gross Domestic Product.

*SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Sir, I wish to extend my thanks to you and the Samajwadi Party that

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Rewati Raman Singh]

has allowed me to put forth my views here. First of all, I want to make this House aware that the Jugglery of figures presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister to befool the people of India is totally unfair and unwarranted. I start with the budget provision. Honourable Finance Minister is saying that this time capital expenditure on agriculture has been increased to sixty-four crore rupees. It may be reminded that the same Finance Minister had made provision of eighty-four crore rupees against this item in the last budget. Are 64 crore rupees more than 84 crore rupees? Actually, last year there was a provision of 84 crore rupees, but in the revised figures it was shown as 47 crore rupees and it has been happening in our country for pass many year that the Government spend far less than what is provides for agriculture and this is the reason that villages are getting deserted and farmers are committing suicide. In the same way, the catchword of the Finance Minister that the budget has been increased by 40 percent for education, health, rural and urban infrastructure is also a jugglery of figures. In reality, it is increased against items of revenue expenditure, while it is decreased by 25 percent against capital expenditure items. It means that by reducing expenditure from capital account and showing excess expenditure against revenue account, it is being shown that the budget provision has been increased in social sector. Sir, thus jugglery of figures have been played in many areas.

A close perusal of the budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister reveals some more facts that causes concern for all of us. Similarly this year income from taxes will be maximum from corporate taxes, i.e. around Rs. one lakh thirty three thousand crore. Excise duty, personal income tax and customs duty, all will be earned from corporate taxes. Sir, is Governments control over income tax payers lossening or it is being relaxes. This must be discussed in the House. Page 24 of the economic survey clearly indicates that as per the figures of budget 2004-05 personal income tax had to grow by 26.5 percent, but has grown by only 16.8 percent. The proposed figures

of 2005-06 also confirms this fact that economy is growing by 8 percent and about 90 percent of this growth is being collected from rich and middle class people. Then why personal income tax receipts are not increasing? Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, the Government have failed in tightening the noose around big companies and their beneficiaries.

Sir, the Finance Minister who has been using heavy sounding words such as Fringe Benefit Tax, Security Transaction Tax etc. should please clarify as to when and how these taxes are going to be made effective? Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way the Finance Minister has been talking about increase in income, for a long time and how meaningless is that, it gets clear from the fact that in 1990, the Tax Gross Domestic Product was 10 percent. It came down to 9.6 percent in the year 2004-2005 and despite all the efforts made during the last two years, the Finance Minister has not been able to bring it to 11 percent. 1/6 scheme was formulated and many other similar schemes are being formulated, but due to a lack of will on the part of Government to recover tax from capitalists, these schemes are not achieving the desired results.

If we look carefully at the data of public expenditure, we find that this budget seems to be an anti-labourer and anti-farmer budget. Since when the interest rate of 7.5 percent will get implemented in agricultural sector? Even this is also not clear whether it will be implemented or not? 3 percent of total expenditure will be spent on agriculture, however, in agricultural sector, the rate of capital building is 1.7 percent and still why the Government expenditure in this sector is so less? During the 1st 10 years the growth rate of agriculture has been one percent and population growth rate has been 1.7 percent. It means that in India the availability of agriculture product is diminishing. And even then only 3 percent of the budget is on agriculture. Funds to the tune of ten thousand crore rupees are to be spend on rural infrastructure but an amount of 4000 crore rupees out of that has to go to Bharat Nirman Yojna. Why this fund is not being called as six thousand crore rupees?

Mr. Finance Minister, stop taking test of the patience of villagers and farmers in this land of Mahatma Gandhi. This country cannot be brought ahead by the development of industry and service sector. The little increasement in the fund under the Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Yojana is commendable, but who is going to bear its cost? It is by way of decreasing the fund under the urban employment schemes and by decreasing the share meant for schemes of the States.

Sir, the reality is this that our Finance Minister prepares the budget of India based on the American Model where there is no room for weak and poor sections. Neither he wants to put the burden of tax on the industrialists, capitalists and rich people, nor does he want to lessen the facilities given to them. It is the rule of the economics that where there would be immense money, application of taxes would be successful. How you can extract oil from the oil seeds which have no oil. And the Finance Minister does not want to touch those areas. Finance Minister becomes happy only when sensex crosses ten thousand mark because Indian and foreign capitalists becomes happy by this. As long as the budget of Finance Minister will be based on sensex, till then the budget would be prepared on the basis of the rules framed by the world bank. Till then the budget will be prepared in this manner only. After a few years, there will be no need to prepared the budget at all. Sir, Finance Minister should remember that Mahatma Gandhi had said that any policy and budget is good only when problems of the poor are mitigated.

[English]

*SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, First of all, let me thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister Sri P. Chidambaram for presenting an almost tax free budget for the year 2006-07 and relieving the public from the usual tension.

I may be permitted to express my gratefulness to the UPA Government for making great strides in every field

*The speech was laid on the Table.

under the able leadership of UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh. I would like to stress in the field of agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. Over 70% of the population lives on agriculture.

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, especially in the Coastal areas, a large number of farmers grow Chillies, Tobacco, Cotton, Paddy and other major crops. They are facing a number of problems. For example, unfortunately, they face the floods or cyclone or the drought every year with the result their crops are washed away and they were unable to reap the benefits. They were also unable to repay the bank loans or debts resulting in farmers committing suicide. As the House is aware, in the erstwhile State Government regime, a number of farmers have committed suicide. But the situation has improved considerably after the taking over of reins by our party. Congress, in the State and in the Centre by UPA. But a lot more needs to be done in many areas.

It was requested earlier during the Consultative committee meeting held on 16/11/2004 that a Chillies Board with Head Quarters at Guntur be established to look after the interests of the growers, traders and the exports of chillies excluding the subject from the purview of the Spices Board. But it was reported that in the minutes of the meeting communicated vide letter No F8-7(1)/2005-C3 dated 27/1/2005 of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Govt... of India that it is not necessary to establish a Chillies Board and the development, research and marketing / export promotion of spices including chillies is well taken care of by certain organizations mentioned therein. But the plight of the chillies growers is pathetic and they are not getting fair price and the farmers are facing untold miseries and even leading to suicides. The foreign exchange earned during the year 2004-05 is 858.90 crores of rupees. At present the chillies crop is attached to Spices Board as already explained by me. This Board by virtue of its multifarious activities attached to, it is unable to concentrate on this crop viz., Chillies. Therefore it is requested that a Chillies Board may be constituted with

[Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao]

head quarters at Guntur to deal with the growing, marketing and export of chillies deleting it from the activities of the Sprices Board.

I am of the firm view that as long as we depend on monsoon, we are bound to face such problems. But the silver lining in this whole episode is that since the Congress took over the governance of Andhra Pradesh, it has taken up a lot of measures especially for the benefit of farmers. The Andhra Pradesh Government has waived off Eleven hundred crores of rupees on electricity overdues to save the farmers from committing suicides. It has also given free power to the farmers. It has taken the right path of development and the improvement in the lives of general public in my State Andhra Pradesh, under our Chief Minister, Dr. Rajashekar Reddy is all there for everyone to see.

Another demand which has been pending for a long time is extending insurance cover to all the crops in the droughts or any other eventuality. Is there any thinking in the Ministry to introduce crop insurance scheme, especially for those farmers who are affected by natural calamities, floods and cyclone?

The Central Government be generous in extending financial help to the Andhra Pradesh State Government in implementing various schemes and for setting up of separate Funds for Chillies and Tobacco to help farmers not to take the extreme step of committing suicide? A stabilization fund and crop insurance have to be made compulsory for all crops and thus the farmers may be saved from the vagaries of weather and market fluctuations. The village has to be taken as a unit in crop insurance scheme while assessing the loss of crop. The Department of Commerce has already established the price stabilization fund in case of rubber, coffee and tea and the same may be extended to chillies and tobacco crops also.

The Govt of India is earning nearly Rs.8000 crores by way of various duties and Rs.1000 crores of Foreign

Exchange. The Tobacco Board has also been making good amount of earning by way of service charges from this crop. At present, the Tobacco Board is having Rs.80 crores collected as service charges. But no help has been extended to the tobacco growing community by either Tobacco Board or Government of India to offer remunerative price to save the tobacco farmers from the distress of loss when the prices at auction platform is less than cost of production.

We are aware that the cost of cultivation as well as the inputs have increased enormously all through these years but the cost of the products received from the crop have not at all improved resulting in the heavy losses to the farmers. The cultivators are incurring a loss of Rs.20,000/- per acre in case of the commercial crops. The minimum support price being fixed every year is not proportionate to the increased cost of cultivation. The gap between the cost of cultivation and the amount received by sale of end products is causing suicidal deaths among the farmers.

Fortunately, our commercial crops viz., tobacco, cotton and chillies are earning a sizable amount of foreign exchange. For example, the foreign exchange earned on Tobacco during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 is 251.04 and 380.93 million dollars. Also chillies have earned foreign exchange to a tune of Rs.858.90 crores during the year 2004-05. When such foreign exchange is earned, the condition of the growers also to be considered as they are not able to get the income even to the extent they are investing. So crop insurance and stabilization fund must be introduced.

In this connection, I would like to place a request of creating a Fund with a corpus of Rs.500 crores each for Tobacco and Chilli so that farmers of Tobacco, Chilli, when market is not favourable and prices falls drastically below the minimum guaranteed price, are to be benefitted. Government has addressed itself to the issues of farmers. For example, reduction of interest rate on short-term loans to farmers to 7%. This would help the farmers to go in for short-term loans for taking care of their needs.

Another demand which is long overdue is the implementation of farm income insurance scheme. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance would look into it and make announcement on this important aspect of agricultural farmers of the country.

Education is another area, where we have to lay more emphasis in the years to come. Dropouts from schools have not reduced over the years. Innovative and effective steps should be made to ensure that each and every child, particularly from the underprivileged sections of the society and people living in despicable conditions attend the school. If we provide education to one and all, there is no doubt that our country would become a developed country sooner rather than later.

Tourism is another area where we can bring in more foreign exchange. Maintenance of historical sites along with improvement of infrastructure with low-budget hotels, airports facilities and rail services would undoubtedly improve the inflow of foreigners. Government should look into this aspect with insight and should come out with immediate steps to set right the way for more inflow of foreign tourists into our country.

I would like to suggest that a model school be set up in each district of the country; centres providing health care particularly to be needy and poorest of the poor should be started in the nook and corner of the country; proper roads should be laid in the remotest areas of the country so that people living in those areas would become part of the national mainstream.

Power is another subject which is to be treated with utmost seriousness. Power thefts should be stopped lock stock and barrel. All our efforts should be made to use the renewable sources of energy like wind and solar energy to tide over the huge shortage of electricity in various parts of the country.

Unemployment is one of the gravest problems India is facing not only today but for coming years. For solving this problem, I am glad that our Government has sanctioned Employment Guarantee Scheme, and the scheme has started already.

Mid-day meal scheme which is in vogue in a few States should be introduced at the National level to bring more people to school and which would provide at least a meal a day to those who could not make both ends meet or get a square meal a day. Central Government should extend grants generously so that we could improve the literacy of the country like the one in Kerala which has 100 per cent literacy. Any country which has its considerable population educated would undoubtedly make strides in every conceivable area.

It is certainly a commendable achievement on the part of the UPA Government to maintain the tempo of high growth path. I hope the Government would make great strides in the years to come.

Another good aspect of this Budget is that there has been an increase in the allocation for rural development. From Rs.21,334 crores, it has been enhanced to Rs.24,026 crores. And the outlay in the field of agriculture and its allied activities has been increased by Rs.1,400 crores. I hope the hon. Minister would enhance these allocations further keeping in view the importance of improvement and development in these spheres.

There has been an increase in the spending on health and education but it is not up to the mark and much needs to be desired in these important spheres. Would the hon. Minister look into it and take steps to increase the allocations? I hope that the Finance Minister will definitely consider the points, I have narrated.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members who have taken great interest in the Budget and shared their views before this House.

Sir, as in any debate, there were a number of observations made about the economy, the direction of the economy and the management of the economy. There were also specific questions about certain provisions of the Finance Bill and suggestions relating to the taxation proposals which, if you look at the past years, this year has been a year where there are the fewest proposals on

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taxation. Since we will have another debate on the Finance Bill, I crave the indulgence of the House to defer my reply on matters relating to the Finance Bill to the second stage. I am sure that many hon. Members who did not have an opportunity to participate in the general Discussion will have an opportunity when the Finance Bill is taken up. Therefore, with the leave of the House, let me confine myself to matters concerning the economy, the general direction of the economy and the management of the economy.

The philosophy behind the Budget is enshrined in the NCMP. As long as I stay within the four corners of the NCMP neither our opponents nor our allies can complain. The NCMP, I believe, is a sound charter for governance for five years. I can quote chapter and verse from the NCMP, but that may not be necessary. It is a document that has entered the political vocabulary. Even the principal Opposition party cannot avoid reference to the NCMP. As I read and understand the NCMP, it underscores the fact that we must have growth. At the risk of repetition, let me say that growth is the best antidote to poverty. However, growth alone will not bring development, will not bring relief to the poorer sections and will not improve the standard of living for the people who are in the lowest rungs of economic life. Therefore, as I said while growth will be our mount, equity will be our companion. But with growth there is a chance for equity and without growth, I am afraid, there is no chance for equity.

What this Budget does is to announce a series of steps that will ensure that the growth momentum is maintained. Where is growth coming from? The growth is coming from industry, from the services and with the rebound in agriculture, I expect that in the next fiscal year, growth will also come from agriculture. But let me strike a word of caution. Every Finance Minister is a prisoner to the monsoon. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Real Finance Minister!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : it is Lord Varuna who decides this. ...*(Interruptions)* I said, 'Varuna'. You are not hearing properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : In North India, 'Indra' is the God for water. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Okay. We in Tamil Nadu refer to as 'Varuna Bhagawan'. It may be here in the mythology. It is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You better include both - 'Varuna' for South, 'Indra' for North.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Sir, we are prepared to engage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra in a debate on mythology. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Therefore, it is important that we recognise that industry and services must continue to grow at a very high rate that even in years when the monsoon fails us, growth rates will be very high. But every effort is being made to make our agriculture less monsoon-dependent. I am sorry that many of the matters referred to in this Budget speech and the previous Budget speeches of the UPA Government, to make Indian agriculture less monsoon-dependent, have seemingly escaped the attention of Members. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme which was started in 1996, which has gained momentum, and a huge outlay is being made year after year, the grand scheme to repair, renovate and reconstruct our water bodies has reached a final stage with the consent of the States and a design has been made with the consent of the States and we will now approach the World Bank for funding of a Rs.4,400 crore programme.

With minor irrigation, medium irrigation, funding through the RIDF, the AIBP and the repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies, I believe, we can make a decisive intervention in to make it less monsoon

dependent. As we add more and more acreage to assured irrigation, you will find that agricultural growth rate also stabilises and the volatility that you see in agricultural growth rates becomes a thing of the past.

Sir, in the short run, while agriculture stabilises we must place great emphasis on industry and services. Fortunately, services seem to be on an autonomous growth path. While we may need to lend a helping hand here and there, I think, the best that we can do for services is not interfere with them. Let them grow on their own.

But, the manufacturing sector requires close attention. Today, thanks to our outstanding human resources, especially our engineers and our scientists and our managers, we have the capacity to acquire leadership in labour a dozen industries. We are already among the top three in the world in several industries - steel-making, refinery, textiles, leather and a few others. But we have the capacity to become the world leader and we have the capacity to become among the top three in at least a dozen industries.

In my Budget speech I have identified these industries where we must acquire world leadership. Let me give you an example of the automobile industry. We all know the contribution that Maruti and Suzuki have made to India. It was a revolution in automobiles. Unfortunately, we praise the French Revolution and the industrial revolution. But we miss a revolution that is happening, unfolding before our eyes. In the automobile industry there is a revolution today. India today is among the world's most efficient producers of automobiles. We have the opportunity to become the manufacturing hub for small cars. And that is why, we have intervened decisively, even at the cost of revenue. I said in small cars I will lower the excise duty by eight per cent. Believe me, in three to five years from now India will be the world's largest producer of small cars. We must identify such opportunities. I submit with great respect such opportunities exist in textiles, leather, food processing, petroleum products, handicrafts and handmade products.

These are areas where the whole world recognises the potential of India.

We all know that every second toy is made in China. We can make the same toys. Every third pair of shoes sold in the world is made in China. We can emulate China. All that we need to do is - and I beg you please throw away any ideological or political blinkers - to lend a helping hand to these sectors and these sectors will create massive employment and massive production. Where is the ideology in making a pair of shoes, where is the ideology in making a toy of any kind? Therefore, let these sectors grow. We have identified these sectors and when these sectors grow, you will find that we recapture the primacy that we enjoyed some years ago in manufacturing which has now been displaced by services. I want India to become a manufacturing hub. Services will grow autonomously, thanks to our outstanding human resources. I am betting on growth. I have said this in television interviews also. It is my business to ensure that the economy keeps ticking and growing. It is our business to ensure how the resources are applied. It is because we are growing that we have these resources.

Let me give you an idea of the resources that are being generated. In the first year of the UPA Government, 2004-05, gross tax revenues collection increased by 20 per cent; in the second year, according to revised estimates, by 21.4 per cent; and in the year ahead, according to budget estimates, another 20 per cent. Please tell me : has there been any period of three successive years where gross tax revenue increased by 20 per cent year after year? Why do you say that we are not collecting taxes? We are collecting more taxes than ever before, without imposing new taxes and simply by tweaking tax rates, removing exemptions which have outlived their utility, removing exemptions which are simply a carry over from the past, a hang over from the past and which serve very narrow vested interests, and improving the tax administration. As a result of this, look at the revenues that are generated. Simply to the Central Government, the

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increase in tax revenue in 2005-06 over the previous year was Rs.50,000 crore. In 2006-07, over the current year, the increase in tax revenue will be another Rs.54,000 crore. It is because this economy is growing at eight per cent or near eight per cent and it is throwing up surplus revenues of Rs.50,000 crore a year over the previous year that we are able to make these huge allocations.

The States are not far behind. Look at how the States are being provided. When I said that States have never been so well provided, there were some eyebrows raised and some columns were written. Look at the numbers. In 2004-05, the States' share of taxes' devolution was about Rs.73,000 crore. In 2005-06, it jumped to Rs.94,000 crore. In 2006-07, it will jump to Rs. 1,13,448 crore. If you kindly look at page 16 of this green book *Budget At a Glance* when you have time at home, you will see a graph here. Just look at the graph.

It is only a statement of fact, and no criticism of anyone. In between 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, during the period of the NDA Government, the total resources transferred to the States went from Rs.94,792 crore to Rs.1,82,048 crore, which means an increase of about Rs.90,000 crore in a period of six years. The increment is Rs.90,000 crore.

Now, in 2004-2005, this Government came to power in May, and the Budget was passed in June-July. In 2004-2005, it was Rs.1,87,871 crore. In two years, namely, by 2006-2007, this amount of Rs.1,85,000 odd crore will jump to Rs.2,82,021 crore, which means an increase of Rs.97,000 crore in two years. All that I appeal to my countrymen and to my colleagues here is that let us continue to ensure that nothing comes in the way of growing at 8 per cent. This is the *sine qua non* for allocations for health, for education, for social welfare, for subsidies, for defence, etc., namely, that we must have the resources. I am saying this because if we grow at this rate, then it throws up resources. Thereafter, we all can sit together and decide how the resources will be allocated.

As far as resource allocations are concerned. I have dealt with it at great length in my Budget speech. We have allocated more resources to every sector this year than ever before. We have allocated more resources to *Bharat Nirman*; we have allocated more resources to the flagship programmes; and we will continue to allocate resources.

Sir, let me spend a couple of minutes on subsidies. The NCMP says that the subsidies must be targeted to the poor and the truly needy, and that is the mandate. Let me assure this House that no one in this Government, and certainly not me, will do anything to reduce the subsidies that are targeted to the truly poor and needy. We are maintaining food subsidies at Rs.24,200 crore. A question was asked as to how you can do it. We are doing it because, today, the FCI - because of an improved balance sheet - is able to borrow on the strength of its own balance sheet, and the interest costs have come down. But whatever is required to sustain the PDS will be provided.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. The Finance Minister has said that he will allocate funds for the poor. I would like to know from him as to who will give the guarantee that money actually reaches to them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a point of order. Yes, Mr. Minister, you can continue with your reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a point of order.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I was mentioning that whatever food subsidies are required to sustain the Public Distribution System (PDS) will be provided year after year after year, and let there be no doubt about it.

Similarly, with regard to fertiliser subsidy, the fertiliser subsidy is paid to the fertiliser companies. Now, there is a debate going on whether there is another way for the fertiliser subsidy to reach the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : It should directly reach the farmers.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : It should directly reach the poor farmers.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : *The Economic survey* suggests that there are other ways in which the fertiliser subsidy can be directed to reach the farmers, especially, the truly needy and poor farmers. However, until we are able to devise a system by which the fertiliser subsidy can directly reach the farmers, we intend to maintain the fertiliser subsidy, and fertiliser subsidy will be provided. In fact, I am told that there are some arrears to be paid, and this year - even after the Budget was presented - there seems to be a slight upswing in the revenues. Therefore, I intend to clear some of the arrears before 31st March. So, the fertiliser subsidy will also be provided. Therefore, nobody need worry about either fertiliser subsidy or food subsidy.

Sir, a question was raised, and quite rightly, about the agricultural insurance. Now, the Scheme was introduced in the year 1999-2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. Do not reply to this. This is not the way to do it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I cannot answer that.

This Scheme has been continued year after year, both for Kharif and Rabi. We are now in the final stages of designing a revised Scheme. In fact, the Minister of Agriculture has written to me saying that it could not be finalised before the Budget and that it is before the Planning Commission. But until the new Scheme is finalised, we intend to continue with the current Scheme. This is what I have announced. The current Scheme has many drawbacks. We all know that, and you have

mentioned that. However, let me tell you that the current Scheme is heavily subsidised through the Budget. The claims are paid and the subsidy on the premium is also paid by the Central Government. The State Government has a small share in the subsidy. Until we are able to design a better Scheme, let me assure that the NAIS will continue in its present form, but I am confident that we would be able to finalise the new Scheme as early as possible.

Sir, for agriculture, the largest package in recent years has been announced this year, and the most important is, the matter of credit. Now, Sir, you will remember that a few days before the Budget was presented, there was a question, and we spent a lot of time on that question, about credit to agriculture. There is no gainsaying the fact that after the UPA Government came into office, credit to agriculture has increased manifold. In the first year alone, the growth rate is 44 per cent. It is possible to argue that the bulk of the credit has always gone to the bigger farmer, the small and marginal farmer is excluded. I realise that. Only 27 per cent of cultivator-households could get institutional credit; even among them, the farmer with a larger holding, perhaps, accesses credit more easily. Therefore, we have now taken a step to ensure that a significant portion of the credit, and I will come back to the House with a policy statement so that credit goes to farmers who organise themselves as Self-Help Groups, and farmers who organise themselves as Joint Liability Groups. The Joint Liability Groups will be tenant farmers. A farmer who does not own land but who is a tenant farmer, he is being encouraged to form Joint Liability Groups. I will ensure that a substantial portion of the credit goes to such Groups.

But let us not forget the figures; we started with Rs.86,000 crore. In the first year of this Government we set a target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore; we achieved Rs.1,25,000 crore. In the second year, we have set a target of Rs.1,41,000 crore; we will exceed that target by 31st of March. In the third year, we have set a target of Rs.1,75,000 crore which will be more than double the credit we started

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with, but we will exceed that Rs.1,75,000 crore target also. Now, the effort is while we are increasing the flow of credit targeted towards small and marginal farmer, I assure the House that, that is our endeavour and we will reach credit to the farmer.

Apart from availability of credit, there is the issue of price. So far, conventional wisdom has that what stands in the flow of credit is the availability and not the price. I have carefully reconsidered the matter. I believe that while availability is a major factor, price is also a key factor. It is after careful consideration, having regard to the bank rate - RBI rate is six per cent - having regard to the repo and reverse repo, which is 5.25 and 6.25, having regard to inflation, having regard to the cost of money to NABARD and to the bank, we have decided to take the unprecedented step, when I say unprecedented, I mean, a step that was not contemplated for six years, of returning to the farmer two percentage points of the interest that he paid for the last Kharif and the last Rabi, and for the next year, ensuring that credit will be available at seven per cent.

I do not think that given today's economic conditions any Government could have done better. I would appeal to all sections of the House to support the unprecedented step taken by the Government in reaching credit at a price which is affordable to the farmer.

Sir, if agriculture and all the steps that we have taken for agriculture come together, I expect agriculture to contribute significantly to the GDP growth. And if industry and services continue to maintain their growth rates, we should expect years of high growth for the next few years.

There was some question about job creation. Unfortunately, I do not have any statistics beyond 2003. They will come later when the NSSO rounds are completed. But let us look at the figures. In March, 1991, the organised sector, public and private, and the services

sector together had 267.33 lakhs. In March 1996, this increased to 279 lakhs. In March 1998, this increased to 281 lakhs. So, there has been a secular increase between 1991 and 1998. These are published figures. Between March 1998 and March 2003, there was a decline from 281 lakhs to 270 lakhs.

What is the position after 2003, I am not in a position to say. But all technical literature tells us and all empirical evidence tells us that when growth rates are seven to eight per cent, jobs are created. Rule of thumb is, if the growth rate is eight per cent, approximately 80 lakh jobs are created in all the sectors put together both organised and unorganised, both permanent employment and not so permanent employment. I am confident that when the figures for the period of UPA Government 2004 to 2006 are compiled a few years later, you will find that job creation has taken place and this number of 270 lakhs has begun to climb. But, we will have to suspend judgement. For the time being all I am pointing out is growth will create jobs. But we are not satisfied.

We are not satisfied with creating jobs through growth. Therefore, this Government in its wisdom has decided to introduce the NREGP. That again is an unprecedented step taken in the current year, a revolutionary Act with a guarantee of employment of one person for household for 100 days in 200 Districts. This may be inadequate in terms of need but certainly an unprecedented and revolutionary step. Let us make this scheme successful this year. Enough money has been provided. If more money is required, money will be provided because there is a legal guarantee. I am bound to obey the law.

In fact, my information is that the Scheme has been really kicked off only in one State, the State of Andhra Pradesh. In other States, they are still compiling data; they are still drawing up the projects; and they are still issuing the cards. But I would urge all State Governments in which the 200 Districts fail to quickly get their act together and get the programme started. There is enough money provided. Once the programme gets going, you will find

that the lot of the very poor, the unemployed manual labourer, is improved to some extent so that that family is assured at least Rs.6000 in cash in a year.

Sir, there is a question about nutrition levels. In fact, there seems to be a disconnect between young India and old India. There is a disconnect between young people who are able to look forward and old people who are looking backward.

MR. SPEAKER : There are some exceptions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, some exceptions. Sir, I am willing to add myself to the old people.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There are some young people who are looking backward.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What gives me hope and courage is what our young Members of Parliament are doing. They are able to look forward. Three days ago I think, one of the young Members, Mr. Sandeep Dikshit spoke.

13.00 hrs.

Yesterday, we heard Shri Rahul Gandhi and we heard Shri Deepender Singh Hooda. I will add my friend, Shri Kaharabela Swain - wherever he is sitting - to the young people. He had a positive outlook, at least in the first part of his speech. That is the attitude you must take. Why are we saying that nutritional levels have come down? How can they come down? Life expectancy has increased. Many nutritional deficiencies like pellagra, beriberi and scurvy have been completely eliminated. I said in my speech that we have reached the goal of elimination of leprosy. We will reach the goal of elimination of polio. The life expectancy today is 78. Everybody can take comfort. If you have reached 60, most likely you would live up to 78. Nutritional levels have not come down.

People look at calorie intake and say calorie intake has come down. Again, that is not correct. If you look at the income segmented population data, for the lowest 30 per cent of the population, calorie intake in rural India has

increased from 1,504 calories in 1972-73 to 1,678 calories in 1993-94. For urban India, it has increased from 1,579 calories to 1,682 calories in the same period. I am sure, after 1993-94, in the last 12 years it has further increased. Average is like saying a man who is only 5 inches said that the average depth of the river is only 5 feet. Therefore, he will step in and when he walks to the middle of the river, he is drowned, of course. Average is a misleading. You must look at which segment is consuming more cereals, more food grains. Some other segments are consuming less than the average and consuming other items. Even if you look at item-wise, you will find that consumption of cereals and pulses has come down but the consumption of sugar, the consumption of fruit and vegetable especially, consumption of potato and other tubers, consumption of milk and milk products and consumption of meat and fishes has improved. so, it is wrong to say that people are consuming less food or less nutritional food.

Therefore, the broad philosophy behind the Budget are expenditure control. We are betting on growth. We are lending a helping hand to agriculture. We are making India a manufacturing hub. We are allowing services to grow more or less autonomously. If all sections of the House cooperate, am sure that the growth story will continue to unfold year after year as far as we can visualise in the future.

Sir, a number of questions were raised on individual issues. I do not know whether it is necessary for me to take time to address each of these issues. But let me very quickly spend one sentence each on each of the issues so that people do not feel that I have neglected their issues.

Let me take the Backward Regions Grants Fund. Last year, although the Fund was set up in terms of projects presented and funds released, we were able to release Rs.1,547 crore. This year, the Backward Regions Grants Fund has been split into two parts - State component of Rs.1,250 crore and the District component of Rs.3,750 crore. I am confident that this year we will receive

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proposals and projects and we will be able to grant the entire Rs.5,000 crore to the backward regions. As was mentioned by a speaker, the bulk of this goes to three States namely, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

There was a reference to Khadi and Village industries. Allocations have been increased year after year. As against BE 2005-06 Rs.947 crore, the allocation is Rs.1,055 crore. Each one of the other industries - Coir industries, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana - have all substantially higher allocations. Allocations does not mean expenditure on outcomes. Between allocations and expenditure, there is a gap. Between expenditure and outcome, there is a gap. When you look at the BE figures, please look at the RE figures. The RE figures are carefully estimated about what the Department can spend until 31st of March. Then, from the RE figures, we make a projection. All right, next year, you can spend so much. But the most important thing is that the Government must spend. Now, who is not spending? I am sorry to say that States are not spending. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : No, no. What are you saying?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : As on day before yesterday, the State Governments' cash balances were Rs.45,000 crore. The States are today cash rich. Every State has got a cash balance. There is not State with overdraft; there is no State with WMA as of today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM : Most of them wait for 31st March.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, they are not waiting. This is my worry. They have always had a cash balance of about Rs.30,000 crore. In fact, ten days ago, they had a cash balance of Rs.53,000 crore. Right through the year. ...*(Interruptions)* You are wrong my friend. Every State is cash rich; every State must spend. One of the reasons why there is some tightening of liquidity is that States are unable to spend. The system does not have this absorptive

capacity to spend in time and reach the target. I had appealed to the State Finance Ministers; I had appealed to the State Chief Ministers. And I would, therefore, appeal to all sections of the House about this. The money is allocated either through tax devolution or through special grants or raised through their own tax revenue. All States must spend the money. Unless money is spent, the targets will not be achieved. Unless money is spent, you will not achieve your growth targets either. Today, States have the money and they must spend. The Central Government is taking greater and greater responsibilities on many matters today. We take on the responsibility in the area of primary education, Mid-day Meal Scheme, primary health care, Urban Renewal Mission and even rural roads. I am not saying that we should not take on the responsibility. We have the resources and we are taking on the responsibility. We seem to have larger resources and we are taking larger responsibilities. But what about the States? Every one of these - you are an expert Sir, - falls under List II of the Constitution. Every one of these items is the primary responsibility of the State Government. Therefore, Members must urge the State Governments to spend more on primary education. to spend more on primary health, spend more on rural roads, drinking water, sanitation and so on. If the States also join and spend wisely and prudently and with proper monitoring, you will find that the rate at which we achieve our target is accelerated.

There was some reference to the AIIMS like institutions. I accept that there has been some delay. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : It is not 'some delay' but lots of delay.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Just a moment. There has been some delay. It is our plan, it is plan of this Government to set up six AIIMS-like institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Please do not misquote. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is a plan of this Government to set up six AIIMS-like institutions as well as upgrade a number of institutions in other States. And the six new AIIMS type of institutions will be set up in the States of Bihar, M.P, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this happening?

[English]

Every member will say why not his state?
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : ihar has got so much, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Kerala has a long-pending demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Why should it not be for Kerala?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is a wrong idea. Do you think, Ministers will change their policies just because you make a demand?

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : We have been demanding this. This is a long-pending demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your aggression has been noted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Will you allow me to continue? Kindly sit down. ...*(Interruptions)* I know no method out of which one can choose six out of 30 States and still count all the 30 States. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : You have not included any of the South Indian States. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Allright, it will be done later.

[English]

We forget that we belong to one nation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : These new AIIMS type of institutions will be in the most under-served States of Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh and - let them have patience - one existing Government medical college institution in the States, that I will read and two in Andhra Pradesh, will be upgraded to the same level. These are Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and two in Andhra Pradesh. The final decision is expected in the next few days.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the work has started. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : When would you do that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Just a moment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would answer that as soon as possible.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except the speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This not the way. Mr. Kharabela Swain.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

You have Spoken so well, why are you spoiling everything.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

Mr. Dasmunshi's words will also not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is very unfortunate. You know the system. Let the speech be over. If thereafter, the hon. Minister agrees, you may put one or two questions. But you cannot go on giving this running commentary. All of you are aware of this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, anyone familiar with our system will know that in these matters, there are a number of procedural steps including procedural difficulties at the State level. As I started by expressing regret that it has been delayed, but we have now finalised it; it will be approved in the next few days and work will start hopefully before the financial year closes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we have got it, All right but which financial year, it has not been stated.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I said: 'this Financial Year'.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. I do not want to raise doubts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is the promise of starting these institutions in this Financial Year. To start work on these institutions in this Financial Year is better than not making a promise at all and forgetting it at all ... (Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : These are the things, which we started... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : General Sahib, what has happened to you?

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, he is giving wrong information.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : To correct the wrong information, there are many procedures.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : General Saheb, we want to learn from you for your discipline and all that.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : He should not give misinformation ... (Interruptions) He should not misinterpret it ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has been appreciated.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, as I said earlier, the Government is taking greater and greater responsibility in areas, and that is getting reflected in the numbers, in the programmes, in the outlays; and I am sure, when the Outcome Budget is presented, you will find that it is also reflected in the outcome.

In the health and family welfare sector, after our Government came into office, as a percentage of GDP, only

*Not recorded.

the Central Budgetary allocations, it has moved up from 0.25 to 0.30 of GDP; in the education sector, it has moved up from 0.33 to 0.52 of the GDP. Therefore, clearly, the allocations are getting reflected according to what the NCMP set. The test is really on: "What was spent?" And, the further and the final test is: "What is the outcome?" When I present the Outcome Budget, the Ministries will also present their respective Outcome Budgets, and we will present a consolidated one on the flagship programmes. Hopefully, by the 17th of March, you will find that these are reflected in the outcome budgets.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You NCMP says about six per cent in the education sector.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This 6 per cent includes State expenditure also. I am talking only about the Central Budget. You must add all the States. We are only talking about the Central Budget.

Sir, a point that was not mentioned by anyone, which I want to highlight, is the kind of educational loans we are giving. Nobody mentioned it. Not every student has got it. But look at the impressive strides that have been made. In 2003-04, 1,53,275 loans were given: and in 2004-05, in the first year of this Government, 2,01,432 loans were given. In 2005-06, only in nine months ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, it is not proper. You cannot go on giving running commentary. He is replying to a vital discussion on Budget.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Shri Krishnadas always looks at the dark side of the picture. We must be able to see the brighter side of the picture. More students are getting loans. More money is being given to them. In nine months we have given 1,76,000 and this year I am confident we will touch 2,50,000 loans. Therefore, a large number of young men and women coming from families who could never even aspire to go to a college are getting bank loans today. That is another commitment

that we have made to spreading and democratising education.

Sir, I do not wish to dwell at much greater length. Let me just conclude by saying...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur) : What about reduction of interest on education loan?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will keep in mind the advice give by a person who runs a number of institutions. I would request him to reduce the tuition fee also.

Let me just give a snapshot of the major interventions we have made this year. I am not repeating the old programmes which we had started last year or a year before that. The major intervention is the National Social Assistance Programme. From Rs. 75 a month we have increased to Rs.200 a month. We are asking the State Governments to also contribute Rs.200 so that Rs. 400 reaches to them. That is a major intervention.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme is a major intervention. One thousand new residential schools for girls from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and other minority community.

Irrigation is a major intervention. The grant part of the AIBP is being increased to Rs. 2350 crore and I have assured the State Chief Ministers that they should spend the money and I will give them more money.

Credit. I have already said, is an unprecedented intervention that two percentage points will be returned to the farmers for the past kharif and rabi and for the future, seven percent interest will be charged to the farmers.

In micro-finance we have opened a separate window in NABARD and for rural roads we have opened a separate window with NABARD.

In textiles the Jute Technology Mission has been launched and yesterday the Cabinet has approved setting up of the National Jute Board.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

In the food processing industry major interventions have taken place both on the fiscal side and in terms of the budgetary support. A corpus of Rs. 1000 crore has been created in NABARD to finance agro-processing infrastructure and market development.

In small and medium enterprises a major intervention by expanding the role of credit guarantee fund has been taken. Its corpus has been increased. The guarantee fee is being reduced and insurance cover is being provided to 30,000 promoter borrowers.

A major intervention is the five ultra mega power projects to make up the lost ground. Let me make this point. We lost ground in the last few years. Let us not minimize it. We have lost ground. We have to make up that ground. So, apart from the on going programmes of NIPC, NHPC, private sector a major initiative has been taken. Five ultra mega power projects of 4000 megawatt each. That does not mean that we will stop with five. If Andhra Pradesh wants a sixth one, surely we will consider that. But at the moment there are five; two pithead and three coastal of 20,000 megawatt and about Rs. 85,000-90,000 crore will be invested. I assure this House that we will award the contracts by 31st December, 2006.

A major initiative has been taken with regard to coal. There is no attempt to dilute the role of public sector but today there is a big bottleneck in coal which is affecting power and that is affecting industry. We must do something about coal. The approach is that the Coal India and all its subsidiaries, mine as much coal as they want. We have kept all the coal mines that they require up to 2012 and beyond. There are huge reserves in this country. We are de-blocking those reserves only to produce captive power for cement, steel and for power plants and I think the whole House must support this move when the Coal Minister comes up with the proposal so that coal is made available; so that power is available, so that industry and services and agriculture prosper.

Major intervention is being made in the road transport. I have given these figures. I know that there are doubts

about these figures but I can give you month-wise figures. I have the figures with me. I can give you sector-wise figures. I am willing to give it to anyone who wants it. I am not getting into numbers but today we are building more kilometres per day than ever before. That is a fact...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Kindly give me that information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will give you the number. You have asked me and I will send you month-wise and sector-wise information on Monday morning.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : You give me full information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Major General Saheb. I would give you the information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I have given the notice for Calling Attention on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My colleague will answer the Calling Attention...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Minister is misleading the House, there are many methods of not only correcting that but for punishment also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me have it first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I did not mislead the House when I called Mr. Swain a progressive looking man and I am not misleading the House now. We have welcomed the Calling Attention...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I moved a privilege notice against him but he just met me and said that some mistake has been committed. These papers are with me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There are still rules for privilege. You can take recourse to that. All right. Let us get on with the job.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In maritime development, major intervention is being made and 101 projects are under the implementation.

Finally, in the area of education and research, we are paying special attention. Last year, we announced that the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore will be raised to what we want to raise it to—a world class institution. We gave Rs. 100 crore. I am happy to report that yesterday the Cabinet has approved the proposal. They have already started spending. The IISc will become a world class institutions with world class faculty and world class programmes.

Now each year I want to give it to only one because that is all that we can afford to give. Although I believe that there are many institutions. This year we had a choice of agriculture or some other subject. We decided that since the flavour of the Budget seems to be agriculture, we shall give it to an agricultural university. This is not to minimise the role played by Hissar Agricultural University or the Agricultural Universities in Coimbatore or Pant Nagar. All of them are good institutions. They have the potential to become great but our choice has fallen on the institution which was the pioneer in the Green Revolution—the Punjab Agricultural University. I am sure that we can make it into a world class institution. But we have also recognised three other great Universities of Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai and we are going to give them Rs.100 crore-Rs.50 crore in the beginning of the year and Rs.50 crore at the end of the year.

A national Innovation Fund is being created. This is an unprecedented step taken to signal our support that while primary education and secondary education are important, India must have the world class institutions of higher learning. In months to come, you will find that we will do more to have world class institutions of higher learning.

With this, I think I should conclude my speech now. The Budget philosophy has been explained. We will

discuss the Finance Bill later. I would request the hon. Members to support it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, the Minister has not uttered even one word about sports... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme should be implemented for all the farmers. It should be applicable to all villages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You note down the point regarding agricultural subsidy. Now Shri Raghunath Jha to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bwtaliah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had two there issues in regard to Bihar while speaking on the budget speech in the house yesterday and earlier. One of the issues was that when our Ex-Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji went to Bihar, then he had announced to give special assistance to Bihar. The question is related to this. Secondly, foundation stone of 'AIIMS' was laid in Bihar and after laying the foundation stone, the matter got closed. The third thing that I want to say is that honourable Finance Minister in his speech...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow you any more. If you want a reply, please sit down. Shri Jha, this is extremely unfair. I will not allow you to speak. Nothing should be recorded. Do not record what he is saying.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? This is not time for a debate. I would allow this. Mr. Minister, you may respond on sports, agricultural subsidy and AIIMS.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the construction of N.H. Road in Bihar upto 900 km. has been sanctioned but not even an inch of work has been done...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Yadav. Do not record what he says. I would not allow you. Take your seat when I am on my legs.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, please give me permission to speak once again...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not given.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : For ten hours, you could not make your point. This is very unfortunate, Shri Owaisi. Will you take your seat now? Mr. Minister, you need not answer to any point which he is raising. I will go straight to the subject now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You may know the figures but everybody here should know them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You agree to do something and do exactly the opposite here.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The allocation for sports for the year 2003-04 was Rs. 415 crores and in 2006-07, the allocation is Rs. 669 crores. And I am a member of the Commonwealth Games Group of Minister and I have already committed that whatever is required will be done to make the Commonwealth Games an outstanding success. Like a Congress Government which made the Asian Games a success, we will make the Commonwealth Games also a success.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not a single answer of my question. Nothing has been said about Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They have spoken about 'AIIMS'.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have already said it. You have not listened properly. When I listed the six States, I mentioned Bihar as the first among those six States. ...*(Interruptions)* When I started by saying AIIMS in six States, the first State that I mentioned was Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st of March, 2006 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand

Nos. 1 to 10, 12 to 15, 17 to 22, 24 to 26, 29 to 31, 34, 36, 40, 41, 43, 46 to 51, 53, 54, 56 to 62, 65, 71 to 73, 76, 78, 79, 81 to 88, 90 to 101, 103 and 105.*

*Supplementary Demands for Grants-Third Batch (General) for 2005-06
submitted to the Vote Lok Sabha*

No. & Title of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3,00,000	22,16,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	1,00,000	
3. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	1,00,000	...
4. Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	12,53,00,000	...
5. Atomic Energy	86,35,00,000	2,00,000
6. Nuclear Power Schemes	95,18,00,000	..
7. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals		10,00,00,000
8. Department of Fertilisers	1200,00,00,000	16,00,00,000
9. Ministry of Civil Aviation	56,04,00,000	...
10. Ministry of Coal		43,00,00,000
12. Department of Commerce	86,26,00,000	
13. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	1,00,000	1,65,00,000
14. Department of Posts	51,62,00,000	48,90,00,000
15. Department of Telecommunications	513,20,00,000	
17. Ministry of Company Affairs		3,60,00,000
18. Department of Consumer Affairs		1,00,000
19. Department of Food and Public Distribution		1,00,000
20. Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	
21. Ministry of Defence	...	1,00,000

	1	2	3
22. Defence Pensions		263,01,00,000	...
24. Defence Services-navy		316,83,00,000	
25. Defence Services-Air Force		157,59,00,000	
26. Defence Ordnance Factories		66,80,00,000	
29. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region		89,75,00,000	
30. Ministry of Environment and Forests		2,00,000	...
31. Ministry of External Affairs		260,00,00,000	
34. Payments to Financial Institutions		1759,70,00,000	1,00,000
36. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments		437,34,00,000	
40. Pensions		382,31,00,000	
41. Indian Audit and Accounts Department		4,14,00,000	1,58,00,000
43. Direct Taxes		39,54,00,000	
46. Ministry of Food Processing Industries		1,00,000	
47. Department of Health		2,00,000	
48. Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)		1,00,000	
49. Department of Family Welfare		1,00,000	
50. Department of Heavy Industry		1499,55,00,000	20,01,00,000
51. Department of Public Enterprises		23,00,000	...
53. Cabinet		40,48,00,000	
54. Police		287,68,00,000	
56. Transfers to Union Territory Governments		139,10,00,000	74,99,00,000
57. Department of Elementary Education and Literacy		1,00,000	
58. Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education		56,05,00,000	...
59. Department of Women and Child Development		23,00,000	...

1	2	3
60. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	99,42,00,000	1,00,000
61. Ministry of Labour and Employment	22,90,00,000	
62. Election Commission	65,00,000	
65. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	1,00,000	
71. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	5750,00,00,000	
72. Ministry of Planning	11,25,00,000	
73. Ministry of Power	10,34,00,000	1,00,000
76. Rajya Sabha	2,73,00,000	
78. Secretariat of the Vice-President	67,00,000	
79. Department of Rural Development	3005,21,00,000	
81. Department of Drinking Water Supply	10,11,00,000	
82. Department of Science and Technology	1,00,000	1,00,000
83. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	1,00,000	
84. Department of Biotechnology	1,00,000	...
85. Department of Shipping	49,32,00,000	2,00,000
86. Department of Road Transport and Highways	132,74,00,000	
87. Ministry of Small Scale Industries	85,00,000	9,47,00,000
88. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	100,00,00,000	
90. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1,00,000	
91. Ministry of Steel	9,98,00,000	
92. Ministry of Textiles	3,00,000	1,00,000
93. Ministry of Tourism		12,01,00,000
94. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1,00,000	
95. Andaman and Nicobar Island	6,00,000	
96. Chandigarh	42,38,00,000	17,34,00,000
97. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	103,31,00,000	...

	1	2	3
98. Darhan and Diu		50,00,000	
99. Lakshadweep		12,22,00,000	1,00,000
100. Department of Urban Development		6,51,00,000	250,01,00,000
101. Public Works		6,30,00,000	
103. Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation		1,00,000	
105. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		1,00,000	
Total		17279,14,00,000	530,85,00,000

The motion has adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2003-2004 to the vote of the house.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the

Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 15, 16, 24, 27 and 67."

Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2003-2004 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demand submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
15. Department of Telecommunications	3,97,85,153	
16. Department of Information Technology		1,28,59,171
24. Defence Ordnance Factories	37,50,27,533	
27. Department of Development of North Eastern Region		11,95,395
67. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	...	2,48,086
Total	41,48,12,686	1,43,02,652

The motion was adopted.

13.31 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 2006*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up item no. 20.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2005-06, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

13.32 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2006*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up item no. 22.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amount granted for those services and for the year.

*Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 10.3.2006.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2004 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Pur) : Sir, I would like to raise a few point now.

MR. SPEAKER : On what?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : On the Appropriation Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want to say on the Appropriation Bill?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : I want to say something. Members are generally accommodated at this stage.

MR. SPEAKER : Was it done anything after the Bill was passed? You can say that next year!

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

14.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at twenty minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 2006
AND
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up item nos. 24 and 25 together for discussion and 4 hours are allotted for this discussion.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 1 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 23 January, 2006."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : Sir. On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 1 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 23 January, 2006."

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise not to oppose the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill as such, but to make my submission that promulgation of ordinance should not be taken as a route for enacting any legislation. In fact, this is a good piece of legislation. I can recall the debate which took place in this august House on the 93rd Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2005. In the course of that discussion, a point was made by several Members that a necessary legislation should be brought to stipulate the quota for admission in aided and unaided educational institutions.

As regards the right to establish a new minority educational institution, the right of the institutions, the power of the National Commission etc., all these points are very much legal and vital and in this regard some amendments are required and so I agree with the amendments proposed in this Bill.

Sir, the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development has already scrutinised the Bill and we find that most of the points made by the Committee have been incorporated in the Bill. Hence, I am in favour of this particular Bill, but I am opposing the route of ordinance taken by the Government. I can recall that during the 13th Lok Sabha, the present UPA leaders, particularly the leaders of the Congress Party, when they were sitting in the Opposition Benches, used to oppose each and every ordinance issued during that period and they used to say that it was nothing but an 'ordinance raj'. So, I am also expressing the same view now.

This is not a Bill that can be opposed by the majority of the Members or the majority of the political parties represented in this august House. Why has this ordinance been issued in a hurry? What would have happened if this Bill had been brought in this Budget Session? The Heavens would not have fallen by this time.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

So, I would like to express my disapproval for issuing of this ordinance. I think the Government will respond to my suggestion and hope that they would not follow the same ordinance route as has been followed by the earlier Government. This is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the Statutory Resolution and give stress on its dis-approval. The Bill which the Government have brought now was introduced and implemented through an ordinance on 23rd January, 2006 and today after the bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, the honourable Minister has brought this Bill before Lok Sabha. Mainly the ordinance was related to fixing of quota for admission of SCs, STs and other backward classes in all the aided and non-aided educational institutions as a result of the 93rd amendment in the Constitution of India. The only reason stated in the ordinance is that because the Ninety Third amendment of the Constitution is available, and problem is being faced to fulfil the admission quota. For that purpose this ordinance is being brought. But the biggest difference in the Ordinance and the Bill presented by the honourable minister in pursuance of the ordinance is that the original Bill which was passed and enacted by the Parliament of India, radical changes have been made in that after passing about 6-7 months only. In the original Act, six universities were notified. How the minority educational institutions which like to be affiliated with universities and the will be affiliated with them. They will start taking action. Then the decision of that Commission, which has been formed, would be final. But in the Ordinance which has been brought today, that schedule or schedule notification has been deleted in that Ordinance. Today university is not a scheduled university, has the university been established by bringing a Bill by the State in the country or the university has been established through by a Central act as regard to its affiliation, and not only its affition, she

process will be adopted that this is a minority educational institute and besides that different provisions have been made regarding the grants which are given to that institution. I would like to draw the attention of the august. House towards all these things. The first thing that all powers and rights have been given to the Commission and a provision has been made therein that under the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure, Code of India, all the proceedings to be brought before this, Commission would be judicial proceedings and it will have the status as there of a court. Besides this, provision has also been made therein that whatever may be the order, its execution would be carried out in the same manner as there is a provision of execution of decree in Civil Procedure Court and the same has been mentioned in it. It means that directly the Commission has not just been vested with the power to review and investigate but it has also been given complete judicial powers. In December 2004, a discussion was being held here on the original Bill in this regard and at that time also I had also drawn the attention of the House and Hon'ble Minister towards this. This Bill has been brought in a hurry and the situation at that time was that while contacting all the political parties BJP was intentionally not invited to the meeting. We had also expressed our objection to it.

In a democracy it is essential to give an ear to the views of all the recognized political parties and to consider them seriously. The feelings behind that have not been expressed. It is clearly to neglect them by not taking cognizance of their views. It has been called minoritism. The present Government have done various acts to primarily provide support to this which can be described in this manner. Further in the same chain, to provide recognition, a National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions was formulated. That has also been enlisted.

All the major decisions that were taken, like-providing reservation in the Aligarh Muslim University, reservation to Muslims in jobs in Andhra Pradesh, to bring amendment in the Foreigners Act by violating the decision of the

hon'ble Supreme court after the IMDT Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, to set up a Minority Ministry for the first time in the history of independent India, to set up the U.C. Banerjee Commission to submit one sided investigation report, and to count the number of Muslims in defence forces through the Sacchar Committee etc., Behind all this. There should have been positive approach,

It has been mentioned in Article 30 that Minority Communities have a right to establish and administer the educational institutions. All the Minority Communities based on religion or language will have a right to establish and administer educational institutes of their own interest. These rights have been provided under the fundamental rights. There are no two opinions about it. Wherever these are required to be established, the Constitution ensures that they can work towards that direction. This is all about fundamental rights. Article 14 of the Constitution talks about equality before law. No person in the Indian territory would be deprived of equality before law or of equal protection by law. They are giving it a legal form. In a way it is like neglecting the other communities. General provisions have been made for the mode of affiliation. If the matters would go to the University Grants Commission, MCI, BCI, then a procedure would be followed. The procedure would remain same if NOC is to be taken but here they have set a procedure for taking NOC. If it will not be notified through a Competitive Authority within a period of 90 days then it would be presumed that a No Objection Certificate has been granted. This is based on imagination. Whether actually approval was granted or not but if there is a delay, then it would be lawfully admitted that approval has been granted at that stage. If it is rejected, then there would be the right to appeal before the Commission and that appeal order would be full and final which could not be challenged. In a way this is against the judicial system.

This reflects two things primarily. It is the violation of Article 14. Besides, under the Constitution of India, different

systems have been provided for judicial procedures. This Bill is also against that. There is no doubt that wherever it will be challenged, it will be based on the principles of the Constitution. This is included in the concurrent list and the States have to decide it. It has been mentioned under Article 30 based on language or religion. So far it has not defined as to what would be the definition of minority? It is not there in the present Bill nor is it there in the amendment Bill or in the original Bill. It has been mentioned in Article 30 of the Constitution. The right to decide upon linguistic minorities rests with various State Governments and not with the Union Government. The Union Government have assigned all the powers to the Commission being appointed and its decisions would be final. Except the Constitutional rights of writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and High Court under Article 226 and 227 to interfere through petition, this kind of right cannot be given to any other Agency, Civil Court or higher Court. Even if we do not spare this, we cannot make them deprived of this because this is against the basic spirit of the Constitution. But they can appeal through other legal remedies on which regular hearing should take place which means that such small judicial rights have been given and the procedure has been made so brief that in any kind of decision there would be no mention of the judgement and only order would be there, they would merely pass an order and that will become final.

It has been observed in the systems that have been prevailing in the states so far, that before granting affiliation, Universities follow their own rules, sub-rules and regulations. The competent authority established by the State Governments use to study as to what is the financial status of the institution which is to be opened, whether building is available or not, what are the financial sources, whether there are adequate number of teachers for the subjects that are to be taught in the institute. Various standards have been set for all these. It also included the procedure of visits by the experts to the respective colleges that are to be opened or made functional. But this has been

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made so brief that if the competent authority does not take the decision in respect of the application then it would be presumed that approval has been granted.

Yesterday, due to some reasons, I could not hear the speech of young Member Rahul Gandhi and read about it in the newspaper. He has expressed his concern that poorest of the poor should get good education in this country. We all agree with him. We have always been accepting and no hon'ble Member can disagree to it. Be it any minority, majority, OBC, Scheduled caste, scheduled tribe or any one belonging to any group, all should get good education, quality education, financial support and then only we can say that some provisions are being made for people's welfare. But here easy provisions can be made to improve or rectify any fault in the structure of education inside the country, any shortcoming in the UGC norms or to remove any difficulty in providing AICTE recognition or affiliation. But by allowing different kinds of systems in the same country and without making proper systems for verification, investigations or selection of any official to inspect, definitely there would some flaws in the procedure. This would definitely have the negative effect upon the kind of quality education, access to education we are talking about in the country.

We had urged the hon'ble Minister earlier also and again we all urge him in this direction that, we should not associate this with the politics of vote bank only. In reality this system is not going to benefit them. If we want to send this message to my group that we are doing so much for their welfare, then they would only be benefited when we provide them with similar level of education and grant financial assistance to them so that they are able to stand up on their own feet. Today, wherever we go we find that there is an atmosphere of competition. If they are capable of facing those competitions then it is fruitful, or otherwise it is like interfering into the rights of all the State Governments and on the other hand it is like passing over the judicial process into the hands of the Commission. I

mean to say that in a way it should be a regulatory authority or agency for providing facilities and not a Commission. It would be better to set up a regulatory authority in consultation with all the State Governments for operating all the institutions throughout the country be it an institute for medical education, academics or technical education. Wherever we are using it, be it in the area of electricity, in the service sector or in the field of telephones, its outcome shows that there was no failure in its execution. Today on the contrary, if we enact this in this way, it will definitely adversely affect not only our judicial system but also our federal system. The very constitution from where we draw the powers to pass such Acts, also bestows complete recognition to the rights of the Legislative assemblies of the States to enact legislation in the field of education, to establish their own universities and to implement their own systems of education and we have to ensure that no harm will be done to our federal system by enacting such legislations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the main point of objection against the institutions operating in this country in the name of minority institutions, is that these are not set up with the objective of promoting the interests of any such minority community, instead they take advantage of Article 30 in the field of vocational education which had been commercialized to the core by implementing high fees structure in those institutions for squeezing out money. If we take account of such minorities, be it the Christians, the Buddhists or any other minorities or the linguistic minorities such as the Tamilians if they are recognized under Article 30 in Delhi, they are acting for the sake of their own gains and in those so called minority institutions, the fees levels are so high that a common man, irrespective of his class, cannot easily obtain admission there. If he is unable to get admission there, then he has got no direct benefit from these institutions. In such a scenario, this ordinance was brought and it was stated in it that barring minority educational institutions already in existence, the provision of reservation in admission will be enforceable in all other non-Government educational institutions also. But this is not the case. Instead there were

a plethora of applications demanding the status of minority institutions so that the SCs, the STs, or the OBCs may be deprived of the opportunities of admission. The aftermath of this is also borne by the tribals, the Scheduled Castes and the other backward classes because they also would be deprived of these opportunities. Regarding this I would like to submit that the norms issued by the UGC and AICTE should also be included in this. However, the proposed amendment Bill is silent in this regard and it has been stated in it that in case of failure of the concerned body to either communicate its decision or its failure to take any decision on the application for grant of affiliation, it would be deemed to have been granted the affiliation and the institutions can be run. Once this provision comes into force, our country will be deluged with such institutions and definitely the standard of education in our country would be adversely affected.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is another aspect of this issue, that aspect is of autonomy. There would be no two opinions when we say that the autonomy of the universities must be preserved. This Bill, already the Act being in vogue, affects their autonomy ex-parte. The issue is about autonomy in economic sector like the issue of fees structure of the IIM, This was not an issue of academic autonomy. There was no interference on the curriculum. There was also no interference on the question of affiliation to any school. There the interference was centered on the high fee structure. This high fee structure should be reduced so as to enable the common man and middle class students to get admission there. Then it was termed as the saffronisation of education. That was not the saffronisation of education, those were the steps taken in the interest of the nation. Even the Supreme Court has acknowledged our stand and opined that it was not right and added that the decision which has already been taken is a judicious one. Today again we are confronted with the same situation. They are providing for affiliation through this Bill, this will certainly affect our academic autonomy. We always stood by our decision of changes in NCERT syllabus about which we were constantly accused of saffronising the curriculum but all this only came to a halt

when full bench of the Supreme Court headed by justice Shri M.B. Shaw and two other hon'ble judges in its verdict on 12 September, 2002 had found that there was nothing unconstitutional about it. It vindicated our stand. The present Government is following a policy of appeasement through this Bill and by way of other means. It means that they are giving encouragement to minoritism and the Government need to consider this matter very urgently.

Sir, I feel that the hon'ble Members of various parties offer their suggestions in the House with the hopes that the Government would consider them seriously, but according to the practices which are being adopted here it has come to our notice that Bills are passed on the basis of majority irrespective of the fact that there may be many shortcomings in them which forces them to bring amendments later to rectify the earlier lacunae. This is in no way beneficial to our Parliamentary Democracy System and the same process is repeated. Therefore, the views and suggestions of the Opposition should also be heeded and debates in the House should be meaningful because we are also not opposing for the sake of opposing. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister towards the constitutional provisions of this matter. I hope that he would take necessary steps in that direction. What are the provisions for new grants? Are they going to increase it? Only one crore rupees were allotted to academic education, Madrassa's education during the earlier Governments which were in power before the NDA Government. They increased this amount from one crore to ten crores and now this amount is 13 crore. There is a need to increase it further. I vigorously appeal that the Government should give more teeth to the basic education, Madrassa's education. They should create some special provision for this purpose. A mention has been made about the Civil Courts here, but if someone disobeys the commission, if some one violates an act enacted by us then will there be any provision for punishment? For this purpose, there is no provision for any such punishment or penalty under the existing Act. In it, there is only a reference regarding the issue of affiliation, which states

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that if someone doesn't comply with the orders after the finalisation of our orders, then what process should be adopted for it. This has been once again left out. Regarding this issue, this Bill is silent. The circumstances in which they have come out with this Bill compel me to say that they should reconsider it. The way in which they dealt with the issue of reservation in Aligarh Muslim University and later on their talks of grating minority status to the university. On both these issues, The hon'ble Supreme Court differed with their point of view and had given the verdict that all these issues are constitutional-be it the case of Andhra or the issue of reservation of jobs. Our country has produced so many topnotch leaders starting from Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. They all were of the opinion that by providing protection or reservation to a particular minority class we are infact separating them from the mainstream. I had made a mention of it in the earlier Bill also. So I feel that today there is no need for it. This was done in that perspective when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru made a mention of it during the Constitutional Assembly meeting. He was of the opinion that if the country is under any foreign rule or the king is a tyrant, then only there is a need for any protection or reservation, but as we are in a well established democracy these types of reservation or safeguards would be harmful for that particular class because that particular class will be socially alienated from the mainstream. So there should be a discussion on this point. My submission is that such regulator should be formed in education sector. I stress on statutory resolution moved by me and I oppose this Bill.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the National Ministries Educational Institutional Commission (Amendment) Bill on behalf of my party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that whenever matter of minorities are raised in the House, it was opposed by the People sitting in front without thinking over it. As it was said that we are promoting,

appeasing and giving special treatment to the minorities or Government are doing something for them. This type of allegations are always made by the people sitting in the opposition. I would tell elaborately in this regard later but I would like to tell some facts to the people sitting in the opposition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, minorities are citizens of this country and they are born in this country and they are still in the mainstream of this country. Those people are in competition also but how many times they are facing discrimination in the name of religion. These things have direct impact on their social and economic life. It is also seen that his social and economic condition has been deteriorating. There are other Committees and such a large Committee cannot compared with them. It could not secure a place for itself in social and economic race and their income could not enhance. I would like to present a lot of datas. This survey was completed in 55th round of the National Sample Survey Organisation for the year of 1999-2000. I would like to give these details for the information of the people sitting in the opposition.

[English]

Let me tell you the proportion per thousand households belonging to the self-employed category and regular salaried and casual labour category. In 1999-2000, per thousand self-employed households, 327 were Hindu, 446 were those preaching Islam and 184 were from Christianity. Out of 1,000 regular salaried households, 437 were Hindu, 296, around 60 or 65 per cent, were Muslims and 502 were Christians.

As regards the casual labour households during 1999-2000, there were 140 households of Hindus, 155 of Islam, and 117 Christianity.

Let me mention about the category of persons. The self-employed persons, out of 1,000, are 368 Hindus, 521 Islam, and 215 Christianity. I would like to give emphasis that 521 persons from Islam are self-employed. As regards regular employed, there are 428 Hindus, 273 Islam, and

536 Christians. As regards casual labours, there are 140 Hindus, 151 Islam, and 133 Christians.

Let me mention about the distribution of household by religion.

[Translation]

And come to the point, how their set-up exists in villages.

[English]

Out of 1,000 households in the rural area, 848 are Hindus, 98 Islam, 24 Christians, 17 Sikhs, and 13 others. On the other hand, out of 1,000 household in urban areas, 793 are Hindus, 137 Islam, 34 Christians, 15 Sikhs, and 21 others.

Now, I would like to mention about the persons in the three lowest classes for minimum per capita expenditure in 1999-2000. These are all National Sample Survey Organisation data, and not mine, which I am mentioning here. Firstly, with regard to rural persons those who spend less than Rs. 300, 29 per cent are Muslim, 26 per cent Hindus, and 19 per cent Christians. On the other hand, in urban India, out of 1,000 households those who spend less than Rs. 425, 40 per cent are Muslims, 22 per cent Hindus, and 13 per cent Christians. Out of those 1,000 households, as a proportion, those who spent more than Rs. 1,120, 29 per cent are Christians, 17 per cent Hindus, and 60 per cent Muslims.

Now, let me mention about education. If you take per 1,000 household distribution of persons at an age of 15 years and above, the education level in 1999-2000 for the rural male who are not literate, 368 Hindus, 409 Islam, 241 Christians. As regards the persons, who are literate up to primary level, 255 Hindus, 303 Islam, and 307 Christians. In the same category, for rural females, who are not literate, 658 Hindus, 664 Islam, and 370 Christians.

[Translation]

This is the situation under which the urban males live.

[English]

I come to the labour force participation rates according to usual status (principal & subsidiary taken together) among major religions and sex. The figures for rural male are 546 Hinduism, 489 Islam, and 583 Christianity. The figures for rural female are 317 Hinduism, 164 Islam, and 342 Christianity. On the other hand, for urban male, the figures are 549 Hinduism, 520 Islam, and 522 Christianity. Therefore, if you look at this data, then it is the same sort of situation, which is prevailing in this country with regard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The means of production is not there with a large chunk of the minority community.

15.00 hrs.

I am not giving you any data in regard to those who cultivate less than a hectare or 0.1 hectare, and between 0.1 hectare and above 4 hectares. That is also NSS data. A large number of people from the minority community have to depend on self-employment because they do not get regular employment. This is what the NSS data says. What is the reason for it? Is there any hidden discrimination against them? Do they not need positive support from the Government?

When efforts were made by this Government and when the Minorities Commission tried to find out the number of people working in different categories of employment, including the Armed Forces, a hue and cry was made out that this would divide the Indian Armed Forces. They were not ready to reveal it. This is leading to a situation whereby you cannot take the entire section of the society together and ensure an equal economic condition for them.

[Translation]

We are living in such an era wherein a section and exists of society.

[English]

Because of religion and because of the means of production in their hands, their mobility towards the higher

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

echelons of the society is very fast, while a large number of people belonging to minority community, Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes.

[Translation]

Are cursed to live a life meant for the lower strata.

[English]

Reservation is nothing but just providing a kind of assured regular income. If they do not have land, then you have give them employment. It is shown in the NSS report that the children of those who have a regular income have gone in for higher education. Reservations have provided a ladder to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes for their upward mobility. Of course, we expressed our concern when a large number of private sector undertakings have been privatised because we did not know whether there would be reservations in them or not. Of course, I am of the opinion that there should be reservation in the private sector also.

[Translation]

If there will be no reservation then there will be no assured income and the society and entire section cannot go ahead with the upper mobility of other sections of society. We will find ourselves in such circumstances where some people will have more income and they will get all the benefits. There will be more and more such people who could afford good education to their children due to higher income and they will be able to move towards higher mobility. What is the purpose of this Bill? This is the purpose of this Bill and yesterday our young leader had said here that there should be such an education which could be availed by each and every section of the society. We may tell tomorrow that encouragement and stipend are given in education as institutions to children. Foodgrains are provided to daily school going children in Gujarat and in other places. Allowances are given to girls in schools consequent upon higher attendance in schools. If any

minority will be admitted, they will say that there is minority appeasement and if we keep it for the sake of the record or collect data they will say that there is minority appeasement. If we advocate to bring them at par with other classes of society they will say that there is minorities appeasement.

[English]

It is most unfortunate. I do not know whether we can call them a responsible party or not.

[Translation]

Their attitude became like a saying in our Gujarat. "Jisaki nagar ke under peellapan hai, use sabhi jagah peela najar aata hai".

Most of the people are suffering from this psyche.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if any terrorist attack takes place anywhere or if anybody says good things about any minority, they cannot tolerate it and if the terrorists would have struck at some other place in Lucknow they would not have associated themselves with it, had there been any BJP Government there, as they would have no problem at all. We have seen it in our Gujarat State where they did not organize any rath-yatra when terrorists attacked on Akshardham temple whereas when terrorists attacked on the Raghunath temple, they resorted to it. Everybody said that this is not rath-yatra but a 'Danga-Yatra' instead and I think whatever is said about it, is absolutely right...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, honourable Member is not speaking on the Bill. His mentality is very painful for the unity of country and the spirit of nationality...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is not to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I have not yielded. Sir, and I am not yielding.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Singh ji, you will be also given the chance to speak. Thereafter whatever you like to speak, you would be able to speak. Now you please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, their attitude and strategy seems like that. Yesterday we heard their leaders. He said that they are taking out rath yatra for the unity of the country. They are taking out rath yatra so that integrity of the country could be maintained. We would like to unite all. We have seen that the top leadership outside this House talks about the unity while the lower rungs are involved in such things which tend to divide people and then they deny. It is not proper. The honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat uttered these words about minority and when he was asked to explain, he abruptly denied having made such statement. But when his video was screened in his presence, he had no works. Their leaders who are sitting in Delhi talk about unity but the people in the lower rungs speak a different language.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is my apprehension that communal violence in all its probability is likely to erupt at those places through which rath yatra passes. I pray to the BSP and the SP colleagues sitting here that if they have some sort of courage, they should not let them take out the rath yatra or ban it totally in UP on the lines of Bihar. It is my opinion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : This Bill is being opposed by them due to their strategy of their minority bashing. They have not expressed any such apprehension about this bill. No academic autonomy is supposed to

come through this Bill. 90 per cent population of this society is deprived of opportunities and this is only an endeavour of this Government to bring this section at par with other sections of the society by providing them opportunities. To regard it as an appeasement policy rather than commending the efforts of the Government is not fair and that is why they are opposing it. Do you not accept them as citizens of this country? Don't you feel that they should be brought forward and positive discrimination should be meted out to them? They are known to me. They have been continuously opposing it. I am talking of my state Gujarat. I have seen there that 20 people have been elected from there. But no Member of Parliament belonging to tribal community had been inducted as a minister in NDA Government. There was no minister of dalit community in their Government. This is their attitude. They only say that cast your vote in our favour and then forget it. They all have come together in the name of Hindu. I would like to say that the tribals do not have Gods as we have. They presume Vayu and Agni as Gods. They do not worship God and Goddess like us. They do not believe in idol worship. They don't need their rituals to be performed by Brahmins. They have a different society but they are called upon to get united in the name of Hindu. I would like to say that I have never seen till date that any dalit has ever been made the priest of a prominent Hindu Temple. At the time of voting all are treated as Hindus. All are treated as Hindus for vote and thereafter they are all treated differently. They are put in different categories as Dalits, Tribles, OBCs and minority. I like to say that if Hindu Community realizes its status all sections should come together and express it boldly in front of them that the whole of their politics revolves around Hindus which is for nothing but to muster votes. After election no community comes to their mind whether it is trible, datit of OBC, everything is forgot ten. That is why I want to suggest them to leave it ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to speak further, you have to take care of it.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Form such a political party which will be very accountable. The incidents of Gujarat should not be repeated any where else. Do not repeat the acts of 1991 and do not repeat Rath Yatra like episode ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mistry, address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am addressing the Chair, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They are silent but you are addressing them. You please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : There is no fault of mine if my sight goes there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They are not speaking at all.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am addressing to you, sir. Therefore, I would like to suggest that they should leave all these things but to improve their image. Mr. Advaniji tried a little bit in this direction while he was in Pakistan but you have made a row and isolated him because everything is prepared by RSS and in Jhandewalan itself.

[English]

Jhandewalan may be an area in Delhi. I do not know the geography of Delhi. Remote control is in their hands. They decide as to who should be the president of their party. It is unfortunate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Now, it is a little bit unfortunate that presidentship of this party is being

determined by some one else. They are doing the same thing as they did in 1991-92. They are returning to the same point. Now, Ramji Lal Suman has come. I am afraid that they will repeat the same Rath yatra but we will not allow them to pass through UP and I am requesting them not to allow it. Hence, I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Interruptions not to be recorded...*(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Therefore, I would like to suggest that my friends may support this bill. I support this bill and all those objections raised by my friends are the product of their mind their remark do not stand as they are imaginary and illusory. This is in their mind, the man who has born in this Country is the citizen of this country irrespective of his religion. Caste and class. The Government which is unable to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens, has no right to govern the country.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, The National Minority Educational Institution Commission Bill was passed on 11 November, 2004, but I feel that after passing of this Bill the Government might have received observations & objections from various institutions and individuals regarding some shortcomings in the bill. Now this amendment bill has been brought keeping in view all those shortcomings. So far as the question of Minority educational Institution Commission is concerned, this has been in right direction that the ambit of it has been expanded. Moreover, I think it is a welcome step and is reformative in its nature for minority community. The Government says that it will facilitate minority in solving their educational problems. They may receive

*Not recorded.

examination grants and set up educational institutions of their choice. But so far as the question of Educational Institution Commission is concerned; the area of its functions is very limited. It has very limited powers. It has nothing to do with the quality of education as well as its propagation among minorities.

The Commission does not have financial resources the sources through which minorities could be provided a strong base in the field of education. It has been provided in section 12(A) after the original section 12 that any aggrieved person can appeal to the commission against the order of a competent authority denying him issuance of no objection certificate under sub section 2 of section 10 for establishing minority institute. This is a good provision but what will be the provision of punishment against the competent authority who have committed error in doing so. How will you punish him, no such provision exists therein. Has it been provided in the act? Hon'ble Minister, please clear this point while replying to the discussion.

So far as the question of minority is concerned, they have a lot of problems. They have countless problems. Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government of India that the situation has come to such a pass in the country that they are in afix to whom to approach to solve their problems. There is Minority Commission in India at the national level. There are minority commissions as State levels also. Despite all this, only 14 States have minority commissions in independent India. The Government should urge and communicate with and even compel those states, who do not have minority commission, to set up such a commission in their states.

What is the condition of education today? 60 per cent Muslim population in rural areas of the country is illiterate and in urban areas its percentage is 54. Recently a survey has been conducted by more than nine hundred organisation related to Action India, Jahangirabad Media Institute and Indian Social Study in Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. As per that, only 23 percent muslim girls get education upto metric level.

It is not true that muslim boys and girls are not interested in getting education. It is because of poor economic condition of their families they are unable to go to school. Today we are talking about higher education. The commission that is being formed will only address the problems related to universities and colleges. If we do not take steps to improve the conditions of education of muslims at primary and intermediate levels then we cannot get good results. A particular section may get its benefits but if we do not pay attention to improve the educational level of neglected, helpless and the poor, then I do not think that any desired results can be obtained.

In one of the reports it is said that only a few institutes of muslims get assistance from the Central Government and only 67 per cent educational institutions get some assistance from the state governments out of which 57 per cent educational institutes are related to religious teachings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just said that it is not true that the poor muslims do not want to get their children educated. My parliamentary constituency is Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh. It is famous for glass work. I am pained to see those children working in the glass factories, who should otherwise be in schools. It is so because if they do not work in those factories then they do not have bread at their homes. It is because of such compulsion these children do not get education. The need of the hour is to improve the economic conditions of the minorities and their traditional industries should be protected and promoted. Whenever we talk about the minorities, Mr. Rasa Singh Rawat is sitting here and Mr. Bachi Singh has left, Mr. Rasa, you have done all sorts of experiments in this regard and you have created a particular situation in the country to come to power. You have not come to power on the basis of any policy or principle but on the basis of emotions. Politics is not a matter of emotions. India is a vast country and whenever the honour of the country is at stake, the muslims of India have proved that their love for the country is not less than that of Hindus. But inspite

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

of all this, to doubt their intention is really a matter of concern.

I would like to say one thing very humbly that people of different castes and religions live in India. If we want to take the country on the path of progress and strengthen this country we will have to take along all forces of the society.

Hayat leke chalo, Kayanat leke chalo

Chalo to Sare Jamane ko

Sath leke chalo.

They consider themselves as champions of Hinduism. I would like to tell Mr. Rasaji that if he talks about Hinduism then this country can accept Hinduism of Vivekanand not of Golwalkar. For this you have to be liberal minded.

In the end I would like to say that it is definitely a good step to improve educational institutions of minorities, but still a lot is needed to be done. The Government must pay attention to improve economic conditions, educational status of the minorities seriously.

With these words I support this Bill.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. Earlier ordinance was brought and now this amended Bill has been brought. When this Bill was brought, at that time too on behalf of my party I said that such matters should have not been brought in a haste and should have been brought after wider consultations so that we need not have come to this House again and again. But it was the need of hour because when UPA government was formed, everybody was expecting that the government of India might take an affirmative action for improving the conditions of the minorities in the country. Today all minorities, whether religious, linguistic or based on caste need some affirmative action. I think that this Bill is one of such positive actions. Therefore, I support this

Bill. I do not want to speak much about this Bill because when Sumanji was speaking he had referred to Swami Vivekananda. I come from Bengal. Swami Vivekanand used to say that a bird can fly too long if its both wings are healthy and it can use both of them. In the same way, if Hindu-Muslims-the two wings of the country are not equally healthy we cannot march forward very far on the path of progress. So, when a step is taken for minorities the BJP and Sangh Pariwar are publicising this as appeasement of minorities, minoritism and all sorts of philosophical terms are being used for it. I do want to talk politics, but this must be discussed in the House as to why there is not sufficient representation of minorities in educational institutions, in employment and in the government offices even after so many years of independence. The rights that have been given to them under the law have also not been implemented fully. I am not saying this. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said this in a letter written on the Chief Ministers on 20th September, 1953. He had an apprehension. Due to paucity of time, I am not quoting it in full. He said that he felt that such provisions should be made, such law should be enacted otherwise position relating to minorities, particularly muslim minorities in armed forces, educational institutions, government offices, central government, state governments was deteriorating. This was stated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji in a letter written to the Chief Ministers in 1953. He further stated that if corrective steps were not taken now position would deteriorate further in future. I am sorry to say that no steps have been taken to implement those views of Pt. Nehru in the fifties, sixties and seventies. Now the position has deteriorated further. Today much hue and cry has been made on conducting a survey about minorities. I want to mention about a small survey conducted in Rajasthan. There is BJP Government in Rajasthan. I am not talking about any party. During the sixties and seventies there was government of Congress in the state but the position of minorities deteriorated. I want to give an example of Jaipur. The percentage of muslims in population of Jaipur is 9.3. There was a muslim architect who contributed in construction of Jaipur city. He was an

engineer. I want to mention about two colleges of Jaipur. This is the position of the cities. In the villages the position is worse. In total 885 students took admissions in the year 2005-06 in Jaipur's Maharaja Government College out of which only six are muslims. Similarly total 1225 students took admission in Government Commerce College out of which only 13 are muslims. I am not talking of injustice done to anyone. This is the reality. It means they are lagging behind in education. Pandit ji has written in his letter-

[English]

"I want to share with you a certain apprehension."
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Salim ji, Kindly tell something about Kolkata also...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : I am telling about the whole country, I have just presented a sample. In Kolkata the position will certainly be worse.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM : I am quoting from letter of Pandit ji
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I said do not address Rasa ji but address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : I am addressing you, Sir, Rasaji wants some enjoyment in the debate. Panditji has said-

[English]

"I want to share with you a certain apprehension that is growing with me. I feel that in many ways the position relating to minority groups in India

is deteriorating. Our Constitution is good and we do not make any distinction in our rules and regulations of law but in effect changes creep in because of administrative practices of officers. Often these changes are not deliberate, sometimes they are so."

[Translation]

Therefore law is needed, provision is needed. Now, we are going to do it, they are calling it minoritism. You just see that this law or any such law is there.

[English]

It arises from the Constitution.

[Translation]

Article 15 of the Constitution provides:

[English]

"Nothing in the article or in clause 2 of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes."

[Translation]

There is a provision in the Constitution that a special provision is required for the people who are socially and economically backward. That is why I said that this is right to equality. They say that there is on equality. Equality work is not being properly. This is appeasement. It means it is no equality. There is a mention of equality in fundamental rights. It says that special provision will have to be made for it. But if it is seen some where that there is no equality, special arrangement will have to be made for it. It needs to be done. If you permit me I would like to quote the judgement of the Supreme Court that you will have to treat them differently to bring equality if there is no equality. It is called positive discrimination ...(Interruptions) This is not Marxism.

[English]

Marxists will say that everybody shall be treated equally. This is not Marxism. Everybody is equal. I am

[Md. Salim]

saying so after seeing the situation during these fifty years that affirmative action is required. It would not do if you say mechanically equal. I am quoting the judgement of Supreme Court.

[English]

It is not a Marxist quote. I am telling you it is contrary to the Marxist orthodox view. It is for your kind information. I am demolishing the philosophy of minority which you are telling. The hollowness of the philosophy of minority, it is not minority.

[Translation]

I can quote Soli Sorabji that you need to do positive discrimination.

[English]

You cannot bring the backward section at par with the advanced section.

[Translation]

It increases social tension. We are talking about it. One would drag you from behind if you leave someone behind.

[English]

When they talk about minority, it is exclusive representism. Hinduism or ethos of Indian culture or ethos and even the spirit of Indian Constitution do not encourage exclusivity. It is inclusivity.

[Translation]

We will have to take all along with us. This is the reason that we are supporting this Bill.

Many articles are being published in the newspapers and it is being discussed on television that this is an appeasement of the minorities. I oppose such kind of distortion of facts. A provision is made if somebody is

educationally backward then he should be educated. It is not against the country or Right to education. In this situation I feel that there should be a provision in the law and that provision would contain discrimination. The Bill provides for that if somebody needs NOC and the NOC is not being given for years, then we can make it time bound. I welcome that. I am from Bengal. This is so in Bengal too. I just mentioned Nehruji's letter that if in present set up somebody wants to establish minority institution and he is discouraged instead of encouraging, he is demotivated instead of motivated and the process for establishing institution is slowed down instead of speeded up it. Then minorities will be able to make use of their right if there is a provision in the law. That's why I am supporting the Bill. But.

[English]

Then, I am coming to the CPI(M)'s politics and apprehensions.

[Translation]

Under federal structure of democracy, elected State Governments cannot be deprived of its rights. The back-ward section is the worst sufferer due to commercialization and privatisation of education. If an individual bypasses democratic and secular norms and statutory provisions, then it should be addressed otherwise it creates doubt in our mind. I do not feel that it is conflicting. For it I would like to congratulate the Commission. The Commission would get a chance to keep it in view but I want to say that it is a judiciary process i.e. he should get justice and our federal and secular structure will not be tampered while reaching towards final judgement keeping in view the constitutional provisions. I believe that it has been said in the National Common Minimum Programme that we will have to work seriously towards the education for minorities and I feel that nothing much has been done.

[English]

Tokenism will not work.

[Translation]

We have often made proclamation for minorities from the rampart of the Red Fort. A little bit of tokenism is done. It may benefit a section of society but the people who want to disintegrate the people of the country, say that the Muslims got all benefits while they get nothing and continue to impoverish while proclamations proved unfruitful. Due to this you too become a bit inactive and the situation goes on deteriorating. Therefore, keeping aside the theory of appeasement we all secular powers should counter the poisonous thinking being inculcated in the minds of our people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ashok Pradhanji, you please sit down as many members from your party are to speak.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, National Minority Educational Institution Commission Bill had been passed in the year 2004 but it had some lacunae. This Bill has been brought by the UPA Government to protect the interests of minority communities. This Bill is historical and revolutionary one as it is related to the feelings of the masses. This Bill should be supported from all sections. Section 30 of the Constitution guarantees this. The people of minority community who are socially educationally economically backward, have a right to establish such institutions and they should be given this right. But it has been seen in the recent past that the earlier act was restricted to only some universities of the states. Due to this, the degree colleges, universities and lower educational institutions were facing difficulties. The Commission has been given decision making power to settle affiliation related disputes between minority's

*Not recorded.

educational institutions and scheduled universities. It has also been said in the Bill that this Commission shall act as an effective mechanism to decide in the cases of minority institutions from getting deprived or trespassed from the guarantee given under section 30 of the Constitution. It means that the guarantee given to the minorities under section 30 of the Constitution should be strengthened and such situation should be created that if any minority institution is denied from getting affiliation for a long time or this affiliation is not given, then the solution to this problem should be sorted out within ninety days. My hon'ble colleague Shri Bachi Singh Rawat has talked of its Federal structure. I feel his apprehension is about fanaticism. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Krishna, I am requesting you to please address the Chair and not other Members.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I feel that the Union Government-run Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan is for one and all and the State Governments do not interfere in it. It been provided in the Bill that any organisation or institution facing problem with regard to social and educational affiliation should be given protection. I see that this does not harm federal structure from any angle. The commitment shown by the UPA Government towards the Common Minimum Programme, I deem it a historical step in this direction.

It would be free from the objections raised during the issuance of no objection certificate. Now the Commission exercising its powers may decide a case within ninety days. In this manner, it will form a situation of protection. I do not agree with the apprehension that has been expressed that the protection they will get after passing of this Bill would encourage appeasement. There is another provision in it that whoever will not follow its rules and regulations and make encroachments then in such a

[Shri Vijoy Krishna]

situation the Commission has been conferred with the power to cancel its status. It has been mentioned therein that if this institution fails to give admission to the students of minority community as per the rules and prescribed percentage, then in such a situation the Commission has been given the power to cancel the affiliation. In this manner the Commission has been given the power to maintain check and balance and co-ordinate.

The Commission has also been given judicial powers. The provision of the Bill also provides that every action before the Commission would be considered as judicial action and the orders issued by the Commission could not be challenged in any civil court. I think this is a historical and revolutionary step. This Bill has been brought with a view to removing the flaws which existed in the past. This step which has been taken by Shri Arjun Singh ji, Fatmiji and UPA Government should be supported by each and everyone.

The people who find appeasement of Muslim, appeasement of minority in this piece of Legislation, I would like to tell them that the number of different linguistic and religious minorities in this country is 20 crore. That is why they try to blow this issue out of proportion. The people who took out a Rath Yatra earlier are now talking about taking another Rath Yatra. I would like to tell about yesterday's incident. Mahant ji of Sankat Mochan Temple, Varanasi turned away those people who wanted to stage a dharna inside the temple after visiting the temple in the name of holy darshan. The people who are encouraging communalism intend to crush minority communalism by the majority communalism. Both the things are dangerous. If the minority communalism raises its head, then majority communalism breeds on it and when majority communalism creeps in, the moderate people of minority loose their lives leading to encouragement of fanatics. This encourages terrorism. I would like to congratulate Mahantji of Sankat Mochan, the Hindu Adhyatmic Peeth, who turned away the fanatics yesterday.

In the present scenario of the world, there is no entity of Soviet Russia. It is in a weak position. We have expressed our views boldly on the Iraq issue. Our Parliament also had condemned that. Similarly, our Government is trying to put its views strongly regarding Iran also. We want to maintain harmonious relations with our neighbouring countries. Pakistan is our neighbouring country and we are trying to improve our relations with it. Today, all the nations of the world, people with linguistic and religious minority are eying upon us as they want to see as to what step we are going to take. There is nothing of the sort of appeasement anywhere in it.

This Government has worked towards protecting and strengthening the provision made under article 30 of the Constitution. This is a revolutionary step. This step should be praised by everyone. I would like to request my brothers who want to blow communalism out of proportion and believe in promoting it that they should not do so and in fact support the Government in giving protection to and upliftment of the socially and educationally backward people. Principle of communalism is a principle of dishonesty. Principle of opportunity is the principle of honesty and these are the words said by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji and not by me.

Ram Manohar Lohiaji has said that principle of equality is principle of dishonesty and principle of special opportunity is the principle of honesty. Those who are socially, educationally and financially backward must be protected strongly and should make progress and this Bill is historic in that direction and I fully support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Fatmi ji, I have to get a clarification from you. Towards the end of your speech, you please clarify as to how many SC and ST seats would be there in minority institutions? Suppose there are 100 seats then 50 seats would go to minority as per 50 per cent reservation and out of the remaining 50, SCs would be getting 17. They would be getting 17 seats out of that 50 or they would get reservation out of the total 100 seats.

Suppose there are 100 seats then 50 would go to minority. Out of the remaining 50 seats, whether 17 seats would be reserved for SCs or they would get 33 seats out of 100 seats.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Minority institutions are not just those institutions which have been set up the minority people but on the other hand these are the institutions which have been recognised by the State Government as minority institutions. Till today, the problem was that when an institution was set up and it used to be above the standard as far as land and building is concerned, but it was not called a minority institution as long as the Government as did not recognise the institution as a minority institution. This Bill would reduce that problem to some extent. I have myself established an institution under my leadership and the State Government has not granted recognition to it as a minority institution till today, despite the fact that 6 years have elapsed and the norms of land and building stand fulfilled three times more and the institution has been scoring 98-99 percent results. This Bill would help mitigate the problems of such people. Therefore, through this Bill the Commission would get a right that if the State Government does not confer the status of minority institution even after meeting all the requisite standards, then the institution would be in a position to make an appeal to the Commission and if the institution fulfills the norms then they would be able to get minority status easily.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

Our friends from BJP have raised a question regarding opportunity for education. I can give thousand examples where the level of education has been raised by the minority institutions and if management exercises its control upon teachers, then they would teach students with diligence. Since the minority institutions also have a right to remove the teachers from the job and appoint teachers of their own choice, so the education over there is always good.

Maximum number of BJP people are found to be standing in queues to get admissions for their children in most of the institutions set up by Christian minority. They are also minority institutions but there is only one thing in their mind that only the Muslim institutions are minority institutions. The BJP people are irritated with the term minority or they want to keep the majority population. In fear to serve their own political ends. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat ji has talked about appeasement, minoritism and mainstream. I want to talk about mainstream first. It is a fact that if I get an opportunity, I can discuss this issue for hours together that the minority people never hesitate to go with the so called mainstream, after the country got independence. But, it is unfortunate that the mainstream itself used to disassociate with the minorities. The mainstream never allowed the minorities to assimilate with them. Now, after 10-15 years, the situation has witnessed some change. You have seen that since when the mainstream has left the trend of disassociating the minorities, the minorities have proved their ability at each and every front. So far as cricket team of our country is concerned, earlier hardly a person belonging to Muslim community was included in the team to show their secular face and now three or four people of minority community are included in the team. It means that mainstream is not going disassociating the minorities and now the mainstream and minority both are going together. The country is getting its benefit. These people talk about appeasement. I would like to ask who are appeased? At least, talk honestly sometimes. I say that after independence, reservation policy was implemented in the country and when the issue of minorities and appeasement emerged, you people blame either Congress or UPA for this. You can blame no one else because. These people are running the Government. When reservation was provided for the scheduled castes, it was nowhere mentioned in the Constitution that only Hindu scheduled castes would get benefit of reservation. But, the Government issued a notification signed by the President that if 'Dhobi' belongs to Hindu community, he will get benefit of

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

reservation and if 'Dhobi' belongs to Muslim or Christian community he will not get benefit of reservation. I would like to ask, is it appeasement? Such types of 13 castes were included in the list of scheduled castes, to whom reservation has not been provided because these castes belong to muslim or Christian community. The Sikhs struggled and got their caste included in the list of scheduled castes. Later on during the regime of Shri V.P. Singh, Buddhists were also included in the list of scheduled castes. It is appeasement that Muslim dhobi is not scheduled caste and Hindu dhobi is scheduled caste? Do you call it appeasement? Sir, if I go on citing instances it will take a very long time. What is minoritism? Advani ji is saying that entire country is getting destroyed by minoritism and he is going to start Rath Yatra. Is it minoritism? Today, there is government of Congress Party in real sense. If we look at the total votes that have gone to Congress Party, then we will be able to find the number of Muslim votes out of them. Their number in the Cabinet should be in the ratio of 1:11. Keeping in view the figure of 13 per cent among the total population of the country, there should be 13 per cent Muslims in the Country. But, at present there are only two Muslim Ministers in the Cabinet.

You are talking about Bengal. Shri Pranav Mukherjee, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsri and Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, these three Members of Parliament have won the elections from Muslim dominated constituencies. But, at present there are only two muslim ministers in the Cabinet. Is it minoritism? 12 people have been nominated to Rajya Sabha recently. That list was prepared during your period. You did not nominate him. Those who talk about appeasement, would like to nominate a muslim but their term was over and they could not select even a single muslim. Is it appeasement? They did not nominate even a single muslim against the 12 seats. I would like to give only two instances. I do not like to talk more. I can speak for 24 hours on the issue

of appeasement and minoritism. My instances will not end. Appeasement is not taking place. Efforts are being made to leave them behind at every field for the last fifty years. Appeasement never took place, these words are wrong. But you people propagate them widely. During Hitler regime, Goavels formula was that speak too much lie, spread it at wide level so that the people admit it as truth. Even today, when we propagate a lie, it is considered as truth. The very mention of the word appeasement is referred to as that of the Muslims. Whenever we talk about minoritism everybody think that it is about muslims. Minoritism has got the same meaning. When you talk about bringing the muslims in the mainstream of the nation everybody thinks that you oppose the identification of the muslims so that they lose their identity. However, our country is nursery and vase. We are proud of that there are thousands of races in our country, thousands of dialects are spoken here and people of different religions live here. It is not only the rose cultivation. It is a nursery, a vase. Our country is our quality and beauty. You have talked about minoritism, appeasement and bringing about the muslims in the national mainstream. The truth was hidden by the wrong propaganda. Mistry ji told his friends belonging to the Samajwadi Party to stop the rath yatra of Advani ji. I would like to tell them that do not advise them to do this mistake. The Congress people do not know the ground realities. I say that rath yatra is a democratic right. He should take on this rath yatra on the land of Uttar Pradesh resoundly. Whenever elections take place in Uttar Pradesh they will come to know that it is the silly fish that is caught with the same bait. By chance, they reap the benefit but later on they will not get its benefit. Now all the people have understood it.

Madam Chairperson, I have never taken more time than the time allotted. Before you ring the bell, I will conclude by saying a thing. My Bahujan Samaj Party strongly supports this Bill. This Bill has been brought to remove the flaws of the earlier Bill. Therefore, I congratulate Shri Arjun Singh and Fatmi Sahib. It is a new

beginning. If their intention is good then its results will be better.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Madam Chairperson, I stand here to discuss the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and now we are deliberating on that.

Before I come to the content of the Bill, I would just like to remind this House that we had deliberated on the concept of this Bill in December, 2004 and the Act came into force on 6th January, 2005. The amendment to this Bill was mooted in August, 2005, just 8 months after the Act came into force. The Ordinance on this Act was issued on 23rd January, 2006 and the Budget Session of Parliament commenced from 16th February, 2006. When the House was going to sit just three or four weeks later, what was the necessity and urgency to have this Ordinance promulgated? I would be happy if the Minister can apprise this House of the urgency of bringing this Ordinance.

16.00 hrs.

This Bill was debated in 2004. During that discussion, I had also participated and my concluding lines were: "Do not rush this Bill." To this, Shri Salim, hon. Member from West Bengal, from the Left Front, has also ventilated that view that do not bring a Bill or promulgate an Ordinance or implement an Act in a half-hearted manner because again and again you will be repeating an Ordinance and again and again you will be bringing an Amendment.

I am no fortune-teller nor I can read the future. My apprehension is that again, if not this Government, another Government or if at all again this Government within this year, in 2006, may bring another Amendment to the Bill, which we are discussing today.

It is a good thing that the Schedule, in which the

names of six universities were mentioned, has been omitted. At the outset, I should also say that we, the BJD, are in support for advancement of education of the religious minorities that are there in this country. We are in support of that section of religious minority, especially, the women, who are totally relegated to the background, who do not get that much of educational opportunity, that their education should be addressed utmost. It is not being done for the last so many years.

But at the same time, I should say that making special provision for minorities are not a mistake. I do not subscribe to that view nor our Party subscribes to that view. Rather minority educational institutions should be given more help and support. We subscribe to the view. We subscribe to that view that minority educational institutions should be given more support by the respective State Governments and also by the Central Government.

At the same time, the question which repeatedly arises, the Constitution is silent on that, is, who is a minority. When we read article 30, it clearly states both, the religious minority and the linguistic minority. When an Act was promulgated in this country, when an Amendment has come, when a Bill has come to this House, we have to discuss both, the religious minority and also the linguistic minority.

What I find in this House is, it also happened last time, that the linguistic minority problem is never discussed. It is always the religious minority because of parochial mindset, Members from different sides always speak on the religious minoritism. I have not heard any one speaking on linguistic minority. I shall come to it later on.

But at the beginning, I should say, I hope the intention of bringing this Bill is a noble one. But what is the real purpose in bringing this Bill in the manner in which it has been brought? As I have stated, it came in last December 2004, the Amendment came in August, the Ordinance came in January, in between it went to the Standing Committee and now the Amendment Bill has come in 2006 in the month of March. This clearly demonstrates

[Shri B. Mahtab]

the intention. It gives scope to very many people not only in this House but also outside to cast aspersions about the intention of bringing this Bill. This should be clarified.

In this Bill, the Commission will determine which is a minority institution. While going through the Bill I found that, and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, where it is mentioned, 'A National Minorities Commission Act is prevalent since 1992'. A National Commission is there and that Commission will determine which is a minority institution.

If that Minorities Commission is not going to determine, then it will come to this Commission on Minority Educational Institution. Should we have two institutions in this country which will determine which is a minority institution? Is it through this Bill that only the Commission on Minority Educational Institution will determine which is a minority institution? That leads to the other question, how are you going to determine a minority institution? Suppose somebody comes with an application and claims: "Mine is a minority institution", accordingly it has to be determined. Have you fixed certain criteria, certain guidelines, according to the law so that a minority institution can establish itself that this is a minority institution? What are the criteria? What are the guidelines? Where are the Rules? I do not see anything that is there in this Bill.

The answer to the basic question-again I come back to that, that is, who is a minority-still remained unanswered. Minority, as I have said, is of linguistic and also religious nature. This Bill overrides the power of the State. It has been already ventilated in this House that we have a federal structure. States are empowered by certain guidelines and law to determine, to administer the educational institutions. The federal structure of the nation is being challenged and this need to be addressed. What is the compulsion of allowing educational institutions to be affiliated to another University which is outside that State?

What is the compulsion? I am not aware of that. The Government can enlighten us whether any study been made that such member of or such an institution is not being allowed affiliation by the respective University of that State and how many of such instances have come to light so that it becomes such a larger issue that a law is to be passed by the Parliament? This is a prerogative of the respective State. State has to administer educational institution. It is a concurrent subject, no doubt. Everywhere in the Bill sometimes it is mentioned 'institutions', sometimes it is said that they have to take affiliation, recognition from that University. So, an impression is created that 'institutions' mean only the higher education. I want to know if it is only the higher education, not schooling, secondary or primary. Certain figures were also read out by Shri Madhusudan Mistry, the hon. Member from the Ruling Party. He gave the figures of different Universities. If this is the case of different Universities, I would like to know how many institutions have applied for affiliation or recognition from that State's different Universities which were denied or delayed. No such figure has come to light, at least to my knowledge. I would be happy if I am educated on that aspect.

Here I would also like to mention, Madam, that the Christian community in this country has done a yeoman's service to expand education in nook and corner of the country. But at the same time I would say that nowhere, not a single minority educational institution from that community has ever complained that they have been denied affiliation and recognition from that State University or from that State Government.

I say again that the rights of the minorities to establish and administer educational institutions are enshrined in the Constitution. We support that, and it is necessary that all the linguistic and religious minority communities should drive to establish educational institutions. But the State should be given the prime responsibility to provide that support. This Bill overrides the State's power and the right to education where the federal structure of the nation is being challenged.

It is a pertinent question to find out where the funding is coming from. Has this Commission got the power to determine the financial capability? I do not see anywhere in this Bill that it has the power to determine the financial capability of that institution. It is only the State Government which has that power. If you come again with an amendment, again this House will sit and deliberate on that but such mechanism is not there. Similarly, it is necessary on the part of the State Government to find out how that organisation, that institution functions.

Secondly, what type of institutions will be established under this Bill? It is clearly mentioned that the AICTE, the engineering, the medical and even the management institutes have to go according to the law which is prevalent. All these institutions are out of the purview of this Commission. If that is so, if it is only higher education, is it that only the general colleges of arts, science, commerce and such type of higher educational institutions will be established? I do not understand how it will run.

The matter of commercialisation of institutions has also been mentioned. I need not go into that. But I would be obliged if the Minister can clarify what the criteria would be to get the status of minority educational institutions set-up under article 30 of the Constitution. Would it be the percentage of minority students? The Bill does not give any indication about the reservation criteria and how a minority institution will be run.

Now, I come to the linguistic minorities.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, you will have to conclude. Your Party has been allotted only five minutes. You have taken more than 15 minutes. All right, you please conclude within one or two minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Language has been a major factor in our country. Linguistic States have been forced. At the same time, we all recognise that there are certain linguistic minorities outside the respective States. It has happened in Karnataka and Maharashtra. It has happened in Kerala

and Tamil Nadu. It has happened in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. It has happened in West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. There are linguistic minorities all over the country.

What would happen? My apprehension here is that when a linguistic minority educational institution comes up in a State and when it takes affiliation from other State, unless you determine, it will create friction in that State, in that locality or in that district. We are creating a situation where friction will flare up and the law and order situation will become the responsibility of that respective State where it will be difficult on their part to control that. Who will take advantage of this Act. It is the people who have moneybags. They will set up an institution, name it as a minority institution, get the affiliation and recognition from another State. This will give rise to unnecessary friction.

Therefore, madam, my observation is that the Bill is still silent on admission, reservation and funding of minority institutions. The Commission is not empowered to regulate the standard of education of that institution. ...*(Interruptions)* Also for employment. Thank you for reminding me. We are for minorities to strengthen their educational institutions. But provide more teeth and strength. The State should not be bypassed. Can I suggest one thing? Why not first ask the minority educational institution to come through the State Government channel? If the State Government does not allow or declines to give affiliation or that respective university does not give recognition or affiliation to that institution, then only the Commission will intervene. I think in that manner the federal nature of our country will remain intact. The power of the State also will be recognised and the Commission also can look into the interests of the linguistic minority and also of the religious minority.

But earlier I had said, do not rush through third type of Bill. It needs serious discussion. I am not in favour of debate, but discussion is necessary between the respective interested groups. The manner in which again this

[Shri B. Mahtab]

amendment has come, it clearly demonstrates that this is again another half-hearted attempt. The Ordinance clearly demonstrates that. Today, I may say that much more amendments will follow. This is my apprehension. The intention of this Bill is not to empower the minorities, but to play politics.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam, Chairman, I rise to oppose the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006. A Poet of Urdu said-

"Na surat buri hai, na seert buri hai,
Bura hai vahi jiski niyat buri hai."

Madam, Chairman, I am quoting this couplet because I want to draw your attention towards the motives with which UPA Government has brought this bill. Once a foreign scholar visited India. Several journalists met him while he was boarding the ship to go back. They asked him what unique thing he found in India. That scholar has written that he visited whole India from Nagaland in East to Gujarat in west, from Kashmir in North to Kanya Kumari in South. At every place, he put forward the same question to the people as to which place they belong. Someone said that he belonged to Kashmir the other said that he was Punjabi. Someone else said that he was Bengali. When asked on the basis of caste, they introduced themselves as Brahmin, Rajput, Harijan or Yadav etc. and on the basis of religion they introduced themselves as Hindu, Muslim or Christian but unfortunately none of them said that he is an Indian.

Madam Chairman, the problem is that our party is always blamed for being anti-minority. But it is not true. We always assert that India is united from Nagaland to Gujarat and from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and people belonging to this country are Indians. They should be given all rights as Indians. Our Bhartiya Janata Party has been saying that justice to all and appeasement to none. Justice should be

done to every body. Every poor, exploited and week person should be given his rights irrespective of caste, creed or religion. We have also seen the consequences of dividing the country in the name of minority and majority at the time of partition of the country. India was divided into two parts in 1947 and Pakistan was created. India was divided because of communalism and separatism and because of the policy of some leaders though Mahatma Gandhi had said that Pakistan would be created only on this corpse. So the country witnessed the bitterness of partition. Today regaining the power after so many years, UPA Government under the leadership of Congress Party has always been in favour of giving priority to the policy of appeasement to minorities resulting in fragmentation of society and make discrimination among the people. Our country has been degenerating since the adoption of the policy to create vote bank in the name of minority and majority. Through you, I would like to say clearly to the House that national unity is the need of the hour. We talk about national integration and emotional integration. How that unity can be strengthened when the society is being divided sometime in the name of education, employment or sometime in the name of universities or anything else what would be the fate of our society, our country under such circumstances?

Madam, I would like Shri Fatmiji to understand it through this anecdote: Thousands of birds used to live on a big tree. An illiterate person was passing by that tree with kerosene tin and matchbox in his hand. Suddenly he poured kerosene oil on the tree and set the tree on fire. As a result, birds were about to be burnt alive. Another person who was passing from there at the same time said to the birds-

"Aag lagi is ped ko, Jalney lag gayey pat,
tum kayon jalathey Pakharou, Pankh tumarey pass."

i.e. the tree has got fire. Why are you getting burnt, you may fly up. A wise bird sitting on the tree said-

"Phal khayey is ped key, gandey keneey pat,
Yahi hamara dharma hai, jalain isi key sath."

It means that we, the birds, have got our food and shelter from this tree. So, it was our dharma to get burnt with the tree. Our motherland India is a country of sages and seers. This is the country where Rahim and Raskhan, Kabir and Jayasi, Soor and Tulsi, Ram and Krishna, Gautam and Mahavir were born. What will happen to the country if in the name of minority and majority such separatist tendencies continue to rule the roost even after so many years of independence...(Interruptions) Madam, I should be allowed to submit my views. I need your protection...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : See, hon. Member has to speak at such a high pitch even at this age. Please listen to him.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, there is a Human Rights Commission in our country. We can approach that commission if we have any problem. Its jurisdiction spans all across the country. There after, a Minority Commission was also constituted to take care of and protect the interests of minorities who in their opinion are backward educationally and in other ways also. No body can deny this. I would like to tell the Government that arrangement for imparting computer, science and maths education in madrassas should also be made if they want their true welfare. And had the Government allocated Rs. one crore for this purpose, we would have understood that the Government really wants to do something for the minorities. Instead, they constituted minority commission and now they are constituting minority education commission.

Through you, I would like to tell the House that minoritism is leading the a gulf country towards polarisation of communities. First of all a specific community in Andhra Pradesh was provided with reservation facility in employment opportunities. High Court in its verdict ruled against it. Thereafter reservation facility was given to Aligarh Muslim university. I would like to quote the words of founder of this university Sir Sayeed Ahmed Khan who was having enormous national awareness had said- "I did not hesitate to suggest my classmates not to have reservation on them having called as Hindus." In his

opinion Hindu meant the people of Hindustan, which is the motherland of Hindu, Muslims, and other people also. Yes, Sir, Sayeed Ahmed Khan had written and supported this fact in his book. Sir, Sayeed Ahmed Khan had mentioned Hindus and Muslims as two eyes of a beautiful bride. Allahabad High Court has given the verdict regarding reservation in the same Aligarh Muslim University that as it is the hard earned public money realized from them in the form of taxes, which is invested in such institutions, therefore, it should be opened for all. However, Government is going to enact a law to give it the status of a minority institution. This situation is enough to reveal as to which direction our country is heading for. Similar is the case of Assam. A large number of infiltrators from Bangladesh have entered Assam. Shah Bano case took place. Laws were made in the Parliament to out do the verdicts of the court.

On one hand they maintain that they respect judiciary, but I would like to know as to how did they react to the Allahabad High Court decision in regard to the Aligarh Muslim University case, to the verdict of the Andhra High Court and the decision of the Supreme Court regarding Assam? Right now, the report of the UC Banerjee Committee is being tabled. The army is the symbol of national integrity and each jawan of the armed forces is, irrespective of his religion, ready to sacrifice his life for the mother land.' Whether he is Abdul Hamid, Colonel Usman, Virumal or Shaitan Singh, all the solders are ever ready to lay down their lives for the motherland. Heads are being counted even there and seeds of division are being sown even in armed forces through Sachhar Committee. The BJP is opposed to such divisive tendency due to which terrorist incidents have also increased. Bomb blasts are taking place even inside temples. Blast also took place in 'Sankat Mochan' temple in which prayers for bringing out the nation out of crisis used to be offered. We always used to pray for rousing the feeling of nationality and unity among the people. First, we are all Indians, This land is our mother and I am her son. If such kind of feeling arouses in one's mind, one can never think in terms of causing any harm

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

to the country. Therefore, BJP decided to undertake the journey for national unity. Mishtriji quoted a number of figures about the minorities. Through you, I would like to ask him as to who is responsible for the said situation? We have ruled the country for only five years during the last 50-55 years. For the rest of the time, Congress or the Congress supported States used to take advantage of the minorities by treating it as mere vote bank. Who is responsible for this? Congress party is responsible for it.

Madam, now I would like to concentrate on the Bill. The National Education Policy was implemented by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 and I would like to remind my colleagues from Congress Party that he had wished for equal and good quality education to be made accessible for all. However, all those things have been forgotten in the said Bill, and the said principles have been put aside. There are maximum number of institutions belonging to minorities in Kerala and Karnataka whether they belong to Muslims or Christians but I would like to ask whether the Minority Commission has received any complaint or request from them either for NoC or affiliation. I challenge these people but there was no such matter.

Madam, I hail from Rajasthan where Ajmer Sharif, the tomb of Khavaja Saheb, is situated where the people from all across the world come to pay their reverence. I belong to the land in which Chistee gave his message of love and where Guru Nanak sang his songs of devotion.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Why are you delivering speeches against the minorities?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am not speaking against them. What I am saying that uniform set of laws should be applied to everybody.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, not everybody has got such...

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, the world is as we may see it. If the principle of appeasement to none and justice for all is followed, there is no complaint. I wanted to say what sense does it make for a minority institution in Rajasthan to seek affiliation from Punjab University. Will this act not arouse the wrath of Rajasthan University? Therefore, I am of the opinion that the institutions should seek affiliations from the State itself provided there is good infrastructure and ambience for education.

Madam, I would like to draw your attention to one more thing that through the 93rd Amendment Bill, provision was made for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and the weaker sections of society could get the benefit of reservation even in aided, non-aided private institutions. The Minority institutions were not covered under the ambit of the said amendment Bill with the result that the dalits and above said sector of society would not be able to get reservation in the minority institutions. A separate Bill dealing with minority institutions has been brought to give advantage to such influential people of the minority community.

Madam, there is the issue of getting NoC. Be it a minority institution or any other institution, it takes time for issuing NoC. We also make requests and the institutions like AICTE or any other body dealing with affiliations of either medical or engineering companies. Verify the claims and issue NoC accordingly. I want to know which State Government or organization issues NoC within 60 days? However if NoC is not issued within 60 days, it will be deemed to have been issued and the institution applying for NoC can directly seek affiliation. I would also like the process of issuing NoC simplified but the process should be simplified for all institutions, be it a minority institution, aided or unaided or private. There is no mention of the simplification of the procedure of NoC in it, rather it has been said that the action of affiliation be started if the NoC is not issued within 60 days.

Madam, there are several medical and engineering colleges in it. Though I would like to say to Munshiji that the number of such institutions is less in Bengal. However, when our children go to South in such institutions, we come face to face with reality. Those institutions have been given recognition by AICTE who fulfill their norms when the Estimate Committee visits these places. Affiliation is only given after going through whether or not the norms have been adhered to or not. However, in this case, a shortcut is being adopted. I would like Fatmiji to pardon me for saying it but I would appeal to the government to stop deceiving the minorities and if the government is serious for their welfare, it should try to bring them to the mainstream of the country and they should become an indispensable part of society by intermingling with other sections of society as much as milk and water become one by mixing with each other. When milk is heated, the water mixed in the milk gets evaporated first and does not allow the milk to evaporate. Similarly, the minorities should become so much in unison with all other Indian to take the national interest forward, only then this malady of appeasement of minority could be cured.

Madam, I also want the upliftment of the people belonging to weaker sections of society and want that everyone get education. Who doesn't want the progress of all the sections of society? I would like to tell Salim ji that each section of the country make progress and get educated but everything looks yellow to jaundiced eye and these people in question always remain focused on vote bank. To frame such laws one after another and that too without any symmetry, does not make any sense. I oppose this Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am surprised to know how could Sudarshanji become Sarsanghchalak when such a qualified person like you were available!

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There is one more point which I want to raise with your permission. The hon. Minister or even the Minister of State for Human Resource Development can clarify during his reply about the

numbers of institutions which have been granted minority status by this Commission during the last one year as this Minority Institution Commission had been constituted almost a year ago. What is the number of institutions which have applied to the said Commission for getting minority status? What kind of arrangements were made by the Government for checking the deficit and for funding of those institutions which got such status? During NDA regime, under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and Ministry of Human Resources under Shri Murlidhar Manohar Joshi ji had increased the Rs.3 crore grant used to be given by the Congress Government, the Government headed by Shri Narsingh Rao, to 10 crore rupees. You have just made an increase of three crore rupees only and gave an amount of Rs.13 crore but we had increased it by seven crore rupees. The UPA Government which sheds crocodile tears and indulges in votebank-politics in the name of minority appeasement should work towards nation's benefit and think about national integration.

With thanks to the Chair. I oppose this Bill.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam) : Madam Chairperson, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill. Under the guidance of our UPA Chairman, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh, the UPA Government has brought this Bill for the welfare of the minorities and the minority institutions. I welcome it.

The Government has brought this Bill with good intentions, that is, to help the minorities. Unlike what Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat said, the Congress people are not after votes. The Congress Government, under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, is working for the welfare of the minorities. There is a saying in the Tamil that in the name of religion, no country is united. If it is so, there would not have been two Pakistans, there would not have been two

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Germany, and there would not have been Vietnam. So, only under a secular fabric, a country can be united. That is how, we are united, and that is what my leader's message to these NDA people is.

In the southern part of India, Muslims are somewhat educated, whereas in the northern part, particularly in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, educational opportunities have been denied to the minorities. Minorities have not been admitted in the schools. Minorities have not been allowed to stay even in hotels. Recently, I went to Gujarat and at the reception of a hotel, when I mentioned my name as "Aaron Rashid", I was told by the receptionist, "Do not write your name as 'Aaron Rashid'. You write your name as 'Arun', and then only we can give you a room here". I have written my name as "Arun" and that is how I booked a room there. That is the situation in BJP-run States like Gujarat. It is a very shameful thing for this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : The Chief Minister has won with an overall majority. It is a matter of shame that you could not recognise it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM : Is it not vote-bank politics?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : That is not vote-bank politics. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : It is a shame for you people because you people rule the State. There, the Muslims are not living in prosperity; the Muslims are living in fear there.

The Christian community is doing a yeoman service in the educational field. In Tamil Nadu, there are about 600 educational institutions belonging to the minorities. I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to give these institutions more financial aid to develop their infrastructure such as laboratories, libraries, classrooms, etc. The teachers in these minority institutions are low paid teachers. When the people who are running these minority

institutions go and approach the Government, they are asking for a letter from the minority institution concerned stating that they would not ask for any grant from the State Government, and it is only then that they would give a No Objection Certificate to them.

The UPA Government has brought in new guidelines to ensure that the No Objection Certificate that is required for establishing minority institutions is issued within sixty days of applying for it. The Government has provided that if neither the No Objection Certificate is issued nor a decision is communicated to the applicant within that period, the applicant can proceed with the establishment of that minority institution. It is definitely a welcome step. This sort of measures can only give the necessary boost to the confidence of minorities in the country. The UPA Government is doing a very good job for the welfare of minorities.

The minority institutions can get affiliated to the institution of their choice in any one of the six Universities in the country, namely, Pondicherry University, Nagaland University, Delhi University, Manipur University, etc. The rights of those teachers of minority institutions who shift to other institutions in search of better emoluments, must be protected. The Government should pay proper salaries to such teachers. Government should take care of these institutions by developing their infrastructure and educational standards.

My earnest request to the Government is that the word 'linguistic minorities' should be dropped from the Bill. My friends from the opposite side spoke in favour of linguistic minorities. I am a Tamilian. When I go to Kerala or Madhya Pradesh, I become a minority in those states. In the same way, a majority community person in one State going to some other State would become a linguistic minority in that State. If you allow institutions to be started in the name of linguistic minorities, our brothers from majority communities only would get benefited and not the minorities. So, my earnest appeal to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development is that the word 'linguistic' should be removed.

The hon Members on the opposite, side, including Mr. Mahatab, spoke in favour of linguistic minorities. The word 'linguistic' is a part of the hidden agenda of NDA people. That word should be removed. It is only when that word is removed that the real fruits of this measure will be enjoyed by the religious minorities like Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains and other microscopic minority communities.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura) : In some States, Hindus are also minorities. In Jammu and Kashmir, Hindus are in minority.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Other communities are microscopic minorities. These five communities are the major minority communities.

Even in institutions which are run by majority community people, minority students should be given at least ten per cent reservation. During the six-year rule of NDA, they have given admission to not even one minority student in Kendriya Vidyalayas. They had turned Kendriya Vidyalayas into BJP *Vidyalayas*. They saffronised those schools.

[Translation]

They have started using uncommon words in school curriculum instead of common words like A for Apple; B for Ball, C for chocolate E for England and tried to inculcate different thoughts in the minds of children.

[English]

After this Government took over the reins of Government, such hurdles have been removed from the education system. Socialistic thoughts have been introduced into the educational system by the Government led by hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi. The Government is sending a good message across to the minority communities that UPA Government is doing its best to ensure the welfare of minorities in these difficult times.

Whenever there are communal clashes and social disturbances in the country, some leaders talk of going on *Rath Yatras*. Now advaniji said that he would take out a *Rath Yatra*. Immediately Shri Rajnath Singh has said that he will go on a *Rath Yatra* too. These *Rath Yatras* will destroy the country. I would request the Government to take measures to stop these *Rath Yatras* and ensure communal harmony in the country.

[Translation]

Communal harmony must prevail. Opposition Members should not target the incident of Jallianwala Bagh. Thousands of Muslims had shed their blood during freedom struggle. One should not forget this as well as the sacrifice made by Abdul Hamid Saheb. They have forgather Jallianwala Bagh. Aligarh Muslim University should be granted special affairs.

[English]

In Aligarh Muslim University, Sayeed Saheb has collected money from the streets and taken donations from all over the country to establish this institution. But the British *Raj* has brought this institution into being by merely issuing an order. But the money has been spent by the Muslim community. Hence, I would request this Government to give special status to the Aligarh Muslim University. Minorities, SCs, STs and OBC students should be given incentives like free textbooks, stationery, school bags and uniform. The Eighty-Sixth Constitution (Amendment) Bill provided free and compulsory elementary education to the rural population from age 6 to 14, Fundamental Rights should be restored and all the children from 6 to 14 years should be given free education. Focus should also be given on minority Muslim school going girls. Female teachers should be recruited. Minority community students should be given priority. Minority community teachers should be given preference.

In Kendriya Vidyalaya schools, no tuition fee is collected by the Government. I would request the Central Government to ensure admission of SCs, STs and

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minorities in Kendriya Vidyalaya schools where 15 plus 7.5 per cent reservation is there. In the same manner, the Government should extend at least 10 per cent reservation to minorities for admission to all the Kendriya Vidyalaya schools.

Under Kasturba Gandhi Ballika Vidyalaya Scheme, there are about 750 residential schools.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Some more schools should be opened under this Scheme in minority dominated areas. Scholarships should be given to minority boys and girls. Talented students should be given priority in admission in the medical colleges, engineering colleges, etc.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have made all your points.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : I would like to make a point on Wakf Board schools. Previously many Wakf Board schools have been run or monitored by the State Governments. Each Wakf Board school have 1,500 to 2,000 students. But the students in these schools have been decreased due to drop outs with the result teachers are going to other schools. Hence, I would request the Government that Wakf Boards should be monitored by a Central agency.

I once again request the Minority Educational Institutions Bill would definitely bring the minority communities children to improve their educational standards and to become computer engineers, software engineers, scientists, doctors, advocates, IAS, IPS, etc. Minority Muslims should be given reservation in jobs. They should also be given reservation in educational institutions. I would like to stress here that definitely the minority community would be solidly behind the UPA Government and its Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Here onwards, each Member should get only five minutes.

Shri T.K. Hamza.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri) : Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving this opportunity to me to speak a few words regarding this Bill.

Sir, the very intention of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 and this Amendment Bill, 2006 is to protect the rights of minorities to establish and administer the educational institutions of their choice.

The problems of minorities are there all over the world. In India, it is an acute problem. There are umpteen number of minority communities in our country, both small and big. This was felt by the architects of our Constitution and they provided certain articles in the Constitution, reserving the rights of minorities. Really, the minorities in our country are economically and educationally backward for historical and political reasons. Without giving reservations and protections to their rights, they will never come up in the mainstream of the society in India. Among all the minorities in India, Muslims are the largest minority. The majority of this community is poor and educationally backward.

Therefore, the law like this must be brought out for the uplift of the minorities. But when we introduce such laws, conferring the rights to establish and administer educational institutions, there is every possibility of misusing the special benefits. I give one example about this. In this Bill, clause 10(1), Chapter III says:

"Any person who desires to establish a minority educational institution may apply to the competent authority for grant of NOC".

My point is that 'minority' is a community and not a person. When a person is allowed to establish an educational institution, it is possible to misuse the law and use it as a tool for exploitation. So, we must have saving clauses against such misuse of the provisions in this Bill.

We had a bitter experience in my State of Kerala. There years back, when hon. Shri A.K. Antony was the Chief Minister, the Government allowed NOC to any person as self-financial institutions, to establish and conduct educational institutions, including technical studies. The understanding between the Government and the management at the time of granting NOC was that 50 per cent of students would be admitted on merit basis and the other fifty per cent as payment seats. But, after getting NOC, when the institutions started functioning, the management has not followed the said understanding and they pleaded in the Court that they were investing money for establishing the institutions and they had got ample power to take students and collect fees as they pleased. In the absence of the saving clause in the NOC or appropriate law, the Government failed in Court.

So, I say that if the theory of 'any person' is accepted, it will be misused by the persons who got financial positions in the community. Therefore, I suggest that the fifty per cent of seats in the institutions must be reserved for minorities especially poor sections of the community. They only, that institution is allowed to enjoy all the privileges and rights of the minority institution. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006. All the citizen of India belonging to minority community are happy due to the constitutions of this Commission. Whatever was said by some of our esteemed colleagues was true in the past also, the reason of gradual reduction of people belonging to minority community in government services was discussed in this House as their percentage has decreased from 30-35 to one or two. We must ponder over its reason, I express my gratitude to the UPA Government for constituting a separate Ministry of Minority Affairs. They have tried to apply some kind of medicine to the injuries inflicted on the minorities. At least, the UPA

Government have tried to do something for them. While expressing my views during the Budget Session, I had come to know that a provision to the tune of one hundred crore rupees was made for Maulana Azad University which has been increased to only two hundred crore rupees in the current budget although a demand was made for a grant of one thousand crore rupees. The current allocation is very meagre. So, I would like to address my friend Fatmiji to think seriously about minority educational institutions and talk to the hon. Finance Minister to increase the budget.

Secondly, I congratulate the UPA Government for promulgating an Ordinance on 11th November, 2004 for constitution of a National Commission for minority educational institutions. But, this Commission should be given the status of a Constitutional Commission. There is a Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in our country but it has got no constitutional rights. Because of this no serious hearing takes place on any of the matter brought before this Commission. So, while constituting this Commission, one should discuss the possibility of providing it with Constitutional powers on the pattern of the Election Commission.

Thirdly, it has been provided in this Bill that the Commission shall have serious discussion about the complaints of violation of rules by minority educational institutions. The provision regarding affiliating these institutions with Central Universities and also the provision of a Chairman and two Members is a very good one. I would like to emphasize that it is necessary to increase the number of Board Members whenever the Board is expanded. While going through a news item in a newspaper on a particular topic, I was aggrieved to know that one of the Ministers in the Ministry of Human Resource (I would not disclose his name as it may create an uproar in this House) has said that there is no justification in constituting this Commission. I would like to tell him that there was such an uproar even on a greater scale when saffronization of entire syllabus was done. So, I would like

[Shri Shallendra Kumar]

to advice him to use his discretion while making comments before this House about the said Commission. The UPA Government has at least made a beginning in this direction.

As far as the main aim of constituting this Commission is concerned, a commitment has been made to provide better education. This Commission is meant for better education as well as for fulfilling the promises made to the minorities by the UPA Government. This Commission is important because it tries to fulfill the commitment made under Article 30 regarding the freedom of establishment of educational institutions given to the citizen of the country. It will give an opportunity to the minorities to progress in the field of education in which they are lagging behind. Many of our esteemed colleagues have made an apprehension that it will promote separatism and emotional straining of relations. But, from any point of view it denotes sick mentality. But, factual position is that 60 per cent of rural Muslims and 54 percent of Urban Muslims are illiterate. Only 23 per cent girls are matriculate. So, the constitution of this Commission is justified. There are reports in newspapers that in 13 States 70 institutions managed by Muslims were surveyed and only a few of them have Muslim principals. So, I strongly support the move of the UPA Government for constitution of a Minority Educational Institutions Commission and I fully believe that its usefulness will be achieved. From the time of independence, history bears testimony of the fact that the great personalities like Abu Kalam Azad and brave Hamid played a vital role in freedom struggle. In the field of music they have produced Ustad Bismillah Khan and Amzad Ali Khan and the young men like Irfan Pathan and Mohammad Kaif in the field of cricket.

17.00 hrs.

He has just now stated in his speech that we should talk about the Hindutva and India over here. I know that you have this agenda only. Just recently when the incident of bomb blast took place in a temple at Varanasi, the State

President of his party visited that place and sought the right to demonstration and 'dharna' in the temple complex itself. When Shri Salman Khursheedji went there, some people had suggested that the temple should be purified with the holy water of the Ganges. What kind of mentality he is spreading among the people? He is dividing the country on religious and communal considerations. He should strongly support his Bill instead of opposing it. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Madam I will continue from where the hon. Member, Shri Mistry has left and I am very thankful to Md. Salim for giving a new and revolutionary meaning of ideology. With regard to the importance of minority rights. I would like to quote what Mr. Justice S.M. Sikri, the Chief Justice of India has once said:

"In fact, one may well compare our nation to being a jumbo jet flying through turbulent weather to a golden destination. For this flight every section of the people must be galvanised together as firmly as the various part of the frame. The strength of the frame is equal only to the strength of the weakest section of the frame. One little crack, that is a disgruntle minority, would force the jet to the ground till the crack is repaired."

This is what Justice S.M. Sikri has once said on the importance of minority rights as special protection in the Constitution of India.

Madam, secularism is the basic structure of our Constitution and the special rights and protection which are given to minorities are furthering the cause of secularism and the so-called theories of minority appeasement or giving unequal treatment or special protection. Various Supreme Court judgements have classified it and given verdict that it is baseless. The Supreme Court has said that all these theories of minority appeasement are baseless.

Moreover, the talk over here is that this present Government has indulged in minority appeasement. I would like to tell my colleagues on the other side over there that they are criticising the measures or steps which are being taken by this Government. Do they mean to say that they are wiser or more knowledgeable than the framers of the Constitution? The people who sat in the Constituent Assembly decided that the minorities of his country should be given special rights and protection. This is the basic structure of our Constitution. Now, we hear that these steps are being taken because of minority appeasement. I fail to understand, sometimes I am really surprised also. It clearly shows that Members are wiser and more knowledgeable than the framers of the Constitution. The whole thing that the Government is now doing, is it unconstitutional? Is this Bill against the spirit of the Constitution? Is this Bill against the national interest? Is this Bill against the basic structure of our Constitution and secularism? If you put forward these questions, the answer will be, 'No'. The Bill that has been brought is within the Constitution and it is furthering the cause of secularism, which is the basic structure of our Constitution. It is furthering article 30.

What is the Tenth Five Year Plan – 2002-2007? The main object of this plan was framed when the NDA was in power. It has been stated that the main objective of the Tenth Plan is to raise the enrolment of higher education between 18-23 years to 10 per cent by the end of the Plan. What is the percentage now? It is only eight per cent. I feel it is possible if we allow the minorities to open institutions of professional knowledge and teaching. We will be able to achieve this target which has been put in the Tenth Five Year Plan – 2002-07.

Coming to the Bill, I have some strong reservations. The initial Bill of National Commission for Minorities of 2004 was brought to grant affiliation to minority institutions. I am really surprised to read this particular Bill. It has basically broadened the ambit of the whole thing. You are talking about the recognition, permission and affiliation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to who has drafted this Bill.

If this Bill goes to any court, it will not stand a minute in the court of law. It will be declared *ultra vires* not because the other side is saying so but because this Bill has one particular point. Section 10, Chapter 3 says that any person who desires to establish a minority education institute may apply to the competent authority. Article 30 is a Fundamental Right. It is an infettered right and Parliament cannot interfere in that. Why have you put his provision? I am warning the Government that God forbid, if this Bill is challenged in a court of law, it will take the presiding judge a minute to classify it as *ultra vires* because of this Section. I would request the hon. Minister to please read this again. This goes against the whole work which you are doing. Your intentions are very good. We are not doubting your intentions. But the way it has been drafted, it is very wrong in law. It will be wrong in principle. I am telling you this. It goes against the basic structure of our Constitution.

The Government has established a new Ministry called Ministry of Minority Welfare. It would have been really good if this Bill was tabled by the present Minister of Minority Welfare. This really pertains to it. Moreover, there is a saying in Urdu.

[Translation]

"Namaaj ata karne gaye to roze gale par gaye".

The problem here is that the earlier Bill was confined only to affiliation. Today it is being stated that it will also cover recognition. Permission is sought to be taken before opening the institution. It is in violation of Article 30. It is against the spirit of Indian Constitution. I take strong exception to it and suggest that the Government should have a relook at it. Your intentions are no doubt noble but it has many drawbacks.

I would like to submit the sixth point as well.

[English]

I was really surprised to hear my good friend from BJD that we have a federal structure and this Bill overrules the

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

federalism. But there has been an amendment made in our Constitution and education is now in List III. It is no more in List II. So, the Government has all the right to make a legislation. Another point which I am surprised to hear from this side is that you have AICTE and you have the Medical Council of India. Now people will not go there. It is nothing. If you read the Bill properly, it clearly says what is the meaning of competent authority. The competent authority is, if you are opening an engineering college, you have to go to AICTE. If you have want to open an engineering college, you have to satisfy the norms of AICTE. If you are opening a medical college, you have to satisfy the requirement and norms of Medical Council of India. First of all, you have to show that you have a 300-bed hospital in working condition. It is not that if tomorrow any Tom, Dick and Harry decides that he wants to establish an engineering college, he would go to the National Minorities Commission, take the permission and start an engineering college in a hut. It cannot happen. The reason behind Government's bringing this legislation is to ensure that the process of affiliation and recognition becomes much easier or in fact justice is done. It is because when the previous Government was there, numerous complaints were received by the Government. I know for a fact from my State wherein the Government had shown partiality. The Government did not want to give permission.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Madam, I would request you to be a bit liberal, at least, on this issue.

Another point is that there is a talk that this is minority appeasement. In fact, I am surprised to hear that because of the so called positive measures, the recent terrorist attack took place. It is because the Government is going for head count in the Army, terrorists are getting emboldened and because of U.C. Banerjee report, the Islamic radicalism is rising. What kind of cock and bull story is this? We have a piece of legislation here. How can this be compared with these stories which are being told? It is

pure propaganda. People who have indulged in terrorist acts are terrorists. People who are doing anti-national work, they are anti-nationals whether they are Hindus or Muslims. To give a communal colour to any terrorist act or to give any positive step that the Government takes a communal colour is not good. Are you for the development of Muslim minority or not? You say that justice for all appeasement to none.

I will prefer to put it in this way-justice for none and appeasement only for *Sangh Parivar*. If one says, justice for all, then are we not part of justice? People talk of India as Mother India. Then I can say that if a mother has five children and if one of the children is very weak, then the mother would look after the weakest child more than the other children of hers. Why would she do that? For mother, after all, all her children are equal. But she takes special care of the weak child because he is different and article 30 of the Constitution is like that.

Madam, I am not trying to explain it to a senior Member like you. What is the literacy percentage of Muslims in India? It is 59 per cent. The national average is 65 per cent. There is a huge difference between a literate person and an educated person. No literate person can become an educated person and no educated person can become a literate person. What is the definition of 'literate person'? Anyone who can sign his or her name in any language is considered to be a literate person. Have any census been conducted on the education level of Muslim minorities? Last time it was done when the Gopalakrishna Commission had stated that the Muslims and the Neo-Buddhists are the most educationally backward. The Buddhists have been given the status of Scheduled Castes. What about the Muslims? Something more needs to be done.

Lastly, in conclusion, I would like to mention that I would have been very happy if the issue of the Aligarh Muslim University were brought in this Bill. It has very rightly been mentioned by one of the Members here that Sir Syed Ahmed Khan founded the Aligarh Muslim University. He had begged each and every people. It was

founded in the year 1921. The whole world knows that it is a Muslim University. Now, when a university has been formed and a wrong decision has been given by the Allahabad High Court, it is the duty of the Government to correct that mistake. Minority status should be accorded to the Aligarh Muslim University. In the year 1981, the late Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India had brought in a legislation. The Muslims are looking forward to this Government now. Once and for all the Government should bring a legislation to ensure that a permanent minority status is given to the Aligarh Muslim University. The reason why I am mentioning this here is that the academic session is going to start in some three months time. We have already passed a Bill in this august House that the rule of reservation will apply to all those universities that are governed by article 30. Does this Government not want the rule of reservation to apply in Aligarh Muslim University? Even the leaders of the Congress Party are saying that it should be done. But the question is, when? Why can the Government not bring in a legislation in this regard?

Madam, through you. I would like to request the Government that special steps should be taken only in this regard and but also in regard to the points that I have raised. This piece of legislation is very bad in law and the Government should look into it. The Government should also ensure that there is no interference with the basic structure of the Constitution. I have no problems with the remaining provisions of the Bill, except for the clauses where it has been mentioned about taking permission and obtaining and NOC. I think it goes against the spirit of the Constitution.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated) : Madam, Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I stand to support the Bill. But there are certain observations that I would like the hon. Minister to take note of. I fully support the observations made by the previous speaker, my colleague, Shri Owaisi on matters concerning the Bill.

While the Bill, in its structure, primarily addresses the

concerns of the minority institutions to affiliate to universities of their choice, but the draft of the Bill that is now being presented has made certain modifications that are grossly interfering with the rights of the minorities to establish institutions of their choice. What we find is that one of the provisions under chapter III points that if you wish to establish a minority educational institution you would first have to obtain a 'no objection' certificate from the competent authority. This has already been mentioned and it is an interference with the Fundamental Right guaranteed under article 30 to any minority, whether it be linguistic or religious, to establish educational institutions of their choice. This has remained unfettered over the last several decades. I can understand that the State Governments or the Central Government may establish rules and procedures for affiliation for grant of recognition.

But I do not see how they can interfere with the right to establish and administer educational institutions according to the choice of the minority community. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and also make necessary amendments. There is also another issue that I would like to mention. This Bill, despite certain constraints that have been mentioned, perhaps contain issues that are colouring the main empowering device that is being presented to the Parliament. This Bill basically enables the minority communities to participate in the national main stream and to contribute in terms of their enabling provision to the main fabric of the nation. All hon. Members have recognised this over the last several conversations that have prevailed. It is well established that minorities have contributed to the national fabric far out of line of their population in this country. It is well known that Christian institutions have laid down the foundation of modern education in this nation. Long before Government institutions were providing opportunities to people across various castes, creed and denominations, it was the Christian community that was involved in the educational process. And modern India should recognise the role that minorities have played in shaping the nation as it is today. The Muslim community

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

too, has now awakened itself to reach to accesses that are necessary to enable that community to wake up to the opportunities that modern India now has. And it is only appropriate that the Ministry of Human Resource Development provides those opportunities to enable minority communities to establish institutions for management education for technology, for biotechnology and medicine and so on. That is the vision that the nation has for its people and that is what the minorities would like to attain consequent to the opportunities that this Bill would see happening.

I would like to mention that minorities are not as significantly present in higher education than in the sphere of school education. As the nation progresses, it is important that what has been built in terms of the rock that was established, the castles that the nation has for itself should also find its place and it is important to see that this be possible in modern India.

There was a mention made, and I think quite wrongly, that this provision perhaps appeases certain sections of the nation. Far from it, I would request my friends and colleagues to understand that it is the fundamental right of all sections of the nation to be participative, to be integrated, to be playing a significant role in the development of this nation. It is important that this picture of appeasement should be deleted from the sensitivities and the understanding of this House. The minorities are as participative as other communities are in the process of nation-building. I would like to mention that while there was an indication given that perhaps minorities are treated unequally, it is a fundamental principle in law that equality in the case of unequals requires that they be treated unequally. You cannot achieve equality when there is a disparity prevailing among the communities. So, treating minorities unequally is an important component of the constitutional provisions that are prevailing today. I would like to think that this should be understood by all sections of the House and not be said that perhaps minorities have some special privilege that pertains to them and this

sensitivity sometimes prevails across the social fabric. It creates a kind of disharmony within all sections of the community. I would request once again and emphasizes that unequal treatment to unequals is important to enable them to participate in the process. There was a mention made about the linguistic minorities and I would like to clarify that. It was said that linguistic minorities are very distinct from religious minorities. Linguistic minorities have an equal role to play. The Anglo-Indian community, which I have the privilege to represent in this House has played an extremely significant role. While we are Christians, we are also linguistic and ethnic minority. I would say that the hon. Member who made a mention to the effect that the words "linguistic minorities" should be deleted from the Constitution or perhaps from the provision of the Bill, has probably not studied the entire configuration of the communities that prevail.

Thank you. With these few words, I support the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan may speak now.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Madam, he should be given only five minutes!

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, you need not conduct the business of the House. I am here to conduct the business of the House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Madam Chairman, while supporting the Bill. I would like to comment on the important implications which will be created in due course. In the first place, I would like to say that the way in which the Government has moved this Bill is not correct. They ought to have brought a Bill, which should have been discussed freely and without any pre-conceived notions. It is a Bill which seeks to replace an Ordinance. So, the Government has already taken some decisions in the matter, which are being implemented through the Ordinance. Now, we cannot make any further change because it will upset the present situation. So, normally it is not fair on the part of the Government to bring

in Bills like this, which are of national importance, through an Ordinance. I have to make it clear as to why I comment like this.

In the last Session, we had passed a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I was one of those who was opposed to this Bill for some reasons. It was because the Constitutional Amendment gave a blank cheque or unfettered right or unrestricted right to minority communities to run institutions of their choice. So, it can be put as more or less a "licence". It is another matter whether that "licence" would be used for conducting an educational institution or an industry or a company. It is because the present tendency is to commercialise education. So, it is quite natural that this special privilege now enjoyed by the minority communities is very likely to be misused as "business", giving preference to the wealthy people.

Education has become very costly. Poor people cannot get access to higher education. Higher education is more or less commercialized. It has now become the job of wealthy people. We will have to prevent it. That is why we opposed it.

We all know that in a State like Kerala almost all the higher educational institutions and professional educational institutions are run by the minority communities. They are minorities in the national sense. But they are not minorities in the State. The Christian community is not a minority community in the State of Kerala. They form forty per cent of the total population of the State. But they are controlling ninety per cent of these higher educational institutions in the State.

Hitherto, all these institutions are obeying the State principle of reservation to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Communities. That is the practice. Some of them are faithfully doing this practice. But, after the enforcement of the amendment, they are not legally bound. Reservation will be thrown to the winds. We cannot insist on them that they should give reservation to these communities which they were enjoying previously. After the commencement of this amendment, they are not

duty-bound to give reservation. The Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe people will lose their right to admission. Reservation in the higher educational institutions will not be given.

The State is conducting only a negligible institutions. You must realise this. All the 90 per cent institutions is being conducted by the minority communities. The rest is that next year, in June, the position will become very precarious. The hon. Minister had given an assurance that something would be done in this matter- in the question of deciding minority, whether it should be at the national level or State-wise. That decision has not yet been taken. It must be taken immediately. Otherwise, you will be doing injustice to a large section of the community. I once again remind you about this. That is the first thing.

In the State of Kerala also, the Minister declared that he would bring forward a legislation to protect the reservation granted to these communities. But now, the elections are there. No Ordinance or even legislation has been brought forward. The poor students, who are getting reservation, will lose their benefit in the next academic year. That is why, I am speaking about the implications that may come in after the enforcement of this Act. That is one thing. So, I would request the Government to take a very bold decision. Of course, you have taken a decision in this matter. So, you please take a decision with regard to the question of deciding minority community.

In the State of Kerala, the Christian community is not a minority community. In other States in the North-Eastern Region also, it is the same. So, we will have to take a decision in this matter. That is the primary thing to be done...*(Interruptions)*

Now, I come to this legislation. In this Bill, there are certain provisions which may create difficulties. The point is that the term "person" is not defined. So, even Alibaba-you know about Alibaba-can apply for a licence, for a No-Objection Certificate for conducting an institution in the name of the minority community...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

If it is not, then correctly decide the definition of the term "person".

Secondly, concessions must be given only to the corporate bodies, corporate institutions and not to individual institutions. If it is given to the individual institutions, it is very likely that it is misused. So, more danger is involved in this. Hence, only corporate bodies must be given concessions. There is another difficulty. Suppose some minority corporate body is functioning in a State like Kerala or Tamil Nadu. Due to some emotion, it may apply for a No-Objection Certificate in the Kashmir University. You cannot prevent that. The words that you have used are "of their own choice." So, some group of persons or a person conducting an institution in the State of Kerala or Tamil Nadu can apply for a No Objection Certificate in the Kashmir University or in the Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : He can go to Nagaland also!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Yes, even he can go to Nagaland also. The difficulty is that these institutions are being controlled by the respective State Governments. These people may apply for licence to the competent authority. If the competent authority is not prepared to give the No-Objection Certificate within six months, then it can be presumed that No-Objection Certificate is granted.

Then again, if it is rejected, he can take the matter to the National Commission and no appeal will lie except in the High Court and the Supreme Court. That is the position. So, some mischievous people, who want to create difficulties in the functioning of the Commission, may apply for NOC either to the North East or to the North. Therefore, there must be some restriction on the choice of applying for NOC.

There are some of the implications which may come when the Act is implemented. With these words, I conclude.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hereafter, every speaker will get only two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam Chairman, It is not fair to make any comment about Mr. Radhakrishnan because he is the only person who sits late in the night. Nobody stays late and so we should appreciate him. Instead of accusing him, we should appreciate him.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I am not accusing him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, from the Treasury Benches, they are passing sarcastic remarks against our senior Member Mr. Radhakrishnan. It pains me. I am really very hurt because he is the only person who sits very late in the night when the House sits late.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You are right. Nobody has made any remark against Mr. Radhakrishnan. Please take your seat.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill introduced by our Government. I would like to mention only certain legal points and extend my support to this Bill.

The National Commission for Minorities Act was passed in 1992 and it came into force on 17.5.1992. That Act empowered the constitution of the National Commission for Minorities. That Commission served only as a recommendatory body.

After the assumption of office of the UPA Government, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill was introduced in 2004. It was passed in the Lok Sabha on 16.12.2004 and by the Rajya Sabha on 21.12.2004. That Act came into force on 6.1.2005. In the original Act, Section 2, Sub-clause (A) deals with the affiliation to be granted only by six universities, which are mentioned in the Schedule. They are, the University of Delhi, the North Eastern Hill University, Pondicherry University, the Assam University, the Nagaland University and the Mizoram University. Now, that Schedule has been

taken away. Then, Section 18 has also been omitted through this Bill.

In the present Bill, Section 10 (A) gives the right to a Minority Educational Institution to seek affiliation from any university situated anywhere in the country and more particularly, Section 10, Sub-clause (1) says that any person who desires to start a Minority Educational Institution may apply to the competent authority for getting NOC, Section 10, Sub-clause (2) authorises the competent authority to verify and hear the person who makes the application. Section 10, Sub-Clause (3) says that the application has to be disposed of within 60 days from the date of his application. Some of our hon. Members commented as to why only 60 days time is given and more time may be given. If more time is given for verifying the application seeking NoC to affiliate with any university, it will only lead to corruption. We are all aware of what is happening in the Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India and AICTE. If a Committee is appointed for inspection, it will only lead to corruption. So, to avoid that, Section 10, Sub-clause (2) provides for verification of the application on a personal hearing and dispose of the application. If the application is not disposed of within 60 days, if the person is not granted NOC or if his application is not rejected within that period, then it is presumed that application is accepted and he can start the institution. Suppose his application is rejected, he can go for an appeal in the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions within 30 days. This is provided for under Section 12 (A)(i). It gives the right to the affected person to prefer an appeal and seek remedy before the Commission within 30 days.

This Bill gives more power to the Commission to decide the minority status by way of section 12B, sub-clause (1). The Commission is vested with the power of cancellation of the minority status under Section 12C. In the previous Bill that is not there as only permission was there. Affiliation and deaffiliation are given. If there are any irregularities section 12D authorises the Commission to take action.

Another important matter in this Bill is section 12 sub-clause F is that nobody can file any suit before any civil court. If they want any remedy, they can go to the High Court and the Supreme Court. Bar on civil jurisdiction is an important matter. There should be some provisions to safeguard the interests of the poor students.

While discussing this Bill, I want to mention one important point. This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee gave its observation: "That the Committee feels that the Bill must provide adequate safeguard of preventing the misuse of minority status by an institution". I humbly request the hon. Minister, that in this country among the minorities, there are so many poor people. While giving admissions to students, 50 per cent of the admissions must be given to the poor students in all these minority institutions.

With these views, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

17.37 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday also you were in the Chair. Today, the discussion is over the Amendment Bill on National Commission for Minority Education Institutions. I rise to support this Bill. The Government has done a commendable work by bringing this Bill and I understand that it will definitely benefit the minorities and the Muslims if it is implemented sincerely. But unfortunately there is a very large number of Muslims in this country. I think that their number is not below 30 crores, i.e. such a large number of Muslims belong to minority. It is matter of great regret if they are subjected to injustice and step motherly treatment meted out to them even in the educational field.

Sir, this country belongs to all and all have struggled for its freedom. The Muslims have also made sacrifices for this and I do not see any reason for lack of love in Muslims for this country. Muslims have as much love and sense of

[Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq]

belonging to this country as the other people and communities have. Muslims are not lagging behind any other community in making sacrifice. I, therefore, desire that justice is done to Muslims in this country. How will Muslims receive education if they are subjected to injustice even in the field like education. If they try to open a school or institution, restrictions are imposed on them and they do not get any affiliation. I, however, appreciate the facilities sought to be provided through this Bill. I hope that the difficulties faced by Muslims can certainly be removed if action is taken sincerely in accordance with provisions of the Bill.

Sir, as far as the Aligarh Muslim University is concerned, it has been divested of its minority character. This injustice has been done through ruling of the High Court. I would, therefore, like the Government to restore its minority character and bring in the Bill in this session itself. The Government should bring an Amendment Bill immediately to remove lacuna in the Bill, as it did in 1981, because the next session is 2-3 months away. At that time there will be great difficulty in the admission of students. I would like to say that the people from the BJP are biased against us. We also are product of this country. Our sacrifices are no lesser than theirs. When sacrifice was required for independence of the country, we were at the forefront and these people were far behind. We helped the country become independent after offering our heads and sacrifices. Mohammad Ali Johar had gone to participate in the Round Table Conference in England. He had advocated for the independence of the country. He stated that he had come from a country which is ruled by the Britishers, He wanted from them a declaration of freedom for his country. Otherwise, he will not return to his country and they will have to provide a little place for his tomb in their country itself. He died there. It is a gross injustice to level allegations of treason and terrorism against the people who have made sacrifices for the country. It is nothing but terrorize the Muslims. We shall continue to live in this country and live with respect. We do not beg for

what you give. It is our right. You will have to give what we demand...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : They are vitiating the atmosphere through quarrels. It is their job and they are adopting same attitude in the House also. They have subjected us to injustice ...*(Interruptions)*. Earlier also when Shri Advani ji had taken out a 'Rath Yatra' communal riots had broken ant. This time also he wants to vitiate the atmosphere by taking out the 'Yatra' and instigate communal riots in the country. This should be banned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Every Member can express his views.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq, your time is over. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : As far as the issues and rights of Muslims are concerned, whether they are related to education or service matters or economic...*(Interruptions)* They should be accom-plished.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other Members who want to speak on this Bill. Please conclude.

Now, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : This is the reason of their educational backwardness. I would like that Muslims should be accommodated in the Government services. They should be recruited in police and military. Thus the institutions of Muslims should be strengthened.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Barq, you are speaking for a long time. Please conclude. I have already called another Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : We should be given full liberty. Our's is a minority character and it should be respected. My demand is that the minorities character of Muslims should be restored by introducing Aligarh Muslim University Bill in this very session.

With these words I convey my thanks to you. I would like to say that those responsible for the partition of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : Sir, I rise to support this Bill. It appeared that when the main Bill was introduced in the House, that was only to accord affiliation

or to give NOC for the minority institutions. There was some apprehension in the minds of the minorities that the Bill was not fulfilling the very aims and objects of the Muslim minority institutions.

Sir, the amendments that have been brought today in this Bill are to give more powers to the Commission, to give more teeth to the Commission and also to protect the minority educational institutions.

I welcome the PUA Government and also the Ministry of Human Resource Development for having brought such an effective Bill. This is a historical Bill which has not been brought during the last 50 years.

So, by these amendments, power is given to appeal against the wrong orders of the competent authority. Power is given to the Commission to investigate the matter. The Commission has power to call for information. All these powers have been given.

[Translation]

I would like to say one thing to my brother Shri Rawatji. I do not know how many children he has. If he has four or five children and one of them is weaker, then we take special care of that child and give him or her more nutritious diet. But it does not mean that we are discriminating with other children. Same is the case with society. If any section of society happens to be weak, then to uplift that section, to encourage it, we should extend some kind of help. Whether it is in the field of education or any other field. It is not religion that should be taken a base for extending help.

[English]

It is based on the socio-economic conditions of the minorities. It is based on the lower educational percentage of the society. How much is the percentage of Muslims in the banking sector? How much is the percentage of Muslims in the Railways? How much is the percentage of Muslims in the Central Government? What is the percentage of their literacy, more particularly, in the rural areas? What is the percentage of their dropouts? There

[Shri Iqbal Ahmad Saradgi]

is a dropout of 80 per cent among the minorities in the rural areas. This is their condition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : In such peculiar situations, it is the moral duty of the Government to come forward to assist and provide them with some special privileges or special concessions by amending the Constitution and by amending the rules. What the UPA Government is doing is the same. It is providing minority institutions. This is the mechanism.

On many occasions, article 30, which is entitling the minority communities to establish, administer and manage their educational institutions, had been discussed in the Supreme Court and also in the High Court. Many a time, it was discussed and challenged. But till today in different cases, there is an ambiguity of interpretation. The minorities have not been given 100 per cent admission rights under article 30.

What I feel is that under this peculiar situation, the UPA Government has thought that there should be a special law to protect and provide them with the minority educational institutions. What I think is that the aims and objects of bringing this Bill are to protect and provide what has not been provided under other articles of the Constitution.

I would like to inform this august House that under the rule of Devraj Urs in Karnataka, this was allowed. He encouraged the minorities to establish their institutions, to run and administer them by their own management. Now, there are hundreds of institutions in Karnataka and in South Karnataka. It is because the Government's mind was very clear to promote the education of the minorities.

That is why, this was encouraged. If the same pattern applies throughout India, I think the lower percentage of literacy in the Muslim community or minority community will be improved. Definitely, this is the need of the hour. I, once

again, congratulate the UPA Government and the HRD Ministry for bringing these amendments for the protection of the minority educational institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, can I speak from this place?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Thank you, Sir.

Sir, I will seek some clarification from the hon. Minister with regard to this Bill. My first question is this. What should be the definition of a minority? Take the example of Punjab. In Punjab, there are Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus. Sikhs are minority in India. Hindus are a minority in Punjab. Christians and Muslims are minorities everywhere. It means that in Punjab, everybody is free to open a minority organisation. So, I would request the Minister to clarify as to who is actually a minority and who will have this opportunity to open an institution.

The second point is with regard to clause 10A given on page three of this Bill.

"A minority educational institution may seek affiliation to any university of its choice subject to such affiliation being permissible within the Act under which the said university is established."

Suppose, a minority institution seeks affiliation to some university and the university refuses, what will happen then? This is one of the clarifications I would just like to seek from the hon. Minister.

Now should we say that one Christian educational institution in Orissa would seek affiliation from the Nagaland University? Will it be possible or some Muslim institution in Kerala will seek affiliation from Jammu and Kashmir university? Will it be permissible and will it be practicable? This is another clarification that I would just like to seek from the hon. Minister.

Now in Clause 4 (c) in page 3, it has been provided that the National Commission for Minority Educational

Institutions could intervene in any proceedings involving any deprivation or violation of the educational right to the minorities before a court with the leave of such court.

As per article 30 of the Constitution, any minority has been disallowed to establish any educational institute of his own. Then, how can there be a deprivation or violation? I think this clause is unnecessary. I do not know why this clause has been provided there. I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. He may explain about it.

Now in another provision it has been provided that it bars the jurisdiction of courts except the Supreme Court and the High Courts, to entertain any suit, application or other proceedings in respect of orders made by the Commission. I think we cannot take away the writ jurisdiction from any High Court. I think, all the time the Supreme Court and the High Court will have their writ jurisdiction power and anybody can go to them. *...(Interruptions)* The thing is if it is right, then probably I have misunderstood it. Thank you very much for explaining it to me. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. The BJP as a party is not against the Muslims. We want that they should also prosper because they are 13 per cent of this country and as a nation we never want that 13 per cent of the people in this country should remain backward. But my point is all the time some of these hon. Members say that the percentage of the Muslims in the educational institutions, in the Government services is less. But I will put a simple question. Has any Muslim been deprived of his job or educational right because he is a Muslim? *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : Yes, we do not get. It is true. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Now, this is the reply being given by the Muslim hon. Members of this House. *...(Interruptions)* I would just like to know this answer from

the Congress Party which has ruled over this country for long. Let them say that they have deprived anybody because he was a Muslim. *...(Interruptions)* In an IAS interview or any other interview, is it written on the Question Paper or is it written on the Answer Sheet that he is a Muslim? *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Yes. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Now one of the hon. Ministers in the Government is saying that 'yes', the Government is resorting to depriving the Muslims. *...(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister is saying like this. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You read it. I am also a sufferer. Being Yadav I have been pushed back. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You were pushed back. *...(Interruptions)* But you are not a Muslim. I was in Government service earlier. I was in Civil Service. There was no mention of religion or caste in the form. It was not there because I myself know it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I heard you were my employee in Railways. I heard about you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Your employee? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You have done service in Railways. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Does that mean I was your employee? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : You said 'my employee'. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I was saying Railway employee. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, he said 'my employee'. *...(Interruptions)* Once upon a time I was a Central Service

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

officer in the Railways. But I was not your employee.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Not my employee but of
Railways. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : That is exactly what I am
saying. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, it was the
Bhartiya Janta Party which was in power which
recommended...*

You say that we are against the Muslims. But we are
not. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I would appeal
to the hon. Member not to refer the name of the President.
...(Interruptions) He should not bring the name of the
President here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : What is the harm that I
did? Did I say anything wrong? It was done during our
time. ...(Interruptions) We did it. ...(Not recorded)
...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I request you that the reference
to the President should be expunged. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I have not taken his name.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : You should
not mention his name. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I know the rules, I did
not take his name. ...* ...(Interruptions) During our time, it
was the ruling Party, that was the NDA led by the BJP
which recommended the name, which sponsored the
name ...* ...(Interruptions)

How will you say that we are against the Muslims?
...(Interruptions) Sir, we are not against the Muslims.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOEL (Hapur) : If it is
so, then you should support this bill.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am not opposing it. I am
supporting it. Because these points were raised by them,
I am mentioning it from any Party. Sir, in one minute I will
complete my point.

I will appeal to the Muslim community in this
country that they should come to the mainstream,
they should also think that they are just like everybody.
There should be a single law in this country so that
everybody, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, everybody
should prosper in this country. That is exactly what we
want. We are not against the Muslims. But we are
against the appeasement, we are against this vote bank
politics.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA (Chitradurga) : Thank
you, Sir, for the opportunity. I will take hardly three
minutes.

At the outset I would like to thank the Government
and also the Ministry of Human Resource Development
for having come out with this National Commission for
Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2006.
Of course, there are many salutary provisions. But at
the same time, according to me, a few legal lacunae are
there. Of course, I do not want to harp upon the
establishment of institutions of their choice, whether they
refer only to established institutions for the type which are
meant to develop their language or their religion or other
institutions. It is for others to decide and not for us, as the
institutions of their choice is a moot point.

Regarding the scope to affiliate, in the earlier Act it
was confined to only six Universities and now it is said

*Not recorded.

that they can affiliate to any institute which they like. Of course, it is very vague and also it gives room for many problems. For example, if an institution is started in Hyderabad and there are Universities in Hyderabad city itself or in its surrounding places to control and administer the institutions of this type, and if the institution feels certain conditions for affiliation are existing in the University, which are no favourable to this institution, then they come to Delhi, Lucknow, Bangalore or other places and seek affiliation by such universities.

18.00 hrs.

So, we should not leave room for such things. Otherwise, there shall be some restriction or emphasis that it shall be controlled by a particular university for affiliation. This is one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is 6 o'clock. I have a list of two or three speakers before me. If the House agree, the time may be extended by one hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we can extend time by 45 minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We extend the time by half an hour.

We have two or three Members to speak. Then, there will be reply but the Minister. Thereafter, there will be clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. We have to finish all this within 30 minutes. So, the speakers should also co-operate. Otherwise, we will not be able to complete it within 30 minutes.

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA : Mr. Chairman, there is a provision that the minority institutions can start institutions of their choice. Unfortunately, there is no mention of reservation for SC/ST students. There is a provision for reservation of SC and ST in all other Acts related to educational institutions, but unfortunately, it is not there in this Bill. That has to be taken into consideration by the concerned Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Sir, take zero hour first ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : 'Zero Hour' will be taken after this Bill is passed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.Y. HANUMANTHAPPA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there shall be a provision for reservation of seats for SC or ST in all the educational institutions. Otherwise, according to me, there will be no use of article 16 of the Constitution.

Regarding this clause dealing with deemed status, of course, it is very late. An intelligent applicant by somehow managing the office will see that no decision is taken within 90 days and get declared that deemed status has been granted. There also it requires correction. When an application for NOC is sent, there shall be discussion and hearing before granting affiliation or otherwise. Thereafter, the decision shall be taken. As far as this clause is concerned, it has to be removed.

These are the three submissions I wanted to make.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, today I rise to speak in support of the Minority Commission for Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill which is a very important bill.

Our party Rashtriya Janata Dal has been the champion in protecting and promoting the interests of the minorities. Our earlier speakers have put-forth their views analytically. But the views expressed by my colleagues sitting in the opposition prove that there is still a tendency of discrimination and it has not diminished in these years, rather it is on the rise. Even the analysis of this situation is biased and its motive is to score political mileage.

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

When the issue of protection of minorities comes up. Infact it is not protection but it is their right. In the basic structure of Indian Constitution welfare and right to protection has been provided. Safety is their right, it is not mercy or gift for them. For it whole country should be united. I support this bill on behalf of my parties.

It is often seen that when the issue of Madarsas came up they were always depicted as they were hub of negative activities.

It has been said very simply that Madarsas are center of terrorism. It is also a way to make minorities insecure. What is the meaning of mainstream? It should not include conversion. The fundamentalists want that people should act on the dictates of thow. I would like to say that the fundamentalists should join the mainstream.

18.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Minorities institutions who face difficulties will be benefited by this bill.

AICTE, Medical Council of India and other institutions should also be issued instructions separately that the procedure for minorities should be simplified. Vocational and employment oriented education should be imparted in minority educational institutions. I would like to convey to my minority brethren that they should take full advantage of this Bill and try hard to bridge the gap by educating themselves and join the mainstream.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. The next speaker is Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time of the House as my friend Shri Mahtab has already deliberated on this matter in detail. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain silence in the House.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : This small legislation for an amendment of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 is of little effect. This amendment, which has been brought here, is just like a mountain giving birth to a mouse. This enactment was done the last time before the Bihar elections. Now also we are having elections in five States in the country, and with this purpose this amendment has come before us. This Ordinance was promulgated just four weeks before the Parliament Session. Therefore, the purpose of this Government is well known to us, but we are supporting it for the educational benefits, and for the economical benefits of all the minority communities. My party and myself stand to support it.

But, what is happening here today? Article 46 of the Constitution provides for promotion of educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and article 30 provides minorities, the right to establish and administer educational institutions. Therefore, the Constitutional rights are there. Why was it not being implemented? I am asking this from the Congress friends. They were in power for almost 50 years. Why have they not done this earlier for the minorities? What was the difficulty in doing it? Why are the minorities students not going in for higher education? It is because of the poor economical condition of the minorities, especially, the Muslims and others. This has compelled them not go in for higher education.

How will this Bill help them? This Bill is just introduced for the establishment of minority institutions. How will the minority poor students get benefit from this? How will they get admission in it? What is the provision in the Act for the same? What is their financial condition? How will they get permission to get admission in these institutions? If some minority individual or institution gets approval, then this Act empowers them to establish minority institutions. It does not say that the minorities or the poor students of the community will get benefit out of this institution.

Can the Hon'ble Minister or can the Government give the guarantee that a certain percentage of seats in these institutions, minimum 50 per cent, will be reserved for the Muslim students, the minority community? Can you give this guarantee? Does this Bill say so? It does not say so. You are just misleading the people. You are going for the enactment, but it will not help the poor Muslims or the minority community.

I do not want to repeat the other things. As my friend has already mentioned, it is intended to cut the role of the State Government. Why do you want to bypass the State Governments? Under our federal structure, these powers have been vested with the States, but you want to cut whatever powers have been vested with the State Governments. Do you want to spoil the peaceful atmosphere that is prevailing in the country by this enactment?

If you have sincere intentions for the welfare of the minority community and the poor minority students, we are there to help you. Whatever financial arrangement you want to make in the Budget, we are there to support you. But do not mislead the people unnecessarily by this Bill. I can tell you that you will again come with another amendment because it will not give real justice to them. Even after ten years, you will see that their condition will not change. Therefore, if you are sincerely interested, you should come with better provisions so that there will be better reservation scope for the students of minority community. We are there to support you.

How will these institutions help? The State Selection Committees are there so as far as technical higher education is concerned. In most of the technical educational institutions, the State Selection Boards are there to select students on merit. Only 10 per cent quota is available with the management and the remaining 90 per cent of seats are available on merit. How will other minority communities get benefit of these institutions that are going to be established? It will not help the poor students of the minority community. If you want to give good facilities, then you should go for better enactment, and we are there to support you.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many thanks to you. The Bill brought by UPA Government is a welcome step for minorities. I welcome it. It support it and also request that Government should pay attention to the issues raised for amendment by some of my friends whether they belong to Bhartiya Janata Party or any other party. Today discussion is going on regarding the educational backwardness of minorities. Earlier, my friends have furnished detailed information in this regard. When I got a survey conducted in my area, I found that even 2 percent children are not attending school. Sometimes their poverty comes in the way of their schooling and sometimes they are denied admission. This is a bitter truth. Their applications are thrown away. Though my friends can say that it is not so that the doors for education is closed for minorities. It is not so that minorities are not interested in education. They are striving hard for their education But in fact the doors are closed for them. The most important issue related to this Bill is that through out the world every body knows that Aligarh Muslim University is a University of Muslims, Aligarh Muslim is prefixed to its name. This proves that Aligarh Muslim University is University of Muslims. This is the only university where a certain percentage of Muslim children are studying and are serving their country after completion of their education....* minority status of Aligarh University has been withdrawn just to close doors of University for Muslims.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will not go on record.

[Translation]

This sentence be deleted.

(Interruptions)

MOHD. SHAHID : My request is that, with the introduction of this Bill, Government should also introduce

*Not recorded.

[Mohd. Shahid]

a Bill for minority status of Aligarh Muslim University...
(Interruptions) I am concluding my speech within a
minute...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Our Government
is taking action separately for Aligarh Muslim University.
You do not worry...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shahidji, please sit down.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur) : The
students of Hindu community have also been enrolled in
Aligarh Muslim University...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : He says that
there is 'Muslims' word in Aligarh Muslim University,
therefore this university belongs to Muslims. I would like
to ask that there is 'Hindu' word in Benares Hindu
University. Does it mean the Benares Hindu University
belongs to Hindus only...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded
except Shri Shahid's speech...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Azamiji, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MOHD. SHAHID : Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is dividing
the House. He can't hear the matters pertaining to
minorities in the House...(Interruptions) Our colleagues
were saying that they support the matters pertaining to
education of minorities. They say that the Bhartiya Janata
Party supports the matters pertaining to the education of
minorities then as why do they say that reservation should
not be given on the basis of religion? We urge that the
minorities should be given reservation in educational
institutions in India so that their plight may be improved.

When we want to bring progress and happiness in the
country then why education is being denied to a particular
section? We should like to say that you are free to make
any amendments in the Bill but it should be done keeping
in view the education and progress of minorities. I
congratulate U.P.A. Government for making an effort to
improve the condition of education of Muslims by bringing
this Bill and these people are unable to bear the efforts
made in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the speech of the
hon. Minister should be recorded and nothing else.
...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.
FATMI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like
to thank all the 23 hon. Members of Parliament who have
participated in the discussion. All the Members have
expressed their views here. Sir, you know that the National
Commission for Minority Education Institutions Bill came
into force in the country w.e.f. 11 November, 2004. This
time, we have brought in only amendments to this Bill. The
Bill introduced in Lok Sabha today has already been
passed by Rajya Sabha. These amendments have been
brought because we could not achieve the targets of
establishing this commission and enacting this Act. Some
members also asked the extent of benefits the minorities
got through this. As per the information available with us
since the passage of this act no progress has been made
in this regard. We have not received any information
regarding the number of people given N.O.C. or the
number of minority institutions that got affiliation under this
Act. The Commission has received about 350 applications
having various kinds of complaints. Among these the main
complaint was about the N.O.C. given by the state and
when this N.O.C. was not given, which starts the whole
process, the question of affiliation or their minority
character...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Kindly state the number of B.J.P. ruled states which have not given N.O.C....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI : When it was seen that the initial step is to get N.O.C. which is given by the states and when this very NOC was not there then no further action can be taken in this regard. Therefore, we have brought these amendments on 13 August in the Bill in Rajya Sabha. But the Bill was referred to the Select Committee where detailed discussion was held on it. After that the Bill was discussed in detail, in the Standing Committee and the Government received some inputs from the Commission and the States. On the basis of this input we brought these amendments in the Bill. The main amendment is that if any individual submit in application for opening a school, college engineering or medical college within 90 days, the state will have to issue NOC and grant him permission for the same and if not, it will have to state reasons therefore. If State Government gives reply, then its O.K. and if not then state its reason and if no reason is given then it will be assumed that NOC has been given. Therefore, there is no excuse for the state, if the reasons stated by the state are not appropriate, then after 90 days application is sent to the Commission. The application seeking affiliation is first sent to the state, and in case the state does not issue NOC it is sent to the Commission. And the Commission itself does not take a decision about NOC but asks the state as to why NOC has not been issued. The Commission will issue NOC if it is likely to be issued by the state or he deserves it. The Bill passed earlier has the provision that the affiliation can be taken only from 6 Central Universities. Many honourable members of this House stated that if a

resident of Kerala gets affiliation for his educational institutions from the University of Nagaland and a resident of North India gets affiliation from any university of South India then it will create problems not only to the concerned individual but also for the concerned universities. Now after reviewing this we have extended its jurisdiction. Now, the affiliation can be sought from any university whether it is a state run or a central university. This is a major step taken.

Here a question was raised whether affiliation could be sought from any university? Every university has its jurisdiction of affiliation. The University of Delhi extends affiliation to the institutions in Delhi only and if any institution is being established in Uttar Pradesh it will not extend affiliation to it. But, now the University of Delhi have to extend affiliation even to the institutions being opened in Uttar Pradesh. Its jurisdiction has been extended. Any individual can sought affiliation for his institution from any university of the country.

Thirdly, if they do not grant affiliation then it can be inquired after 60 days as to why affiliation was not granted? Besides, it became more necessary to know about this when 93rd amendment was brought and Article 15(5) was included under that constitutional amendment. Every body said, what was the hurry that an ordinance was brought. Now there are talks about election. I would like to tell them that it has got nothing to do with the elections. Infact, now since it has happened, a question was also raised by them. Will reservation for SCs/STs be provided in the minority institutions or not then I must say that after the inclusion of Article 15(5), there would be no provision of reservation for OBC, SC, ST into the minority institutions and that has already been passed by the Parliament. Now it has to be found out as to which are minority institutes, because it will apply accordingly for those which are not minority institutes. There are a large number of such minority people who have opened their general institutions and those who do not have minority character. Then the reservation for SC/ST and backward classes would apply.

*Not recorded.

[Shri M.A.A. Fatmi]

Therefore, the right to decide as to which is a minority institution will also lie with this Commission only. Some hon'ble Members have raised a question here that there would be no standards for that and it will depend on the discretion of the Commission to confer the status to the college or university upon which they want. It is not so and the instructions and guidelines of all the institutions like University Grants Commission, A.I.C.T.E. MCI, Dental Council of India would apply to these minority institutions and all the above mentioned institutions would keep a watch on these institutes. Complete care would be taken to provide quality education. It will not be that if a minority institute is opened, it will not fall under any ambit. All these ambits would apply to them as well. Quality education would be given in these minority institutions. An issue has been raised regarding commercialization of these institutes. I would like to say that no institution can commercialize education in the country. If anybody does so, and they get to know of any such matter, then they must inform us. We will take appropriate action against them.

As far as Mr. Owaisi's saying that it will cause interference in Article 30 of the Constitution, I would like to say that this will not cause any interference. It has also been stated that it spoils the relations between the State and the Centre. We have mentioned earlier also that whenever an issue regarding giving an NOC or affiliation would come before us we will decide the matter after discussing it with the State Government. We will not ignore the State Government in this regard. As far as the question as to who are the minorities is concerned, I would like to state that we have notified five communities. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jorastrian as minorities. But if a Hindu is living in Punjab then he would be considered a minority there. A Hindu or a Buddhist living in Kashmir would be considered a minority there. Similarly, if there is a Hindu in Nagaland then he would be considered as minority there.. The State Government would be able to notify in this regard and whoever the State Government declares to be minority, the Union

Government would also consider them to be minority there. Therefore, they must take this out of their mind that whatever decision has been taken by the Union Government would be binding on all. The States are free to identify minority according to their own free will.

Now, a question has also been raised whether this Bill would prove to be beneficial to the minorities or not. We believe in uniting the people of all the strata of the country. Ever since the UPA Government came to power, it has always stated that we firmly believe in social justice and secularism and this is a step in that direction. Our hon'ble Colleague Shri Rawat ji mentioned about a tree. If this country is a tree, then we are the few branches of this tree, one branch is Hindu, one is Muslim, one is Sikh and one is Christian. He said that a bird used to live on that tree and when the tree caught fire, the bird said, I used to live on this tree but now it has caught fire. But, I will not run away leaving the tree behind in such a condition. He has himself said in this regard that nobody has left the place. If we all brothers are united then we will remain united and face anybody who tries to harm us and see to it as to who tries to harm us. What is to be seen is that who is igniting the fire. We must have our eyes on such person. This nation is for all of us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address the Chair while speaking.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI : Sir, the hon'ble Member had given an excellent example. This nation belongs to all of us and we all have to stay united in this country. We all have to flourish, make progress and I think, if we take this country to be a tree then we, all its branches, must see that no branch is harmed or shelved and whoever tries to harm us we must remove that person himself.

This Bill is a step towards that. Therefore, I would request all the hon'ble Members to support this Bill with full majority and get this Bill passed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House had been extended for half an hour which has been exhausted now.

If hon'ble Members allow then the time of the House may be extended till the Bill is passed and Special Mentions are over.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : All right.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since the Mover of the Resolution is not present in the House, I therefore, put the Resolution to vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006 (No. 1 of 2006) promulgated by the President on 23 January, 2006."

The Resolution was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the question is:

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI : 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.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up Special Mentions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting on Iran Nuclear Issue was ended yesterday. In the AIEA Board Meeting, it has been recommended in regard to Iran Nuclear Issue that it should be referred to the UN Security Council. With the report of the Director-General now being forwarded to the UN Security Council, now the matter is outside the ambit of IAEA.

The USA has made it clear that it expects quick decision in the Security Council. We have seen the statement made by the Vice-President of USA that Iran will have to face consequences. This matter was discussed and debated in this House. While replying to the debate, what the hon. Prime Minister said was that 'the concern expressed by all sections of this House would be taken into consideration while taking decision on IAEA Board Meeting'.

What we have seen is, the role which our Government should have played in IAEA was played by our representative. The proposal, made by Russia, to have a diplomatic solution of the problem was also not accepted by the United States of America and EU-3. I would like to quote what Mr. Nicholas Bern, the Under Secretary of the United States of America has stated before the Congressional Committee. I quote:

"It is going to be incumbent upon our allies around the world and the interested countries to show that they are willing to act should the words and resolution of United Nations not suffice."

This is very pertinent...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have already discussed this matter in the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The same route and the same method was adopted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We already had a very long debate on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What we have expressed here, the apprehension expressed by us and what the Prime Minister has stated while replying to the debate, the same route and the same method was adopted by the United States of America on Iraq; the UN should accept these unreasonable demands and if those demands are not accepted, they will by-pass the UN and go with its allies for action. That has been made clear by the statements made by various people from the USA.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want from the Government? I have more than 30 Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is unfortunate and regrettable that the UPA Government voted with the USA and EU-3 in the month of February. This time there was no voting. The proposal of Russia was rejected by the USA. Our Government supported the stand taken by USA and EU-3. The statement made by Malaysia...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot make a speech here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is very important, Sir. I am just concluding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You were given only one minute and you have taken more than five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The intention of USA is

very much clear. The proposal to have small nuclear issue, even for peaceful purpose, was not allowed by the USA. What we wanted was that it should be within the ambit of IAEA but that was not done. The real intention is to put sanction against Iran. What they did in case of Iran, the same method will be adopted and that was indicated by the American President, Mr. George W. Bush while addressing a gathering...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is more than sufficient. You may please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going to be recorded now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shailendra Kumar to speak. Kindly speak for one minute only.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going to be recorded now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia:

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi

Shri Rupchand Pal

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Sankat Mochan temple of Varanasi has presented an amazing example of communal harmony. I, through this House, would like to say that both the Houses

*Not recorded.

have observed two minutes silence for the families who lost their lives in the bomb blasts. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has given an amount of Rs. Five lakhs each to the families of those who died and Rs. One lakh and Rs. Fifty thousand each to the injured. It is very shameful that some people belonging to an organization related to Bhartiya Janata Party asked for permission to stage a 'dharna' inside the temple premises. Through this House, Sir, I would like to thank all the employees and officials of the temple for not allowing to stage a 'dharna' inside the temple premises. Not only this, when the leaders from all the political parties and particularly Salman Khursheed Sahib visited the temple, people belonging to BJP organization and Vidyarthi Parishad said that now it would be required to wash the entire temple with Gangajal. This clearly indicates the Bhartiya Janata Party is for ahead in spreading communalism and religious fundamentalism. Presently there is peace and happiness all over the country for which we call slogans of communal harmony brotherhood and national unity. But the party takes political mileage out of the dead bodies of those people who lose their lives in riots. I demand through this House that associations which promote communalism should be banned.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government and various centrally sponsored schemes funded by the union Government have always been implemented in various states. I would like to give an example about their objective and system. For example, a scheme named Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was formulated for providing employment. This scheme has not yet achieved its objective and then it is over and its name has been changed as Employment Assurance Scheme. The works that were done under JRY were discontinued then and there. If some by lanes were being constructed, those were left in midway. If some road was being constructed somewhere, its work was suspended; somewhere construction of a building was left without roof. This a new scheme was started it was also discontinued in the midway

and new name as Swarna Jayanti Swa-Rozgar Yojana was given to the scheme.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you know that you are from the ruling party?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : I am hundred percent correct. I am saying in favour of my party and am speaking about correcting the mistakes. NABARD also came here, CRF scheme was also made, national rural employment guarantee act was enacted, and operation black board was also started. All the schemes are made for common man. But every state has different problems and different systems. They are not seen from the practical point of view.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You don't need to give lecture. You please conclude.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : I am not delivering lecture. The works were done in our area under this scheme. When a scheme is discontinued to start another then all the work should be handed over to the new scheme. If they are not handed over then they are left incomplete. When name of a scheme is changed, all these aspects should be looked into. You have identified 200 districts, the remaining districts should also be covered as it is a question of employment. Due consideration should be given to it otherwise we will not achieve our aims.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, being the MP from Dhanbad Lok Sabha constituency I wish to draw your attention towards the problems of my constituency. Bokaro district falls under Dhanbad. There is an acute shortage of water there. In the villages, there is no potable water available anywhere and it has resulted in migration of people from that place. There is an acute shortage of water in Chas and Chandan Kiyari blocks of Bokaro district also. The people there are forced to drink water from the dirty pond and Ganga river. In Chas people are compelled to purchase potable water at the rate of Rs. 10 per gallon. At that place, a scheme for supply of potable water is on papers for last 15 years which has not been implemented yet and as such there is an acute

[Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey]

shortage of water. All the higher officers in the district are aware of it but none of them has shown his concern. The women in the places like Marafari, Shivandih, Ritudih, Kurmadih, Validih adjoining Bokaro steel have to walk upto 2 kms to fetch potable water. All the hand pumps in these areas are out of order and ponds have gone dry. The position of drinking water is more or less the same in almost all the areas barring Bokaro steel residential colony. I demand for restoration of potable water facilities in these areas as it is a very big problem. The entire Jharkhand state is affected by this problem, water is nowhere available and water level has gone much down. Wells and ponds have gone dry. The condition is very miserable.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the judgement of the Supreme Court in the Best Bakery case pronounced yesterday is a landmark judgement and an eye-opener. I would like to request the Central Government to proceed in the matter. Our criminal administration requires drastic changes.

We have been talking about the changes for a long time and many Commissions who have been entrusted with this work have submitted their report. But they have not been looked into so far. Our crime conviction is far below when compared with other Western countries. So, our system of investigation is lagging far behind in the modern times. It is high time to make necessary changes first in the Evidence Act. The Evidence Act is outdated. So, we have to change it according to modern conditions and to suit the modern conveniences also. So also is the case of Criminal Procedure Code which requires drastic changes. I would refer to one Section. I am a lawyer for over half a century. Section 162 is about an unsigned statement in the process of investigation. We always find the witness turning hostile. On that basis, so many criminal offences and heinous crimes are acquitted like the Jessica Lal case and the Best Bakery Case. All these are examples which show that there is something fundamentally wrong with our criminal investigation.

I request the Central Government to come forward with concrete proposals for amending the Evidence Act as well as the Criminal Procedure Code in the matter of criminal investigation. I request the Government to consider the matter seriously.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Sir, throughout the country, the youths who are willing to go abroad either for higher education or for jobs have to get authentication from the Authentication Centre functioning at New Delhi run by the Ministry of Human Resources Development. A large number of students are coming from Tamil Nadu, waiting for a few days and spending huge sums of money for getting authentication. In Kerala, already there Centres have been opened. One is at Trivandram and the other two are at Ernakulam and Kozhikode and they are run by NORKA. In Andhra Pradesh, the Centre is functioning from Hyderabad. In Maharashtra, the Centre is located at Mumbai and in Karnataka, the Centre is situated at Bangalore. From Tamil Nadu, the largest number of youths are going abroad. In Delhi Centre, the highest number of youths who are getting authentication are only from Tamil Nadu. Due to accommodation and language problems, the students are suffering a lot.

In this regard, the Ministry of Human Resources Development had communicated with the Government of Tamil Nadu to identify the authorities there to authorize it as a Regional Authentication Centre. But the Government of Tamil Nadu has not taken any steps and intentionally delaying the matter. It creates unnecessary hardship to thousands of students.

I shall, therefore, request the hon. Minister to please take suitable necessary action in this regard and direct the Home Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu to act as Regional Authentication Centre for the youths of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw

attention of the House towards the loss of life and property and damage to crops caused to farmers and other people of the country due to unseasonal rains in Uttar Pradesh. In past three days on 8,9 and 10.3.06 crops of farmers have been completely damaged due to incessant heavy rains, hailstorms and stormy wind in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bundelkhand area and Hamirpur Mahoba area wherefrom I have been elected. Many people have died and a number of people have been injuries due to these happenings. Electricity supply system has been totally collapsed in the villages. Communication systems have gone dead. Standing crops have been severely damaged due to the stormy winds. The farmers of Uttar Pradesh are unlucky as they have been facing natural calamities continuously for the last four years and every time they lose their bread and butter. After drought, floods and hailstorms in the beginning of this year. Masoor and Arhar crops have been damaged due to Mahun insect. Standing crops have been damaged due to frost bite and completely ripe crops have fallen due to heavy rains. Last year also during the session I had asked for central assistance and union Government had conducted a survey there but farmers did not get even a single rupee in the name of help. There is no doubt that the entire Bundelkhand area has been damaged, but I particularly demand from Union Government that a central survey team should be sent to Uttar Pradesh in order to assess the losses caused to the farmers in the state and central assistance should be provided immediately and a disaster relief fund should be set up.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the house towards a problem. I want to say that yesterday Bahan Vasundharaji has presented Rajasthan's Budget in Vidhan Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That time is already over.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : The Union Government have curtailed an amount of Rs. 195 crore

rupees from the annual plan of Rajasthan and withheld Rs. 636 crore which was the legitimate right of Rajasthan. Total size of the plan is Rs. 8185.23 crore. Planning Commission had approved Rs. 8350 crores. Even after getting clearance of 11th and 12th finance commission the legitimate right from the finance management. On the basis of recommendations of 11th and 12th Finance Commission the Union Government have withheld Rs. 636 crores in respect of Rajasthan state. Therefore I demand from the union Government that the amount that should have been given to Rajasthan on the basis of recommendation received from the Planning Commission. Under the Gadgil formula should be given to the state. Under Gadgil Mukherjee formula sufficient amount is give for development of areas, desert as well as for infrastructural development. Thus the funds that Rajasthan should have been given by the Government of India have not been given till date.

My submission is that the funds to the tune of Rs. 636 crore withheld by the Central Government should be released to the Government of Rajasthan so that the schemes started by sister Vashundhra ji can be completed and something good can be done to the poor people.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Naveen Jindal, you will speak only on the incident that took place in Varanasi and not about the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large number of our brothers and sisters were killed in terrorist attack which took place on 7th in Varanasi. In their memory, we observed a two minutes silence on 8th in the Parliament. But subsequent developments of counter allegation in the House pained me a lot as I am quite a new Member of Parliament. The terrorists kill our people and we, in place of arresting them

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

and tackling terrorists resort to blaming each other. I feel, this way we are playing into their hands. My submission is that we have a common objective, that is to serve and strengthen our country, therefore, we should unitedly deliberate upon such issues, especially so, when the issue of national security is concerned. I am not pointing out about any political party in particular. We may also be acting in the same manner, but what I mean to say is that we should express solidarity on such issues so that to send across this message that we can fight against external forces unitedly and not that we ourselves fight with each other.

18.58 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth Report

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, for quite some time chaos is prevailing in almost all the major airports of our country. There is inordinate delay and passengers are being harassed like anything. Not only that, but there is lack of maintenance. Aircraft are not being properly maintained. So, what is happening is that safety standards are being compromised. Last evening the nose wheel of Kolkata-Delhi flight got blocked while it was landing in such a manner that it was going to face a very serious accident. In this flight there were nearly 170 passengers, which included the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the

former Chief Minister of West Bengal and many other dignitaries. There were a large number of passengers. There is lack of maintenance. There is proliferation of airlines. There is no maintenance by the engineering staff. There is shortage of staff and the Government is recklessly going in for privatisation. There is no Civil Aviation Policy. The merger of Sahara Airlines and Jet Airways is taking place in such a manner that it is against any principle the world over.

19.00 hrs.

It is monopolising the airport space and all these things. In such a situation, we demand that the Government should come out how they propose to improve the situation, do away with the prevailing chaos in the airports as also how to improve the Civil Aviation Policy.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Easter Sunday is the most holy Sunday for the entire Christian Community all over the world. It is international holiday too. Christians would be involved in prayers and other rituals in the Church on that day. But it seems that our Union Public Service Commission is not aware of it. It has scheduled to conduct the National Level Premedical Examination on Easter Day. This year, it is on 16th April, Last year also, the UPSC decided to conduct the examination on Easter Day. In Kerala, people from all walks of life protested against that move and staged *dharna*, *rail roko* and other protests. Criminal cases are pending against many priests from the Diocese of Irinjalakuda in the Railway Court, Palakad.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to give necessary directions to UPSC to withdraw the decision to conduct the National Level Premedical Examination on Easter Day. I would also request the Central Government to withdraw the criminal cases pending against those who had protested against this move in the last year.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara) : I am drawing the kind attention of this House to the problems of

Overseas Indians in Riyadh. Thousands of Indian Passport holders are now working in Saudi Arabia, especially in Riyadh. They are raising so many problems related to their employment and welfare problems. But the post of the First Welfare Officer in the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is vacant for the last few months. Hence there is no way to solve the problems of the employees in Riyadh including the renewal of their passports.

Hence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Overseas Affairs Ministry should take emergent actions to appoint the Welfare Officer at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to say that the Director General of the oldest Railway Postal Service Division of Rajasthan, which has been functioning in Ajmer, a Union Territory upto 1956, and situated in the heart of Rajasthan, also a very important city from historical, educational, cultural and religious aspect is conspiring to shift it elsewhere. It has created great resentment amongst thousands of employees and officers working therein. Railway Postal Service Divisional Headquarters is the oldest division of Rajasthan. Jodhpur and Jaipur divisions have been created later. It is the largest division so far as number of its office units, strength of staff, quantity of postal dispatches and workload is concerned. As Dargah Sharief is located here, so letters from across the world are received here. Important pilgrimage centre Pushkar, too, is located here. In addition to it, several central and state offices are also located here. The Director General of Postal Services is adamant on closing down of the biggest and oldest division.

In view of the above, through you, I urge the Ministry of Communications to intervene and ensure that a status quo is maintained in respect of the said division in the interest of thousands of its employees and in large public interest and also in view of importance of the city of Ajmer.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Minister of Agriculture Indian that Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly is functioning under Indian that Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly is functioning under Indian Council for Agricultural Research. Three categories of officers are working in it – scientist technical and administration staff. Officers and employees under scientist category are given 3 years assessment, 25 percent NPA and increments in pay. Under Technical category, similar facilities are provided. Under Five years assessment system, they get promotion and three additional increments in pay. Class V pass tractor Drivers, Vehicle Drivers, Milk Weighers, Butches, Rotary Operators, Hindi Translators, Computer Operators, Key Punch Operators etc. come under Technical category. The employees working in administration category, who have joined service after completion of ITI, graduation, post graduation, MBA, LLB etc. do not get any facility of this kind. Promotion after five years policy is adopted for one category, whereas, for class III employees of another category, promotion is granted after completion of 12 years. The officers and employees of administrative category, such as computer operator, internet teleprinter operator and photo-stat machine operators are being meted out step motherly treatment. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should take necessary steps in this regard and officers, employees of administrative category should be provided increments and other facilities at par with officers and employees of scientists and technical category.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, National Highway No. 24, passing through my parliamentary constituency Sagar, MP is proposed to be upgraded to 4 lane from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari. Said highway is quite significant. Bamhori Tigadda falls on Sagar-Nagpur stretch. Further, if one travels via Raholi Patan, Jabalpur the travelling distance is shortened by 30 kms. The road from Varanasi, Rewa Satna Katni-Jabalpur i.e. N.H.-7 connects with this road. At present for going to

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

Jabalpur from Sagar one has to travel via Damoh. Going by this road takes more time and puts extra burden on our pocket. Through you, I would request the Government to get the roads constructed from Sagar to Bamouri and Rahlipatan to Jabalpur for linking both these national highways No. 26 and 7 respectively by incorporating them under either Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana or Central Road Fund Scheme.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is an agrarian state and its economy is based on agriculture. Indira Gandhi Canal Project is the biggest project of Rajasthan. As per the agreement of the year 1981 Punjab would retain 6 M.A.F. water and after the completion of the project Rajasthan would also get water. At present this project is complete, however, Punjab is not releasing water to Rajasthan. At present there is 1301 million cubic feet water despite that Punjab is refusing to release water. Last time when there was 1295 M.A.F. water or even on earlier occasion when there was 1265 M.A.F. water in the canal, Rajasthan was getting water, however, this time it has been refused. The entire crops of Rajasthan would be destroyed in dearth of water. It would be a national loss. Through you, I would request the Government to issue directions to the Government of Punjab to release to Rajasthan its share of 6 M.A.F. water. The Government of Rajasthan has a major share. Besides the Chairmen in Bhakra Beas Management Board has been appointed on rotation basis, out of which Punjab and Haryana have served their turns whereas MO Chairman has been appointed from Rajasthan till now. There has not even been a Member in the Board from Rajasthan. Through You, I would request the Government to nominate a Member from Rajasthan in the Board.

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR (Haridwar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the water table in the villages Amarpur,

Baleki, Nanhera, Sarthedi, Manakpur, Sunhaithi, Khatakhedi, Behdeki, Majra, Khelpur, Sirchindi and Delna etc. in my parliamentary constituency Haridwar has depleted owing to which the residents over there are facing acute shortage of water. The farmers are not getting sufficient water for farming purposes, owing to which they are on the verge of starvation.

Another canal or a small canal (Khajaya) may be linked with the canal being constructed from Mohammadpur via Tasipur and taken through the villages so as to increase the water table over there and the farmers may get sufficient water.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ram Lakhan Singh ji, today, I am giving you an opportunity but in future you'll be given a change only if you give a prior notice.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, the farmer of Madhya Pradesh is passing through a very big crisis. There have been incessant rains and hailstorm fall for the last two three days. Before this, in July last year, there was heavy flood in 9 districts. Thereafter, 8 districts were hit by drought and now there is excessive rainfall and hailstorm fall in 29 districts of the State. It has led to complete destruction of crops, which were sown by the farmers after one year of hard labour. Besides, there has been huge loss to livestock. 29 people have been killed as reported until yesterday. Through you, I would like to request the Government that the compensation paid against the loss to farmers is a mere formality. All the Members over here are in favour of the farming community and whenever any Government is formed, it pledges to work for the welfare of the farmers and gives assurance of being farmer friendly. But so far there has been no improvement in the revenue book. He must be knowing better than us that the money given in the form of compensation to farmers in the event of any natural calamity like hailstorm, fire or flood, is negligible and a mere formality. If the Government is concerned about the interests of the farmers then they should modify it...
(Interruptions)

My another submission is that the hon. Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shri Suresh Pachouri ji was on a recent visit to Bhopal. He announced a compensation of Rs. One lakh per head to the kith and kin of the people who were killed during floods at that time, however, that fund has not been released to the State as on date. Not even the compensation announced for loss of cattle has been given. Today, out of 48 districts in Madhya Pradesh only 2 districts have been spared whereas, all the remaining districts have been hit by floods, drought and hailstorm...*(Interruptions)* They are in dire need of relief and the Government has given them an assurance. Today, the hon. Minister of Finance referred to the crop insurance scheme. I repeatedly requested him

that unless protection is provided to the farmers for their crops, they will not be able to work properly.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 11th of March, 2006, at 11 a.m.

19.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, March 11, 2006/
Phalgun 20, 1927 (Saka)*

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