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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# The SQ No. 348 tabled by Shri Parasnath Yadav, MP was deleted vide corrigenda to List of Questions issued on 05.05.2006.

@ The name of Shri Parasnath Yadav, MP was deleted vide corrigenda to List of Questions issued on 05.05.2006.

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, March 17, 2006/Phalgun 26, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you can raise this matter tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not show the newspapers. I would request you not to show that because that is not permissible.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow I will give you one-and-half hours to raise matters of urgent public importance. On Monday also I will give you time. It has been agreed to by all the hon. leaders in the Leaders Meeting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have some guests present in the gallery.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to all of you.

11.01 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 342, Shri Dhanuskodi R. Athithan.

[English]

#### Computers in Rural Areas

\*342. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any programme to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural poor of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts are being made by the Government to make computers easily available to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched the following programmes to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas:-

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in North Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the objective of providing Internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks 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).

- E-Governance Scheme for development of Core infrastructure entitled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) covering 6000 Blocks, Tahsils and District Hqrs. was approved by the Government in March, 2005 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3334 crore for the entire country. Under the scheme, proposals from 20 States/UTs have already been sanctioned.

- Provision of Internet access and IT enabled services to the community at large and facilitating establishment of 100,000 Common Service



Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) using 2 Mbps connectivity being provided through SWANs (State Wide Area networks) under its National e-Governance Plan.

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) Under its "Internet Dhaba" scheme, provides Internet Access to franchisees of Internet Dhabas in the rural Block Headquarters. As on December 31, 2005, a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various States in the country.
- To enable wide proliferation of content development in Indian languages software tools and fonts in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, have been made available.
- Media Lab Asia has initiated project on Rural Net and Rural Wi-Fi for the rural community.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is facilitating the industry to make available Personal Computers (PCs) at affordable prices for the masses. Three companies have already launched PCs costing less than Rs.10,000/- in the market. The Report of the Expert Committee on "PC Penetration, Internet and Domestic Software" set up by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology has delineated a vision for India which encompasses to increase the pace of PC penetration by 2008 to the levels of 65 PCs per 1000 persons from the existing 18.5 PCs per 1000 persons.

**SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:** Sir, I compliment the Information and Technology Ministry for the initiatives it has taken through the Community Information Centres and the State Wide Area Network for enabling the masses to get access to computers. In spite of all these efforts, the computer knowledge acquired by the rural masses is less than even fifty per cent of the knowledge acquired by the urban people.

Will the Information and Technology Ministry come out with any proposal to fill this digital divide between the urban and the rural India?

I wish to compliment Shri Shiva Nadar, who hails from my area, for having introduced a low budget computer, which costs less than Rs. 10,000. Its cost is on par with that of the television. All the gram panchayats are now having television facilities.

Has the Ministry any proposal to introduce computer facilities in all gram panchayats in order to enable the rural masses to get these facilities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please do not disturb.

**DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:** Sir, as far as the first part of the supplementary question of the hon. Member is concerned, I want to inform the House, through you, that formal computer education is related to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry of Human Resource Development is doing a lot of work for the development of computer education in schools.

The Ministry of Information and Technology deals with informal computer education. We are imparting computer knowledge through the DOEACC courses. We are also translating or developing software tools and fonts in different languages. We have already released software tools and fonts in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu; for Urdu and Punjabi they are ready to be released; and for other languages, they will be completed by December, 2006.

As far as imparting computer education through television is concerned, which is the second part of the query of the hon. Member, I would like to inform the House that there is a Doordarshan Channel called Gyan Darshan. It conducts a lot of courses through the IGNOU. Other institutions also conduct a lot of courses for imparting computer education. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology would like to expand this imparting of computer knowledge. We want that the computer knowledge should percolate down to the lowest level of the society.

**SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:** Sir, in the written reply the hon. Minister has stated that the State Wide Area Network covers 6,000 blocks and that its outlay is Rs. 3,334 crore.

I would like to know from the Minister, through you, as to how many blocks have been covered in Tamil Nadu under the SWAN Programme? What is the total outlay? I would like to know whether any proposal has come from the Government of Tamil Nadu. If so, what action does the Information and Technology Ministry propose to take on the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, we have received a proposal from Tamil Nadu Government. The project is almost complete. But due to Model Code of Conduct, we are not going to launch it. So, it will be done after the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls are over.

As regards share, it is on 60:40 basis between the State and the Union Governments. The share of the Union Government is Rs.97.17 crore.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology that imparting of computer education in urban schools starts from class 5 itself, whereas in today's computer age, there are no proper arrangements for imparting the said education to the students of even senior secondary level in rural schools. Consequently, rural students lag behind in computer education as compared to urban students. Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he proposes to seek cooperation of the Minister of Human Resource Development for preparing any scheme to impart computer education in senior secondary schools located in rural areas so that rural students do not lag behind in computer education.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the first Supplementary Question, I had stated that in formal education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development makes arrangements for imparting computer education in schools, colleges and also at university level. HRD Ministry is very well doing that.

Sir, so far as imparting computer education or providing computer access in rural areas is concerned, it is done through a two tier programme. Under first tier, community information centres are set up in different areas, wherein we've set up 487 CICs for north-east and 116 for Kashmir area. Secondly, we propose to set up 71 CICs for Andaman Nicobar and Lakshdweep islands. It is under consideration. For remaining areas in the country, the Government have decided to set up about one lakh (1,00,000) Common Service Centres, (CSCs) which would involve an expenditure of over Rs. 5000 crore. It is under process and the scheme would be implemented soon. It would enhance computer access and computer education in rural areas. It would provide computer facility in the villages. We intend to provide that facility.

*[English]*

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that most of the people's representatives of the local bodies, MLAs and even the MPs are not aware of the various schemes implemented through the various Ministries.

Recently, I approached the officer in-charge of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in my district to know whether there is any programme with them mentioning all the projects and schemes under various Ministries so that the block level representatives or even MLAs can easily prepare some projects and send them to the Central Government through the State Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any such programme mentioning all the schemes under various Ministries, under the Communications Ministry, so that the local bodies, the representatives or Members of Legislatures can prepare some schemes, and various schemes of the Central Ministries can be implemented in the respective States.

MR. SPEAKER: How can you reply for other Ministries?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, it is a good suggestion. We will examine it and, if possible, we will ask our officials to provide the information to the hon. Members of the State Legislatures as well as the Members of Parliament.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in today's world, information technology is the biggest capital and I feel, if we want our farmers to prosper and progress, there is a need to provide most competitive prices for their produces. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to launch an Online Screen Trading Information Platform with the joint efforts of the Ministry of Information Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture? Whether after connecting all agricultural marketing agencies with said platform, will it be possible to provide most competitive prices for the agroproducts?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is meant for some other Ministry. He will communicate it to you about that.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per our Common Minimum Programme the Government are committed to promote IT sector and for this purpose they have prepared a national e-governance plan. The Government have evolved SWAN (state wide area network) through which land records are being put online and my department is taking initiative to provide related information to the farmers.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as rural urban divide is concerned, there is a wide gap in rural and urban connectivity which is 1.94 percent and 31 percent respectively in rural and urban areas. The Government have paid a subsidy of Rs. 30 thousand crore to abridge this gap. But, despite that it would be possible to provide only 4 percent connectivity in rural areas by 2010. First of all, there is a need to have a relook at the entire scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps the Government have taken to provide broad-band facility in rural areas to increase connectivity as the Government have envisaged to provide low cost equipment under its broad band policy?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears that hon. Member considers telecom and IT the same. It is all right that in broad band. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Both are connected. The hon. Minister should know about that.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: So far as lowering the price of computers is concerned, my Ministry, has no doubt, has taken steps in this direction. I congratulate the Ministry of Finance; I compliment the hon. Finance Minister. We have reduce Custom Duty and Excise duty to bring down the price of computers. These duties have been reduced in respect of 217 items under I.T. Agreement. Consequently, three companies, namely, HCL, Sahara Computers and Zenith have launched computers with price band below Rs. 10 thousand. Some more. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: My question is related to broad band and he is talking about computers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Please take your seat. If you are not satisfied, there are other methods.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: He has asked about broad band policy and rural telephony, that is why I said that he is mixing the both. He has asked about telephone, I would reply that and if he has asked about computers, I would reply about computers. He said that rural connectivity is 1.94 %. Personally, I do not fully agree with him because mobile towers erected in rural areas, as of now, are being linked with urban areas, so there is a need to take into account that thing also. The Government are making efforts to penetrate into economically unviable areas with the help of funds from USO Fund. It would expand telecommunication network, enhance broad band and also internet facilities.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 343 – Shri Subhash Maharia.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Already five questions were permitted.

#### Pending Projects under IWDP

\*343. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests from certain States for early sanctioning of the pending projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of projects sanctioned during the said period and the amount allocated thereunder, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be sanctioned;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the outlays for IWDP during the financial year 2006-07; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no request from State Governments for early sanctioning of pending projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), though State Governments do request for sanctioning of more proposals from their priority lists. Prioritised lists of districts for sanctioning IWDP projects are invited from the States. New IWDP projects are sanctioned from the prioritised lists depending upon the extent of wastelands, capacity to implement wasteland projects, performance of the State in implementation of IWDP projects and availability of budget after meeting the committed liability of ongoing projects. The prioritised proposals which are not sanctioned lapse after due

consideration by the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC), which includes, inter alia, a State Government representative. As such, there is no pendency of IWDP proposals. The States, however, may include the proposals not recommended by the PSC in a meeting in the priority list for the next meeting of the PSC. State-wise number of projects sanctioned and funds released under IWDP during the last three years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05 and in the current year i.e. 2005-06 up to 10.3.2006 are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(d) and (e) The outlay for IWDP during the current financial year (2005-06) has been increased to Rs. 485.00 crore, approximately by 32% over the last year's allocation of Rs. 368.00 crore. In the next financial year i.e. 2006-07, the outlay for IWDP is maintained at the same level.

**Annexure**

*Projects Sanctioned and Funds Released under IWDP during the period 2002-03 to 2005-06 (upto 10.03.2006)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		No. of Projects sanctioned	Fund released (including On-going projects)	No. of Projects sanctioned	Fund released (including On-going projects)	No. of Projects sanctioned	Fund released (including On-going projects)	No. of Projects sanctioned	Fund released (including On-going projects)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Non-North East (NNE) States</b>									
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	1395.33	10	3444.82	10	2958.318	24	4046.950
2	Bihar		66.00	9	371.25	9	434.630	22	990.000
3	Chhattisgarh		549.54	8	1197.26	9	1723.963	21	1984.191
4	Goa		0.00	2	82.50		0.000	2	24.100
5	Gujarat		1494.42	11	1733.56	9	1072.400	21	2418.520
6	Haryana		206.27	4	388.55	4	512.490	7	573.410
7	Himachal Pradesh		1500.73	8	1349.51	2	1345.220	21	2662.514
8	Jammu and Kashmir		220.86	1	241.96	4	422.915	16	1088.733

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	Jharkhand		41.77	6	272.25	4	205.650	6	303.250
10	Karnataka	1	1394.38	9	2319.84	10	2466.935	22	2495.937
11	Kerala		96.20	3	314.75		159.696	18	778.167
12	Maharashtra		705.08	9	949.41	10	1660.060	14	2051.930
13	Madhya Pradesh	1	3089.13	16	2866.22	14	2906.388	29	4898.630
14	Orissa		885.06	7	1940.11	9	1457.369	22	2307.438
15	Punjab		0.00		50.66	4	193.880	8	302.865
16	Rajasthan		772.06	9	2097.32	9	2121.183	21	2401.666
17	Tamil Nadu		837.95	11	1993.50	10	2470.624	27	2600.445
18	Uttar Pradesh		1657.04	13	1974.33	13	1802.860	25	3175.340
19	Uttaranchal	4	335.90	3	364.30	6	1227.520	17	1688.022
20	West Bengal		0.00	2	82.50	4	156.900	11	464.571
Sub-Total (NNE)		8	15247.72	141	24034.60	140	25299.00	354	37256.68
<b>North-Eastern (NE) States</b>									
1	Arunachal Pradesh	8	458.54	10	351.89	11	804.050	35	1012.519
2	Assam	15	1440.19	14	1729.91	35	3202.771	23	3049.694
3	Manipur	6	642.18	5	313.25	7	545.875	8	553.516
4	Meghalaya		23.68	7	443.65	7	194.384	45	637.373
5	Mizoram	5	1156.16	5	612.44	5	974.025	17	1122.000
6	Nagaland	7	1740.56	5	1868.31	5	1711.460	5	3679.190
7	Sikkim		184.12	3	268.98	4	324.270	5	165.552
8	Tripura		0.00		31.61	7	386.633	5	308.476
Sub-Total (NE)		41	5645.43	49	5620.04	81	8143.47	143	10528.32
Total		49	20893.15	190	29654.64	221	33442.47	497	47785.00

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 497 projects were sanctioned under the IWDP in the year 2005-06 all over the country. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number of proposals sanctioned for

such projects received through Panchayati Raj institutions and those received through NGOs. I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to provide any special package to the arid regions like Rajasthan and Gujarat for such projects.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier IWDP schemes were executed through NGOs. Now since 2003 such schemes are formulated by Panchayati Raj and are sanctioned after being directed through DRDA and the States. So, IWDP schemes are essentially implemented through Panchayati Raj. If the Panchayati Raj is not at all in a position to implement it, then in that case, they can take a decision to get the scheme implemented through any NGO. In that case we give them special permission for this. NGOs are not directly allowed. As per the provision the schemes are required to be implemented by Panchayati Raj through DRDA. The hon'ble Member has asked about Gujarat and Rajasthan. It is a fact that Rajasthan is a severely drought prone region and the schemes like IWDP are very much required for that region. Out of the total 32 districts of the State, Desert Development Programme (DDP) is being implemented fully in ten districts and partially in six districts. Thus DDP is running in 16 districts. Ten districts fully and six districts partially are included in it. DPAP is being implemented in 32 blocks of 11 districts. Besides, DDP and DPAP, IWDP programmes are also being implemented there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Desert Development Programme was introduced during the previous regime, however, that programme was only a lip service. We have not found anything on paper. The Rural Development Minister of the State, Shri Kalu Lal Gurjar had made correspondence with him and informed him that DPAP should be included in DDP. I will extend my full support to it. Till now Rs. 556 crore have already been released to Rajasthan alone for the said three schemes. As far the number of ongoing projects is concerned, there are 39 projects under IWDP, 420 under DPAP and 3451 under DDP.

Sir, this is a demand driven programme. There is nearly 5.5 crore hectares of waste land in Gujarat, Rajasthan and other States of the country out of which approximately one and half crore hectares of land is non-cultivable and the rest nearly three and half crore hectares of land is cultivable. The Government have formulated IWDP programme for the development of wasteland. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Members and the august House that the total area of land cannot be increased, so full emphasis is being given on development of wasteland. All the states have been requested to prepare their master plan under the Area Development Programme so that wasteland of every district can be made cultivable and cultivation could be undertaken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, a very comprehensive answer has been given. Any more questions?

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given the number of these projects. Since he has given an elaborate reply, so I will ask him about it separately.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the total number of ongoing projects and the area of wasteland in hectares, which has till now been developed as arable land all over the country through the said projects. There is no separate mention about the money meant to make good the wastage of funds in these projects during the year 2005-06. I would like to know whether the Government will make provision for a separate fund for this. I would also like to know whether the Government of India propose to incur separate expenditure in states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh on account of damage to the said projects due to various reasons like hailstorms.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot debate this issue now. You can only ask a supplementary.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently work is going on in 84 lakh hectares of land. Nearly Rs. 1789 crore have been earmarked for the said work and 7.7 lakh hectares of land has been made cultivable. The tenure of the said project is nearly 5 years. The work is going on in all these projects and we will achieve success in it soon....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: The hon'ble Minister should also tell us about hailstorm and cyclone experienced in that region. ....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hailstorm is not our subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No further supplementary.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given details of 16 schemes of our

State, Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the number and names of schemes which have been completed. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that in my State everything is being done only on paper and only funds are being spent. You will find that there is no system to monitor the schemes. I would like to know as to how monitoring is being done there, because money is being wasted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member has asked five questions. You please send him the list.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is asking about monitoring. District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been constituted in each of the districts under the Chairmanship of the Member of Parliament. MPs are the Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of such Committees. They may hold meeting at least once in three months, however, more sittings can be called and all the schemes of rural development can be monitored. Besides, there are other monitoring systems as well that do strict monitoring and its effect is apparent at the village level. So, I would like to urge the hon'ble Member that he should do strict monitoring. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has started dynamic work in these areas. ...*(Interruptions)* The District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee is also doing well and so it has control over the projects. The hon'ble Minister in his reply has said about the barren land that no proposal has been received from the States. I would like to submit that several proposals have been sent to the Government by the Maharashtra Government regarding programmes under DPAP for the drought prone area which is called 'Parlok area' scheme in my State. When the hon'ble Minister visited my area, I told him that no funds had been released for the scheme of my area for the last one and a half years. 80 proposals of my district are lying pending. The period of enforcement

of the scheme is also going to come to an end. For example, the period of the fifth installment of some DPAP scheme has ended and time for sixth instalment is going to end in June and for seventh in October. That means 62 DPEP projects of my district will remain in limbo. Even though the hon'ble Minister is doing a commendable job for rural development yet, I would like to request him, through you, to give more and more funds to Maharashtra and to my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: More money should be granted to Maharashtra.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, proposals are received from states through Panchayati Raj and DRDA. The representatives of the states attend the meeting of the committee and every decision is taken in their presence. Therefore, the proposals received from the states are not kept pending. There is so much emphasis on Rural Development that there will not be any shortage of funds provided the state government to spend money.

The hon. Minister is present here. He has repeatedly said that there is no shortage of funds. The state government should increase their consuming capacity, because we have accorded top priority to villages. There is not going to be any shortage of funds and we will also give approval to the proposal from the district of the hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) is a demand-driven programme and it is a good programme. The amount of money – the present ceiling – sanctioned for each hectare is not sufficient to execute the projects due to the increase in the labour charges and other charges. I would like to know whether the Government would increase the amount of money per hectare under this programme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as of now, Rs. 6000 is being spent per hectare under this programme in which the Central Government and the state Government share funds in the ratio of 11:1. In other words the State Government have to pay Rs. 600 for every Rs. 6000 spent per hectare by the Union Government. Therefore, there is no immediate proposal of increasing

the present ceiling and the programme is going on smoothly. We may consider increasing the amount whenever a demand comes.

**SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now, the hon'ble Minister said that the land area cannot be increased. That is right, but there is some land which can be utilised for this purpose. It should be utilised in the right way.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** We cannot take half an hour for every question.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:** I would like to inform the hon. Minister that there is a 3200 square mile chunk of land called Banni in my area Kutch and once upon a time it was the best grass land in Asia. Paucity of water coupled with famine have transformed it into a wasteland now. I asked his department many a time to develop the said land. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will formulate any plans to develop the above mentioned land which is the best grass land of Asia?

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, if such a proposal comes before us under the area development programme we will not shirk our responsibility towards it.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Very good. There are too many supplementaries for one Question. Now, Shri K.S. Rao.

**SHRI K.S. RAO:** Good Question, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Of course, everybody's supplementary is very good but always irrelevant.

**SHRI K.S. RAO:** Sir, not supplementary, the Question itself is very good.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that there are 3.54 crore acres of cultivable wasteland. According to the present standards, the major projects are costing more than Rs. 1 lakh per acre. That means, the cost for development is about Rs. 4,00,000 crore. So, the

scheme is excellent. Keeping in view the potentiality of developing this wasteland, more particularly utilising the services and knowledge of dalit and landless living in the villages, is there any programme that the hon. Minister can think of for distributing these lands to the local landless and then financing them? The Government need not give Rs. 1 lakh per acre but, as Shri K. Yerrannaidu has said, it can give Rs. 10,000 to Rs.15,000 per acre, which is enough. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** These are not questions but these are suggestions.

**SHRI K.S. RAO:** Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has started Indira Prabha Scheme by giving Rs. 500 crore from Andhra Pradesh State to dalits for development of wasteland. So, will the hon. Minister assist the Governments like Andhra Pradesh which came forward to bring this wasteland into cultivation giving land to landless?

*[Translation]*

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the state government is the owner of the land, so the state Government should distribute the wasteland. We are ready to bear the expenses of developing such land. We have been repeatedly instructing the state Governments to distribute these wasteland and surplus land to the landless because land-reforms is a thrust area of our government. We have been regularly writing to the State Governments about this. I request the hon'ble Member to pay his attention to this also which will help in making this wasteland cultivable and see to it that the said land is distributed among the poor, the landless, the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Now this wasteland is being used for cultivating 'Jathropa'. We have spent Rs. 49 crore on the cultivation of 'Jathropa' this time. In future also we are going to spend money on this. Now, our bio-diesel mission is also getting ready.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, Q. No. 344 — Shri Hansraj G. Ahir

Not present

Shri Chengara Surendran — Not present

No, Q. No. 345 — Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.



**Subscribers Base of BSNL/MTNL**

+  
\*345. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

- (a) whether base of BSNL and MTNL subscribers has shrunk during 2004-05 and 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the reasons for this trend;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to increase the subscribers base of BSNL and MTNL?

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) and (b) No, Sir. The subscriber base of BSNL and MTNL has not shrunk. Total number of subscribers of the two PSUs as on 31.03.2004, 31.03.2005 and 31.01.2006 were as follows:-

	Status as on 31.3.04 (Nos.)	Status as on 31.3.05 (Nos.)	Status as on 31.1.06 (Nos.)
BSNL	4,16,48,546	4,69,34,950	5,27,82,906
MTNL	48,34,486	51,53,483	55,87,703

(c) and (d) Although the subscriber base of BSNL and MTNL has been increasing, there has been trend of disconnections/surrenders of landlines in recent years. Study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for such disconnections/surrenders. Findings are furnished in the Annexure enclosed.

(e) Both MTNL & BSNL have been making continuous efforts towards improving customer services, providing latest technology and value added services and offering competitive tariffs to meet requirements and aspirations of different customer segments. Some of these steps taken by the two PSUs are enumerated below:-

- (i) Launch of new services and offer of value added services on landline network.
- (ii) Continuous improvement of coverage and quality of wireless in local loop and Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based mobile service.
- (iii) Aggressive marketing policy through franchisee network.
- (iv) Attractive tariff packages and registration schemes to attract the prospective customers namely 1+1 scheme of MTNL, rent reduction from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 180/- p.m. for urban subscribers and Rs. 210/- to Rs. 150/- for rural subscribers (SDCA capacity of 1 lakh or more) by BSNL.
- (v) Improvement of customer services.
- (vi) Provision of Broadband service on existing landlines.

The main findings of the sample survey of ex-subscribers showed that surrenders of phones are due to one or more of the following reasons:

**(A) BSNL**

Customers perceived that the monthly rent is high.	25%
Dissatisfaction with BSNL services like fault repair etc.	21%
Defaulters on BSNL dues	20%
Switched over to GSM mobile services	18%
Surrender of additional landline	18%
Migrated to private operators	09%

**(B) MTNL**

Closure of company/firm/financial conditions	22.43%
Consumers shifting to other areas	19.17%
Surrender of additional telephones	16.49%
Switched over to mobile telephones	8.53%
High tariff	8.37%
Taking telephone from other company	5.34%
Not satisfied with the service	4.65%
Other reasons	15.02%

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not very much to the satisfaction of the Members. We know about the deplorable condition of this Ministry.

Sir, the Minister's reply is contradictory to the statement given in The Economic Survey, 2005-2006. It says:

"Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been losing their market shares in fixed telephony. From 98.65 per cent in 2001-02, their combined share declined to 85.31 per cent in December, 2005. (Table 9.9) In the past two years, PSUs have actually seen a decline in the number of fixed lines while such lines have grown in the private sector."

So, now it seems that the private sector is growing and yours is losing. In The Economic Survey also, it is shown that the figures are declining. The percentage of the share in comparison to private sector in 2003-04 is only 17.78. In 2005-06, it is 21.11 per cent. So, it is declining. We are not getting the landline connections. The WLL system is also not working. It is working only in plain areas. It is not working in other geographically difficult areas. So, we know that nobody is getting a landline connection.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Kindly put your question.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** Even people are also not getting from whatever we have in the MPs' quota. People are not getting the landline connections for the last two or three years. What is happening?

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is your question?

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** My question is this. The Department is losing its ground. What is the difficulty? I want to know whether the Ministry is reviewing the matter or not.

**DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:** The hon. Member has jumbled a number of supplementaries.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes, he has. What can we do?

**DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:** Sir, he had asked a very specific question. He wanted to know whether the base of the MTNL and BSNL is shrinking. It is not true. There are three parts of telecommunication. One is the fixed landline; second one is fixed WLL; and the third one is cellular

mobile. In two areas, fixed WLL and cellular, there is a quantum jump. So, there is no question that the base of the BSNL is shrinking. Of course, it is true that the number of fixed landline phones is decreasing because now that is not the area of choice of the nation. It is economically not viable as well. The cost of the landline on cable is nearly Rs.25,000. It is more than Rs.20,000 whereas the cost of a WLL connection is nearly Rs.6,700. Nowadays, laying of cable is very difficult. Even if the cable is being laid, it is stuck up due to the intervention of the Municipal Corporation or due to the intervention of the PWD. So, the area of preference is now cellular phones and WLL fixed. In both these areas, we have done a commendable job as far as the Department of Telecom is concerned.

Yes, you have just taken one exception. Out of the three services, you have mentioned only about the fixed landline. This is not fair.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You put your second supplementary.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** Sir, The hon. Minister has admitted that a number of customers are surrendering their telephones. The reasons given are that the customers perceive that the monthly rent is high; there is dissatisfaction with the BSNL services like fault repair, etc. and there is switch over to GSM mobile. ...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Those are already answered.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** The Minister has given this in the answer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You need not read out all that.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** They migrate to private operators. These are the reasons they have given. So, the Minister has admitted that the customers are switching over to other companies. What is the reason for this? Why are they switching over from BSNL and MTNL to the private companies? In respect of the reasons that have been given, what steps are you taking to rectify whatever difficulties the BSNL and the MTNL have?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are your customers going to other companies?

**DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:** Yes Sir, some of the customers are going to other operators as well. Previously, there was monopoly of the BSNL and MTNL. Now, there are other shops as well. So, it is natural that some of them are going to other shops. When there will be dissatisfaction

there, we are sure they will come back to us because we are providing very good services to the customers.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ground reality is entirely different from what the hon'ble Minister has spoken about the fixed line, WLL and Cellular phone. He has stated that due to lack of quality services etc., about 21% customers have switched over to private companies but being a member of a tribal district, I can say on the basis of my experience that about 75% subscribers of BSNL switch over to other private operators for want of proper services.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the WLL service remain functional only for 15 days a month and for the remaining 15 days it goes out of order. Besides, the work related to cellular phone service exchange in my area has been pending for one year. On the other hand, the cellular services of Airtel and other companies become operational within a month. I would like to know about the steps which are being taken by him to prevent this slide in the telephone services of the Government companies which will help BSNL to attract more subscribers.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, we are positively making efforts to reform the telephone services. Earlier also I had stated in reply to a question that in the year 2003 BSNL had conducted such a survey about which a mention has been made by the Hon'ble Member. I need not say which Government was in power then but through survey this fact has come to light that the fault rate repairing takes too much time, that is why the customers are deserting them for other companies. In 2003-2004 the repairing of fault rate was 80% which has now increased to 90.2% because today if a fault is reported next day itself it is repaired. Therefore, there is improvement in fault rate repairing. We are striving for more improvement in this area which will put a stop to the flow of the customer's switch over and will also help in attracting new customers to us.

*[English]*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I would like to know from you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not from me; from the Minister.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of steps taken by the Government to increase the subscribers base of BSNL

and MTNL in rural areas and the steps taken to increase the tele-density in rural areas.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: As far as MTNL is concerned, it is only in the urban areas and it is only in Delhi and Mumbai whereas BSNL covers the entire country. We have taken a number of steps to improve the tele-density of this country. There are some economically unviable areas – 1,6185 SDCAS are economically – unviable – and for that purpose, USO Fund is being instituted. It started some four years ago. In 2002-03, the amount spent was Rs. 300 crore; in 2003-04, the amount spent was Rs. 200 crore, but in 2004-05, we have spent Rs. 1,314 crore in rural telephony through USO and in 2005-06, we are going to spend Rs. 1750 crore. So, by using these methods and some other methods, we are sure that we will improve the tele-density of this country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar. Not more than one Supplementary is allowed per day by any hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply to the Original Question that BSNL and MTNL have 5,27,82,906 and 55,87,703 subscribers as on 31 January 2006 respectively. All the Members have been given a chip by the MTNL for Dolphin Mobile Phone service which has free local call facility. However, when I visit my constituency and want to speak to the people I have to prefix zero before any number. I would like that free local call facility should be given even in the constituencies of the Members of Parliament.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: It is a very important question.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be relevant. Next time please.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It appeared from the

reply of the hon'ble Minister as if it were in regard to the urban areas whereas there is dissatisfaction among people in the rural areas for some reason towards this service. WLL is not functioning there properly. The mobile service does not function properly for want of electricity. It has caused huge losses to BSNL. The hon'ble Minister has stated that the cables are not being laid because sometimes these are cut by the PWD and some times by the Municipal Corporation. I would like to tell him that Municipal Corporations do not function in rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not tell him anything, you should ask your question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have drawn his attention through a question to the fact that he should pay more attention to rural areas. Why is he so unhappy with the rural areas? Through you, I would like to know whether he proposes to open a new exchange by starting cable based telephone service on whichever criteria for rural areas — be it population, number of subscribers or distance — with a view to provide more facilities in the rural areas so that this facility is not restricted to urban areas alone.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You consider his suggestion.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we definitely want to increase teledensity in the rural areas across the country. The hon'ble Member and I belong to the same state, Bihar. If we go through the figures of the last two years then the ratio of rural teledensity has increased. I would like to mention a couple of points in this regard. When we came to power, I did not say we stopped laying cables, rather I only stated that there were difficulties in laying cables. We are laying cables. Before this Government assumed power, a law was in force at the time of the NDA Government that cables could be laid up to a maximum distance of 2.5 kilometres from the exchange. We have taken a decision to make it up to 5 kilometres after making an amendment. We have doubled it. ...*(Interruptions)* We have taken a decision to open new exchanges wherever they are required or where the waiting list is 75. The Government are committed to increase the teledensity to the maximum.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not called my name.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is in the list. If you disturb, I will not call your name.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, you had called my name, that is why I got up.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you Madhu Gaud? I will call you, please have some patience.

[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Thank you, Sir. Though the hon. Minister has mentioned that the customer base of BSNL and MTNL has increased, it is a fact that compared to private operators the increase in the customer base is definitely low. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to why there is a waiting list for getting SIM cards from the BSNL whereas the private operators are giving it on demand. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would consider investing more money, if needed large sums, to provide the connections to the customers who preferably would like to have BSNL connections because it has a wide network coverage. Will the Government invest more money so that the customers can get the BSNL connection on demand? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you spend more money?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Yes Sir. We are going to spend more money. Very soon we are going to float a tender for more than 60 million mobile telephone connections in this country.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please have patience. There are 15 names in the list.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I always keep patience. I also belong to the State to which the hon'ble Minister belongs and the condition of that State is such that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is Parliament of India, not Assembly of Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The truth is that the Hon'ble Minister belongs to Bihar and he was saying so. Sir, the condition of cellular phone service in the capital

town Patna of Bihar is very bad. The hon'ble Minister had tried to improve the condition but there has been no improvement. I am referring particularly to the rural areas namely Tal area, Diyara area and rural area where the Government propose to lay cables for providing landline facility up to five kilometers.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Through you Sir, I would like to ask him as to what effective steps is he going to take to improve the condition of 'Cell One' telephone service in Patna city and whether he would ensure laying the telephone cable in Tal area, Diyara and rural areas as per the target fixed for rural areas?

MR. SPEAKER: It is under discussion for a fairly long time.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to say so specifically in context of Patna or any other place. As I belong to that area and the hon'ble Member has been there with me during so many inaugural ceremonies including the one for the inauguration of the mobile switching center.

In the next two months we are definitely going to install hundred new BTS in and around Patna which will definitely ease the congestion in those areas of the city.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be taken down.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia will ask the last supplementary. Please be relevant and to the point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the main problem is that there is acute shortage of cable, both jelly-filled as well as optical fibre. As a result of shortage of cable, I know about the West Bengal Circle, new exchanges are not being commissioned and expansion is also not being done. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether BSNL will place orders with the cable manufacturing units to overcome this problem.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, as I have said earlier, fixed landline is not the model of choice now-a-days, but where cable-laying is necessary, we will acquire enough

cables. We will order for the purchase of enough cables to lay in West Bengal as well as in other parts of the country. But I would reiterate that the preferable choice is mobile telephone. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be taken down.

(Interruptions)\*...

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Nothing specific. ...(Interruptions) I cannot say from which concern we will purchase the cables, ...(Interruptions) but we will try to procure it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Already eight supplementaries have been asked.

[Translation]

#### Recommendations of Law Commission

\*346. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has observed that there would be a requirement of 300 additional Judges in High Courts and 6500 additional judges for the lower courts to dispose of all the pending cases in the next five years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the financial implications to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

No such recommendation has been received from the Law Commission. However, judge strength of the High

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

Courts is reviewed every three years. The last review was undertaken in the year 2003 when 94 new posts were recommended. As an interim review, 4 posts of Judges were approved for the Bombay High Court in 2005, making the total for increase of 98 posts. The next review is due in 2006 for which the High Courts have been requested to furnish data.

1.1 As per the guidelines, the required strength of permanent Judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the average institution of main cases during the last five years by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

1.2 Similarly, the required strength of Additional judges in a High Court is worked out by dividing the number of main cases pending over two years by the national average or the average rate of disposal of main cases per Judge per year in that High Court, whichever is higher.

1.3 If the disposal per Judge in the concerned High Court is below even the national average then instead of increasing the strength, the concerned High Court is required to take steps for improvement in the rate of disposal of cases. If the average disposal of concerned High Court is above the national average then increase in Judge strength is accordingly considered. The strength of Additional Judges is reviewed only if there is an increase in the arrears of the pending cases during the last 5 years and the disposal per Judge is above the national average.

2. Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government. Thus, filling up of the vacant posts of judges/magistrates at the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments.

2.1 The Supreme Court, in its judgment of March 21, 2002 in All India Judges Association case had directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States.

2.2 The Central Government has been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated 21st March, 2002.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, there are several cases pending in the courts. In the Supreme Court, about 35,000 cases are pending; in different High Courts, about 40 lakh cases are pending; and in subordinate courts, 2.5 crore cases are pending. What steps is the Government planning to take to reduce this load?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, the problem of pendency has been noted and several steps have been taken to reduce the pendency. The first is to review the strength of judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and also making a study of the requirement of judicial manpower in the subordinate courts. We have also launched a massive programme for improving judicial infrastructure in the States and we are providing 100 per cent assistance to the States for computerisation of all courts right up to the trial courts. We are also providing money for the fast track courts at the Sessions level. We are also making another study of judicial manpower for Gramin Nyayalayas which we will be able to help the poor people to get justice at their doorsteps. So, various measures have been started, but it is a complex problem because the arrears are spread out in the vast countryside. So, we have been talking to the States and helping them out to tone up the judicial administration.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, what steps is the Governing planning to make the Judiciary more accountable and transparent?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, transparency is required in all institutions. Taking a cue from the Parliament, I have already drafted a law on Judicial Council which will be a mechanism administered by their own peers, like we have done in Parliament. Very soon we will come with a Bill in the Parliament.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in this country, the

judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court are being appointed by the judges themselves. There was a proposal by the Law Commission to form a National Judicial Commission in which excepting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and two senior judges, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition would also be the members. Is the Government going to constitute such a Commission so that the process of selection of the High Court Judges will be transparent and quick.

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is not correct when he says that there was a proposal in which the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were to be associated in the National Judicial Commission. The proposal was not this. Therefore, that proposal could not be taken to the logical conclusion.

Sir, you are aware, the matter of judicial independence is paramount and if and when a Commission is appointed for appointment of judiciary, essentially, we will have to take into account the concept of judicial independence. If there is a consensus in the House that any mechanism other than the present one is required, we are willing to study it and come to the House.

**MD. SALIM:** My supplementary arises from the reply given by the Minister to the main question. The question of vacancies in the lower courts, of course, is being taken care of by the State Government or the State High Court, but as far as the judgment of the Supreme Court of March 21, 2002 is concerned, it has inter-alia mentioned that the vacancies in the subordinate courts at all levels should be filled by 31st March, 2003 preferably. The reply of the Ministry is there. In response to this question, the Minister says that they have written to the State Governments. The Central Government has written to the Chief Justices of the High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 26.04.2002, after the judgment on March 21, 2002, that by April, 2003 it should be filled up. As of now, my supplementary is, we want the latest figures, which are the States which have complied with the orders of the Supreme Court and responded to the letter of the Central Government and what is the vacancy position now?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Central Government has nothing to do with it.

**MD. SALIM:** They should collect the information.

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** Sir, it is a very difficult task. The hon. Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices, whenever they are approached, they say that they have no money. Since cost effective justice is the need of the time, our job is to coordinate with them. However, recently, only a week back, I had requested the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices to come over to Delhi, and the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, and all Senior Judges of the Supreme Court sat together, and we have recorded two or three resolutions by which time-bound vacancies will be filled, and the States have assured that they will also fill up the subordinate vacancies. The Centre has assured that vacancies in High Courts and Supreme Court will be filled up promptly so that the backlog is cleared.

**SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:** Sir, filling the vacancies in High Courts is all very well, but in Uttar Pradesh, it was agreed in 2004, that there would be nine Munsif Courts made to facilitate justice in smaller towns. One of them was my own area called Bisalpur. This proposal was passed by the State Government and every letter that we write to them, they say that the matter is lying with the Allahabad Court for ratification. It has been two years now. Can the Centre do something about it or it is purely a State matter?

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** Since the hon. Member has drawn my attention to this, I will look into it.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government would conduct a survey to collect the number of these cases where the undertrials have served longer than their sentence. If such cases are dropped after conducting a survey will it would not reduce the number of cases and the burden on judiciary?

*[English]*

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** Sir, it is possible now with the improved technology to have a data-base. So, we have collected data of the old cases. The Fast Track Courts have been entrusted with the old cases, and we have been able to solve more than a million cases by

these Fast Track Courts. We have now found ways and means by which we can find the cases which are pending for a long time. The undertrial prisoners are facing a lot of difficulties. This mechanism has started with the improved technology. So, I think, there is a ray of hope for people like them.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that so far as the Orissa High Court is concerned, more than two lakh cases are pending. So far as the lower courts are concerned, more than ten lakh cases are pending.

The justice delivery system is very slow as a result of which poor people are deprived of getting justice. The lawyers of Orissa High Court were in strike for about a month. More than eight vacancies are lying vacant as per the present strength. I would like to know when these vacancies are going to be filled. As they say, justice delayed is justice denied. Is any tangible step being taken to overcome such alarming situation which is prevailing not only in my State but also in the other States of the country?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I had one proposal from Orissa which has been appointed. Proposals have to come from the Chief Justices and the Chief Ministers of the States. I personally visited Orissa to resolve the conflict between the judges. I can take the House into confidence that they have assured they will send the proposal quickly. I met the Chief Justice and the two senior-most Judges and emphasised this upon them. Orissa court is a very good court. We have to resolve this. I also met the senior members of the Bar. I think this strike was called off immediately on my assurance. I am monitoring this court particularly. I have a lot of attachment to the Cuttack court. So, I assure the hon. Members that this will be resolved. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

#### **Revamping of Rural Sanitary System**

+

\* 347. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated to various States for rural sanitary system remained unutilized or were diverted to some other purposes during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government has been considering to revamp the rural sanitary systems in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to ensure proper implementation of rural sanitary system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) No report regarding diversion of funds given to the States for Central Rural Sanitation Programme has been received. However, in some project districts, implementation has been slow resulting in low utilization of fund.

(b) The State-wise details of funds released & utilized as well as physical progress is given in the Annexure-I and II enclosed. A number of measures have been taken by the Department of Drinking Water Supply to accelerate the pace of implementation of the TSC, which has resulted in better utilization of funds and higher physical achievements in the last 3-4 years. Some of the important steps taken in this direction are:

- (i) Launching of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP): To add vigour to sanitation drive, the Government of India initiated an incentive scheme for fully sanitized and open defecation free Gram Panchayats, Blocks, and Districts called the 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' in 2003. The incentive pattern under Nirmal Gram Puraskar is given in the table below:

\* Not recorded.



(Rs. in lakh)

Particulars	Gram Panchayat		Block		District	
	Up to 5000	5001 and above	Up to 50000	50001 and above	Up to 10 lakhs	Above 10 lakhs
Cash Incentive	2.0	4.0	10.0	20.0	30.0	50.0
Incentive to Individuals	0.10		0.20		0.30	
Incentive to Organisations	0.20		0.35		0.50	

- (ii) Strong focus on school sanitation along with inter-sectoral co-ordination among the Departments such as Education, Health, Women and Child, Tribal, Social Justice and Empowerment has been initiated and has resulted in quality improvement in the construction and improved operationalisation of hygiene education and O & M activities in schools.
- (iii) Strong Monitoring System: In order to closely monitor the process as well as quality of implementation, District level monitoring (DLM) agencies have been engaged for 398 TSC projects sanctioned till 2003-04. The DLMs do independent monitoring of the process parameters and the outcomes and submit reports through an on line monitoring system.
- (iv) IEC and Capacity building: The programme lays emphasis on IEC activities and capacity building of different stakeholders. State level Communication & Capacity Development Units (CCDU) have been sanctioned. National level media campaign has been launched and focus is being given on inter personal communication at the grass root-level.
- (c) Government has decided to revamp the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) by making certain amendments in the programme guidelines to accelerate the pace of implementation. The amendments include:
- (i) Increase in the unit cost of household latrines from Rs 625 to Rs 1000 and from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000,
- (ii) Include the component of solid and liquid waste management as part of TSC;
- (iii) 100 percent Government contribution for school and Anganwadi toilets without any community contribution. Share of the Government of India will increase from existing 60% to 70% of the unit cost;
- (iv) Giving revolving fund (upto Rs 50 lakh per district) to the districts to fund Self Help Groups and Co-operative Societies; and
- (v) Modification in earmarking of funds among different components in TSC.
- (d) The following steps have been taken to ensure proper implementation of the programme:
- I. Setting up of District & Village water and sanitation committees: The TSC is being implemented through the District Water & Sanitation committees. At the grassroots level, Village Water & sanitation committees have been set up to accelerate the pace of implementation. The panchayati raj institutions are also being involved
  - II. Monitoring of The Programme: a robust monitoring mechanism has been put in place for monitoring the programme. District Vigilance and Monitoring committees headed by the Members of Parliament have also been constituted to review the implementation of the TSC.

## Annexure-I

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	Total Projects Outlay	Approved Share			Release of Funds			Expenditure Reported			
		Centre	State	Benef.	Central	State	Centre	State	Benef.	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	42907.9	26940.92	9348.16	6618.82	16864.84	23901.45	12844.52	18542.61	7094.01	38481.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3151.59	2115.64	680.92	355.03	634.68	61.3	287.34	19.35	86.33	393.02
3	Aseam	12118.37	7774.95	2614.82	1728.6	2353.51	196.81	359.5	62.84	59.22	481.56
4	Bihar	56113.72	36503.98	11811.47	7798.27	6868.43	817.94	1611.2	361.32	257.53	2230.05
5	Chhattisgarh	22557.28	14206.58	5390.14	2960.56	2759.56	594.82	522.89	157.52	77.46	757.67
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	47.14	35.5	0	11.64	3.15	0	1.67	0	0	1.67
7	Goa	727.57	425.58	160.75	141.24	134.67	0	0	0	0	0
8	Gujarat	27615.64	15074.26	6920.44	5620.94	4445.48	1508.96	1337.08	454.97	96.35	1888.4
9	Haryana	9609.46	4684.29	2476.36	2448.81	1562.35	804.72	1100.25	509.15	512.42	2121.82
10	Himachal Pradesh	4231.25	2603.35	1025.96	601.94	823.87	74.45	268.33	156.22	124.6	549.15
11	Jammu and Kashmir	6890.85	4387.38	1510.34	993.13	1243.41	59.98	39.93	13.01	7.07	60.01
12	Jharkhand	30055.51	18921.6	6658.47	4475.44	5649.51	1161.88	1380.67	540.9	224.89	2146.46
13	Karnataka	32503.15	20715.38	7327.48	4460.29	6624.71	2110.2	1763.64	584.95	215.17	2563.76
14	Kerala	11969.79	6304.88	2843.46	2821.45	3629.2	1482.03	2915.72	1217.91	3907.56	8041.18
15	Madhya Pradesh	42253.47	27275.31	9402.32	5575.84	10096.81	3058.85	5554.91	2040.09	3013.69	10608.7
16	Maharashtra	43069.68	22162.99	10834.95	10071.74	8713.7	4507.41	5342.43	2893.82	1820.31	10056.56
17	Manipur	1039.55	505.48	270.46	263.61	151.64	0	5	0	0	5
18	Meghalaya	1960.26	982.59	520.23	457.44	221.37	0	0	0	0	0
19	Mizoram	1576.99	1012.86	352.11	212.02	280.84	7.5	5.12	0	0	5.12
20	Nagaland	1082.31	736.88	212	133.43	234.81	52.36	238.19	50.67	59.67	348.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
21	Orissa	43973.42	29411.17	9342.6	6219.65	10108.73	3221.28	4048.02	1625.69	884.16	6557.88
22	Pondicherry	248.9	158.06	0	90.84	94.84	0	56.63	14	14.13	84.76
23	Punjab	7790.34	4271.4	2012.3	1506.64	1183.09	102.97	228.95	0.44	37.36	266.75
24	Rajasthan	38031.24	24700.1	8750.11	4581.03	7058.19	1520.2	1726.91	592.72	254.71	2574.33
25	Sikkim	1936.88	1268.86	408.41	259.61	617.71	142.49	252.56	145.49	142.14	540.19
26	Tamil Nadu	49869.84	27457.27	12198.74	10313.83	16980.22	6579.92	12867.32	5590.62	4483.81	22941.75
27	Tripura	4628.3	2685.54	1079.93	862.83	2055.79	954.14	1941.72	907.47	814.38	3663.57
28	Uttar Pradesh	80521.41	42382.36	20525.4	17013.65	19114.97	28173.78	11903.25	17273.18	6242.29	35418.72
29	Uttaranchal	5226.99	3434.4	1193.8	598.79	799.91	278.91	109.03	29.79	71.66	210.48
30	West Bengal	40219.02	18798.13	6537.55	14883.34	11870.55	3537.34	6397.03	2206.31	9013.16	17616.49
	Grand Total	624027.82	367537.69	142409.68	114080.45	142980.54	84911.68	75109.6	55991.06	39514.07	170614.72

## Annexure-II

Sl. No.	State	Project Objectives						Project Performance					
		IHHL BPL	IHHL APL	IHHL Total	San. Comp	Schools Toilets	Toilets for Bahwadis	IHHL BPL	IHHL APL	IHHL Total	San. Comp	Schools Toilets	Toilets for Bahwadis
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	4098614	2794879	6893493	385	37818	913	3082045	452714	3534759	236	38624	534
2	Arunachal Pradesh	144556	11453	156009	234	3461	1500	14938	1129	16067	0	1442	228
3	Assam	1153531	499838	1653369	10	11787	2482	54670	2991	57861	0	186	6
4	Bihar	4932476	2693929	7626405	8200	44093	3115	131737	8650	140387	419	3905	9
5	Chhattisgarh	3088599	850866	3939465	512	40830	9306	25394	3042	28438	15	2053	0
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2480	0	2480	12	0	0	37	0	37	1	0	0
7	Goa	15000	0	15000	150	283	116	0	0	0	0	0	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	Gujarat	1817423	1646511	3663934	2000	24346	20873	53700	71781	125481	19	4910	1890	
9	Haryana	549060	322763	871823	601	5043	4370	170422	78472	248894	311	2191	1932	
10	Himachal Pradesh	108017	240267	348284	606	6926	1080	784	1569	2353	44	395	2	
11	Jammu and Kashmir	567933	115112	702945	578	7297	451	2317	184	2501	25	178	0	
12	Jharkhand	2197700	773571	2971271	4104	27214	10184	71440	4051	75491	72	3677	59	
13	Karnataka	2103342	2805397	4908739	2046	37755	23810	82672	119638	202310	92	7684	4595	
14	Kerala	928146	68838	996984	1050	3974	798	450950	50444	501394	534	1570	750	
15	Madhya Pradesh	3311313	4277851	7589164	801	58583	6923	464346	220077	684423	304	26884	2483	
16	Maharashtra	2513829	4486741	7000570	2688	41193	11780	501476	851499	1352975	1221	21445	8223	
17	Manipur	63578	0	63578	56	606	0	672	0	672	9	72	0	
18	Meghalaya	91087	12661	103748	200	2048	649	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19	Mizoram	59679	16852	76531	486	1753	812	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	Nagaland	90153	7839	97892	1186	752	99	28401	0	28401	71	290	34	
21	Orissa	4275176	2198268	6473444	972	35456	9863	689235	119910	809145	9	9716	927	
22	Pondicherry	18000	0	18000	0	26	16	900	0	900	5	26	7	
23	Punjab	413498	192534	606032	334	12411	995	24550	0	24550	57	470	0	
24	Rajasthan	2025465	4695115	6720580	1698	66846	12982	109696	109300	218996	60	9170	249	
25	Sikkim	51302	3197	54499	937	1604	340	7082	39281	46363	174	859	43	
26	Tamil Nadu	3968122	3851960	7820082	1646	39270	23848	1946400	1973477	3919877	1592	24157	20048	
27	Tripura	361409	107511	468920	528	3643	2950	362084	71507	433591	132	2453	3545	
28	Uttar Pradesh	5620489	9145762	14766271	1712	93163	31544	2122131	1528386	3650517	867	22048	635	
29	Uttaranchal	324030	389870	713900	80	8750	2584	52692	29271	81963	13	242	14	
30	West Bengal	5013879	3141363	8155242	2286	41779	14640	3026354	1316767	4343121	184	22393	15	
	Grand Total	49927786	45550968	95478754	36098	656690	199033	13477125	7054140	20531265	6466	207040	46228	

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, as there is very little time, I just wish to know from the hon. Minister if there is any proposal to construct public toilet blocks. These are very important. This was one of the important objectives in this scheme when it was first launched in 1986. But so far, as I can see, in my Constituency there has been no effort whatsoever to construct public toilet blocks which would be of great use especially for women. Is there such a proposal?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sanction has been accorded to Total Sanitation Campaign for all districts of Bihar, including his constituency, Aurangabad. Total Sanitation Campaign has been approved for approximately 556 districts of the country. Earlier, the total amount provided for the construction of a toilet was Rs. 625. But, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Agriculture Finance Corporation Limited, the cabinet has, a week ago, given its approval to enhance the amount to be spent for construction of a toilet in the houses of people living below the poverty line from Rs. 625 to Rs. 1500 therefore, now, it will catch the pace. Whereas in the year 2001, 22 percent houses were having toilets, now this number has increased up to 38 percent. Last year, the hon'ble President gave 'Nirmal Gram Awards' to 39 Panchayats. Nirmal Gram Awards function is going to be held on 23 March this year in which 778 Panchayats and 9 blocks will get Nirmal Gram Awards. Therefore, the pace of Rural Sanitation Programme has been accelerated. The cooperation of the hon'ble Members is desired to make this programme a success. They should monitor the scheme in their areas so that the pace of Rural sanitation Programme could be accelerated, and all urban facilities made available at the village level.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the hon'ble Minister's reply, because desired progress has not been achieved in my area as the monitoring mechanism has the following mentioned in it—

[English]

"In order to strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the Ministry of Rural Development has a panel of about 300 national level monitors by involving ex-servicemen, retired civil servants etc."

[Translation]

We are not having any information about this panel. If information about it is provided to us, we can call these people to discuss the matter. District Level Committees and Vigilance Committees constituted under the Chairmanship of the hon'ble Members of Parliament would prove effective only if a list of Monitors is made available to us.

12.00 hrs.

True position would be known only, if the meeting of the committee is held. The Hon'ble Minister has talked

about construction of 38 percent toilets, but in my constituency, toilets have been constructed in 10-12 percent houses only.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member himself is the Chairman of District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. Information can be ascertained only by holding the meeting of the Committee. If the hon'ble Member convenes a meeting of the Committee, at least, once in every three months, he will get all the information. When we get a complaint from somewhere, we send the National Level Monitor at that particular place to look into the matter. Therefore, I urge the hon'ble Members to call the meeting of the Committees, at least, once in every three months. If meeting is not held, then they should inform us and we will take further action.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Value Added Tax

\*344. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an assessment on the impact of implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) has been conducted by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any mechanism is available to dispose of VAT related cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of States not implementing VAT till date; and
- (f) the steps taken to remove the problems coming in the way of implementation of VAT throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not got any special study conducted for assessing the impact of VAT implementation, but the position is being constantly reviewed. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) is also constantly reviewing and monitoring the situation. The general feedback is that the VAT system has been generally received well by the business community as well as the general public. Most of the initial difficulties have been resolved by the States through constant interaction with the stakeholders. The implementation of VAT has not had any major adverse impact on prices and in fact, the rate of inflation has since declined. The tax revenue of the VAT implementing States has shown an increase of around 15.5% during first 9 months of VAT

implementation, which is higher than the historical growth rate for these States.

(c) and (d) Since State VAT is a State subject under the Constitution of India, the necessary mechanism for disposal of VAT related cases is available at the State level under the respective State VAT Laws.

(e) and (f) 8 States/UTs have not yet implemented VAT, out of which 5 States, namely, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, have decided to implement VAT w.e.f. 01 April 2006. The remaining 3 States/UTs, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have not yet taken a decision in this regard. Since state VAT is a State subject under the Constitution, it is entirely for the States concerned to take a decision about implementation of VAT. The Central Government is providing all necessary technical and financial support in this regard.

\* S.Q. No. 348

#### Assistance to Co-operative Banks

\*349. SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes lunched by NABARD for providing assistance to co-operative banks, working in rural areas;

(b) the amount of assistance provided to cooperative banks during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the assistance so provided has yielded the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) NABARD extends refinance assistance as well as promotional/developmental assistance to Cooperative Banks. The details of various schemes are at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The state-wise details of refinances assistance provided by NABARD to Rural Cooperative Banks during the last three years is furnished in Statement-II & III enclosed. Further, the state-wise amount of assistance provided to Cooperative Bank under Cooperative Development Fund (CDF) and for Cooperative Training Institute is at Statement-IV and V enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The refinance Support by NABARD supplements the resources of Cooperative Banks and helps them in expanding their lending operations. Further, the assistance under investment credit lead to the creation of income, generating assets, increased production, employment opportunities, improved income and better standard of living in rural areas, besides contributing to private capital formation.

\* The Question tabled by Shri Paras Nath Yadav, M.P. was deleted vide corrigenda to List of Questions issued on 05.05.2006.

#### Statement-I

##### The Details of Various Schemes of NABARD

#### 1. Refinance Schemes of NABARD:

NABARD provides refinance support to Cooperative Banks against their Short Term (Production Credit), Medium Term & Long Term Loans (Investment Credit) extended to borrowers for various eligible activities under Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Rural Non Farm Sector, Services Sector, Rural Housing, Self Help Groups, SGSY, etc., which provide employment and income generation opportunities to the farmers and others in rural areas.

#### 2. Cooperative Development Fund (CDF):

Cooperative development fund (CDF) has been constituted to provide assistance for strengthening the cooperative credit institutions in the country. Assistance is provided for infrastructure development, computerisation, advance for purchase of vehicles, establishment of business development department, strengthening the Management Information System (MIS) and Human Resource Development. Assistance is also extended for publicity initiatives for popularising Kisan Credit Cards.

#### 3. Training Support:

NABARD provides financial support and technical guidance to cooperative training institutions (CTIs), viz. Agricultural Cooperative Staff training Institutes (ACSTIs) and Integrated Training Institutes (ITIs) set up by the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and Junior Level Training Centres (JLTCs) set up by the State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs), under the Scheme for Financial Assistance to Training Institutes of Cooperative Banks (SOFTCOB) to meet the training needs of staff of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and Agricultural Rural Development Banks (ARDBs). Recurring expenditure incurred by banks on these training institutes is being reimbursed under the scheme. Assistance to acquire personal computers, audio-visual aids and office equipments is also extended under the scheme.

#### 4. Business Development Department:

Ten SCBs and five SCARDBs have been provided financial support to the extent of Rs.247.42 lakh for establishing Business Development Department (BDD) as on 31 March 2005. The salaries of professionals/technical experts appointed are reimbursed for a period of five years.

#### 5. Women Development Cell (WDC):

Cooperative Banks are provided grant assistance for establishing women development cell with the objective to strengthen their institutional capabilities in addressing the gender issues in credit and support services. So far 10 CCBs and 1 SCB have established WDC.

**Statement-II**  
**Sanction and Utilisation of ST and MT limit to SCBs**

Rs. Crore

Sl. No.	State	2002-03										2003-04			
		Short Term		Medium Term		Total		Short Term		Medium Term					
		Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1221.42	1114.85			1221.42	1114.85	1327.11	1205.29						
2.	Bihar	40	53.25			40	53.25	28.56	28.56						
3.	Chhattisgarh	35.47	23.22			35.47	23.22	72.92	23.22	16.31					
4.	Gujarat	428.09	303.05			428.09	303.05	540.73	379.61	59.63					
5.	Haryana	1061.28	873.06	211.59		1272.87	873.06	1172.43	795.60	37.84	73.80				
6.	Karnataka	706.31	560.01			706.31	560.01	781.06	606.42						
7.	Kerala	138.1	38.07			138.1	38.07	211.65	70.18						
8.	Maharashtra	244.77	73.82	5.34		250.11	73.82	305.50	51.52	7.52					
9.	Meghalaya	1.5	1.5			1.5	1.5	2.00	1.76						
10.	Madhya Pradesh	469.45	414.08	28.47	16.18	517.92	432.26	516.11	435.69	49.62					
11.	Manipur	0.3	0.24			0.3	0.24								
12.	Nagaland	1	0.97			1	0.97	0.97	0.70						
13.	Orissa	415.79	402.75	155.56		571.35	402.75	527.23	468.21		94.11				
14.	Pondicherry	5.65	5.65			5.65	5.65	5.50	5.65						
15.	Punjab	633.64	591.09	56.28		689.92	591.09	914.11	707.73		12.13				
16.	Rajasthan	579.58	520.9	386.58	346.28	966.16	867.18	617.40	444.22	37.28	10.36				
17.	Tamil Nadu	770	466.52			770	466.52	916.19	563.65	60.02	39.12				
18.	Tripura	0	2.44			0	2.44								
19.	Uttaranchal					0	0								
20.	Uttar Pradesh	502.6	285.24		36.31	502.6	321.55	436.68	95.46						
21.	West Bengal	152.79	87.8			152.79	87.8	147.58	83.39						
Total		7429.74	5818.51	843.82	400.77	8273.56	6219.28	8523.73	5966.66	266.02	229.52				

**Statement-II**  
**Sanction and Utilisation of ST and MT limit to SCBs**

Rs. Crore									
2003-04		2004-05							
Total		Short Term		Medium Term		Total		Total	
Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation	Sanction	Utilisation
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1327.11	1205.29	1315.93	1244.22	421.71		1737.64	1244.22	4286.17	3564.36
28.56	28.56	40.86	40.61			40.86	40.61	109.42	122.42
89.23	23.22	90.00	30.00			90	30.00	214.70	76.44
600.36	379.61	738.82	588.49	111.25	40.92	850.07	629.41	1878.52	1312.07
1210.07	889.40	1168.01	1146.22	120.82	92.39	1288.83	1238.61	3771.77	2981.07
781.08	606.42	755.01	625.66	40.00		795.01	625.66	2284.38	1792.09
211.85	70.18	246.75	245.26	78.06		324.81	245.26	674.56	353.51
313.02	51.52	274.80	272.14	337.28	246.42	612.08	518.56	1175.21	843.90
2.00	1.76	2.00	1.15			2	1.15	5.50	4.41
565.73	435.69	517.00	512.37			517	512.37	1600.65	1380.32
								0.30	0.24
0.97	0.70					0	0.00	1.97	1.67
527.23	582.32	480.40	472.64	56.07		536.47	472.64	1635.05	1437.71
5.50	5.85	2.00	2.00			2	2.00	13.15	13.30
914.11	719.86	825.37	807.12	33.65		859.02	807.12	2463.05	2118.07
654.68	454.58	696.20	634.43	79.90	34.54	776.1	658.97	2396.94	1990.73
996.21	602.77	1178.19	509.25	459.41	375.75	1637.6	885.00	3403.81	1954.29
0.00	0.00					0	0.00	0.00	2.44
0.00	0.00					0	0.00	0.00	0.00
436.68	95.46	447.74	172.27	32.00		479.74	172.27	1419.02	589.28
147.58	83.39	261.90	279.01			261.9	279.01	562.27	450.20
8811.75	6196.38	9040.98	7582.84	1770.15	790.02	10811.13	8372.86	27896.44	20788.52



**Statement-III***State-wise refinance disbursements to Cooperative Banks during the last three years**(Rs. lakh)*

State. UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	SCBS	SCARDBs	SCBS	SCARDBs	SCBS	SCARDBs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0		
Delhi	500	0	823	0	847	
Haryana	8292	38144	6099	38393	4215	44835
Himachal Pradesh	11148	4136	15621	4752	6667	6699
Jammu and Kashmir	749	400	0	0		
Punjab	15901	32292	21539	38486	24470	69031
Rajasthan	4052	18034	3289	15900	2851	15397
Arunachal Pradesh	464	0	355	0	631	
Assam	70	0	43	0	245	
Manipur	318	0	0	0	320	
Meghalaya	737	0	548	0	702	
Mizoram	1122	0	464	0	2999	
Nagaland	190	0	75	0		
Tripura	0	193	0	327		377
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	50	
Bihar	0	0	0	653		1000
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0		
Orissa	4854	1100	5068	962	3575	716
West Bengal	13811	10812	29890	9150	14958	7812
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	405	0	545	0	495	
Madhya Pradesh	4175	26500	2561	21528	780	29064
Chhattisgarh	713	4000	537	4028	814	3260

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh	6356	64255	14740	62873	362	46715
Uttaranchal	397	2515	132	446		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	0		
Gujarat	19539	7717	10623	5624	7985	2305
Goa	1707	0	179	0		
Maharashtra	36866	0	19927	0	10712	
Andhra Pradesh	8330	15750	2330	4926	1052	14380
Karnataka	14712	11416	13920	8000	12575	8810
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0		
Kerala	1209	26466	6718	22590	14511	20599
Pondicherry	105	0	98	0	215	
Tamil Nadu	21652	21621	17524	15777	12363	
<b>Total</b>	<b>178373</b>	<b>285350</b>	<b>173650</b>	<b>254414</b>	<b>124392</b>	<b>270998</b>

SCB : State Co-operative Banks

SCARDBs : State Co-operative Agriculture Rural Developments Banks.

**Statement-IV****State-wise Amount of Assistance provided to Cooperative Banks  
under Cooperative Development Fund**

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Disbursement during the year		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andaman and Nicobar	2.43	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	97.12	0.00	0.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1.91	0.00	2.82
4	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Bihar	10.20	0.00	0.00
6	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	2.20
7	Goa	0.00	0.66	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
8	Gujarat	0.99	1.32	0.57
9	Haryana	4.88	0.00	0.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.88	0.00	0.00
11	Jammu and Kashmir	12.06	0.00	0.00
12	Jharkhand	0.15	0.00	0.00
13	Karnataka	70.33	0.00	109.53
14	Kerala	0.00	13.80	33.91
15	Madhya Pradesh	26.06	0.00	19.70
16	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.08
18	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	15.60
19	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Nagaland	3.12	0.27	0.00
21	New Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Orissa	0.00	0.88	0.00
23	Punjab	7.42	0.35	0.00
24	Rajasthan	0.16	8.17	0.00
25	Sikkim	0.27	0.00	5.86
26	Tamil Nadu	0.00	11.74	0.00
27	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Uttar Pradesh	1.71	45.03	8.70
29	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	West Bengal	16.81	0.00	0.00
31	Others	470.02	355.66	350.95
Total		727.52	437.88	549.92

**Statement-V**

*Financial Assistance released by NABARD during the last three years to  
Cooperative Training Institutes - ACSTIs/ITIs/JLTCs*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	No. of programmes conducted			Amount reimbursed		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	Bihar	28	11	-	9.29	3.48	-
2	Gujarat	30	39	61	5.54	21.11	11.14
3	Haryana	78	70	57	27.76	32.45	22.82
4	Karnataka	78	108	155	32.34	41.36	30.67
5	Kerala	102	105	192	20.59	18	43.53
6	Madhya Pradesh	89	51	207	38.34	33.62	73.08
7	Orissa	62	50	32	9.84	12.72	6.6
8	Punjab	118	131	93	30.66	34.76	33.13
9	Uttar Pradesh	106	92	78	42.27	52.61	32.28
10	Tamil Nadu	59	90	156	9.21	24.36	46.31
11	West Bengal	73	62	99	8.79	10.63	33.02
12	Himachal Pradesh	27	43	17	5.76	9.68	9.68
13	APCOB-CTI	94	73	83	28.27	22.02	28.92
14	Rajasthan	50	48	42	18.41	16.8	13.27
15	NER (MDMI)	22	20	21	6.54	6.91	9.95
<b>Total</b>		<b>1016</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1293</b>	<b>293.61</b>	<b>340.51</b>	<b>394.4</b>

ACSTI: Agriculture Co-operative Staff Training Institute.

ITI: Integrated Training Institute

JLTC: Junior Level Training Centres

**USO Funds for Rural Telephony**

Obligation Fund (USOF) during each of the last three years;

\*350. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

(b) the expenditure incurred from this Fund on the expansion of telephone services in rural areas during the period;

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

(a) the amount collected in the Universal Service

(c) whether the Government has assessed the

time that would be required in providing telephone services in maximum rural areas;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to speed up the rural telecommunications programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The year-wise details of the funds collected, allocated and utilized in the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are as under:

Year	Funds collected	Funds allocated	Funds utilized
	(Rs. in crore)	(Rs. in crore)	(Rs. in crore)
2002-03	1653.61	300	300
2003-04	2143.22	200	200
2004-05	3457.73	1314.58	1314.58
2005-06	3303.00 (estimated)	1750	1401.2 (upto 15.02.2006)

(c) and (d) Universal Service Obligation Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected eligible villages in the country. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

Out of these 66,822 villages, 17,182 villages have been provided with VPT facility as on 31.12.2005. The remaining 49,640 eligible villages will be provided with VPT progressively by November, 2007.

(e) The following steps are being taken to speed up the rural telecommunications programme:-

- (i) Providing support for operation and Maintenance of existing VPTs;
- (ii) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs with Landlines/Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs);
- (iii) Provision of VPTs in a time bound manner in the remaining unconnected eligible villages by November, 2007;

(iv) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) by September, 2007, in villages with population more than 2,000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs);

(v) Providing support for 91 lakh of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) installed in the country prior to 1.4.2002;

(vi) Support for provision of Individual Rural Phone Connection (RDELs) on demand in 1,685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs);

(vii) Support for 16,43,317 RDELs installed in the eligible 1685 SDCAs during the period 01.04.02 to 31.03.05;

(viii) Support for providing Shareable Infrastructure for Wireless mobile services in rural and remote areas.

[English]

#### Collection of ADC

\*351. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Access Deficit Charges (ADC) collected during the last three years and till date including its utilization during the period;

(b) whether any target was fixed for the collection of ADC during 2005-06;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) in case of shortfall in the collection of ADC, whether the Government proposes to raise telephone rentals for rural users particularly under the One India telecom tariff scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Due to technical constraints in the existing network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), it is not possible to measure intra-network minutes that are required for computing the amount of ADC retained by BSNL. Moreover, there was no regulatory reporting

requirement for the amount of Access Deficit Charge (ADC) collected till 28th February, 2006. Therefore, the exact amount of ADC collected during the last three years is not maintained.

However, based on sample traffic observations, BSNL has estimated ADC as Rs. 4559 crores for the period 01.02.2004 to 31.01,2005 and Rs. 3700 crores for the period 01.02.2005 to 31.01.2006 against the estimate of Rs. 4792 crores and Rs. 4954 crores respectively by TRAI for BSNL. As no traffic observation were carried out by BSNL in the period May 2003 to January 2004 no figures can be estimated. Further no separate accounts of its utilization are maintained, as there is no such regulatory requirement.

(b) No target has been fixed by the Department of Telecommunications for collection of ADC during 2005-06. The total amount of ADC for the period from 1st February, 2005 to 31st January, 2006 was estimated at a total of Rs. 5669 crores by Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) while the total amount of ADC for the period from 01.03.2006 to 28.02.2007 is estimated to be around Rs. 3300.00 crores.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) and (e) While the rental for rural subscribers continues to remain between Rs. 50/- to Rs. 150/- per month under general package of BSNL, the rental under "One India Plan" is Rs. 299/- per month. 'The One India Plan' is an optional plan for those subscribers who may find it beneficial according to their requirement.

#### **Pending Cases in BIFR**

\*352. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for referring of cases to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR);

(b) the number of cases referred to BIFR during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of cases on which decision has been taken by the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether a large number of cases referred to BIFR are pending for approval from the Government;

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

(f) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the backlog and the time frame by which it would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The criteria fixed under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 for referring of cases to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) are as follows:-

- (i) Networth should be eroded by accumulated losses. (100% erosion of the networth).
- (ii) Should be manufacturing unit as per 1st schedule of Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951.
- (iii) The company must have completed 5 years from the date of incorporation.
- (iv) Should not be a Small Scale Industry or Ancillary Unit.
- (v) Should have 50 or more workers employed in the factory.
- (vi) Should have a valid factory licence.
- (vii) Should have an Industrial licence/Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) Acknowledgement.
- (viii) Should have the certificate of incorporation.
- (ix) The financial assets of the company should not have been acquired by any securitisation company or reconstruction company under subsection (1) of Section 5 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

(b) The number of cases registered with the BIFR during the calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are 430, 399 and 180, respectively.

(c) The proceedings before BIFR are in the nature of Judicial proceedings under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and cases are not referred to the Government by BIFR for any decision.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

### Illegal Routing of International Calls

\*353. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has suffered a huge loss due to the illegal routing of international calls;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any claim on the erring parties;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the action taken by the Government against such parties; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to curb such practices by the service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is not payable to the Government. One of the operators namely M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL) avoided the payment of ADC mainly to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) by way of delivery of International Long Distance (ILD) Calls at incorrect ports by adopting technical measures during 2004.

As per provisions of interconnect agreements, BSNL and MTNL had raised a demand of Rs. 319.04 crores and Rs. 341.28 crores respectively on M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. for delivery of international calls at incorrect points. M/s RIL has paid the amount in full.

M/s RIL's appeal is pending before the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for adjudication as BSNL has filed an SLP before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to decide adjudicatory authority. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 28.03.2005 has directed to stay the proceedings before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The Government issued the Show Cause Notices for violation of Unified Access Service Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata Service Areas and after examining the replies of M/s RIL in this case, took a considered decision and levied a penalty of Rs. 50 crores each of the three licences. M/s RIL filed a petition in the Telecom

Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), against the decision of the Government, which was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs. 150 crores in March, 2005. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has filed an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgment of the TDSAT upholding the penalty of Rs. 150 crores and matter is subjudice.

### Ombudsman in Banks

\*354. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:  
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Banking Ombudsman established by the Reserve Bank of India has been successful in resolving the grievances of the consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Banking Ombudsman had disposed off 9797 and 12476 cases of grievances in the calendar years 2004 and 2005 respectively.

(c) and (d) In 2002, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded the scope of jurisdiction of the Banking Ombudsman to cover Regional Rural Banks. Again in 2006, RBI has further revised the Banking Ombudsman Scheme to include customer complaints on certain new areas, such as credit card complaints, deficiency in providing the promised service even by banks' sales agents, levying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non-adherence to fair practices code. The new scheme also enables online submission of complaints, and institution of an Appellate Authority for appeal against the Award passed by a Banking Ombudsman.

### Cotton Ginning

\*355. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details with regard to the cotton processed by the cotton ginning industry during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any annual target is fixed for the cotton ginning industry;

(c) if so, the details of the achievements against the targets during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the capacity of the cotton ginning industry is not being optimally utilized;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of ginning industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board has been finalizing the cotton production in the country based on the pressing figures. The figures of year-wise pressing during last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (in lakh bales)
2001-02	158.00
2002-03	136.00
2003-04	179.00
2004-05*	243.00

\* Final pressing figures awaited

(b) to (d) No such targets are fixed. However, the cotton produced in the season is brought to the location of ginneries and processed in the same year. With the increase in cotton production in the country, ginning and pressing factories in most of the States are fully utilized during the season.

(e) As per the survey carried out by the Textiles Committee, Government of India published in January 2004, there are around 3354 working ginning and pressing factories in the country located in various cotton growing States, comprising of 2318 ginning units, 122 pressing units and 914 composite units. Since most of the ginneries had age-old machineries, modernization of ginning industry has been taken up under the aegis of Technology Mission on Cotton.

(f) With a view to improve production, productivity and also quality of cotton, the Government of India had launched Technology Mission on Cotton in February 2000 with four Mini Missions. Mini Mission IV relates exclusively

to the modernization of ginning and pressing units in the country.

[Translation]

#### Conversion of NFFWP Into CFWP

\*356. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure including transportation charges being incurred in providing foodgrains worth rupees seventy to the beneficiaries under National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP);

(b) whether the Government proposes to convert the said programme into Cash for Work Programme (CFWP) in view of the high expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of additional districts likely to be covered thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per NFFWP guidelines, the State Governments will bear the transportation cost and other handling charges from their own resources. The foodgrains are paid to the workers at uniform BPL rate as part of wages. Since, the entire transportation and handling cost of foodgrains is borne by the State Governments from their own resources, it is not monitored at the Central level.

(b) and (c) In fulfilment of the commitment made by the UPA Government under NCMP, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched as an interim programme pending enactment of the Employment Guarantee Act to create immediate additional employment opportunities in rural areas. Since the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has now come into force w.e.f. 2nd February 2006 in the notified districts, NFFWP has subsumed with the Act. Central assistance to NREGA is only in the form of cash. No budget provision for foodgrains has been made under NREGA. NREGA will cover 200 districts in its initial phase and thus includes 150 NFFWP districts. All districts of the country will be covered within a period of five year.

#### NPA Written Off

\*357. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:



(a) the non-performing assets (NPA) written off by the nationalised banks during each of the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, bank-wise;

(c) whether there were instances wherein parties after getting their loan written off took another loan from the banks;

(d) if so, the details of cases during each of the last three years;

(e) whether such cases were investigated; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The bank-wise details of Non-performing assets written off by the nationalised banks during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines to the banks/ Financial Institutions (FIs) on 30th May, 2002 which, inter-alia, include that no additional facilities should be granted by any bank/FI to listed wilful defaulters of Rs. 25 lakh and above. In addition, the entrepreneurs/promoters of companies, where banks/FIs have identified siphoning/diversion of funds, misrepresentation/falsification of accounts and fraudulent transactions etc., should be debarred from institutional finance from the scheduled commercial banks, Development Financial Institutions, Government owned NBFCs, investment institutions etc. for floating new ventures for a period of 5 years from the date the name of the wilful defaulter is published in the list of wilful defaulters by the RBI and Credit Information Bureau of India Ltd. (CIBIL). However, no instance of financing to a wilful defaulter by any Bank/FI has been brought to the notice of the RBI and Govt.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

#### Statement

Bank-wise details regarding amount of NPAs written off during the last three years by nationalised banks

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Bank's Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	333	622	275
2.	Andhra Bank	121	184	170

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bank of Baroda	441	836	609
4.	Bank of India	579	588	329
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	92	92	79
6.	Canara Bank	216	452	973
7.	Central Bank of India	419	569	583
8.	Corporation Bank	16	49	91
9.	Dena Bank	372	319	317
10.	Indian Bank	803	416	482
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	164	469	244
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	46	85	117
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	59	85	37
14.	Punjab National Bank	137	483	704
15.	Syndicate Bank	42	33	220
16.	UCO Bank	155	278	334
17.	Union Bank of India	74	278	308
18.	United Bank of India	224	250	111
19.	Vijaya Bank	123	240	125
Total		4416	6328	6108

#### Outstanding Loan of Sick Units

\*358. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the amount of loan advanced by the nationalised banks and other financial institutions which are outstanding against the sick industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any measures for its recovery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that the amount outstanding in the books of scheduled commercial banks in respect of sick industrial units in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector as on 31.03.2005 is Rs.5,380.13 crores. RBI's present data collecting system does not generate information in respect of sick industrial units other than SSI sector. However, as informed by RBI, the amount outstanding in the books of scheduled commercial banks in respect of sick industrial units other than SSI sector as on March, 2003 was Rs.29,109.89 crores.

(c) and (d) As part of the announcement made by the Finance Minister in Parliament in August, 2005 for stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), a Debt Restructuring Mechanism and a One Time Settlement Scheme for units in SME sector has been formulated by RBI advising all commercial banks to ensure restructuring of debt of all eligible SMEs. The details are contained in RBI's circulars dated 8th September, 2005 and 3rd September, 2005. The recovery of the outstanding dues of sick industrial units is decided by the respective banks under the Corporate Debt Restructuring Mechanism depending on the merits of the case.

[English]

#### Cotton Textile Production

\*359. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cotton textiles during each of the last three years and current year in each state;

(b) whether its production has registered steep fall during the aforesaid period, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to arrest such declining trend and to increase the production of cotton textiles?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH

VAGHELA): (a) The production of cotton yarn and cotton cloth during the last three years and current year is furnished in Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The important measures taken by the Government to increase the production of cotton textiles include:-

(i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.

(iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10%, under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(iv) In the Budget 2006-07, for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, the budget allocation has been enhanced from Rs.435 crore to Rs.535 crore.

(v) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.

(vi) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from

excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(vii) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the

principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(viii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

(ix) Government has de-reserved the ready-made garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

**Statement**

**Table-A**

*State-wise production of cotton yarn by  
Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills*

Sl. No.	States/Union	Production of cotton yarn ('000 kg.)			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Oct) (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>States</b>					
1	Andhra Pradesh	82,079	89,038	100,301	60,460
2	Assam	311	107	87	51
3	Gujarat	175,593	165,920	179,235	105,150
4	Haryana	98,499	84,372	88,308	56,424
5	Himachal Pradesh	42,410	41,610	43,515	27,717
6	Jammu and Kashmir	836	0	1,339	2,779
7	Jharkhand	1,231	1,110	1,134	732
8	Karnataka	65,932	61,302	70,589	43,440
9	Kerala	30,374	26,130	26,537	17,508
10	Madhya Pradesh	97,809	99,862	104,611	64,583
11	Maharashtra	234,901	209,115	218,363	131,848 (127,079)
12	Manipur	48	0	0	0
13	Orissa	5,577	4,285	2,002	2,496
14	Punjab	202,594	213,479	233,809	157,697

1	2	3	4	5	6
15	Rajasthan	78,194	74,733	74,184	52,592
16	Tamil Nadu	967,641	952,602	1,029,375	661,358
17	Uttaranchal	554	287	217	133
18	Uttar Pradesh	46,067	41,723	43,745	30,789
19	West Bengal	13,079	12,638	13,428	7,974
<b>Union Territories</b>					
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20,340	29,198	28,810	16,224
2	Daman and Diu	291	290	317	226
3	Pondicherry	12,801	12,908	12,352	6,509
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,177,161</b>	<b>2,120,709</b>	<b>2,272,258</b>	<b>1,446,690 (1,299,502)</b>

Figure in bracket indicate corresponding figure of the previous year

**Table-B**

*Production of cotton cloth (All India)*

(Million Square meter)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr.-Oct.)
Cotton Cloth	19300	18040	20655	13607 (11398)

The state wise production data of cotton cloth is not maintained.

**Framework for Co-operative Banks**

\*360. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a separate framework for co-operative banks with a view to freeing them from the control of multiple agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The package for Revival of Short Term Rural Cooperative Credit Structure, finalised after consultation with the State Governments, envisages amendment in the relevant Acts to empower RBI to lay down the regulations and guidelines for prudential banking operation of Rural Cooperative Banks. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the States (RCS) will implement

and monitor these regulations and guidelines within a given timeframe. In all other matters of administration and management, the RCS shall be the authority responsible for laying down rules/guidelines. The State Governments desiring to implement the revival package need to agree, through a Memorandum of Understanding or Exchange of Letters with Government of India, to implement the recommended legal and institutional reforms and share the financial package.

**Rate of Interest for  
Employment Schemes**

\*361. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of interest charged by the nationalised banks, co-operative banks and gramin banks from

the beneficiaries in the rural areas under rozgar schemes like SGSY and SGRY;

(b) whether these rates are higher than the home loan rates charged in urban areas;

(c) whether any suggestions have been received to reduce the interest rates for the poor beneficiaries under this schemes;

(d) whether it is proposed to reduce the interest rates so as to make them affordable for such beneficiaries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The rate of interest charged by the nationalised banks to the beneficiaries in the rural areas under Rozgar schemes like Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swayamrozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) conform to the directives issued by RBI on loans and advances. As per the interest rate policy of Reserve Bank of India, contained in its directive interest rates on loans given by commercial banks have been deregulated, except that the interest rate on loans up to Rs. 2 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of the concerned banks. Commercial banks are free to decide their lending rates on loans above Rs 2 lakh subject to the announcement of BPLR. As regards Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative banks, the interest rates on loans have been completely deregulated.

(b) Banks are free to charge interest on home loans without reference to their BPLR.

(c) In the mid-term review of the Annual Policy for the year 2005-06, RBI has indicated about a public perception on inter-sectoral pricing of credit.

(d) and (e) Banks decide their BPLR taking into account, inter-alia, their cost of funds, their transaction cost and risks cost. Banks are free to lend at below BPLR to credit worthy borrowers based on objective and transparent policies subject to the approval of their Boards.

#### Loan to Builder and Financer

2601. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions are providing loans to the builders and financers on very low rate of interest;

(b) if so, the amount of loan given by banks and financial institutions as on March 31, 2005;

(c) the reasons for giving the loan at low interest rate;

(d) whether lenders have taken loan for longer period and returned it back just in few months;

(e) whether these loans were given to lenders against their new properties, which were supposed to be purchased by them on open auction; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### Plastic Innovation Parks

2602. SHRI. SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Plastic Innovation Parks in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its locations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### Rural Development through Panchayati Raj Institutions

2603. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in Rural Development Sector;

(b) if so, the names of schemes and programmes of Rural Development to be entrusted to these institutions; and

(c) the initiative taken by the Government to prepare separate Tribal sub-plan of each programme and scheme for tribal areas to be implemented and executed through PESA of Fifth Scheduled Areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), National Food For work Programme (NFFWP) and Watershed Projects through the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) The Ministry has made specific provisions in the guidelines of the programmes viz Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)/Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) being implemented in the rural areas including tribal areas to ensure adequate flow of resources to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

#### Banks in Social Activities

2604. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the income of the Public Sector Banks to be spent on the social activities; and

(b) the details of the social activities being undertaken from this income in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh during 2004-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines dated 21st December, 2005 the profit making banks may make donations during a financial year aggregating upto one per cent of the published profit of the banks for the previous year towards setting up professional chairs, granting fellowships/scholarships for studies and research at universities and approved institutions and for commissioning special projects for investigation, analysis and research for areas pertaining to banking, finance, statistics, management and economics, etc. However, donations for Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and subscriptions to professional bodies/institutions related to banking industry are excluded from the limit indicated above.

(b) The existing management information system of Reserve Bank of India, does not generate the information asked for.

#### Installation of Mobile Phone Tower in Bhiwani

2605. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any delay in installation of a new BSNL mobile phone tower in Bhiwani;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the service of BSNL in Bhiwani and adjoining area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are 13 (thirteen) base stations of BSNL's mobile services in Bhiwani city and other towns of surrounding areas.

(c) BSNL has further planned three additional base towers in Bhiwani city and four mobile base towers in surrounding areas which are to be rolled out during the current year progressively subject to timely supplies and availability of electric power supply from the State Electricity Board.

[English]

#### World Bank Loan for Hilly Area

2606. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed its willingness to extend loans/assistance to hilly States in the country for development of roads, irrigation and development schemes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The following state sector projects for hilly States have been posed by the Government of India to the World Bank for consideration:

		(Rs. in crores)
S. No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost
1.	Himachal Pradesh State Roads Project	1150
2.	Tripura Agricultural Development Project	403
3.	Participatory Watershed Management Project in Jammu & Kashmir	969
4.	Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project-II	500

These proposals follow the cycle of project analysis, preparation, appraisal and negotiations before their final approval by the World Bank Board.

#### NTC Mills

2607. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the N.T.C. mills are lying

closed and the workers are being paid wages without work as a result of New Textile Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production in each of these mills vis-a-vis expenditure incurred during each of the last three years, when they were in operation; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to reopen these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Out of 52 viable mills in National Textile Corporation (NTC), 12 mills, where majority of the workers have opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS), are having no production activities at present. The list of such mills, along with number of workers sitting idle as on 01.03.2006 and the production in each of these mills vis-a-vis expenditure incurred during each of the last three years when they were in operation is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) It has been decided to modernize two mills, namely, Udaipur Cotton Mills and Rajnagar Textile Mill No.1 by NTC itself. NTC is also exploring possibility of Joint Venture for the remaining mills.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			
		Workers on roll as on 1.3.06	Yarn Prdn. (lac kgs.)	cloth Prdn. (lac mts.)	Expenses (Rs. lacs)	Yarn Prdn. (lac kgs.)	cloth Prdn. (lac mts.)	Expenses (Rs. lacs)	Yarn Prdn. (lac kgs.)	cloth Prdn. (lac mts.)	Expenses (Rs. lacs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>NTC (APKIM) Ltd.</b>											
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>											
1	Ananthapur Cotton Mills	5	0.00	0.00	451.15	0.00	0.00	512.09	0.00	0.00	542.51
<b>Karnataka</b>											
2	Sree Yallama Cotton Mills	0	2.98	0.00	474.95	4.52	0.00	598.87	5.77	0.00	632.29
<b>NTC (DPR) Ltd.</b>											
<b>Punjab</b>											
3	Kharar Textile Mills	66	9.67	0.00	901.97	9.59	0.00	1747.43	11.08	0.00	1953.88
4	Suraj Textile Mills	14	11.11	0.00	815.59	9.88	0.00	1474.50	11.83	0.00	1787.73
<b>Rajasthan</b>											
5	Udaipur Cotton Mills	9	10.09	0.00	722.08	5.95	0.00	1422.42	11.46	0.00	1690.22
6	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	46	5.87	0.00	795.36	7.77	0.00	1200.61	6.44	0.00	1371.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>NTC (Guj.) Ltd.</b>											
<b>Gujarat</b>											
7	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	51	2.79	0.00	1019.45	4.82	0.00	1377.42	6.78	0.00	1230.69
8	Rajnagar No.1	36	3.24	0.00	974.67	6.94	0.00	1300.40	8.47	0.00	1226.86
<b>NTC (MN) Ltd.</b>											
<b>Maharashtra</b>											
9	India United Mills No. 6 (Dye Works)	258	0.00	19.00	660.98	0.00	14.40	642.61	0.00	17.43	678.83
10	Kohinoor Mills No.1	0	5.31	2.48	1112.43	4.06	1.83	1181.01	1.99	0.00	1465.17
<b>NTC (UP) Ltd.</b>											
11	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	38	6.65	0.00	2236.98	10.41	0.00	2045.81	6.93	0.00	1842.01
<b>NTC (WBABO) Ltd.</b>											
<b>Biher</b>											
12	Biher Co-operative Mills	127	0.00	0.00	315.58	0.32	0.00	393.14	0.53	0.00	482.86

*[Translation]*

**Direct Release of Funds  
to Panchayats**

2608. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued in regard to allocation of funds to the State Government by the 12th Finance Commission;

(b) whether 12th Finance Commission has issued instructions to allocate funds for development directly to the Panchayat keeping in view the size of population;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that there are very small Panchayat units in many States of the country due to which nominal funds reach to them and no construction work is possible with such nominal amount;

(e) whether the Government propose to formulate any concrete policy for proper utilization of the said funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) As per Terms of Reference of the 12th Finance Commission, it was inter-alia mandated to recommend the measures

needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State. A sum of Rs. 20,000 crore has been provided for panchayats as grants-in-aid for the period 2005-10. Ministry of Finance has issued Guidelines on utilization of Local Bodies grants recommended by the 12th Finance Commission and its main features are given in the Statement enclosed. The 12th Finance Commission has stated that it was for the State concerned to distribute the grants recommended by the Commission among the local bodies including those in the excluded areas in fair and just manner. The guidelines issued by Government of India for utilization of grants recommended by 12th Finance Commission provide for sufficient safeguard for proper utilization of grants released.

**Statement**

*Main features of Guidelines on utilization of Local Bodies grants recommended by the 12th Finance Commission issued by Government of India*

1. The allocation amongst various Municipalities and Panchayati Raj Institutions and also autonomous councils in excluded areas would be made by the States.
2. The best practices listed in para 8.19 of the report may



- be considered for adoption by States to improve the resources of the panchayats.
3. The PRIs should be encouraged to take over the assets relating to water supply and sanitation and utilize the grants for repairs/rejuvenation as also the O&M costs. The PRIs should, however, recover at least 50 percent of the recurring costs in the form of user charges.
  4. Of the grants allocated for Panchayats, priority should be given to expenditure on the O&M costs of water supply and sanitation. This will facilitate Panchayats to take over the schemes and operate them.
  5. Most States do not have credible information on the finances of their local bodies. Local bodies would continue to need funding support for building data base and maintenance of accounts. States may assess the requirement of each local body in this regard and earmark funds accordingly out of the total allocation recommended by Finance Commission.
  6. States have to mandatorily transfer the grants released by the Centre to the PRIs and ULBs within 15 days of the same being credited to the State's account.
  7. Panchayats as defined in the Constitution can exist only when they are constituted as per the mandatory provisions of Articles 243B and 243 C. Hence, grants will not be provided to a State (which is covered under Part IX of the Constitution) where elections for constituting these Panchayats have not been held for the period for which there were no elected panchayats as per the provisions of the Constitution.
  8. State Finance Secretary would be required to provide a certificate every year of the percentage of grants spent on schemes of water supply and sanitation by the PRIs. States would also be required to provide details of recurring O&M cost recoverable by the PRIs on schemes of water supply.
  9. In case of delayed transfer to PRIs beyond the specified period of 15 days, the State Government shall transfer to PRI amount of interest at the rate equal to the RBI Bank rate alongwith such delayed transfer of grants.
  10. Government of India will withhold the amount short spent on schemes of water supply and sanitation by the PRIs. The withheld amount will be subsequently reimbursed upon confirmation that the short spending has been compensated in the subsequent period.
11. Comptroller and Auditor General of India would be expected to audit the release and use of the local bodies grants.

#### Disinvestment of National Mineral Development Corporation

2609. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to disinvest the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC);

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government keeping in view the interests of the staff working in it; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Government has recently decided to disinvest 15% out of its equity shareholding of 98.384% in National Mineral Development Corporation Limited through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market through book building process. At present, the process of selection of Book Runners-cum-Lead Managers is in progress.

[English]

#### PCO/STD/ISD

2610. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for allotment of PCO/STD/ISD booths in the country;

(b) the number of mobile PCO/STD/ISD booths functioning in each State at present;

(c) the number of applications pending for allotment of these booths, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which such applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Public Call Offices (PCOs) are allotted by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to all the applicants who are of 18 years or above of age and the same are provided on first come first served basis subject to technical feasibility. However, where there is waiting list for PCOs, 50% of the PCOs are allotted to the reserved categories in the order given below:

- (i) Defence establishments and other para-military establishments (e.g. BSF, CRPF etc.).

- (ii) War-widows/dependants  
(iii) SC/ST  
(iv) Handicapped persons  
(v) Ex-servicemen.

(b) and (c) The number of PCOs of MTNL and BSNL functioning in each state and pending applications for allotment of PCOs are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) There is no waiting list for allotment of PCOs in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai. The pending applications in BSNL are likely to be cleared progressively by March 2007.

**Statement**

*Number of PCOs of BSNL & MTNL functioning in each State and pending applications as on 31.1.2006*

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Telecom Circle	No. of Local PCOs	No. of STD/ISD PCOs	No. of Mobile PCOs	Total PCOs	No. of Pending Applications for allotment of PCOs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andaman and Nicobar	228	926	0	1154	16
2	Andhra Pradesh	173861	86521	0	260382	3778
3	Assam	291	23715	0	24006	207
4	Bihar	12761	47270	70	60101	2345
5	Chhattisgarh	5325	8260	0	13585	396
6	Gujarat	97619	52220	0	149839	332
7	Haryana	2467	32867	36	35370	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	548	10644	0	11192	138
9	Jammu and Kashmir	3054	13126	0	16180	3466
10	Jharkhand	6707	15981	0	22688	273
11	Karnataka	196763	57818	0	254581	4222
12	Kerala	57293	55251	15	112559	1136
13	Madhya Pradesh	23764	29888	9	53661	0
14	Maharashtra	207962	89862	185	297809	7390

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	North East-I	392	5445	0	5837	2784
16	North East-II	1823	4829	0	6652	11
17	Orissa	5807	24884	0	30691	282
18	Punjab	4761	37555	1	42317	0
19	Rajasthan	7864	60638	9	68511	1021
20	Tamil Nadu	137877	63103	8	200988	280
21	Uttar Pradesh - East	21166	80003	895	102064	1365
22	Uttar Pradesh - West	13172	44763	63	57998	256
23	Uttaranchal	499	13921	63	14483	195
24	West Bengal	9087	46595	0	55682	13715
25	Kolkata	35042	30343	0	65385	76
26	Chennai	66359	19768	0	86127	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1092492</b>	<b>955996</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>2049842</b>	<b>43684</b>
27	MTNL, Delhi	67244	30309	0	97553	0
28	MTNL, Mumbai	150992	31276	0	182268	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1310728</b>	<b>1017581</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>2329663</b>	<b>43684</b>

**Note:-**

- 1 Gujarat Circle - Consists of state of Gujarat and U.T. of Dadara & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- 2 Kerala Circle - Consists of state of Kerala, part of Pondicherry state and U.T. Lakshadweep.
- 3 Maharashtra Circle - Consists of states of Maharashtra and Goa excluding Mumbai.
- 4 North East-I Circle - Consists of states of Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura.
- 5 North East-II Circle - Consists of states of Nagaland, Manipur & Arunachal Pradesh.
- 6 Punjab Circle - Consists of state of Punjab and U.T. of Chandigarh.
- 7 Tamil Nadu Circle - Consists of state of Tamil Nadu and part of Pondicherry state but excluding Chennai.
- 8 West Bengal Circle - Consists of states of West Bengal and Sikkim but excluding Kolkata.

**Workshed Scheme for Weavers**

2611. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Government of Karnataka for extending the workshed-cum-housing scheme to the weavers in the State;

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

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to assist the handloom weavers in Karnataka under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, during the current financial year 2005-06, a proposal amounting to Rs.58.60 lakh has been received from the State Government of Karnataka under the Workshed-cum-

Housing Scheme. The proposal has not been submitted in conformity with the guidelines of the Scheme. Apart from this the Utilisation Certificates of Rs.69.575 lakh of earlier released under this scheme are pending with the State Government. The Government of Karnataka has been requested to furnish necessary details in accordance with the guidelines of the scheme and the pending Utilisation Certificates and physical progress report for release of funds.

#### Low Cost Sanitation Scheme

2612. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a 'Low Cost Sanitation Scheme' in small towns and cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of towns/cities covered under the scheme, State-wise, till December 31, 2005;

(d) the number of sanitation units constructed

under the scheme. State-wise, till December 31, 2005; and

(e) the amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The centrally sponsored Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme was implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs since 1981 and later implemented through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. From 1989-90, it came to be operated through the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation.

The scheme envisages conversion of dry latrines into low cost twin pit sanitary latrines and construction of toilets where none exist.

The scheme has been taken up on a 'whole town basis' approach and is being operated through the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

(c) to (e) As per the Statement enclosed.

#### Statement

#### *Subsidy Sanctioned/ Released and Number of Towns Covered and Units Constructed/Converted under the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS)\*\**

(As on 31-12-2005)

Name of the State	Number of Towns Covered	Total Subsidy Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)	Total Subsidy Released (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Units Completed (Conversion & Construction)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	115	10139.06	8436.65	545319
Bihar	15	106.75	106.75	0
Goa*	1	0.00	0.00	32500
Haryana	76	2034.94	1126.09	73590
Jammu and Kashmir	37	343.73	215.98	4437
Karnataka	52	1119.98	741.34	69651
Kerala	15	69.93	69.08	13325

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	289	3142.78	3169.40	253212
Maharashtra	181	2204.73	1155.15	94422
Orissa	63	471.48	315.07	22841
Punjab	73	2241.27	2055.94	176648
Rajasthan	159	5184.56	2553.75	310097
Tamil Nadu	89	1713.51	756.34	96052
Uttar Pradesh	74	16850.02	4866.81	176578
West Bengal	116	5017.42	3596.78	176577
Chhattisgarh	70	456.29	435.30	20458
Jharkhand	7	19.98	19.98	0
Uttaranchal	52	633.77	537.47	7979
Andaman and Nicobar	1	33.01	16.50	125
Assam	27	1284.51	418.56	4711
Manipur	8	259.05	137.72	7861
Meghalaya	2	66.67	32.63	1671
Tripura	12	235.14	176.36	9254
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>53628.58</b>	<b>30939.65</b>	<b>2097308</b>

\* Units Constructed/Converted by availing only the loan component under the scheme.

\*\* Data provided by HUDCO

#### Circulation of Fake Currency

2613. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale circulation of fake currency in Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether even Bank Employees are not able to recognise the fake currency; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop the circulation of fake currency in Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There are no reports of large scale circulation of fake currency notes.

(b) and (c) RBI has informed that bank employees have always been able to detect the counterfeit banknotes by way of 'touch' and 'feel' features of banknotes in addition to the security features that are not fully replicated in the counterfeit banknotes. As an additional measure, all currency chests of banks have been advised to install Note Sorting Machines to ensure detection of counterfeit banknotes. To counter the circulation of fake currency, Govt./RBI have taken a number of steps i.e. (i) new/additional security features have been introduced in the banknotes (ii) RBI have set up a separate Division in its Central Office for collection of data on counterfeit banknotes. All commercial banks have also formed Forged Note Vigilance Cells. (iii) RBI has been regularly conducting training programme of the bank employees for detection

of counterfeit banknotes. (iv) RBI has advised other banks to improve their mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes and also gather intelligence and pass over such information to RBI Central Office. (iv) CBI has been designated as Nodal agency to coordinate and monitor investigations of cases involving detection of counterfeit banknotes.

#### Sericulture Production

2614. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area of sericulture production in various regions in Tamil Nadu has increased over the years;

Year	Mulberry (Hectares)			Production of		
	Irrigated	Rain-fed	Total	DFLs (Lakh Nos.)	Reeling Cocoon (M.T.)	Raw Silk (M.T.)
2002-03	5065	329	5394	82.26	4005	490
2003-04	3784	241	4025	40.40	2124	285
2004-05	4856	217	5073	55.87	3101	443
2005-06 (upto December, 2005)	6744	229	6973	64.72	3802	522
% increase/decrease during 2004-05 over 2003-04	28.3	-9.9	26.0	37.6	46.00	55.4

The decrease in the acreage during the year 2003-04 is mainly due to the drought conditions in the state. However, the industry has recovered due to good monsoon during the current year.

(c) The Govt. have taken following steps for improving the production of sericulture in the state and to improve the livelihood of the farmers:

- (1) During X Plan period under the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) a provision of Rs.181.00 crores has been made for sericulture development in the country for providing assistance to sericulture farmers/reelers to encourage them to adopt improved technology aiming towards improvement in quality and productivity. A sum of Rs.523.58 lakhs has been released to the state of Tamil Nadu so far during the X Plan period.

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years, till date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the production of sericulture in the state and to improve the livelihood of the farmers engaged in its cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and upto December, 2006 area and production details are given below:

- (2) The Central Silk Board has evolved new bivoltine breeds with assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Commercial exploitation of these breeds has resulted in improving the quality and productivity.
- (3) The Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) under Central Silk Board has developed improved devices, fabricated new machines, equipments, appliances which have helped improvement in silk quality and productivity.
- (4) Through R&D efforts Central Silk Board has made break through in tropicalising the bivoltine silkworm and development of host plants with higher yields resulting in significant improvement in silk productivity.

- (5) The improved package of practices developed by the Research Institutes of CSB has improved the productivity of mulberry cocoons from 602 kg/ha. to 698 kg/ha.

**Structural Adjustment loan  
from World Bank**

2615. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal regarding structural adjustment loan from World Bank through Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal on 05-09-2002 to the Union Government for Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) of US \$ 250 million from the World Bank.

(c) On acceptance of the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the Ministry of Finance issued revised guidelines on 24-10-2005 to States asking them to furnish fresh proposals as per the revised guidelines. The Government of Karnataka has not submitted any fresh proposal as per these revised guidelines.

**Sixth Pay Commission**

2616. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to appoint 6th Pay Commission; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith time when the Commission will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government is initiating steps to appoint 6th Pay Commission. However, no time frame has been set in this regard.

[Translation]

**NABARD Loan to Farmers**

2617. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was set up to cater to the needs of farmers only;
- (b) if so, whether NABARD has failed to provide loan to farmers and has diverted its funds to give advances to other sectors;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the amount of advances given by NABARD to the sectors other than agriculture sector during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) NABARD was set up to cater to the credit needs of farmers as well as to promote integrated rural development by promotion of agriculture and rural non-farm activities thereby achieving rural prosperity.

(b) to (d) NABARD extends refinance to banks against the loan extended by them to farmers as well as activities leading to rural development. Further, with a view to promote sustainable development in the field of agriculture, NABARD refinance is also available for rural based non-farm sector activities. The details of refinance given by NABARD to both farm and rural non-farm sector during the last three years are as under:-

(i) Investment Credit:

Purpose	(Rs. Crore)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Cumulative since inception
1	2	3	4	5
Farm Sector (FS)	5411.37	5242.07	6034.88	67114.21
Rural Non-Farm Sector (RNFS)	2007.40	2363.22	2542.58	14052.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>7418.77</b>	<b>7605.29</b>	<b>8577.46</b>	<b>81166.47</b>

1	2	3	4	5
% of FS to Total Refinance	73	69	70	83
% RNFS to total refinance	27	31	29	17

Cumulatively about 83% of the total refinance was for agricultural activities and 17% was for RNFS.

**(II) Production Credit:**

Purpose	(Rs. Crore)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
ST(SAO) - Limit Sanctioned	7999 (91)	8689 (87)	10219 (91)
ST(OSAO) - Limit Sanctioned	836 (9)	1266 (13)	1041 (9)

ST(SAO) - Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operation)

ST(OSAO) - Short Term (Other than Seasonal Agricultural Operation)

Figures in brackets denote percentages

Thus, around 90% of refinance provided by NABARD under Production credit had gone to Farm Sector.

[English]

**Micro Credit**

2618. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a micro credit regulatory regime soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it would help the poor borrowers to get loans from the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has announced the introduction of a formal statutory framework for the promotion, development and regulation of the Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) Sector so as to promote better linkage between MFIs and Banks. This will help in increasing the flow of bank credit to MFIs and more number of poor borrowers would be able to access loans through MFIs.

[Translation]

**Share MNCs**

2619. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed Multi-national Companies (MNCs) to increase their share capital in the Indian companies promoted by them;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed in this regard and the procedure/norms adopted for determining price of excess shares;

(c) whether the price of shares so determined are less than the market price;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Government has put in place a liberal policy and most of the sectors have been placed under automatic route, except a small negative list. However, FDI policy is reviewed on a continuous basis to create an enabling policy environment to attract investment. Transfer of shares from resident to Non-resident is also put under automatic route subject to sectoral caps. There is no bar on Multi National Companies (MNCs) to increase their share capital in the Indian companies. The price of shares of listed companies are determined as per the RBI/SEBI guidelines and in all other cases as per the RBI regulation in accordance with the guidelines issued by the erstwhile Controller of Capital Issues.

[English]

**Suggestion from Commercial Lobby**

2620. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an apex industry chamber has urged the Government to increase the tax; GDP ratio to over 15 per cent apart from plugging distortions and leakages in its expenditure plans to tackle the crisis in public finance;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;



(c) whether nearly 12 per cent of the Government's total budgeted expenditure of Rs. 514,344 crore for fiscal year 2005-06 is spent on extending subsidies in food, fertilizers and petroleum products and the target audience hardly gains out of it;

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

(e) whether the Government has also received any suggestion that financing needs of public enterprises should be met through open market borrowings; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Pre-Budget Memoranda of the various chambers of commerce and associations for 2006-07 have indicated the need to increase the tax-GDP ratio and widening the tax base. The Government has been taking necessary measures in successive Budgets to widen the tax base as well as contain the expenditure to adhere to the targets of deficit as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

(c) and (d) The central budgetary subsidies on food, fertilizer and petroleum as per cent to total expenditure is estimated at 8.5 per cent (Rs.43,383 crore) in 2005-06 (Revised Estimates) which is budgeted to decline to 7.9 per cent in 2006-07 (Budget Estimates). While there are some indications of inclusion and exclusion errors in the delivery of food subsidies to families below the poverty line under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the other two remain universal subsidies. The Government is in the process of evolving a consensus for achieving the National Common Minimum Programme objective of targeting all subsidies to small and marginal farmers, farm labour and urban poor.

(e) and (f) The Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector. The public sector enterprises primarily meet their requirement for funds through equity and internal and extra-budgetary resources. In the Budget for 2006-07, Government would provide equity support of Rs.16,901 crore and loans of Rs.2,789 crore to Central Public Sector Enterprises (including Railways).

#### **Import of CRGO**

2621. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies importing second hand/used defective Cold Rolled Grain Oriented (CRGO);

(b) whether the Union Government has issued Red Alert against import of these items;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Power Ministry has also recommended for ban on this item;

(e) if so, the steps being taken for banning this item;

(f) whether the Government is losing revenue to the tune of Rs. 1200 crores per annum from the import of this item; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, any person holding a valid Import-Export Code can import Cold Rolled Grain Oriented (CRGO) steel sheets. Hence there is no estimate or restriction on number of companies importing such goods.

(b) No, Sir. Government has not issued any Red Alert against import of these items.

(c) Nil in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no ban on import of second hand/used defective Cold Rolled Grain Oriented (CRGO) steel sheets. However, Cold Rolled coils/sheets of a value of less than \$ 263/-per tonne require an import licence for their valid importation in terms of Export-Import Policy.

(f) There is no revenue loss on account of import duty, since the basic customs duty on import of seconds and defectives of Cold Rolled Grain Oriented (CRGO) steel sheets is higher than the duty on prime quality material. However, suitable valuation alert has been issued to check under valuation;

(g) 'Nil' in view of reply at (f) above.

#### **Development of Industries**

2622. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme

to encourage industries to undertake research and development activities on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage export of technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has many schemes to encourage industries to undertake research development activities on a large scale. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) initiated a "Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme" in 1994-95 to promote R&D in the drugs and pharmaceutical sector. During January, 2004, the Government established a Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the administrative control of DST with an initial corpus of Rs. 150 crore and the "Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme" was merged with PRDSF. The corpus of Rs. 150 crore was dissolved in 2005-06 and the entire money is available for funding R&D in the drugs and pharmaceutical sector. Under PRDSF programme, support is provided to R&D institutions for collaborative R&D projects as well as soft loan is provided for industrial R&D projects for pharma projects. The Department of Science & Technology constituted a "Technology Development Board" in 1996, which supports development and commercialization of indigenous or imported technology. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has a scheme on "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)" which encourages industry to undertake research and development in a proactive public-private partnership mode. The Department of Biotechnology has a scheme on "Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)" to encourage research and development in the biotechnology sector. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has a scheme on "Technology Development and Demonstration Programme" (erstwhile PATSER) to encourage industries to take up new product/process development. All the above schemes provide support to industries by way of grants, loans and or equity.

Besides, Government has evolved, from time to time, several fiscal incentives to encourage industries to undertake research and development activities. The major fiscal incentives include: weighted tax deduction under section 35(2AB) of Income Tax Act 1961, which allows a weighted tax deduction @ 150% on R&D expenditure to

companies engaged in the business of bio-technology or in the business of manufacture or production of drugs, pharmaceuticals, electronic equipment, computers, telecommunication equipment, chemicals, aircrafts & helicopters and automobiles including automobile components in government approved in-house R&D centres; and 10 year tax exemption under section 80-IB(8A) of Income Tax Act 1961 to approved companies whose main objective is undertaking scientific and industrial research & development.

(c) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) is the only government department that has a scheme on "International Technology Transfer Programme" which is aimed at promotion of international technology transfer and trade including export of technologies, projects, services and technology intensive products. A number of steps have been taken under the scheme to encourage export of technology. These include: compilation of technology export performance and capabilities of small and medium enterprises in the country; showcasing and demonstration of technology export capabilities through international exhibitions and "Technology Trade Facilitation Centre"; organization of "International Training-cum-Awareness Programmes" targeted at overseas participants with a view to build Indian brand ambassadors amongst them; and capability building of industries and R&D establishments in areas such as intellectual property rights and product design for enhancing their technology intensive exports. The DSIR has a joint project with the Confederation of India Industry viz. "Technology Export Development Organisation" (TEDO) which aims to promote industry for technology exports in specific sectors. The DSIR has also promoted a "Centre for International Trade in Technology" in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade whose main objectives are to conduct research on emerging technological issues in international trade with a view to provide inputs for policy formulation and to develop trained manpower in international technology trade who can possibly be engaged by industry in their endeavor to export technology.

[*translation*]

#### **Amendment in People Representation Act, 1951**

2623. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIV SINGH:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in the Representation of People's Act, 1951 to decriminalise Indian politics in view prevailing corruption in politics;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to formulate any code of conduct in respect of elected representatives of people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its meeting held on 23rd August 2005, decided to take up consideration of "Electoral Reforms" referred to it by the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, for examination and report. As such, the entire matter of electoral reforms, which inter alia, includes decriminalisation of the Indian politics, is now before the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are awaited before the Government could take any action.

[English]

#### Nirmal Gram Puraskar

2624. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for awarding "Nirmal Gram Puraskar";

(b) the details of the villages in each district of the country included for consideration of "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of villages awarded with "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) is awarded to such Panchayati Raj Institutions which satisfy the following conditions:

(i) each household has access to toilets and the practice of open defecation is completely eliminated;

(ii) all schools and Anganwadis in the PRI area have functional toilet facilities;

(iii) general cleanliness prevails in the concerned PRI.

(b) and (c) The Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) was announced on 2nd October, 2003 and the distribution of award has started since 2004-05. The number of PRIs applied and got the Nirmal Gram Puraskar in the last two years, State-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	2004		2005	
		Total No. of Applications received	No. of PRIs awarded	Total No. of Applications received	No. of PRIs awarded
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	44	10
2.	Assam	0	0	1	1
3.	Bihar	0	0	10	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	14	13
5.	Gujarat	1	1	19	4
6.	Haryana	7	0	12	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0
8.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Karnataka	0	0	4	0
10.	Kerala	8	1	11	6
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	13	1
12.	Maharashtra	23	13	497	377
13.	Orissa	3	0	11	8
14.	Tamil Nadu	29	13	304	119
15.	Tripura	189	1	99	36
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2	0	142	40
17.	Uttaranchal	0	0	34	13
18.	West Bengal	191	11	231	126
	Total	454	40	1447	758

**Setting up of High Court Bench**

2625. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from State Governments to establish High Court Benches;

(b) if so, the locations identified for this purpose;

(c) whether any allocation of funds has been made by the Government, to these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) A proposal from the State Government of West Bengal to set up a Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri has been received.

(c) and (d) The Government does not implement any scheme under which funds are allocated to the State Governments for setting up of High Court Benches.

**[Translation]****Demolition of Houses by CPWD**

2626. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of houses demolished by the Central Public Works Department during the last three years, till date, location-wise;

(b) whether new houses has been constructed on the sites of demolition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such sites have been allotted to some organisations;

(f) if so, the, details thereof;

(g) whether the Government are aware of alleged irregularities in allotment of this land;

(h) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision to investigate the alleged irregularities in allotment of this land; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

#### Land to Hospitals

2627. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of land in Delhi for the purpose of building hospitals is made by Delhi Development Authority;

(b) if so, the names of such hospitals including details of area of land allotted and rate charged for each hospital during each of the last three years;

(c) the criteria of making allotment of land to these hospitals; and

(d) the details of hospitals whose applications for allotment of land were rejected during the above mentioned period and the reasons for such rejection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the allotment of land from the year 2002 onwards to private societies/agencies for hospitals are done only through auction. Details of 9 hospitals which have been allotted land through auction from the year 2002-03 onwards is given in the Statement enclosed.

Since the disposal of hospital sites is to be done through auction/tender only, no application for allotment other than through auction is being considered by DDA.

#### Statement

*Details of Hospitals allotted land through Auction/Tender.  
From the year 2002-03 onwards.*

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Area/Location	Amount of bid (Rs.)
1	M/s. Max Health Institute	0.9 Hect/Saket 9050 Sqm.	10.11 Crores
2	M/s. PCL-JDRC	3.44 Hectares /Dwarka	10.80 Crores
3	Oscar Biotech Pvt. Ltd.	2.97 Hectares. Block-A Shalimar Bagh	13.02 Crores
4	Aakash institute Pvt. Ltd.	0.60 Hectare Sector-3, Dwarka	7.04 Crores
5	Metro Hospital	1.0 Hectare Sector A-7, Narela.	3.50 Crores
6	Wockhardt Hospital Ltd.	0.72 Hectares H4-H5 Road No. 43, Pitam Pura.	9.00 Crores
7	Muthoot Hospital	3.50 Hectares Sector- 10, Dwarka.	20.20 Crores
8	Dr. Lal Path Lab Pvt. Ltd.	3717 sqm. Rohini, Sector 18.	6.11 Crores
9	Ganesh Diagnostic & imaging Centre.	616.6 sqm. Rohini, Sector-8	1.75 Crores

[Translation]

#### Slums in Urban Areas

2628. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken fresh initiatives to check the mushrooming of slums in urban areas in the country particularly in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A coherent urbanization policy to implement projects in cities is needed to cope with the problems such as slums that have emerged as a result of rapid urban growth. In this direction, the Government has recently launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Under the JNNURM, a Sub-

Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) is to be implemented in the selected 63 cities to provide integrated development of slum through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to provide utilities to the urban poor. In the remaining cities/towns, an Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) will be implemented. Names of 63 JNNURM cities are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*List of Identified Cities/Urban Agglomerations (UAs) under Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP).*

Sl. No.	City	Name of the State	Population (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
<b>(a) Mega Cities/UAs</b>			
1.	Delhi	Delhi	128.77
2.	Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra	164.34
3.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	45.25
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka	57.01
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	65.60
6.	Kolkata	West Bengal	132.06
7.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	57.42
<b>(b) Million-plus Cities/UAs</b>			
1.	Patna	Bihar	16.98
2.	Faridabad	Haryana	10.56
3.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	14.58
4.	Ludhiana	Punjab	13.98
5.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	23.27
6.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	22.46
7.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	12.03
8.	Nashik	Maharashtra	11.52
9.	Pune	Maharashtra	37.60
10.	Cochin	Kerala	13.55

1	2	3	4
11.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	12.04
12.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	13.31
13.	Amritsar	Punjab	10.03
14.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	13.45
15.	Vadodara	Gujarat	14.91
16.	Surat	Gujarat	28.11
17.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	27.15
18.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	21.29
19.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	14.61
20.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	11.61
21.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	10.98
22.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	11.04
23.	Asansol	West Bengal	10.67
24.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	10.42
25.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	10.39
26.	Rajkot	Gujarat	10.03
27.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	10.65
28.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	16.40

**(c) Identified cities/UAs with less than one million population**

1.	Guwahati	Assam	8.19
2.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	0.35
3.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	6.12
4.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	7.00
5.	Panaji	Goa	0.99
6.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1.45
7.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	8.63
8.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	8.90
9.	Imphal	Manipur	2.50

1	2	3	4
10.	Shillong	Meghalaya	2.68
11.	Aizawal	Mizoram	2.28
12.	Kohima	Nagaland	0.77
13.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	6.58
14.	Gangtok	Sikkim	0.29
15.	Agartala	Tripura	1.90
16.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal	5.30
17.	Bodh Gaya	Bihar	3.94
18.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	4.31
19.	Puri	Orissa	1.57
20.	Ajmer-Pushkar	Rajasthan	5.04
21.	Nainital	Uttaranchal	2.20
22.	Mysore	Karnataka	7.99
23.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
24.	Chandigarh	Punjab & Haryana	8.08
25.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	9.88
26.	Haridwar	Uttaranchal	2.21
27.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	3.23
28.	Nanded	Maharashtra	4.31

All State Capitals and Capitals of two Union Territories with Legislatures are proposed to be covered.

The National Steering Group may add or delete cities/towns under category-C other than State capitals. However, the total number of category-C cities under JNNURM will be kept at a reasonable level.

[English]

#### **Growth of Animation Industry**

2629. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several entrepreneurs have come up in 'Animation Industry';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the scope of growth and employment potential for this industry;

(c) whether several foreign orders for outsourcing has been obtained by Indian companies;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any scheme or plan to encourage this sector; 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) Yes, Sir. As per NASSCOM, Animation is one of the fast going up sectors in the IT industry. Several companies such as Tata Elxsi Ltd., Pentamedia Graphics Limited, Global Soft Private Limited, S.G. Martin Infoway Limited, Crest Animation Studio Limited, FXLabs Studios Pvt. Ltd., XS CAD India Pvt. Ltd. etc., have come up in the sector. The latest NASSCOM report on Animation and Gaming industry in India estimates the global market size (demand perspective) of industry will witness a CAGR of eight percent and is expected to reach USD 75 billion by 2009. Based on this, the global animation market (from the developers' perspective) is expected to increase to USD 35 billion by 2009 from USD 25 billion in 2005. The size of the Indian animation market was estimated at USD 285 million in 2005. It is expected to witness a CAGR of 35 percent from 2005-2009 and increase to USD 950 million by 2009. Additional trained personnel to the tune of 30,000 by 2009 has also been estimated. Global entertainment majors like Walt Disney, Imax, Warner Brothers and Sony are signing up contracts with Indian animation companies.

(d) and (e) The Film and Television Institute of India has started a certificate course in Animation and Computer Graphics from the last academic session. The Government of India, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has entered into Government-to-Government co-production agreements with Italy and U.K., so that producers from these countries are willing to do business with the Indian animation sector. The animation sector is considered at par with Information Technology (IT) and import duties on various film related equipment have been reduced. A sub-group on 'Animation and Gaming' has been set up under the Committee on Information, Communication and Entertainment (ICE) to consider issues relating to this sector. The steps taken by the Government to promote IT Exports are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### **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 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. 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 fulfilment 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.

*[Translation]*

#### **Telephone Towers in Jodhpur**

2630. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of BSNL telephone towers proposed to be made functional in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan till March 31, 2004;
- (b) the number of towers which are functioning at present; and
- (c) the time by which the remaining towers are likely to be made functional?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, 16 Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) towers and 10 Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) towers were functioning as on 31st March, 2004.

(b) As on date, total number of BSNL towers functioning are:

GSM towers	-	79
WLL towers	-	17

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to make functional 99 GSM towers and 20 WLL towers by 30th June, 2006.

*[English]*

#### **City Development Plan**

2631. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether City Development Plan (CDP) of three Municipal Corporations of Maharashtra viz. Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur costing Rs.38123.09 crores alongwith Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the funds are likely to be provided to CDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation has received City Development Plans (CDPs) from Pune and Nagpur. No Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been received from any of the cities in Maharashtra for implementation of Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The technical agencies are appraising the CDPS. Project proposals, complete in all respects and fulfilling the basic formalities such as submission of CDPs for BSUP projects and signing Memorandum of Agreement on reforms (for both BSUP & IHSDP projects) with the Ministry of Urban Development will then be recommended to Ministry of Finance for release of Central Assistance. The Central funds under BSUP and IHSDP will be provided in the form of Additional Central Assistance.

**FDI**

2632. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign direct investment proposals approved by the Government so far in the telecom sector;

(b) the total amount of investment involved in these proposals; and

(c) the places where these investments are proposed to be made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total foreign direct investment proposals approved by the Government during August 1991 to December 2005 in telecom sector is 808.

(b) The total amount of investment involved in these proposals is Rs.38374.56 crore.

(c) Statement of state-wise break-up for these foreign direct investment approvals is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*State-wise FDI Approved during August 1991 to December 2005  
sector Telecommunications*

(Amount in crore)

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Approvals			Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved (in Rs.)	% to Total
		Total	Technical	Financial		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	10	3	12.12	0.03
2.	Bihar	2	0	2	2.38	0.01
3.	Gujarat	9	3	6	436.41	1.14
4.	Haryana	21	3	18	145.60	0.38
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5	3	2	810.83	2.11
6.	Karnataka	58	19	39	749.32	1.95
7.	Kerala	3	2	1	1.00	0.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3	2	1	0.32	0.00
9.	Maharashtra	92	7	85	1443.62	3.76
10.	Punjab	11	4	7	169.98	0.44
11.	Rajasthan	2	0	2	9.80	0.03
12.	Tamil Nadu	46	3	43	622.40	1.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Uttar Pradesh	9	2	7	44.36	0.12
14.	West Bengal	30	7	23	562.04	1.46
15.	Uttaranchal	1	0	1	73.50	0.19
16.	Chandigarh	5	1	4	64.55	0.17
17.	Delhi	187	5	182	13537.78	35.28
18.	Goa	8	2	6	55.20	0.14
19.	Pondicherry	3	1	2	0.49	0.00
20.	State Not Indicated	300	51	249	19632.87	51.16
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>808</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>38374.56</b>	

**Black Money**

2633. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) estimated quantum of black money in the country;

(b) whether survey has not been conducted after 1983-84 to find out quantum of black money; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to conduct survey to estimate black money in circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no formal estimate of the amount of black money presently in the country. However, at the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had in 1985 attempted an estimate of black money in the country. According to the Report of the NIPFP "Aspects of Black Money in India" (1985), the total amount of black money in the country during F.Y. 1983-84 was estimated at between Rs. 31,584 crore and Rs.36,786 crore.

(b) The Ministry of Finance has not undertaken any study to estimate the amount of black money in the country thereafter.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal in the Ministry to conduct a fresh study for estimating the amount of black money in circulation in the country.

**Access Deficit Charge**

2634. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private mobile operators have blamed TRAI for total regulatory failure as well as holding the consumers to ransom in regard to excess collection of access deficit charge;

(b) if so, the total amount collected on ADC by TRAI and given to BSNL during the current year;

(c) the target fixed by TRAI for collection of ADC and actually collected by TRAI between February, 2005 and January, 2006;

(d) whether excess collection of ADC should have been passed to consumers by reducing tariff by 15 to 20 percent;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the Government has passed the benefit of ADC to rural users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received a letter from Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) wherein, based on the media reports, it has stated that the amount collected through ADC has exceeded Rs. 8000 crores. The excess collection

of ADC had caused an unnecessary and additional burden on the consumers. COAI has, therefore, requested TRAI that the excess ADC collected inter alia by BSNL must be adjusted both to safeguard consumer interest and also to ensure level playing field for the private operators.

(b) ADC is not collected by TRAI and therefore the figures of amount collected by TRAI and given to BSNL during current year are not maintained.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide its Regulation dated 6th January, 2005 has estimated Rs. 5669 crores for collection of total amount of ADC between February, 2005 to January, 2006, out of which the estimated amount of ADC funded to BSNL was Rs. 4954 crores. While the exact amount of ADC received is not maintained. ADC receipts by BSNL, as reported by BSNL, for the period from 1.2.2005 to 31.1.2006 are estimated as Rs. 3700/- crores.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

#### Unclaimed Goods

2635. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government assess the unclaimed goods which lie with Customs authorities;

(b) if so, the value in rupees of such unclaimed goods;

(c) whether such goods are being auctioned;

(d) if so, the amount realized from such exercise during each of the last three years; and

(e) the value in rupees of such goods lying with customs authorities for one year, two years and more than three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. Unclaimed goods do not lie with the Customs Authorities but with the Custodians, for example, Port Trust Authority, Airport Authority of India, Container Corporation of India.

(b) Nil, in view of the reply at (a) above.

(c) and (d) Unclaimed goods are sold by the Custodian after giving notice to the importer in terms of Section 48 of the Customs Act, 1962.

(e) Nil, in view of the reply at (a) above.

[English]

#### Kisan Credit Cards

2636. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for issue of Kisan Credit Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target achieved during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The targets and achievements for issue of Kisan Credit Cards by Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks for the last four years are as under:-

(Figures in Lacs)

Bank Group	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
<b>Public Sector Banks</b>				
Target	25.81@@	30.00	@	@
Achievement	26.99	30.94	43.95	24.08*
<b>Regional Rural Banks</b>				
Target	7.00	7.73	@	16.70
Achievements	9.64	12.74	17.29	9.07**
<b>Cooperative Banks</b>				
Target	65.00	49.27	@	34.00
Achievement	45.79	48.78	35.58	16.70**

@ No Target fixed

\* As on September 2005

@@ Self Set by Banks

\*\* As on 31st December 2005

#### Advertisement Expenditure of SBI

2637. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has been spending several crores of rupees for the advertisement of its products through sponsoring or co-sponsoring various sports and cultural activities;

(b) if so, the amount spent in various States during the last two years for sponsoring and co-sponsoring cultural activities, State-wise; and

(c) the details of agencies related to sponsoring and co-sponsoring of above activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) sponsors/co-sponsors sports and cultural activities to enhance its brand image.

(b) and (c) SBI has been sponsoring such events in various States. Rs.53 lakhs and Rs. 59 lakhs were spent by SBI for cultural activities during the financial years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 respectively. The major events (Rs. 5 lakhs and above) sponsored during these two years are given below:

Financial Year	State	Agencies related to major events sponsored	Amount Sponsored (Rs. in lacs)
2003-2004	Maharashtra	Shankara Netralaya	10.00
		IIT Powai	6.00
		Banyan Tree	7.50
	Punjab	Patiala Heritage Society	10.00
2004-2005	Maharashtra	IIT Powai	12.50
		Banyan Tree	7.50
	Tamil Nadu	The Hindu Group	8.00
	Punjab	Patiala Heritage Society	10.00

#### Delinking State Bank of Indore from SBI Group

2638. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received memorandum for delinking of State Bank of Indore from State Bank of India and making it an independent Public Sector Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has received a memorandum from All India State Bank of Indore Officers' Co-ordination Committee, inter-alia, requesting for making State Bank of Indore an independent public sector bank. State Bank of Indore is already a public sector bank governed by State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring it out of the purview of the above statute.

#### Small Savings Loan

2639. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Government of India for surrender or pre-payment of small savings loans;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government;

(c) whether there are instances wherein the Government is charging about 12 per cent on old small savings loans and even not accepting pre-payment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The on-lending rate of interest on small savings transfers from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) to States/UT Governments through investment in special securities issued by these Governments is linked to the rate of interest paid to the depositors and the management cost paid to the Department of Posts/banks and to small savings agents. Accordingly, the on-lending rate of interest is 13.5% for 1999-2000, 12.5% for 2000-01, 11% for 2001-02, 10.5% for 2002-03 and 9.5% with effect from 1.4.2003.

Requests have been received from State Governments from time to time on issues relating to small savings including devolution and repayment of small savings loans. State Governments have already been enabled to pre-pay small savings loans contracted prior to 1.4.1999, under the State Debt Swap Scheme. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to discontinue the existing arrangement regarding release of loans to States against small saving collections or repayment of securities issued to NSSF from 1.4.99 in this regard.

### Grants to North Eastern States

2640. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial grants provided by the Government for development of small, middle and big cities of North Eastern Region particularly in the Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years and till date;

(b) the details of funds released and actually utilised for the development of such cities in the region particularly in the Arunachal Pradesh during this period, city-wise; and

(c) the details of new proposals formulated and being implemented by the Government for development of such cities and the State of Arunachal Pradesh?

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.

### Registration of NBFCs

2641. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to come down heavily on the Non-Banking Financial Companies which have been carrying their operation even after rejection of their registration applications;

(b) if so, the details of the NBFCs for which registration have been cancelled by RBI;

(c) whether the enforcement agencies have been asked to prevent operation of such firms in various States; and

(d) if so, the time by which such companies would be wound up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues orders prohibiting Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) whose applications for certificate of registration have been rejected from accepting further deposits and from alienation of assets except for repayment of the depositors. Their names are placed on RBI's website and suitable public notifications are inserted in newspapers. The names and

other details of the rejected companies are intimated to the respective Registrars of Companies and the Economic Offences Wings of the State Government. Besides, depending upon the merit of each case and the gravity of the case, the Bank files Criminal Complaints for non-compliance of Company Law Board orders for repayment of deposits and in extreme cases winding up petitions are filed.

(b) The Reserve Bank has so far cancelled the Certificate of Registration of 110 deposit taking NBFCs.

(c) The details of the rejected companies are furnished to the Economic Offences Wing of the respective State Government for necessary action. A State Level Coordination Committee has also been put in place which meets at regular intervals for exchange of information and co-ordination among the enforcing agencies.

(d) The rejected companies are directed to convert themselves into a non-financial company or dispose of their financial assets or seek voluntary winding up within a period of three years from the date of their rejection.

[Translation]

### Telecom and Postal Network Facility

2642: SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes expansion of telecommunication and data network facilities in each State particularly in tribal dominated, remote and under developed areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified for the purpose in the tribal area in each State particularly in Jharkhand;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has set any target for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and various telephone and mobile companies to expand telecommunication services in under developed areas particularly in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the works done by the BSNL including other private mobile and telephone operators in each State of the country particularly in Jharkhand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has following plans for expansion of telecommunication and data network facilities in each State including in tribal dominated, remote and under developed areas of the country:-

- (i) The remaining eligible 49,640 unconnected villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by November 2007. It excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested area etc. State wise details are at Statement-I enclosed.
- (ii) 1,86,872 VPTs working on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology are planned to be replaced with land line/Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs) by June, 2006. State wise details are at Statement-II enclosed.
- (iii) 46,253 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) are planned to be provided by September, 2007 in villages with population more than 2,000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs). State wise details are at Statement-III enclosed.
- (iv) Individual RDELs installed after 1.4.2005 in the eligible 1,685 commercially unviable SDCAs, in the country are being supported. Statewise details are at Statement-IV enclosed.

(v) Government has plans for improving mobile penetration in rural areas through provision of shared infrastructure for mobile services.

(vi) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has an approved e-Governance Scheme for development of core IT infrastructure titled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3,334 Crores for the entire country. The scheme would provide broadband connectivity through district/sub-division headquarters covering more than 6,000 blocks. Proposals from 20 States have been received and approved so far.

(vii) DIT is facilitating establishment of 100,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country using 2 Mbps connectivity being provided through SWANs under its National e-Governance Plan. The proposed centres are to be set up in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

(viii) National Informatics Centre (NIC) under DIT has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in North Eastern States with the objective of providing internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Statement-I**

##### *State-wise details of remaining eligible uncovered villages*

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Area	Total No. of uncovered villages (in November 2004)	DSPT	WLL	VPTs provided upto 31.12.05	Balance remaining uncovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074	115	959	237	837
2.	Assam	8931	279	8652	2366	6565
3.	Jharkhand	1694	1694	0	30	1664
4.	Gujarat	4144	0	4144	1965	2179
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1002	275	727	234	768



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1755	465	1290	222	1533
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11894	443	11451	4402	7492
8.	Chhattisgarh	5043	88	4955	892	4151
9.	Maharashtra	6441	496	5945	2189	4252
10.	North East-I	2128	578	1550	77	2051
11.	North East-II	1550	1289	261	30	1520
12.	Orissa	4899	4899	0	0	4899
13.	Rajasthan	12386	18	12368	4332	8054
14.	Uttaranchal	3881	3544	337	206	3675
<b>Total</b>		<b>66822</b>	<b>14183</b>	<b>52639</b>	<b>17182</b>	<b>49640</b>

**Statement-II***State-wise details of replacement of MARR VPTs*

Sl.No.	Service area	Total MARRs to be replaced	MARR VPTs already replaced during 01-04-02 to 30-06-03	MARR VPTs to be replaced beyond 01-07-03	MARR VPTs Replaced upto 31.12.2005	Cumulative total MARR VPTs Replaced	Balance to be replaced
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	71	43	28	26	69	2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	10446	1607	8839	5770	7377	3069
3	Assam	9294	324	8970	4214	4538	4756
4	Bihar	8505	3747	4758	4613	8360	145
5	Jharkhand	2677		2677	2342	2342	335
6	Gujarat	4107	1755	2352	1796	3551	556
7	Haryana	1335	393	942	942	1335	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	997	364	633	427	791	206
9	Jammu and Kashmir	2661	281	2380	600	881	1780
10	Karnataka	14578	7535	7043	5782	13317	1261
11	Kerala			2	2	4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	Madhya Pradesh	23442	5682	17760	13293	18975	4467
13	Chhattisgarh	2726		2726	1951	1951	775
14	Maharashtra	15164	3684	11480	7754	11438	3726
15	N.E-I	2139	525	1614	401	926	1213
16	N.E.-II	1315		1315	590	590	725
17	Orissa	11341	3372	7969	5402	8774	2567
18	Punjab	2146	1133	1013	862	1995	151
19	Rajasthan	14658	1757	12901	7924	9681	4977
20	Tamil Nadu	6000	2340	3660	3384	5724	276
21	U.P (East)	27897	2808	25089	13901	16709	11188
22	U.P (West)	11899	6872	5027	3904	10776	1123
23	Uttaranchal	1374		1374	686	686	688
24	West Bengal	12096	1425	10671	5897	7322	4774
	Total	186872	45649	141223	92463	138112	48760

**Statement-III**

*State wise details of Rural Community Phones*

Sl.No.	Service Area	BSNL	RIL	BSNL achievement up to 31.12.05	RIL achievement up to 31.12.05	Cumulative achievement up to 31.12.05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,677	1865	1379	767	2146
3	Assam	1,913	0	699	0	699
4	Bihar	1,302	3254	624	546	1170
5	Jharkhand	451	0	346	0	346
6	Gujarat	1,801	300	1261	142	1403
7	Haryana	145	626	83	334	417
8	Himachal Pradesh	95	0	32	0	32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Jammu and Kashmir	122	0	27	0	27
10	Karnataka	1,528	669	1327	166	1493
11	Kerala	1	0	1	0	1
12	Madhya Pradesh	1,810	0	1314	0	1314
13	Chhattisgarh	576	0	548	0	548
14	Maharashtra	3,140	305	708	146	854
15	North East-I	505	0	65	0	65
16	North East-II	193	0	52	0	52
17	Orissa	936	0	686	0	686
18	Punjab	43	225	43	103	146
19	Rajasthan	1,416	0	604	0	604
20	TN& Pondichery	1,424	1769	1206	637	1843
21	UP (East)	2,210	4721	1417	1105	2522
22	UP (West)	429	0	258	0	258
23	Uttaranchal	5	3183	4	1158	1162
24	West Bengal	1072	4542	372	1015	1387
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24794</b>	<b>21459</b>	<b>13056</b>	<b>6119</b>	<b>19175</b>

**Statement-IV**

*State wise details of status of RDELS installed after 01.04.2005  
as on 30.11.2005*

Sl. No.	Service Area	Service Provider	eligible SDCAs	Number of SDCAs	No. of RDELS provided			
					BSNL	RIL	TTL	TTL(M)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	BSNL, RIL	117	81,36	3047	1627	0	0
3	Assam	BSNL	26	26	4598	0	0	0
4	Bihar	BSNL, TTL, RIL	122	44,9,3	10423	0	200	0
5	Jharkhand	BSNL	0	66	4387	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	BSNL, RIL	120	99,21	19689	2565	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	H.P.	BSNL, RIL	22	11,11	4248	258	0	0
8	Haryana	TTL, RIL	16	13,3	0	187	297	0
9	J&K	BSNL	19	19	234	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	BSNL, TTL, RIL	117	66,8,43	10366	3815	367	0
11	Kerala	BSNL, RIL	15	10,5	33	13823	0	0
12	Maharashtra	BSNL, TTL (MH), RIL	228	172,43,13	31105	2155	0	305
13	MP	BSNL, TTL, RIL	318	209,11,10	21041	0	220	0
14	CHG	BSNL	0	88	2305	0	0	0
15	NE-I	BSNL	27	27	713	0	0	0
16	NE-II	BSNL	50	50	1364	0	0	0
17	Orissa	BSNL	96	96	14200	0	0	0
18	Punjab	BSNL, TTL, RIL	18	5,12,1	1966	0	303	0
19	Rajasthan	BSNL, TTL, RIL	203	118,80,5	16336	80	1121	0
20	Tamil Nadu	BSNL, RIL	24	6,18	1374	1828	0	0
21	UP (E)	BSNL, TTL, RIL	84	39,30,15	4216	0	999	0
22	UP (W)	BSNL, TTL, RIL	50	0,9,12	0	337	300	0
23	Uttaranchal	BSNL	0	29	5399	0	0	0
24	West Bengal	BSNL, RIL	13	6,7	789	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>					<b>157833</b>	<b>26675</b>	<b>3807</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>BSNL, TTL, TTL (MH), RIL</b>	<b>1685</b>	<b>1267,172, 43,203</b>	<b>188620</b>			

*[English]***Irregularities under NFFWP**

2643. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the alleged irregularities in implementation of the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) in the country particularly in Assam during the previous year and current year;

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(e) the present implementation status of the programme in each State of the country;

(f) whether adequate provision has been made

in the action plan of the programme towards employment of woman; and

(g) if so, the specific percentage of employment being guaranteed therein?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No complaints of specific irregularities in the implementation of National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) in the State of Assam has so far been received.

(b) to (d) In case of any irregularity reported to the Ministry, it is taken seriously and the facts of the case are immediately obtained from the concerned State Government and are asked to take corrective action. In order to further strengthen the feed back mechanism, there is strong

network of National Level Monitors (NLM) whose services are taken to get the actual feedback on the various aspects of the implementation of the programme. In case of any serious complaint, these NLMs are sent to obtain independent feedback, The State Governments are asked to take corrective action on such feedback.

(e) The statement indicating State-wise mandays generated, works completed and works ongoing and percentage of women mandays generation under the NFFWP during 2005-06 (till January, 2006) is enclosed.

(f) and (g) No earmarking or guarantee for women workers has been made under the NFFWP guidelines. However, women mandays generation is about 32% as may be seen in the statement enclosed.

#### *Statement*

*State-wise Mandays Generated, Works Completed and Works ongoing and percentage of women mandays generation under NFFWP during 2005-06 (till Jan.2006)*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Mandays Generated (In lakh)	%age of Women Mandays Generated	No. of Works	
				Completed	Ongoing
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	166.55	41.10	29332	5920
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.78	29.50	208	49
3	Assam	159.82	21.40	1316	2809
4	Bihar	148.13	22.53	4173	7965
5	Chhattisgarh	178.21	32.65	2643	5645
6	Gujarat	67.82	33.66	32898	7741
7	Haryana	3.05	32.13	211	157
8	Himachal Pradesh	2.97	6.06	1019	910
9	Jammu and Kashmir	NR	NR	1291	744
10	Jharkhand	116.24	24.96	3259	10266
11	Karnataka	36.52	34.18	5144	576
12	Kerala	0.28	50.00	31	95
13	Madhya Pradesh	332.86	41.47	5082	5415

1	2	3	4	5	6
14	Maharashtra	NR	NR	NR	NR
15	Manipur	5.47	29.33	110	393
16	Meghalaya	2.51	20.31	NR	16
17	Mizoram	1.96	30.01	219	2
18	Nagaland	NR	NR	NR	NR
19	Orissa	392.24	33.04	8669	10589
20	Punjab	NR	NR	NR	532
21	Rajasthan	41.73	57.82	1872	2709
22	Sikkim	0.28	32.14	108	33
23	Tamil Nadu	91.84	36.59	7003	1614
24	Tripura	26.29	29.90	2109	195
25	Uttanchal	11.96	26.42	239	489
26	Uttar Pradesh	120.97	16.82	1932	8117
27	West Bengal	183.05	26.97	8606	8177
<b>Total</b>		<b>2093.53</b>	<b>31.98</b>	<b>117474</b>	<b>81158</b>

NR: Not Reported

**Ashok Lahiri Committee on Import  
of Edible Oils**

2644. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed Ashok Lahiri Committee on edible oils imports;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the import of edible oil has adversely affected domestic oil industry; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enhance the tariff rates of imported edible oil to save the farmers from the impending loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Ashok K. Lahiri, with members from the relevant Government departments, was set up to examine the trends and developments relating to supply, demand and prices of edible oils and oilseeds and to suggest rationalization of the excise and customs duties on these items. The Committee has recommended that the nominal duty differential between crude and refined products may be reduced to 7.5 per cent and nominal duty fixed uniformly at 72.5 per cent for all refined products, except soybean. It also suggested an increase in the duty rate on vanaspati from the current 30 per cent to 72.5 per cent. For stability of the tax regime, it has also suggested that duty rates should be kept unchanged for a period of five years.

(c) to (e) Government policy on the edible oils sector keeps in view the interests of all the domestic stakeholders — farmers, processors and consumers. Tariff changes affect the different stakeholders differently. In order to protect the domestic vanaspati industry, the proposals in the Budget 2006-07 include increase in customs duty on vanaspati to

80 per cent, the rate applicable to crude palm oil. Further, the countervailing duty (CVD) @ 4 per cent to compensate for state level taxes, is also applicable to imported edible oils/anaspati. In order to harmonize the interests of domestic stakeholders, the duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time. The prices and availability of edible oils are also regularly monitored.

#### **Banking Facilities in Lakshadweep**

2645. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the banking facilities available in Lakshadweep;

(b) the number of branches of State Bank of India and Syndicate Bank functioning at present in the UT of Lakshadweep;

(c) whether there is a proposal to extend Branches of State Bank of India to all the Islands of Lakshadweep;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the facilities extended by these banks to the local inhabitants of Lakshadweep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) There is one branch of State Bank of India (SBI) and nine branches of Syndicate Bank functioning at present in the UT of Lakshadweep.

(c) and (d) Presently SBI does not propose to open branches in all the Islands of Lakshadweep.

(e) All types of banking facilities such as accepting deposits and extending credit etc. are provided by the branches of SBI and Syndicate Bank to the local inhabitants of Lakshadweep.

Syndicate Bank, the convener Bank of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) of the UT of Lakshadweep is also managing the Government Treasury transactions in all the nine Islands. These branches also conduct Rural Extension Education Programmes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Orientation Programmes for Self Help Groups (SHGs). Training Programmes for selected women members of SHGs from the Islands are also conducted at its Staff Training Centre at Ernakulam.

*[Translation]*

#### **Strike by Bank Employees**

2646. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Forum of Bank Unions had given notice to Government for calling nationwide strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their major demands; and

(c) the reasons for Government not agreeing to the demands of bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Indian Banks' Association has reported that it received a notice dated 23.01.2006 from the United Forum of Bank Unions about its decision, to go on nation wide strike on 9th March 2006 in support of its demand for restoration of compassionate appointment scheme in banks.

(c) The above issue was never a matter for discussion/negotiation at the industry level. The scheme is a non-statutory one and as such, is not enforceable. It also does not form part of service conditions and cannot be claimed as a matter of right by any employee. None of the rights of the employees is violated by the banks switching over to a scheme of monetary assistance in lieu of appointment on compassionate grounds and therefore, no industrial dispute can lie in the matter.

*[English]*

#### **Building Collapsed due to Rain In Maharashtra**

2647. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of: buildings have been collapsed following the heavy rains in Maharashtra in previous year;

(b) if so, whether Union Government had asked the State Government of Maharashtra to identify 'cessed' buildings, classified as dangerous in Mumbai, and to have them vacated, pulled down and reconstructed;

(c) if so, whether the State Government of Maharashtra had sought Central aid for the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

#### **Funding Criteria for Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes**

2648. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funding criteria followed for each Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes for Rural Development sector regarding approval and release to the States;

(b) whether the States having Fifth and Sixth Scheduled Areas including North Eastern States also fall under the matching share and matching contributions for individual programmes;

(c) if so, whether the Government intends to adopt a uniform policy in tribal areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore alongwith the policy adopted for the tribal sub-plan areas thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The allocation of funds under the rural development programmes is shared between the Centre and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 except, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(b) Yes, Sir. The States having Fifth and Sixth Schedule Areas including north eastern States are allocated the funds under the rural development schemes on the same allocation criteria. However, 10% of the total allocations of rural development programmes is earmarked to the north eastern states.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has the uniform policy for the allocation criteria of funds in tribal areas also at present.

#### **Solid Waste Management**

2649. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanitation condition in metro cities like Mumbai and Delhi are not up to the mark;

(b) if so, whether despite Supreme Court guidelines, the Solid Waste Management of metro cities has not improved;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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.

#### **Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission**

2650. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial crisis has hit ambitious Jawaharal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has reported in 'Times of India' dated February 19, 2006;

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

(c) the funds earmarked for JNNURM;

(d) the States who have submitted their detailed project report;

(e) the details of funds allocated and utilised under the Mission so far; and

(f) the steps taken in respect of the custody of the funds under the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) No. Sir. The Government committed Rs.50,000 crore over a period of seven years beginning from 2005-06, against an amount of rupees one lakh crore proposed investment.

(d) Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and West Bengal have submitted Detailed Project Reports.



(e) The funds allocated and utilized for the submission on Infrastructure and Governance under the mission is as follows:-

Year	Allocation*	Utilised
2005-06	Rs. 500 crore**	Nil
2006-07	Rs.2287.5 crore	Nil

\* Does not include allocation made for Union Territories with legislature and Union Territories without legislatures.

\*\* Including allocation meant for UIDSSMT.

(f) The proposals received from the State Governments are under consideration.

#### **Penalty Imposed on Banks**

2651. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has imposed fines on several banks for their role in the recent initial public offer allotment case;

(b) if so, the details of fine, bank-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make investigation through Serious Fraud Investigation Office in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to stop recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of Section 47 A (1)(b) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 imposed monetary penalties, on January 23, 2006, on seven scheduled commercial banks viz. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd. (Rs.20 lakh), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs.15 lakh), Vijaya Bank (Rs.10 lakh), HDFC Bank (Rs.5 lakh), ICICI Bank Ltd.,(Rs.5 lakh), Citibank (Rs.5 lakh), and Standard Chartered Bank (Rs.5 lakh).

Further, on February 24, 2006, Reserve Bank of India in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the above Act, imposed monetary penalties, on three scheduled commercial banks viz. HDFC Bank Ltd. (Rs.25 lakh), ING Vysya Bank (Rs. 10 lakh) and IDBI Ltd. (Rs.5 lakh).

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The following steps have been taken to stop recurrence of such cases:

- Penal action was taken under section 47 A (1) (b) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 against nine banks with HDFC having been penalised twice.
- The Home Regulators of the two foreign banks involved were apprised of the fact of the imposition of the penalties.
- Some banks had credited the proceeds of individual refund orders (account payee cheques) into third party accounts instead of the individual accounts on the request of the associates of the DPs. This had resulted in the manipulation of the payment system and facilitated the perpetration of irregularities. This manipulation would not have taken place but for the banks deviating from the procedure for collection of account payee cheques. Accordingly, a directive was issued on January 23, 2006, prohibiting the banks from crediting 'account payee' cheques to account of any person other than the payee named therein.
- All scheduled commercial banks, excluding RRBs, were advised on 05.01.2006 to take a review of IPO financing and related matters, like opening of multiple accounts, adherence to KYC/AML guidelines, and RBI instructions on IPO financing, advances against shares, etc. and put up a report on the findings before their Audit Committees under advice to RBI.

SEBI has taken number of immediate measures to further streamline the system in order to prevent recurrence of similar instances of market abuse in the case of IPOs in future. The steps taken by SEBI inter alia include the following:

- As directed by SEBI, the depositories, i.e., NSDL and CDSL have advised their respective depository participants (DPs) to verify the genuineness of the dematerialized account-holders where 20 or more dematerialized account-holders have a common address and to close those dematerialized accounts where the DPs are unable to do the above verification.

- The depositories have been directed to form a co-ordination committee to co-ordinate with the surveillance department of SEBI for monitoring abnormal transactions in dematerialized accounts.
- Depositories have been advised to put in place a system including the necessary software to identify multiple accounts suspected to be benami/fictitious.
- To check misuse through off-market transfer prior to listing, SEBI, vide circular dated January 19, 2006, has advised the depositories that in case of IPOs they should activate the ISINs only on the date of commencement of trading on the stock exchanges.

[Translation]

#### WLL Service in Remote Areas

2652. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether WLL Telephone service has not been provided by the Government in the remote and tribal areas of the country particularly in Maharashtra so far;

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

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed by the Government to provide WLL telephone service in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The coverage and expansion of telecom services including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephone service is a continuous process and most of the remote and tribal areas of the country including Maharashtra have been covered. Circle-wise details of the capacity of WLL telephone services provided in rural areas of the country and remote & tribal areas in Maharashtra Telecom Circle through WLL telephone service are placed at Statement-I & II respectively.

(c) and (d) There is a plan to progressively cover almost all the rural areas including remote & tribal areas with WLL telephone services by the year 2007.

#### Statement-I

##### Details of WLL Telephone Capacity in Rural Areas (including Remote/Tribal Areas) upto 31.1.2006

S.No.	Name or Circle	WLL Capacity
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	4000
2.	Andhra Pradesh	210250
3.	Assam	55250
4.	Bihar	131000
5.	Chhattisgarh	60850
6.	Gujarat	69350
7.	Haryana	37600
8.	Himachal Pradesh	29750
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	14000
10.	Jharkhand	83500
11.	Karnataka	153500
12.	Kerala	350750
13.	Madhya Pradesh	28400
14.	Maharashtra	278250
15.	North East-I	17500
16.	North East-II	21000
17.	Orissa	101500
18.	Punjab	67700
19.	Rajasthan	68500
20.	Tamil Nadu	132250
21.	Uttaranchal	41500
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	190250
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	67800
24.	West Bengal	97000
25.	Kolkatta	0
26.	Chennai	9810
Total		2301260

**Statement-II****Details about coverage of remote & tribal areas  
in Maharashtra**

S.No.	SSA	Name of Station
1.	Kalyan	Dahanu
2.	Kalyan	Paighar
3.	Kalyan	Shahapur
4.	Kalyan	Wada
5.	Nasik	Satana
6.	Nasik	Trimbakeshwar
7.	Chandrapur	Bhadrawati
8.	Chandrapur	Chimur
9.	Dhule	Nandurbar Tel Exchange
10.	Dhule	Shirpur
11.	Gadchiroli	Gadchiroli
12.	Gadchiroli	Chamorshi
13.	Jaigaon	Chopda
14.	Kalyan	Bhiwandi/Ambadi
15.	Kalyan	Bhiwandi
16.	Kalyan	Talasari
17.	Nanded	Kinwat
18.	Nasik	Dindori
19.	Nasik	Kalwan/Deola
20.	Nasik	Satana/Jaikheda
21.	Yeotmal	Maregaon/Pusad

*[English]***Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities**

2653. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme for Infrastructure Development in the Mega Cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the cities covered under the scheme, State-wise;

(d) the number of works sanctioned/completed under the scheme, State-wise by December 31, 2005; and

(e) the amount sanctioned/spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission has been launched on 3rd December, 2005.

(b) Details are placed at Statement-I.

(c) Details are placed at Statement-II.

(d) and (e) No funds have been sanctioned so far under JNNURM.

**Statement-I****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 focused attention to 63 select cities in different States.
- 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:-
  - 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 fulfil 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.

**Statement-II**

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

1	2	3	1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	7.00	Meghalaya	Shillong	2.68
Delhi	Delhi	128.77	Mizoram	Aizawal	2.28
Goa	Panaji	0.99	Nagaland	Kohima	0.77
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	45.25	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	6.58
	Rajkot	10.03		Puri	1.57
	Surat	28.11	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
	Vadodara	14.91	Punjab	Amritsar	10.03
Haryana	Faridabad	10.56		Ludhiana	13.98
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1.45	Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar	5.04
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	6.12		Jaipur	23.27
	Srinagar	9.88	Sikkim	Gangtok	0.29
Jharkhand	Dhanbad	10.65	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	65.80
	Jamshedpur	11.04		Coimbatore	14.61
	Ranchi	8.63		Madurai	12.03
Karnataka	Bangalore	57.01	Tripura	Agartala	1.90
	Mysore	7.99	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	13.31
Kerala	Cochin	13.55		Allahabad	10.42
	Thiruvananthapuram	8.90	Kanpur	27.15	
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	14.58	Lucknow	22.46	
	Indore	16.40	Mathura	3.23	
	Jabalpur	10.98	Meerut	11.61	
	Ujjain	4.31	Varanasi	12.04	
Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai	164.34	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	5.30
	Nagpur	21.29		Haridwar	2.21
	Nanded	4.31	Nainital	2.20	
	Nashik	11.52	West Bengal	Asansol	10.67
	Pune	37.60		Kolkata	132.06
Manipur	Imphal	2.50			

**World Bank Loans for Slum  
Sanitation Programme**

2654. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for obtaining loan from the World Bank for implementing slum sanitation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No such proposal from the Government of Gujarat has been received in the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation.

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

**NHB Scheme for Flood  
Affected Victims**

2655. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has announced a concessional scheme for the flood affected victims;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance likely to be provided to them; and

(c) the conditions laid down under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) National Housing Bank (NNB) had introduced a scheme "Refinance Assistance for Housing in the Tsunami affected areas on February 04, 2005 to encourage construction of new houses/flats as also major repairs (including extension and upgradation) of the existing housing stock in the Tsunami affected areas as notified from time to time. Refinance from NHB under the scheme is available at the following concessional rates of interest:

Purpose of Loan	Maximum Loan Size (Rs.)	Interest rate	
		NHB to HFCs/SBs	HFC/SBs to beneficiaries
Construction/ Purchase	2,00,000/-	5.00%	6.50%
Repairs & Upgradation	50,000/-	5.00%	6.50%

HFCs: Housing Finance Companies.

SBs.: Scheduled Banks.

As reported by NHB, there has been no request for funds from any Primary Lending Institution for re-finance under the scheme.

(c) A moratorium of two years would be extended by NHB to the Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) subject to the same facility being extended to the ultimate borrowers and the financial assistance availed could be prepaid by HFCs to NHB by giving a two months' notice to NHB.

**Proceedings Dropped by Court**

2656. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ.No. 2220 dated December 14, 2004 regarding proceedings dropped by Court of Revenue Assistant 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

As reported by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi the details of the cases wherein

proceedings under section 81 of the DLR Act, 1954 were dropped by the Court of Revenue Assistant, Najafgarh during the year 2004; the reasons for not filing appeals in such cases where proceeding were dropped by the Gram Sabha; and the details of appeals lying pending in the court of collectors (South West & South) are as under:

- (i) Two cases under Section 81 of Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 were dropped by the Court of Revenue Assistant, Najafgarh during the year 2004 as under:

1. G.S. Mitroan Vs Ashok Kumar
2. G.S. Nawada Khurd Vs Ganga Apex Pvt. Ltd.

Appeals have been filed in these cases.

- (ii) 256 Appeals are pending under Section 81 of Delhi Land Reforms Act in the court of Deputy Commissioner (South). Out of these about 31 cases are pending from the period prior to 2003 and remaining are pending from the year 2003 onwards.

125 appeals are pending under Section 81 of Delhi Land Reforms Act in the court of Deputy Commissioner (South West). Out of these about 54 cases are pending from the period prior to 2003 and remaining are pending from the year 2003 onwards.

#### **Uniform STD Call Rate**

2657. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the loss/profit likely to be accrued after introduction of the One India Tariff Plan by the BSNL/MTNL; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL expects that the One India Tariff Plan will result in growth in traffic as well as addition of new subscribers generating additional revenue, offsetting the financial burden due to lower rates.

MTNL feels that it is too early to assess the impact on the financial performance.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Sick Mills**

2658. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the powerlooms and the textile mills in the country are in dire straits;

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken to restore the condition of such textile mills and powerlooms;

(c) whether the Government have received any reports from the State Governments regarding the sick units in the powerloom and textile sector;

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

(e) whether the Government has any plan to rehabilitate various textile mills and powerloom units in the country with financial and technological support from foreign countries and international agencies; and

(f) if so, the progress of such projects and steps likely to be undertaken in near future alongwith the total funds allocated for carrying out such projects in India, State wise?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Upgradation/Modernisation of Post Offices**

2659. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of post offices which have been

upgraded/modernized during the expired period of Tenth Five Year Plan, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be upgraded/modernized during remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan, district-wise; and

(c) 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) For the 10th Five Year Plan, the Department of Posts has an approved plan to

modernize (improving ergonomics) 811 Post Offices throughout the country. Total 553 Post Offices have been covered till date. The number of Post Offices covered so far, district-wise and year-wise, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) For the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan, there is a target to modernize 270 more Post Offices under this Plan Scheme subject to availability of funds. The district-wise allocation of number of Post Offices to be covered is made on receipt of funds.

(c) The steps taken by the Government have been mentioned at (a) above.

**Statement**

*Number of Post Offices upgraded/modernized*

Postal Circle/ State	Year	District-wise Number of Post Offices Modernized	Year-wise Total Number of Post Offices Modernized
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	Cuddapah -1, E.Godavari-2, Guntur-1, Hyderabad-1, Kurnool-2, Medak-1, Nellore-2, Nizambad-2, Rangareddy-2, Visakhapatnam-1	15
	2004-05	Chittoor-2, East Godavari-2, Karimnagar-1, Khammam-1, Krishna-1, Mahabubnagar-1, Nellore-1, Warangal-1	10
	2005-06	Adilabad-1, Ananthapur-2, East Godavari-1, Guntur-3, Karimnagar-1, Krishna-2, Kurnool-1, Nellore-1, Visakhapatnam-1, Warangal-1, West Godavari-1	15
Assam	2003-04	Barpeta-1, Kamrup-1, Kokrajhar-1, Karbi Anglong-1, Tinsukia-2, Lakhimpur-1, Cachar-1,	8
	2004-05	Dhubri-1, Barpeta-1, Darrang-2, Nagaon-1	5
	2005-06	Barpeta-1, Goalpara-1, Cachar-1, Sonitpur-1, Golaghat-1	5
Bihar	2003-04	Bhojpur-1, Munger-1, Bhabhua-1, Lakhisarai-1, Purnea-1, Madhepura-1, Shohar-1, Jehanabad-1	8
	2004-05	Patna-12, Banka-1, Bhagalpur-1, Begusarai-1, Khagaria-1, Darbanga-3, Purnea-1, Katihar-1, Kishanganj-1, Saharsa-1, Madhepura-1, Supaul-1, Saran-2, Gopalganj-2, Siwan-1	30



1	2	3	4
	2005-06	Siwan-1, Begusarai-1, Bhagalpur-1, P.Champaran-1, Patna-3, Saharsa-1, Arwal-1, Gaya-1, Araria-1, Gopalganj-1, Aurangbad-1, Madhubani-1, Vaishali-1	15
Chhattisgarh	2003-04	Raipur-1, Durg-1, Ambikapur-1	3
	2004-05	Raipur-1, Dhamtari-1, Korba-1, Raigarh-1, Jashpur-1, Bastar-1	6
	2005-06	Raipur-1, Bilaspur-1, Durg-3, Rajnandgaon-1, Mahasamund-1, Kanker- 1, Dantewada-1, Raigarh-1	10
Delhi	2003 -04	Janpath, Shalimar Bagh, Tilak Nagar	3
	2004-05	Patel Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Patparganj	3
	2005-06	S.J. Enclave, Maurya Enclave, New Seelampur, Nehru Place, Badarpur	5
Gujarat	2003-04	Ahmedabad -3, Vadodara-1, Valsad-2, Panchmahal-1, Surendranagar -1, Kutch-2	10
	2004-05	Banaskantha-1, Bharuch-1, Surat-1, Junagadh -1, Kutch-1	5
	2005-06	Ahmedabad- 1, Mehsana-1, Surat-1, Valsad-3, Rajkot -1, Surendranagar -1, Junagadh- 1, Bhavnagar-1	10
Haryana	2003-04	Faridabad-1, Kurukshetra -1, Panchkula-1	3
	2004-05	Bhiwani-1, Hissar-1, Jind-1, Panchkula-1, Rohtak-1	5
	2005-06	Ambala-1, Faridabad-1, Gurgaon-1, Kurukshetra-1	4
Himachal Pradesh	2003-04	Kangra- 2, Hamirpur-1	3
	2004-05	Lahaul/Spiti-1, Mandi-1, Shimla-2	4
	2005-06	Kangra-1, Mandi-1, Chamba -1, Solan-1, Kinnaur-1	5
Jammu and Kashmir	2003-04	Baramulla-1, Anantnag-1, Srinagar-2, Jammu -2, Poonch -1	7
	2004-05	Jammu-1, Anantnag-1	2
	2005-06	Jammu- 1, Srinagar- 1, Pulwama-1, Kathua -1, Doda-1	5
Jharkhand	2003-04	Dumka-1, Deoghar-1, Giridih-1	3
	2004-05	Gumla-1, Simdega-1, Lohardaga -1, Godda-1, Pakur-1, Garhwa- 1, Latehar-1, Palamu- 1, Chatra -1, Koderma -1	10

1	2	3	4
	2005-06	Ranchi-3, Dhanbad-3, Bokaro-1, East Singhbhum-2, Madhupur-1	10
Karnataka	2003-04	Bangalore-3, Dharwad-2, Uttara Kannada- 1, Mysore - 1, Chikmagalur-1,Chitradurga-1	9
	2004-05	Bangalore-5, Dharwad-1, Belgaum-1, Chikmagalur-1, Kodagu-1, Hassan-1	10
	2005-06	Bangalore-5, Uttara Kannada-1 Belgaum-1, Dakshina Kannada-1, Shimoga-1	10
Kerala	2003-04	Calicut- 2, Idukki-1, Kottayam- 1, Ernakulam-1, Pathanamthitta-1, Kollam-1, Thiruvananthpuram-2, Mahe (Part of UT of Pondichery)-1	10
	2004-05	Kottayam-2, Trissur-1, Alapuzha-1, Thiruvananthpuram-1, Pathanamthitta-1, Kasargod-1, Wynad-1, Malappuram-1, Kannur- 1	10
	2005-06	Calicut-2, Malappuram-1, Kannur-1, Alappuzha-1, Idukki-1, Trissur-2, Thiruvananthpuram-1, Pathanamthitta-1	10
Madhya Pradesh	2003-04	Bhopal-1, Tikamgarh-1, Gwalior-1, Ujjain-1, Indore-1	5
	2004-05	Sagar-1, Gwalior-1, Ujjain-1, Bhopal-1	4
	2005-06	Bhopal-2, Sagar-1, Rewa-1, Shahdol-1, Jabalpur-1, Bhind-1, Katni-1, Shajapur-1, Neemuch-1	10
Maharashtra	2003-04	Sangli-1, Mumbai-3, Thane-1, Akola-1 Amravati-1, Satara-1, Pune-1, Nasik-1	10
	2004-05	Beed-1, Nasik-1, Ratnagiri-1, Mumbai-2, Thane-1, Akola-1, Wardha-1, Pune-2	10
	2005-06	Aurangabad-1, Dhule-1, Nasik-1, Sangli-1, Sindhudurg-1, Mumbai-4, Thane-1, Buldhana-1, Yeotmal-1, Solapur-1, Satara-1, Pune-1	15
N.E.	2003-04	Imphal-1, East Khasi Hills-1, Kohima-1	3
	2005-06	South Tripura-1, Lower Subansiri-1, North Tripura-1, Imphal-1, Kohima- 1, Jaintia Hills- 1, Ri-Bhoi-1, Aizawal-3	10
Orissa	2003-04	Mayurbhanj-1, Bhadrak-1, Balasore-1, Sambalpur-2, Keonjhar-1, Ganjam- 2, Kalahandi-1	9
	2004-05	Khurda- 2, Cuttack-2, Balasore -1, Jagatsinghpur-1, Kendrapada-1, Rayagada-1, Gajapati-1, Phulbani-1, Sundargarh-2, Bargarh-1	13

1	2	3	4
	2005-06	Khurda-1, Puri-1, Cuttack-1, Jagatsinghpur-1, Sundargarh-1, Sambalpur-1, Dhenkanal-1, Ganjam-1, Koprapt-2	10
<b>Punjab</b>	2003-04	Patiala-1, Ludhiana-2	3
	2004-05	Ludhiana-2, Amritsar-1, Jalandhar-1, Ferozepur-1	5
	2005-06	Chandigarh U.T.-1, Patiala-1, Ludhiana-1, Gurdaspur-1, Kapurthala-1	5
<b>Rajasthan</b>	2003-04	Jaipur-1, Sawai Madhopur-1, Bharatpur-1, Ajmer-1, Barmer-1, Chittorgarh-1, Hanumangarh-1, Jaisalmer-1, Tonk-1	9
	2004-05	Jaipur City-2, Pali-1, Nagaur-1, Kota-1	5
	2005-06	Ajmer-1, Udaipur-2, Barmer-1, Sirohi-1, Churu-2, Jaipur City-1, Alwar-2	10
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	2003-04	Pudukottai-1, Chennai-3, Coimbatore-1, Dindigul-1, Kanchipuram-1, Nilgiris-1, Tirunelveli-1	9
	2004-05	Coimbatore-1, Cuddalore-1, Dindigul-1, Nagapattinam-1, Erode-1, Permbalur-1, Salem- 1, Tirunelveli-2, Trichirapalli-1	10
	2005-06	Chennai-1, Coimbatore-1, Cuddalore- 1, Dindigul-1, Erode-1, Kanchipuram-2, Karur-1, Nilgiris-1, Permbalur-1, Thanjavur-1, Theni-1, Salem- 1, Tuticorin -2	15
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	2003-04	Mainpuri-1, Etawah-1, Chandauli-1, Ghaziabad-1, G.B. Nagar-1, Gorakhpur-1, Kanpur-2, Ambedkar Nagar-1, Raebareli-1	10
	2004-05	Agra-1, Allahabad-1, Ghaziabad-1, Kanpur-1, Barabanki-1, Sitapur-1	6
	2005-06	Mathura-1, Etah-1, Pratapgarh-1, Ghazipur-1, G.B. Nagar-1, Meerut-1, Kanpur (M)-1, Sant Kabir Nagar-1, Raebareli-1, Sultanpur-1	10
<b>Uttaranchal</b>	2003-04	Pauri-1, Nainital-2	3
	2004-05	Dehradun-2, Pauri-3, Nainital-3, Tehri-1, Almora-1	10
	2005-06	Almora-1, Chamoli-2, Dehradun-4, Nainital-1, Pithoragarh-2	10
<b>West Bengal</b>	2003-04	Kolkata-11, 24 PGS (North)-2, Dinajpur North-1, Darjeeling-1, Bardwan-2, Midnapur West-1, UT (A&N Island)-1	19
	2004-05	Kolkata-3, 24 PGS (North)-3, Birbhum-1, Maldah-1, Purfla-1, Burdwan-2, Hooghly-2, Howrah-1, Midnapur East-1, Midnapur (W)-1, Sikkim state-1	17
	2005-06	Kolkata-3, 24 PGS (North)-2, Nadia-1, Coochbehar-1, Dinajpur North-1, Bankura-1, Howrah-2, Sikkim state-1	12

Total: 553 POs

**Integrated Wastelands  
Development Programme**

2660. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed features of Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP);

(b) whether certain States have requested the Government to bring development programmes relating to all kinds of land including wasteland under single Ministry at the Centre;

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

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government on such requests?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Projects sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are executed for development of non-forest wastelands through Panchayati Raj Institutions under Hariyali Guidelines with effect from 1.4.2003 on watershed basis. Salient principles of the programme are :

- Institutionalisation of community participation
- Emphasis on creation of sustainable rural livelihood support systems
- Capacity building measures and decentralisation of the processes of planning and decision making
- Equitable sharing of usufructs and in built mechanism for creation of Watershed Development Fund for maintenance of structures created on community land to ensure post project sustainability of structures.

The major activities under the watershed approach are:

- Soil and moisture conservation measures
- Structures for water harvesting purposes
- Promotion of agro-forestry, pastureland and horticulture development
- Training, extension and awareness creation among stake holders

The present cost norm is Rs. 6000 per hectare (Central share Rs.5500 and State share Rs.500). The allocation under project components is as follows:

- Watershed Treatment/Development Works/Activities - 85%
- Community Mobilization and training - 5%
- Administrative Overheads - 10%

(b) to (d) No such request has been received from State to bring development programmes relating to all kinds of land including wasteland under single Ministry at the Centre.

**Guidelines for Telemedicine**

2661. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any guidelines and standards to practice Telemedicine in India alongwith the framework recommended for an information technology infrastructure on health;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether these recommendations have been put on the website to initiate a public debate on the subject; and

(d) if so, the response of the public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) constituted a Committee of experts for recommending initiatives to be taken for standardization of digitized information to facilitate implementation of telemedicine systems. A Technical Working Group for Telemedicine Standardization under the auspices of the said committee prepared a document "Recommended Guidelines & Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India". This document recommends standards/specifications for Telemedicine systems, Telemedicine software, Communication systems, Security & Privacy issues, Data interchange standards for interoperability among different Telemedicine systems, Clinical devices and telemedicine Process Guidelines. System requirements for different classes and levels of Telemedicine systems have also been suggested.

The DIT also initiated a study to prepare a document "Proposed Framework for Information technology Infrastructure for Health (ITI) in India". This study recommends standards for health information flow among the different stakeholders and covers Data elements, Health Identifiers, Clinical terminology, Minimum data sets, Billing formats for health insurance and Messaging standards. It also addresses to the aspects of Health informatics education and Legal framework to support privacy and confidentiality of health data.

In September 2005, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has constituted a Task Force on Telemedicine in India for formulation of strategies regarding its applications and implementation in Health Sector. The terms of reference of the Task Force, inter-alia, include to work on inter-operability standards and to define standards and structures of electronic medical records and patient database.

(c) and (d) These recommendations have been put on the Department of Information Technology website (<http://www.mit.gov.in/telemedicine/home.asp>) for wider dissemination. More than 48000 downloads for the document "Recommended Guidelines & Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India" and more than 11700 downloads for the document "Proposed Framework for Information technology Infrastructure for Health (ITI) in India" have already taken place as per the web site analysis report.

[Translation]

**Special Economic Zone  
for IT Industry**

2662. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the Information and Technology (IT) Industry would be benefited from the scheme of Special Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of IT units set up in the Special Economic Zones by December 31, 2005;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up Special Economic Zone exclusively for IT industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Scheme is likely to benefit the IT Industry as it provides various incentives to promote exports including duty free import/domestic procurement of goods, exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies made from DTA, exemption from service tax and 100% income tax exemption for the first 5 years, 50% for the next 2 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for the next 3 years. In order to boost IT industry, a lower minimum area requirement has been provided in the recently notified SEZ Rules, 2006. The Scheme has received enthusiastic response from the IT Industry and the Developers.

(c) to (e) Government of India has approved a number of SEZs in IT/ITES Sector. Approval has been given for setting up of 117 SEZs, out of which 57 pertain to IT Sector, i.e. 48.7% of the approved SEZs are in the IT Sector.

[English]

**Siphoning off Watershed Programmes  
Funds by NGOs**

2663. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the audit of the funds spent by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on various watershed programmes is conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds granted by the Government to NGOs for watershed programmes have been siphoned off during the last three years and thereafter;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard;

(e) whether any steps have been taken/being taken to obviate instances of siphoning off funds by NGOs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements the Watershed

Development projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and through CAPART.

Funds under the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme are released to DRDAs for implementation of projects through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) under Hariyali Guidelines with effect from 01.04.2003.

CAPART releases funds directly to NGOs. While no specific audit of funds released to NGOs is being conducted by the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) directly in respect of funds released to the NGOs under Watershed scheme, yet, CAPART do have a system of monitoring and evaluation of the project proposals received from NGOs. However, CAPART also call for an audited statement of accounts from each NGO for each and every financial year.

(c) and (d) No such instance has come to the notice of CAPART in respect of funds released to the NGOs under its Watershed programme.

(e) and (f) CAPART have taken a series of steps to obviate instances of siphoning off funds by NGOs, some of which are indicated below:-

- i. At the time of receiving the proposals organisations are being made to send true attested copy of the Registration Certificate, Memorandum of Association (MOA) and Bye-laws relating to the society, annual reports and audited statement of accounts.
- ii. Resolution of the Executive Committee/Managing Body of the society obtained to ensure that all the office bearers of the society are aware of the project proposals.
- iii. Particulars of amendments made in the MOA and Bye-laws relating to the society and its ratification by the registration authorities obtained.
- iv. Photographs of the office bearers insisted at the time of submission of project proposals to bring moral pressure on the members in the implementation of the projects given to them.
- v. Compliance of the laid down requirements, organisation strength, viability of the project proposals, etc. are thoroughly desk-appraised before ordering for pre-funding.
- vi. Pre-funding appraisal made mandatory and detailed information obtained by prescribing format for reporting, etc.
- vii. Subject matter specialists deputed for appraisal of projects. Monitors are being instructed to hold consultation with the office bearers of the organisation, beneficiaries, panchayat functionaries, line department officials and banks wherever required to have a complete feedback on the functioning of the organisation, their reputation, rapport enjoyed with the beneficiaries, etc.
- viii. State Government/District Administration/Panchayat consulted wherever required to avoid duplication.
- ix. Sanction orders are endorsed to the respective peoples representatives (MP, MLA and Panchayat representatives) in addition to the District Collector/ State Government.
- x. Information on sanction, etc. are put on the website and published in the CAPART newsletter.
- xi. Beneficiary selection, etc. to be finalised in consultation with the Gram Sabha.
- xii. Progress reporting format prescribed to obtain progress reports with regard to the implementation of the projects periodically to monitor the progress.
- xiii. As a part of transparency grant recipient organisations have been instructed to exhibit the particulars of the project/funding source at the project sites.
- xiv. Mid-term evaluation ordered based on the progress made and compliance obtained on observations. Mid-term corrections suggested, if any, examined on merit and considered/rejected.
- xv. Utilisation certificate obtained for every release.
- xvi. Audited statement of accounts called for each and every financial year.
- xvii. Consolidated audited accounts are obtained for the grants made available with relevant break-up indicating the local contributions mobilised.
- xviii. On obtaining completion report along with the audited statement of accounts for the grant released post-evaluation ordered.

- xix. Based on the post-evaluation findings and examination of the audited statement of accounts projects sanctioned are closed and organisations informed.
- xx. Legal action is initiated against the voluntary organization for misutilisation/misappropriation of funds by registering FIRs with the local Police.

#### Recovery of Loan

2664. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the cases of suicide committed by families due to the severity of the recovery steps adopted by private/foreign banks and financial institutions in the country during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such incidents;

(c) whether any instance has come to the notice of the Government wherein financial institutions have been found pressurising the dependents of loanees who succumbed in accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has come to know of two media reports alleging that the borrowers committed suicide due to the alleged harassment and humiliation by recovery agents of private sector banks. In both the cases, the concerned police authorities are investigating the matter. The Indian Banks' Association has formulated a "Model Code for collection of dues and repossession of security" and "Fair Practice Code for credit card operations" which has been recommended to banks for adoption and implementation. RBI has also formulated the "Fair Practices Code for Lenders". The above guidelines, inter-alia, stipulate that in the matter of recovery of loans, the lenders should not resort to undue harassment viz. persistently bothering the borrowers at odd hours, use of muscle power for recovery of loans etc. RBI has also issued guidelines on 21.11.2005 for Credit Card Operations, which provide that the Banks/NBFCs and their agents should not resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts, including acts intended to

humiliate publicly or intrude the privacy of the credit card holders' family members, referees and friends, making threatening and anonymous calls or making false and misleading representations.

(c) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Fraudulent Encashment of Money Orders

2665. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of fraudulent encashment of money orders reported during the last three years;

(b) the amount of money involved therein;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The year-wise details of cases of fraudulent encashment of Money Orders detected during the last three years and the amount involved therein is as under:-

Year	Number of cases detected	Amount involved therein
2003-04	264	Rs. 33,81,440.75
2004-05	241	Rs. 15,33,759.30
2005-06 (upto December, 2005)	149	Rs. 14,91,046.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>64,06,246.05</b>

(c) and (d) Instructions to follow the prescribed operating procedure are in vogue, Besides, supervisory staff and various checking squads formed at different levels have been instructed to closely watch over incidents of fraudulent encashment of Money Orders. Officials identified for lapses in such cases are subjected to departmental action. Where necessary, cases are also reported to police for investigation.

**PSUs seek Insurance Cover from  
Private Insurers**

2666. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:  
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the public sector undertakings to seek insurance cover from private insurers;

(b) the number of Government/Public Sector Undertakings that have been insured by Private Sector insurance companies as on January 31, 2006 and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has estimated the extent of slump in premium receipts of the Government owned General Insurance Companies;

(d) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has given approval for such a move; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) With a view to provide a level playing field to all insurance companies registered with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), it has been clarified that Purchase Preference Policy for products and services of Central Public Sector Enterprises shall not be applicable to the services offered by the public sector insurance companies.

(b) and (c) IRDA has informed that it does not collect information on these aspects.

(d) and (e) Since, no regulatory issue was involved in the clarification on Purchase Preference Policy, IRDA was not consulted.

[Translation]

**Performance of Health  
Insurance Scheme**

2667. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of persons benefited under the Health Insurance Scheme during the last two years;

(b) the performance of this scheme during the said period;

(c) the difference between the new and the earlier schemes of the Government alongwith the details of benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed or intending to review the Health Insurance Scheme; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The State-wise performance under the Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) for the last two years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Earlier Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) for Weaker Sections of Society provided reimbursement of hospitalization expenses upto Rs. 30,000/- for an individual or collectively by the member of the family, personal accident cover of Rs. 25,000/- on death of earning head of the family and compensation due to loss of earnings of earning member @ Rs. 50/- per day upto a maximum of 15 days. For BPL families, the scheme provided a subsidy of Rs. 100/- in premium. Re-designed UHIS, covering only the BPL Families, has same set of benefits and premium but provides for an enhanced subsidy of Rs. 200/- for an individual, Rs. 300/- for a family of five and Rs. 400/- for a family of seven.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Universal Health Insurance Scheme for BPL families*

Name of State/UT	No. of Policies Issued	No. of families covered	No. of Persons covered	Total Premium (Rs. in lacs)	Amount of Claims Settled
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>2004-05</b>					
Delhi	6	6	38	0.04	0.00
Haryana	656	656	1150	2.60	0.00
H.P.	381	381	929	1.62	0.00
J&K	168	168	183	0.63	0.00



1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	3866	4227	9302	18.41	0.00
U.P.	1161	1161	1615	4.77	0.09
Uttaranchal	321	323	419	1.252	0.00
Punjab	512	671	745	1.88	0.00
Chandigarh-UT	107	174	200	1.26	0.00
Gujarat	728	6775	9040	22.77	1.35
Andhra Pradesh	13138	18591	51222	59.02	3.14
Kerala	23648	24067	83761	133.40	31.55
Karnataka	2688	2692	8095	11.81	1.13
Maharashtra	2752	3008	9275	11.025	2.15
Madhya Pradesh	962	962	1525	3.41	0.14
Chhattisgarh	890	890	1641	4.08	0.07
West Bengal	14	14	60	0.03636	0.00
Orissa	67	71	169	0.30737	0.00
Tamil Nadu	526	696	2624	1.62	25
Assam	181	185	648	0.71606	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>52772</b>	<b>65718</b>	<b>182641</b>	<b>280.85679</b>	<b>64.62</b>

**2005-06**

Delhi	27	27	130	0.15	0.00
Haryana	452	452	924	1.95	0.00
H.P.	58	58	136	0.24	0.00
J&K	81	81	81	0.32	0.00
Rajasthan	4096	4272	10323	17.58	0.84
U.P.	714	714	971	2.80	0.08
Uttaranchal	3549	4208	19989	14.53	0.07
Punjab	175	250	250	0.91	0.44

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	1379	1379	1808	2.86	0.48
Andhra Pradesh	7903	12587	32381	33.90	10.34
Kerala	36829	36829	138424	201.54	95.04
Karnataka	342	2201	7484	12.10	1.22
Jharkhand	8	40	44	0.07	0.00
Bihar	2	2	8	0.02	0.00
Maharashtra	447	447	2064	1.58	2.34
Orissa	99	99	297	0.48	0.00
Tamil Nadu	131	492	1757	1.36	0.26
Assam	3158	3158	4314	6.23	1.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>59450</b>	<b>68296</b>	<b>221385</b>	<b>298.62</b>	<b>112.20</b>

**Cooperative Banks**

**2668. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many cooperative banks in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh are incurring losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for incurring losses;
- (d) the amount of loss incurred by each of these banks during the last three years, till date, State-wise;
- (e) the administrative expenditure incurred by these banks during the said period; and
- (f) the action taken or likely to be taken for checking losses?

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

**Exit Poll**

**2669. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether opinion polls influence the minds of the electors when the polls are staggered on different dates;

(b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any effective plan for framing an adequate law banning the exit poll when polls stagger over different dates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) It is very difficult to express an opinion with any degree of accuracy as to whether opinion polls influence the minds of the electors when the polls are staggered on different dates.

(b) to (d) In Writ Petition (Civil) No.207 of 2004 (Shri D.K. Thakur vs. Union of India and two others) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, direction has been sought for by the petitioner to enforce all necessary norms for regulating and, if necessary, banning opinion polls and exit polls to be published and broadcasted in the print or electronic media, particularly at the time when the elections to the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are in progress. The matter is sub-judice. Further, the entire matter of electoral reforms, which inter alia, includes the opinion polls is under examination of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

#### **Income Generated by Poppy Seeds**

2670. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in which contracts of poppy seeds are being awarded;

(b) the income earned by such States from the said contracts;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to discontinue the practice of awarding contracts of poppy seeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No contracts of poppy seeds are awarded in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Unsolicited Calls**

2671. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that mobile phone users are being harassed by unsolicited calls by telemarketing companies and banks claiming offer of loans and sundry facilities thereby encroaching upon the individual's right to privacy;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any guidelines to cellphone companies and banks to curb and stop this menace and action against the culprits; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) In regard to unsolicited calls by telemarketing companies and others, a Civil Writ Petition titled Dr. Harsh Pathak versus Union of India and others (Civil Writ No. 35 of 2005) is being heard in the Supreme Court. Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology held a meeting of Telecom Service Providers, on 13.3.2006, to explore a workable solution.

#### **Under-Pending of Funds**

2672. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Ministries of the Government of India have not spent the budget allocated to them during 2005-06 as reported in the 'Times of India' dated February 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this trend has continuously been seen during the last three years;

(d) whether Finance Ministry has issued guidelines to all the Ministries to spend allocated amount within time and avoid last minute rush to spend the maximum amount of the budget allocation;

(e) if so, whether Ministries are not following these guidelines; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken to instruct the Ministries/Departments of Government to spend budget allocation within time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) Due to various reasons specific to each Ministry/Department, it is not always possible to have a uniform pace of expenditure throughout the year. The Ministry of Finance has been impressing upon the Ministries/Departments from time to time the need to plan expenditures so as to avoid rush of expenditure towards the end of the financial year. It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that the position is improving in this regard. By the end of January 2006, the Plan expenditure in 2005-06 was 71% of Budget as compared to only 61% of Budget spent during the period April 2004-January 2005. This shows a major improvement in overall position of pace of expenditure.

[*Translation*]

#### **Earthquake Resistant Buildings**

2673. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed new standards for construction of earthquake resistant buildings in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

#### **Meeting of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees**

2674. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concerned District Collectors are supposed to attend the meetings of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees regularly;

(b) if so, the details of such meetings held in each State during the last three years and current year alongwith outcome thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken after such meetings particularly in each district of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Member Secretary of the District level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee is the District Collector or the District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner or the Chief Executive Officer of Zila Panchayat. Wherever the District Collector is the Member Secretary, he is expected to attend the meetings of the Committee.

(b) A statement showing State-wise details of the Districts where meetings of the District Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees have held at least once during the period from 2003 to till date, is attached at statement enclosed. The implementation of the Rural Development Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are discussed in these meetings where elected representatives play a major role in monitoring of these Schemes.

(c) The details of the deliberations of the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committees, and the follow up action thereon are not required to be furnished to the Central Government. 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. No such case has been reported by any State Government including Madhya Pradesh.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise details of the District to where Meetings of the District level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees held at least once during the year 2003 to till 14th March, 2006*

*(as per information received from the States/Districts)*

**Andhra Pradesh** – Cuddapah, Mahabubnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kadapa, Nalgonda, Srikakulam, Ranga Reddy, Visakhapatnam, Warangal.

**Arunachal Pradesh** – Changalang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, East Siang, East Kameng, Itanagar, Lohit, Lower Subansiri, Papum Pare, Upper Siang, Upper

Subansiri, Tirap, Tawang, West Siang, West Kameng (Bomdila)

**Assam** – Barpeta, Karimganj, Morigaon, North Cachar Hills, N.C. Hills (Haflong), Sivasagar, Tinsukia, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong, Kokarajhar, Dhemaji.

**Bihar** – Jehanabad, Jamui, Araria, Bhagalpur, Chhapra, Gaya, Rohtas, Madhubani, Madhepura, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Sheikhpura, Bhojpur, Begusarai, Darbhanga, Kaimur, Khagaria, Katihar, Lakhisarai, Saharsa, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Pashchim Champaran, Patna, Gopalganj, Purnia, Vaishali.

**Chhattisgarh** – Bastar, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Janjgir (Champa), Koriya, Raipur, Durg, Kanker, Raigarh, Sarguja, Jashpur, Bilaspur.

**Goa** – South Goa, North Goa.

**Gujarat** – Ahmedabad, Amreli, Anand, Banaskantha, Junagardh, Kheda/Nadiad, Surat, Dang, Rajkot, Himatnagar, Vadodara, Jamnagar, Bharuch, Gandhinagar, Kuchchh, Bhuj, Patan, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, Dahod, Bhavnagar, Valsad, Surendernagar, Narmada, Navsari, Porbandar.

**Haryana** – Ambala, Gurgaon, Kaithal, Karnal, Hisar, Yamuna Nagar, Jind, Sonapat, Panchkula, Mahendragarh, Sirsa.

**Himachal Pradesh** – Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kullu, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan.

**Jharkhand** – East Singhbhum, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Dumka, Gerhwa, Giridihi, Hazaribagh, Kodarma, Sahibganj, Jamatra, Deoghar, Latehar, Chhattra, West Singhbhum, Pakur, Lohardaga, Gumla, Ranchi.

**Karnataka** – Bijapur, Bidar, Bellary, Belgam, Baglkot, Chickmagalur, Chitradurga, Chamarajanagar, Dharwad, Davanagere, Dakshina Kannada, Gadag, Gulbarga, Haveri, Hassan, Raichur, Mangalore, Mysore, Shimoga, Kodagu, Kolar, Koppal, Tumkur, Uttarakannada, Udupi.

**Kerala** – Kozhikode, Kasargod, Idduki, Waynad, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kollam, Kottayam, Malappuram, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Thirussur, Thiruvananthapuram.

**Madhya Pradesh** – Betul, Balaghat, Barwani, Bhind, Bhopal, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dindori, Dhar, Harda, Chhatarpur, Guna, Morena, Mandla, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Narsimhapur, Hoshangabad, Indore, Jhabua, Khandwa,

Katni, Panna, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Rewa, Seoni, Sehore, Shahdol, Sagar, Sidhi, Satna, Shivpuri, Shajapur, Tikamgarh, Sheopur, Umaria.

**Maharashtra** – Akola, Buldana, Beed, Raigad, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondiya, Hingoli, Bhandara, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Sindhurg, Satara, Osmanabad, Latur, Pune, Parbhani, Thane, Nanded

**Manipur** – Thoubal, Tamenglong.

**Meghalaya** – East Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills.

**Mizoram** – Aizwal, Saiha, Lawngtlai, Champhai, Kolasib, Lunglei, Mamit, Serchhip

**Orissa** – Angul, Bargarh, Balasore, Bolangir, Bhadrak, Boudh, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Gajapati, Jagat-singpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Nayagarh, Nabrangpur, Nuapada, Phulbani, Khurda, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sundargarh, Sonapur, Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj, Raygoda, Deogarh, Puri.

**Punjab** – Amritsar, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Ferozepur, Bathinda, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Moga, Mansa, Muktsar, Nawanshehar, Patiala, Roopnagar, Sangrur.

**Rajasthan** – Ajmer, Barmer, Bundi, Baran, Bhilwara, Banswara, Churu, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Dholpur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk.

**Tamil Nadu** – Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Karur, Pudukkottai, Perambalur, Tiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Villupuram, Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur, Theni, Salem, Kancheepuram, Kanniyakumari, The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Periyar (Erode).

**Tripura** – West Tripura, South Tripura, Dhalai.

**Uttar Pradesh** – Agra, Auraya, Ambedkar Nagar, Basti, Bijnor, Bahraich, Chandoli, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etawah, Faizabad, Gonda, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambi, Jaunpur, Jalaun, Saharanpur, Shravasti, Hardoi, Mainpuri, Mirzapur, Mau, Mathura, Meerut, Muzaffamagar, Maharajganj, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Rae Bareli, Hamirpur.

**Uttaranchal** – Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Pauri Garhwal, Almora, Haridwar, Dehradun, Champawat, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Tehari Garhwal.

**West Bengal – Bankura, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Purlia, Jalpaiguri.**

**Dadra & Nagar Haveli – Dadra & Nagar Haveli.**

**Lakshadweep – Lakshadweep.**

**Pondicherry – Pondicherry.**

#### **Government Stake in Banks**

2675. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 17, 2006 regarding demands of All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA);

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

(c) whether the Association has demanded not to reduce Government stake in banks;

(d) if so, the actual status in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government propose to change the present amenities available to the bank staff/officers; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures proposed to be taken to pacify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The news item, inter-alia, refers to All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA) reservations on reduction of Government stake in public sector banks, discontinuation of appointment on compassionate ground and Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of Rs.1,10,000 crore in Indian banks.

(d) As required in Sub-section 3 (2B) (c) of Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1970/1980, the Government of India shareholding in all the nationalised banks is more than 51%. The Gross and Net NPAs of scheduled commercial banks stood at Rs. 54,619 crore and Rs. 18,298 crore respectively as on 31st December, 2005.

(e) and (f) Switching over by banks to a scheme of monetary assistance in lieu of appointment on compassionate ground has never been a matter for discussion/negotiation at the industry level. The scheme is a non-statutory one and as such, is not enforceable. It

also does not form part of the service conditions of the bank employees and hence, cannot be claimed as a matter of right by them. As none of the rights of the bank employees is violated in this matter, no Industrial dispute lies therein.

*[English]*

#### **Requirement of Funds for Water Supply/ Sanitation Facility**

2676. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has estimated the requirement of funds for achieving certain percentage of population coverage for providing water supply and sanitation facilities in the urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the actual amount of funds allocated by the Government for this purpose during last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of funds released to States particularly to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The working group on urban water supply and sanitation constituted by Planning Commission for formulation of Tenth Plan projected the following requirement of funds for achieving population coverage of 100% with drinking water supply and 75% with sewerage and sanitation facilities including solid waste management facilities in 300 Class-I cities as per 1991 Census in the urban areas:-

Water supply	-	Rs. 28,240 crore
Sanitation	-	Rs. 23,157 crore
Solid Waste Management	-	Rs. 2,322 crore
Total	-	<u>Rs. 53,719 crore</u>

A tentative allocation of Rs.1030 crore for Tenth Plan was made by Planning Commission for urban water supply and sanitation programme in the central sector of this Ministry. The funds allocated and released for Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme and Central Sector Scheme of Solid Waste Management in 10 Selected IAF Airfield Towns during the last 2 years are given in Statement-I & II respectively.

**Statement-I****Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)****(Rupees lakhs)**

Sl. No.	State	Annual allocation during 2003-2004	Annual allocation during 2004-2005	Funds Released during 2003-2004	Funds Released during 2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	438.76	470.10	492.57	1367.27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.73	113.27	124.16	113.27
3.	Assam	698.39	748.29	256.22	635.27
4.	Bihar	386.05	413.63	386.05	219.87
5.	Chhattisgarh	390.00	417.86	337.87	200.96
6.	Goa	84.32	90.35	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	720.72	772.19	918.08	867.83
8.	Haryana	280.65	300.69	469.71	563.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	105.40	112.94	79.46	232.15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	65.88	70.58	290.14	1198.68
11.	Jharkhand	287.23	307.75	0.00	417.93
12.	Karnataka	868.28	930.30	1119.84	1060.73
13.	Kerala	310.95	333.16	268.21	231.55
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1628.52	1744.86	1509.09	822.68
15.	Maharashtra	853.79	914.78	705.84	1104.19
16.	Manipur	221.05	236.84	269.36	254.07
17.	Meghalaya	41.65	44.62	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	115.33	123.57	46.57	0.00
19.	Nagaland	54.46	58.35	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	538.89	577.38	409.36	577.39
21.	Punjab	295.14	316.22	50.46	161.54
22.	Rajasthan	827.44	886.54	1012.85	1545.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	16.02	17.16	83.97	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	823.48	880.90	653.41	808.19
25.	Tripura	147.37	157.89	213.43	309.53
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3048.88	3259.59	2710.48	1664.93
27.	Uttaranchal	213.45	237.16	331.61	138.77
28.	West Bengal	432.17	463.03	417.62	103.43
<b>Total</b>		<b>14000.00</b>	<b>15000.00</b>	<b>13156.36</b>	<b>14600.00</b>

\* In addition during 2004-05 Rs. 400.00 lakh were released for Tsunami works in Port Blair.

#### **Statement-II**

Details of the Funds for Solid Waste Management (IAF 10 Selected Towns) Allocated and Released during 2003-04 & 2004-05 are given below:-

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in crore)	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	5	0.99*
2004-05	40	40

\* Rs. 99 lakhs were given to HUDCO for preparing feasibility reports/ DPRs.

\*\* No state-wise allocations are made since the scheme is confined to 10 selected airfield towns only.

#### **Multinational Banks**

2677. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding malpractices and duping of customers by multinational banks in the country during the last year and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government has been receiving some complaints from customers of multinational banks relating to Credit Card

Operations, Deposit Accounts, remittance/collection facilities, Advances, harassment in recovery of loans etc. As and when any such complaint is received, the same is referred to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for appropriate action as per laid down procedure.

(c) The banks are required to have an internal grievance redressal mechanism. There is also a system in place for having high level committees in the individual banks, including a Customer Service Committee of the Board, to review and bring about improvements in customer service. Further, RBI has notified a revised Banking Ombudsman Scheme with effect from 1st January 2006 with enlarged scope to include customer complaints on certain new areas, such as credit cards complaints, deficiencies in providing the promised services even by banks' sales agents, levying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non adherence to the fair practices code as adopted by individual banks.

#### **Scope of IEPF**

2678. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to review the existing investor protection norms and widening the scope of the Investor Education & Protection Fund;

(b) if so, whether major policy changes would strengthen the norms for the coming projects coming for clearance for investor protection activities;

(c) whether the Government has received some proposals in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government towards Investor Education and Protection activities?

(Rs. in crores)

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The following initiatives have been taken towards introduction of varied activities under the IEPF:

(i) Education programmes through Media (Electronic as well as print media);

(ii) Registration of voluntary associations or institutions or other organizations and providing financial assistance to them for projects on Investor's Education and Protection including research activities;

(iii) Coordinating with other institutions/ organizations engaged in Investor education, awareness, and protection activities.

**Amount Locked up  
in Cases**

2679. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge tax amount is locked in court cases and the same is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the details of the money locked up in court cases during each of the last four years;

(c) the details of action taken by the Government to bring down the number of tax cases; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as direct taxes are concerned, the amount of tax locked up in cases pending before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and various Courts is as under:

Financial Year	Amount Locked up
2002-03	12,274
2003-04	30,236
2004-05	30,196
2005-06	31,970

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, year-wise details are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount Locked up
As on 31.12.2003	19209.76
As on 31.12.2004	19473.52
As on 31.12.2005	21962.65

(c) and (d) Litigation is a continuous process. However, the Government in its endeavour to liquidate the arrears of pendency has set up a National Tax Tribunal for early disposal of tax cases and constituted Task Forces to develop and implement a multi-pronged strategy for effecting substantial recovery of arrears of direct and indirect taxes. The steps taken to expedite the clearance of pending cases include making it obligatory for Income Tax Appellate Tribunal to pass orders within 180 days of the stay order, monitoring of cases before different Courts/Tribunals, speedy action for recovery of arrears of income tax/duty, restricting of powers of Commissioner (Appeals) to set aside cases, setting up of special units for recovery of arrears of service tax, etc.

[Translation]

**Promotion of Handicraft Industries**

2680. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress under Wool Technology Mission, promotion of Pashmina and traditional handicraft development programmes;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof:



- (c) whether the production of handicrafts has decreased during the year 2005;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether handicraft sector is lagging behind due to lack of modernization;
- (f) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (g) the amount earmarked for the promotion of handicrafts under various schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The Scheme of Wool Technology Mission was not approved. Government has launched a scheme namely, Integrated Wool Improvement Programme (IWIP) in place of Wool Technology Mission for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan period. Under this programme the Central Wool Development Board has been administering inter-alia schemes for pashmina wool development in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir, the components of which are breed improvement, health care, nutrition, pasture development etc. The Board has released an amount of Rs.110.75 lakh to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. Handicrafts Development Programme include Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Design & Technology Upgradation, Marketing & Support Service, Export Promotion, Bima Yojana etc. These schemes are being implemented throughout the country as grants-in-aid schemes by State Handicrafts Development Corporation/Appex Bodies and NGOs. Periodic review of the schemes is carried out and corrective measures are taken wherever required.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) The amounts earmarked for promotion of handicrafts sector under various schemes during 2005-06 are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Budget allocation during 2005-06*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Schemes	B.E.
1	2	3
1.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yojana	30.70
2.	Design & Technical Upgradation	19.00

1	2	3
3.	Marketing & Support Services	19.00
4.	Export Promotion	12.60
5.	Research & Development	03.30
6.	Training & Extension	01.10
7.	Integrated Package for J&K	05.00
8.	Bima Yojana for Artisans	03.80
9.	Special Handicrafts Training Programme	03.50
10.	Credit Guarantee Scheme	0.00
11.	Workshed Scheme	0.00
12.	UNDP Projects	0.00
	Total (Revenue)	98.00
	Capital	
13.	Infrastructure Projects	07.00
14.	Financial Assistance to Central PSUs/SHDCs/Apex Societies	
	Total Capital	07.00
	Grand Total	105.00

[English]

**Financial Assistance for Relief  
in Calamities**

2681. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

- (a) the amount of financial assistance received so far till date from various foreign countries/financial institutions and domestic industries/institutions for relief work after the occurrence of natural calamities since 2004;
- (b) whether there is any mechanism to check the proper disbursement and use of such aid;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount of assistance provided to each

State from the financial assistance so far received during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be furnished.

#### **Closure of ADB/World Bank Loan**

2682. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating closure of Asian Development Bank and World Bank loans for road projects that are yet to take off;

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

(c) the steps taken to simplify the existing cumbersome procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Simplification of procedures is an ongoing process. Following initiatives have been proposed/adopted in case of Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan projects:

- (i) The ADB has offered a Multi-Tranche Financing Facility with effect from December, 2005 wherein commitment charges will be linked to annual draw-down schedules. This should result in a reduction in the overall cost of the loans if implementation is on schedule.
- (ii) Delegating more power to the local Resident Mission for quickening the approval.
- (iii) Loan signing is being done in Delhi as against Manila as was the practice earlier.
- (iv) Tripartite Review Meetings are conducted on quarterly basis to identify and for the redressal of the issues both project specific and policy specific, for improving the project implementation.

#### **Service Tax for Gujarat**

2683. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the service tax target fixed for 2005-06 for Gujarat;

(b) the actual collections by the end of January, 2006 in Gujarat;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all service providers are covered under the service tax net in Gujarat;

(d) whether service tax has become/will remain a major source of income for Government;

(e) if so, the details and reaction of the Government therefor;

(f) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought release of service tax collected in Gujarat; and

(g) if so, the amount of service tax proposed to be given to Gujarat during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Service tax revenue target is not fixed State-wise. However, the total target for the two zones (Ahemdabad and Vadodara) located in State of Gujarat is Rs. 1296.30 crores for the year 2005-06.

(b) Actual revenue collection by the end of January, 2006 for the above two zones is Rs. 921.51 crores.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure that taxable service providers are covered under service tax net—

- Extensive Survey to trace out unregistered taxable service providers.
- The registration melas to reach out the service providers
- Wide publicity in print and electronic media
- Rigorous anti-evasion measures.
- Development of intelligence network.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The revised budget estimate of collection of service tax during 2005-06 is of the order of Rs.23.000 crore, while the budget estimate of collection of service tax during 2006-07 has been estimated to be of the order

of Rs.34,500 crores. It is the policy of the Government to broad base the levy of service tax so that it remains a major source of revenue for the Government.

(f) No. Sir

(g) As per Revised Estimates 2005-06, an amount of Rs.248.69 crore is proposed to be released to Government of Gujarat during 2005-06 in respect of service tax, as per the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission for sharing of Central Taxes with State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Employees in PSBs

2684. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to inadequate number of employees in Public Sector Banks, the working of these banks has been affected in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step has been taken by the Government to fill up the vacancies in Public Sector Banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the directives issued by the Government to banks to fill up the vacant posts expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. So far, none of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have reported about any major shortage of staff. However, some of the PSBs have reported that there is some shortage in the clerical staff and the concerned banks are taking steps to fill up the vacant posts by re-deployment of staff, special recruitment drive for SC/ST and by regular recruitment process.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Export of Handloom

2685. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of handloom products

exported during each of the last three years and the current year, product-wise and country-wise;

(b) the target set for export of handloom products during the said period, product-wise;

(c) the reasons for decrease in the export;

(d) the names of handloom products which have achieved higher percentage of export during 2004-05; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost further export of handloom products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The revised ITC (HS) Codes adopted by the Central Board of Excise & Customs with effect from 1-4-2003 do not provide any sectorial classification such as handloom, powerloom, mill made etc. In the absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products, export data from 1-4-2003 onwards is not available. The matter is under consideration in the Ministry of Finance for allotment of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products. However, product-wise and continent-wise details of handloom exports for the period 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The overall targets for handloom exports fixed for the last three years, including the current year, are as under:-

(Figures in US \$ Million)

Years	Target
2002-03	550
2003-04	575
2004-05	650
2005-06	700

(c) As the export data for the last three years, i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and the current year is not available in the absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products, it is difficult to say that export of handloom products has decreased during the last three years. However, export data for the previous years clearly shows a trend that handloom exports to Asia, Africa, Europe Union, Europe, America and Oceania continents have increased over 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(d) As the export data for the last three years, including 2004-05, is not available in the absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products, it is difficult to say which handloom products have achieved higher percentage of export during 2004-05.

(e) The following Steps are being taken to promote export of handlooms:

(i) Handloom Export Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to handloom agencies for development of exportable range of products and international publicity & marketing thereof;

(ii) Organisation of and/or participation in international fairs, exhibitions, Buyer Seller Meets by Handloom Export Promotion Council, Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) etc. in overseas markets from time to time to provide the Indian handloom manufacturers an avenue for export market;

(iii) Various export promotion schemes operated by the Department of Commerce such as Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), Market Development Assistance (MDA) Market Access Initiative (MAI) etc.

**Statement**

*Export of Handlooms*

(Figures in 000's)

Continent Name	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Qty. in Kg.	Value (Rs.)	Qty. in Kg.	Value (Rs.)	Qty. in Kg.	Value (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Asia</b>						
<b>Fabricks</b>						
Real Madras Handkerchiefs	9	4493	3	1982	8	2768
Lungies	1096	354943	1497	367056	1131	315225
Dhoties	1616	374757	1533	289292	4326	828588
Sarees	164	47739	232	41400	171	66487
Shirtings	1451	187050	1934	225201	1510	276820
Furnishings	99	23427	23	4937	38	11419
Other fabrics	3659	811211	2971	694949	4573	986189
Fabricks Total	8093	1803619	8191	1624817	11757	2487497
<b>Madeups</b>						
Bedlinen of Cotton	62	11577	87	19294	106	32316
Table Linen	24	6550	40	6883	88	17954
Toilet & Kitchen Linen	71	15572	104	27619	78	17122
Curtains	129	37626	138	46843	278	85132

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Bedsread/BedCovers</b>	759	193115	680	192752	779	164247
<b>Other Furnishing Aricles</b>	4316	965346	4054	895407	4324	935386
<b>Others</b>	504	73928	608	93639	937	130459
<b>Madeups Total</b>	5865	1303713	5710	1282437	6590	1382615
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	4908	477059	3660	403690	3864	436684
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	806	110199	973	94211	852	131130
<b>Asia Total</b>	19672	3694591	18534	3405154	23064	4437925
<b>Africa</b>						
<b>Fabrics</b>						
<b>Real Madras Handkerchiefs</b>	679	289430	498	168119	397	112514
<b>Lungies</b>	240	55039	420	57031	61	13428
<b>Dhoties</b>	324	70674	1906	342732	2307	389934
<b>Sarees</b>	171	50180	128	32016	31	7943
<b>Shirtings</b>	138	26444	95	19325	281	54777
<b>Furnishings</b>	9	3368	37	9442	4	983
<b>Other fabrics</b>	2348	533040	3067	662293	3403	724349
<b>Fabrics Total</b>	3908	1028175	6152	1290959	6484	1303928
<b>Madeups</b>						
<b>Bedlinen of Cotton</b>	0	54	164	46442	64	13506
<b>Table linen</b>	1	298	2	427	4	723
<b>Toilet &amp; Kitchen Linen</b>	41	7096	38	6840	10	1714
<b>Curtains</b>	13	3251	23	6715	20	5330
<b>Bedsread/Bed Covers</b>	176	35277	229	44027	224	40253
<b>Other Furnishing Aricles</b>	606	119164	634	118213	1038	181878
<b>Others</b>	74	15808	45	5965	191	13495
<b>Madeups Total</b>	911	180948	1136	228629	1551	256897
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	300	27329	300	27777	233	23379
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	577	44779	926	61401	802	59915

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Africa Total</b>	5695	1281231	8514	1608765	9069	1644119
<b>Europe Union</b>						
<b>Fabrics</b>						
Real Madras Handkerchiefs	10	6752	5	4516	6	3405
Lungies	30	8966	52	12155	170	40200
Dhoties	741	163443	2016	320468	8850	1363886
Sarees	89	21573	63	12703	90	24271
Shirtings	404	65052	45	10203	527	75138
Furnishings	201	65496	261	72203	279	72368
Other fabrics	4138	836290	3294	674638	4597	1243634
<b>Fabrics Total</b>	<b>5612</b>	<b>1167572</b>	<b>5736</b>	<b>1106885</b>	<b>14518</b>	<b>2822902</b>
<b>Madeups</b>						
Bedlinen of Cotton	125	26689	232	75605	575	129989
Table Linen	615	132719	1354	227433	503	119131
Toilet & Kitchen Linen	477	89185	185	36198	274	51851
Curtains	2749	741028	2226	638908	1861	538683
Bedsread/Bed Covers	5179	1074028	4288	973471	2945	718526
Other Furnishing Articles	13610	3023749	13937	3020894	14933	3266289
Others	1885	264580	2290	320303	2988	403089
<b>Madeups Total</b>	<b>24641</b>	<b>5351977</b>	<b>24512</b>	<b>5292812</b>	<b>24079</b>	<b>5227557</b>
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	<b>10059</b>	<b>1031095</b>	<b>7352</b>	<b>856485</b>	<b>7750</b>	<b>969832</b>
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	<b>3442</b>	<b>304094</b>	<b>2493</b>	<b>281767</b>	<b>2298</b>	<b>278624</b>
<b>Europe Union Total</b>	<b>43755</b>	<b>7854739</b>	<b>40093</b>	<b>7537950</b>	<b>48645</b>	<b>9298916</b>
<b>Europe</b>						
<b>Fabrics</b>						
Lungies	63	36703	46	21446	4	1147
Dhoties	26	5979	111	19101	524	85714

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Sarees</b>	17	3524	7	1583	0	99
<b>Shirtings</b>	121	16199	0	36	67	16028
<b>Furnishings</b>	1	180	5	1383	0	0
<b>Other fabrics</b>	203	54862	516	113076	632	105171
<b>Fabrics Total</b>	431	117446	685	156626	1228	208159
<b>Madeups</b>						
<b>Bedlinen of Cotton</b>	7	1959	21	5749	90	17849
<b>Table Linen</b>	16	3366	33	6652	37	9077
<b>Toilet &amp; Kitchen Linen</b>	11	3403	0	49	7	1612
<b>Curtains</b>	26	8778	117	39016	80	28631
<b>Bedsread/Bed Covers</b>	197	53442	195	41193	190	38598
<b>Other Furnishing Articles</b>	851	206322	668	159997	830	176050
<b>Others</b>	72	11600	143	18291	253	25839
<b>Madeups Total</b>	1181	288872	1178	270947	1488	297657
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	412	43518	378	42705	303	41420
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	135	13111	144	14520	136	44325
<b>Europe Total</b>	2159	462948	2384	484797	3155	591560
<b>America</b>						
<b>Fabrics</b>						
<b>Real Madras Handkerchiefs</b>	5	3290	1	666	4	2712
<b>Lungies</b>	23	4165	20	5282	114	26158
<b>Dhoties</b>	510	84213	1454	203687	5473	682271
<b>Sarees</b>	112	20618	10	3718	7	2328
<b>Shirtings</b>	359	67792	124	29322	608	77590
<b>Furnishings</b>	125	45013	304	82138	395	140954
<b>Other fabrics</b>	1811	314875	1415	256144	3076	477557
<b>Fabrics Total</b>	2944	539966	3329	580957	9677	1409570

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Madeups</b>						
Bedlinen of Cotton	39	11958	124	50692	401	197673
Table Linen	620	147272	436	106071	1520	304603
Toilet & Kitchen Linen	987	227897	1831	471560	1874	351721
Curtains	803	220782	888	272089	1470	476245
Bedsread/Bed Covers	2929	668838	1982	780014	1761	720794
Other Furnishing Articles	5012	3410265	13358	2919447	18558	4194036
Others	1502	231556	2367	349764	2399	413531
<b>Madeups Total</b>	<b>21892</b>	<b>4918569</b>	<b>20987</b>	<b>4949636</b>	<b>27983</b>	<b>6658602</b>
Floor Covering Total	12717	1305111	8843	1019396	8833	1074732
Clothing Accesasories Total	504	79124	307	58458	698	117427
<b>America Total</b>	<b>38058</b>	<b>6842770</b>	<b>33466</b>	<b>6608448</b>	<b>47192</b>	<b>9260331</b>
<b>America Others</b>						
<b>Fabrics</b>						
Lungies	0	231	2	794	5	2649
Dhoties	323	44656	272	49505	187	28366
Sarees	3	1689	3	376	34	6974
Shirtings	114	27973	27	5556	35	6022
Other fabrics	413	54009	368	74165	300	53164
<b>Fabrics Total</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>128559</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>130395</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>97175</b>
<b>Madeups</b>						
Bedlinen of Cotton	12	3803	4	858	5	2144
Table Linen	22	3494	26	4039	22	5945
Toilet & kitchen Linen	22	4052	0	86	21	4394
Curtains	18	5387	78	20853	78	18203
Bedsread/Bedcovers	248	58302	189	47355	106	26146
Other Furnishing Articles	931	200587	701	156047	784	167332



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Others	110	16473	84	9695	59	9513
<b>Madeups Total</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>292098</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>238933</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>233678</b>
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>43461</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>35522</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>27726</b>
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>7474</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>8316</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>5341</b>
<b>America Others Total</b>	<b>2783</b>	<b>471591</b>	<b>2181</b>	<b>413166</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>363920</b>
<b>Oceania</b>						
<b>Fabricks</b>						
Lungies	2	421	8	1639	15	3468
Dhoties	27	5041	35	8058	112	17070
Sarees	8	2467	14	2741	5	1273
Shirtings	29	9482	10	1225	26	4705
Furnishings	42	14345	18	5002	36	8437
Other fabrics	347	79145	258	55390	324	65205
<b>Fabricks Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>110902</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>74055</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>100159</b>
<b>Madeups</b>						
Bedlinen of Cotton	37	6770	12	2777	9	1628
Table Linen	53	14245	50	13431	69	14480
Toilet & Kitchen Linen	73	13575	3	608	32	7280
Curtains	86	23587	147	39498	46	11438
Bedsread/Bed Covers	155	36320	133	31320	92	28161
Other Furnishing Articles	1966	375607	1610	342179	2552	486141
Others	95	15745	213	23525	193	30854
<b>Madeups Total</b>	<b>2466</b>	<b>485848</b>	<b>2167</b>	<b>453339</b>	<b>2992</b>	<b>579981</b>
<b>Floor Covering Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>55515</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>42720</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>36467</b>
<b>Clothing Accesasories Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>14323</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>21049</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>19305</b>
<b>Oceania Total</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>666588</b>	<b>3175</b>	<b>591163</b>	<b>4075</b>	<b>735911</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>115766</b>	<b>21274457</b>	<b>108347</b>	<b>20849442</b>	<b>137140</b>	<b>26332682</b>

### Purchase Procedure

2686. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Financial Rule (GFR)-2005 is silent on some areas of purchase procedure leaving it to the discretion of the indenting agency;

(b) if so, details of internal regulations framed and followed by each Ministry/Department/Undertaking etc. to guide their respective purchase procedures and also details of procurement made by each of them since implementation of GFR, 2005;

(c) whether the Union Government identify areas in the GFR-2005 which leaves room for manipulation by dishonest officials;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, how the Government propose to bring in transparency, fairness, competition and elimination of arbitrariness in the procurement process;

(f) whether Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is required to be asked for the whole tender;

(g) if so, how does Government make/decide to make room for petty traders to participate in the tenders;

(h) whether commitments made by the Government over the last five years has been overlooked later on;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the manner in which the GFR-2005 is consistent with the previous commitments of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The General Financial Rules, 2005 contain only the general rules applicable to all Ministries/Departments for procurement for use in public service. Detailed instructions in this regard may be issued by the procuring departments in conformity with these general rules. However, no centralized information as regards the internal regulations framed by various Ministries/Departments/Undertaking is maintained.

(c) to (e) GFRs, 2005 make it imperative on the procuring authority to bring efficiency, economy and transparency in public procurement for fair and equitable treatment of suppliers and promotion of competition in public procurement. Rule 137 lays down the various yardsticks to be followed by the procuring agency to ensure these aspects.

(f) and (g) As per GFRs, 2005, Earnest Money is to be obtained from the bidders other than the exempted categories, ranging between 2% to 5% of the estimated value of the goods to be procured, in the case of advertised or limited tender inquiry. The exact amount of EMD is to be determined by the concerned Administrative Ministry/Department and indicated in the Bidding Documents.

(h) to (j) GFRs, 2005 have been formulated after wide consultations and extensive review carried out in consultation with various Ministries/Departments of Government of India with a view to giving greater flexibility in transaction of Government business while ensuring accountability commensurate with responsibility at different levels of the Government.

### Interest Charged by SIDBI

2687. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of interest has been increased by Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on the Bank loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof including interest rate on loans increased during the last six months;

(c) whether the increase in interest rate on Bank loans would increase interest rate charged on loans sanctioned to small and medium-scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provides refinance to Primary Lending Institutions including Banks for term loans granted by them to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). During the last six months the refinance rates to Banks by SIDBI have been increased ranging from 1.1% per annum to 1.55% per annum. The present rate of interest on refinance by SIDBI is between 7.5% to

8.3% per annum depending on the quantum and tenure of the refinance.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The rates at which the loans are on-lent have no bearing on the refinance rate charged by SIDBI.

[English]

#### **Electronic Money Transfer**

2688. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism has been developed by the Government to keep check on online electronic clearances of the monthly income from the Post Office MIS scheme into the common man's bank accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any instance of fraud pertaining to online electronic clearance/transfer and bogus accounts has been reported to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) facility of RBI is being offered in the Department of Posts for the payment of monthly interest under "Monthly Income Scheme" (MIS) in Mumbai. With Electronic Clearance Service (ECS) the depositor can get the MIS interest of his MIS account in the Post Office automatically transferred and credited into the SB account at the designated Bank.

The ECS data of MIS interest to be credited in the investors' bank account is sent online to RBI in Mumbai. The ECS software takes care of online checking as the data is directly uploaded to RBI server through encrypted file. RBI after crediting the depositors' bank account gives confirmation to Post offices detailing the MIS accounts, amount credited in the bank account alongwith the details of the depositors' bank account. While cross checking this data with the Post Office data, error or wrong credit in the bank account, if any, can be detected and immediately rectified.

(c) No, Sir.

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

#### **Increase in Private Postal/ Courier Services**

2689. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the level of efficiency in the functioning of the postal department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the manifold increase in the private postal/courier services is due to the poor services rendered by the Postal department;

(d) if so, whether the Postal department is incurring huge losses as a result thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to amend the existing Postal Act in order to give the maximum powers and control in the hand of Postal department; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Assessment of efficiency in the functioning of the Postal department is an ongoing activity.

(b) The efficiency of the functioning of the department is continuously monitored by analyzing the quality of services provided by it. The norms for various services of the Department are declared in its Citizen's Charter. The complaints received by the department are analyzed to take corrective and preventive action to pre-empt service deficiencies. In addition, the time taken for delivery of letters from one end to the other are constantly monitored and compared against the norms declared. This is done through various tests such as All India Live Mail Survey, National Test Letter Run, Circle Test Run, Posting of Test Letters on different routes by officers at various levels. Constant dialogue with customers is maintained through Post Forums, visits, telephone calls and questionnaires directed towards customers and market

surveys. Necessary action to maintain quality of services and to meet customer expectations is taken to ensure efficiency in the functioning of the department.

(c) No, Sir. The present trends indicate that customers use facilities offered by both Government and private services operators depending on the option, which suits their needs.

(d) The department is not suffering losses but has been in deficit. The deficit is mainly attributable to high expenditure towards committed liabilities like salary, pension etc., non-revision of postal rates for various services as per rising cost of operations, the Universal Service Obligations of the department due to which it has to run post offices in hilly, tribal, remote and rural areas without covering the costs and other related reasons. The traffic pertaining to traditional mail has declined over the years due to advancement of alternative communication media like e-mail, telephone, mobile and internet services and also services provided by private couriers to the public. However, due to the initiatives taken by the department, there is a continuous growth in traffic and revenue earned from business premium products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post and Retail Post. Business in Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance has also shown upward trend. There is also an increase in Saving Bank and Savings Certificate business in post offices.

(e) and (f) Department of Posts has proposed amendments to the existing Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Since the proposed amendments have not been finalized so far, nothing can be commented thereon at this stage.

[Translation]

#### Functions of MRTPT

2690. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission keeps information regarding acts of monopolies and unfair trade practices etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of cases undertaken by the Commission during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 under which the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has been established does not make it obligatory for the Commission to keep information regarding acts of monopolies and unfair trade practices. Only based on a complaint or a reference or an information or on an application made by Director General (Investigation & Regulation) or on its own it enquires into monopolistic, restrictive or unfair trade practices.

(c) 282 cases were disposed of by the Commission in the calendar year 2005.

[English]

#### New Banks in Private Sectors

2691. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has approved the proposal for setting up new Banks in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals approved as on date;

(c) the total number of Banks in the private sector in each State as on date; and

(d) the reasons for granting liberal licences for the setting up of Banks in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not approved any proposal for setting up new banks in the private sector in the years 2005 and 2006.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The state-wise details of number of private sector banks areas under:-

Sl.No.	State	Number of Banks
1	2	3
1	Maharashtra	10
2	Kerala	5

1	2	3
3	Tamil Nadu	5
4	Uttaranchal	1
5	Karnataka	2
6	Gujarat	2
7	Goa	1
8	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9	Rajasthan	1

(d) In terms of RBI Press Release dated 30.01.2002. It is to consider inviting fresh applications for new banks in the private sector only after three years from that date and after further reviewing the working of the private sector banks. RBI has not considered inviting fresh applications for setting up of new banks in the private sector so far.

#### **Interest Rate on Small Savings**

2692. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the R.H. Patil Committee and RBI Study have recommended that the interest rate on small savings instrument be aligned with market rate;

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

(c) the other recommendations of the R.H. Patil Committee on debt market reforms;

(d) whether the Government has examined these recommendations; and

(e) If so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The High Level Expert Committee on Corporate Bonds and Securitization, headed by Shri R.H. Patil, has, inter-alia recommended that the recommendations submitted by the various Committees appointed by the Government to review interest rates on small savings instruments need to be implemented to ensure that interest rates paid on small savings instruments are aligned with market rates.

The Expert Group on Administered Interest Rates under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Deputy Governor, RBI, had also recommended, in September, 2001, that the interest rates on small savings schemes be aligned to the market through benchmarking to the average annual yields on Government securities of comparable maturity in the secondary market. Government accepted the recommendation and since then the interest rates have been revised with effect from 1st March, 2002 and March, 2003, based on changes in the benchmark yields.

(c) The other recommendations of the Committee, inter-alia, are:

#### **f) Corporate Bond market**

- (1) A trade reporting dissemination system followed by an order matching system should be started for the corporate debt market to increase transparency and secondary market liquidity. Appropriate regulations/guidelines for setting up of such trading platform or trade matching systems may be prepared by the market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- (2) Corporate bond issuers may be required to make only some incremental disclosures every time they approach the market with a fresh issue either to the public or through a private placement.
- (3) Retail investors should be encouraged to participate in the market through stock exchanges.
- (4) Repos in corporate bonds may be permitted by RBI to be operated by the proposed clearing entities for corporate bonds.
- (5) Interest rate derivatives market may be developed further and new products should be launched.
- (6) The scope of investment by provident/pension/gratuity funds and insurance companies in corporate bonds should be enhanced subject to appropriate rating requirement.
- (7) The stamp duty on debt instruments should be made uniform across all States and be linked to the tenor of the securities, with an overall cap.
- (8) TDS rules for corporate bonds should be similar to the ones applicable to Government Securities.

**II) Securitised Debt Market**

- (1) Securitised instruments should be notified as "securities" under Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
- (2) To develop the securitised debt market, uniform and affordable levels of stamp duty may be evolved for debt instruments, Pass Through Certificates (PTCs) and security receipts (SRs).
- (3) No withholding tax should be paid by the borrowers to the securitization trust. Further, appropriate reporting of holders of PTCs and SRs may be given by the securitization trust to the Income-tax Department.
- (4) Municipal bonds may be given some fiscal support with such support taking the form of bond insurance or providing credit enhancement.
- (5) Specialized debt funds may be created for infrastructure financing.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech 2006-07 has announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of this Committee and steps shall be taken to create a single, unified exchange-traded market for corporate bonds. In pursuance to this, the Government of India is now examining each individual recommendation and finalising the action to be taken for this purpose.

**Loans to State Governments**

2693. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the loans taken by the State Governments from the Central Government as on date;

(b) the States which have requested additional loans from Government during the current financial year; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A total amount of Rs.150188.87 crores was outstanding as on 28th February, 2006 against the States for loans provided by Ministry of Finance. State-wise details are at Statement enclosed. These loans primarily consist of Plan loans,

small saving loans given before 1999, and medium term loans.

(b) Central Government is not providing Plan loans to State Governments since 1st April, 2005 in line with recommendation of 12th Finance Commission except for Externally Aided Projects signed on or before 31st March, 2005. Some State Governments request Ministry of Finance for additional loans for non-plan purposes from time to time.

(c) During the current financial year i.e. 2005-06 so far, an amount of Rs.200 crore additional loans from National Small Savings Fund was provided to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

**Statement**

		(Rs. In Crores)
Sl. No.	Name of the States	Outstanding Balance on 28.02.2006
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	15582.56
2	Arunachal Pradesh	451.37
3	Assam	1363.28
4	Bihar	8550.84
5	Chhattisgarh	2219.66
6	Goa	726.35
7	Gujarat	11257.07
8	Haryana	1282.47
9	Himachal Pradesh	992.48
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2103.46
11	Jharkhand	2761.15
12	Karnataka	8787.88
13	Kerala	5276.19
14	Madhya Pradesh	8672.44
15	Maharashtra	8206.63

1	2	3
16	Manipur	1402.42
17	Meghalaya	344.95
18	Mizoram	319.96
19	Nagaland	357.44
20	Orissa	8714.42
21	Punjab	7007.01
22	Rajasthan	7544.85
23	Sikkim	196.59
24	Tamil Nadu	6424.85
25	Tripura	801.78
26	Uttar Pradesh	23297.96
27	Uttaranchal	391.49
28	West Bengal	15151.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>150188.87</b>

Source: CCA, MoF

#### **Credit Facilities to Women Weavers**

2694. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the measures taken to provide credit facilities to women weavers at concessional interest rates to help them to improve their working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The lending rate of banks are governed by the directives on interest rates issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

As per the extant instructions, interest on loans upto Rs. 2 lakh, should not exceed the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the lending bank. Beyond Rs.2 lakh, banks are free to charge interest within the maximum spread over PLR as fixed by them. The requirement of PLR being the floor rate for loans above Rs.2 lakh has also been relaxed and the banks are allowed to offer loans at below PLR rates on the basis of a transparent and objective policy approved by their Boards.

NABARD provides concessional refinance to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) for providing Short Term Credit Limits for financing the working capital requirements of primary/apex/regional/weavers' Cooperative Societies as well as the individual weavers and self employed weavers' groups.

#### **Appointment on Compassionate Ground in RBI**

2695. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases appointment on compassionate grounds pending at present in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with the date and reasons for pendency;

(b) whether RBI has not provided job on compassionate ground to the son and daughters of the deceased employees in case the spouse (wife) is not alive or above 50 years;

(c) if so, the reasons and rationale therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to consider for providing employment on compassionate grounds to sons/daughters of deceased in RBI as in other Government/Autonomous bodies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the efforts being made to ensure implementation of compensation in true sense?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) At present 29 cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) primarily for non-completion of procedural and other formalities. RBI has also reported that are ex-gratia and other financial benefits are extended to the spouse/ dependant children of the deceased employee. In case the spouse is not alive or above 50 years, RBI is not providing compassionate employment to the sons/ daughters of the deceased employees, as it was observed that in many cases the children after marriage deserted the family members thus defeating the very purpose for which the existing scheme of compassionate appointment, is meant. Therefore, a conscious decision in consultation with recognized Trade Unions/Associations, was taken by the RBI to restrict the employment option only to the spouse. In fact, the existing scheme ensures liberal compensation in true sense.

*[Translation]***Telecom Services in Rural Areas**

2696. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

\*  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) whether the communication facilities in the rural areas of the country are hampered due to frequent breakdown in landline and mobile telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for providing better telephone and mobile services in rural areas of the country;

(d) whether the Government has assessed the advantage being taken by the private mobile companies of the poor communication network of BSNL; and

(e) if so, the effective steps being 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) No, Sir. However, faults occur due to variety of reasons such as power failure, cutting of cables and natural causes like heavy rains etc. Efforts are made to restore them at the earliest.

(c) Improvement of telecom services in the rural areas is a continuous effort by BSNL and other service providers. Some of the steps taken by BSNL are:-

- (i) Upgradation of transmission media, external plant, power plant, batteries and rural exchanges and their expansion.
- (ii) Provision of maintenance battery sets and engine alternators for back up power supplies.
- (iii) Provision of high capacity external maintenance batteries with Fixed WLL Terminals (FWTs) for providing larger talk time and standby time.
- (iv) More Base Transceiver stations (BTS) to enhance the coverage of WLL system.

(v) Continuously augmenting and optimizing the Mobile Network.

(vi) A Proposal is under consideration to provide support for shareable infrastructure to the eligible service providers and infrastructure service providers for cellular mobile services in rural and remote areas.

(d) No, Sir. The growth of mobile services of BSNL in the rural areas is favourable when compared with the private sector. BSNL is continuously expanding its network and coverage. BSNL also provides attractive tariff plans.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

*[English]***Coin Produced by Government Mints**

2697. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government mints are producing higher denomination coins in an unprecedentedly large quantities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the lower denomination coins i.e., below rupee one are intended to be withdrawn from circulation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

**Wasteland Development Task Force**

2698. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a Wasteland Development Task Force in 1994 for the development of ravines in Chambal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

\*The name of Shri Paras Nath Yadav M.P. was deleted vide corrigenda to list of question issued on 5.5.2006



- (c) the details of achievements of the said task force;
- (d) whether some of the State Governments have demanded to set up similar task force in their States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Waste Land Development Task Force was set up in 1994 for development of 1200 hectares of waste land in the ravines of Chambal in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh. The Task Force consisted of 300 Ex-Servicemen under the command of Territorial Army. The objective was to provide employment to ex-servicemen and also to develop wastelands through afforestation including (i) soil and moisture conservation (ii) plantation and its protection. The total area of 1200 hectares of ravine land has been treated. The Task Force was wound up on 31.12.1999. A sum of Rs 474.00 lakh were incurred by the Department of Land Resources on this project during the implementation period from 1994-1995 to 1999-2000.

(d) to (f) No proposal for setting up of such Task Force in other States has been received by the Ministry during the last three years.

#### **Draw of Lots of Cooperative Societies**

2699. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of Cooperative Group Housing Societies which have been allotted land by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for the construction of flats in Dwarka, Rohini and other places in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) during 1990 onwards;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that these societies have completed their construction work in their respective societies and informed the DDA authorities as well as the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi for draw of lots for their flats;
- (c) if so, whether both the authorities have cleared the issue of lots of these societies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, society-wise;
- (e) if not, the reason for delay in this regard, society-wise; and

- (f) the time by which the draw of lots of these societies is likely to be cleared?

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

#### **Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana**

2700. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for the development of handicrafts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to which the funds were released under the aforesaid scheme during the last three years and current year particularly in Maharashtra, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) the manner in which funds were utilized by these organizations; and
- (e) the details of funds not utilized by the NGOs indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The scheme aims at organizing artisans into Self Help Groups/Federations and developing these artisans clusters into professionally managed and self-reliant community enterprises on the principles of effective member cooperation. The thrust of the scheme is on a projectised need based integrated approach for sustainable handicrafts development through participation of craftspersons leading to their empowerment. These cluster groups are supported by providing assistance through various Implementing Agencies like Handicraft Development Corporations, Apex Societies, NGOs etc. The assistance is provided for different activities broadly grouped as Social, Technological, Marketing and Financial Interventions.
- (c) The number of Non Governmental Organizations to which the funds were released during the last three years and current year, state wise and year-wise,

including the State of Maharashtra, is in the Statement enclosed.

accordance with the procedure and guidelines of the scheme.

(d) The funds are utilized by the organizations in

(e) No such instance has been reported so far.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Non Governmental Organisations assisted under AHVY			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Feb '06)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	3	2	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	1
3	Assam	-	5	7	8
4	Bihar	6	2	3	4
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	1	-
6	Delhi	1	1	1	4
7	Goa	-	-	-	1
8	Gujarat	1	7	25	20
9	Haryana	1	1	2	2
10	Himachal Pradesh	-	3	3	1
11	Jammu and Kashmir	3	3	11	8
12	Jharkhand	5	2	2	1
13	Karnataka	4	2	3	2
14	Kerala	-	4	3	2
15	Madhya Pradesh	2	7	6	1
16	Maharashtra	1	3	1	-
17	Manipur	-	2	2	10
18	Meghalaya	-	1	-	-
19	Mizoram	-	-	-	1
20	Nagaland	-	2	2	2
21	Orissa	7	4	3	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
22	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
23	Punjab	1	1	1	1
24	Rajasthan	1	2	4	3
25	Sikkim	1	-	-	1
26	Tamil Nadu	-	1	4	1
27	Tripura	1	2	3	2
28	Uttar Pradesh	1	10	15	18
29	Uttaranchal	2	5	-	1
30	West Bengal	1	2	6	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108</b>

#### Cases In DRTs

2701. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed before Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) during the last three years and the quantum of money involved therein;

(b) the number of cases together with the amount involved therein decided by DRTs during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for slow progress in recovery; and

(d) the steps taken to accelerate the pace of recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) 25150 cases were filed before Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005 involving an amount of Rs. 62145.62 crores.

(b)

Financial Year	No. of cases disposed off	Amount involved (in crores of rupees)
2002-03	10233	12854.71
2003-04	10354	22817.04
2004-05	8988	19840.57

(c) Though the DRT Act provides that appeal against the decision of the DRT lies with the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT), in several cases the borrowers have filed Writ Petitions before the High Courts challenging the decision of the Tribunal or even the decision of the Recovery Officer. The other factors for delays include resistance and dilatory tactics adopted by borrowers and third party intervention (i.e. tenants, workers, shareholders, etc.)

(d) The issue of speedy disposal of pending cases in DRTs have been taken up with the Chairpersons of DRATs, who have been advised to review the progress of cases so as to reduce the number of cases pending in the DRTs. Efforts have also been made to fill up the vacancies of Presiding Officers and Recovery Officers in the DRTs.

[Translation]

#### Marketing of Products Produced by Self Help Groups

2702. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn up any plan to help the self help groups in marketing of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received

any proposal from State Governments particularly Maharashtra seeking subsidy for organising exhibition to market the products produced by the self help groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development help the Self Help Groups in marketing of their products by –

- (i) Organising national level (IITF SARAS) and regional SARAS fairs in various States of India.
- (ii) By improvisation of design of their products under Special Projects of SGSY i.e. National Institute of Fashion Technology etc.
- (iii) By helping in creating marketing infrastructure like the village haats in 8 States under SGSY Special Projects.
- (iv) By providing suitable training in accounts, marketing etc.
- (v) By helping them in e-commerce of their products.
- (vi) By providing Rs.5.00 lakh per DRDA annually under SGSY infrastructure fund.

However, all these efforts are executed and implemented by the State Governments and District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with help from the Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for organising additional Fairs in Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur has been received. However, as per the present policy of the Government, the Ministry of Rural Development grants financial assistance to State Governments for organising only one SARAS Fair in each State annually.

[English]

#### **Cost Limit of Rural Sanitation Programme**

2703. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objective behind launching Rural Sanitation Programme for construction of individual latrines, a Centrally sponsored programme;

(b) whether any prescribed rate limit has been fixed for construction of such latrines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the States are facing difficulties in the construction of such latrines due to increase in cost of building materials;

(e) if so, whether certain States have urged the Union government to raise the prescribed per unit cost limit along with the share of Union government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The main objectives of launching the rural sanitation programme are:

- i. To bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas.
- ii. To accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas.
- iii. To generate demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- iv. To cover schools/ Anganwadis in rural areas with sanitation facilities and promote hygiene education and sanitary habits among students.
- v. To encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies in sanitation.
- vi. To eliminate open defecation to minimize risk of contamination of drinking water sources and food.
- vii. To convert dry latrines to pour flush latrines, and eliminate manual scavenging practice, wherever in existence in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Unit cost and rates of subsidy for each type of toilet for constructions has been prescribed under the Total Sanitation Campaign Programme (TSC). These are given in the table below:

Basic Low Cost Unit Cost (BLCU) (Rs.)	Contribution		
	GOI	State	House hold
	BPL	BPL	BPL
Model 1 - Upto Rs. 625/- (single pit)	60%	20%	20%
Model 2 - Between Rs. 625/- and Rs. 1000/-	30%	30%	40%
Above Rs.1000/-	Nil	Nil	100%

(d) to (f) Many State Governments have urged the Union government to raise the unit cost and the subsidy for construction of household latrines. Some of the States are, Bihar, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, etc. The Union Government proposes to increase the unit cost of two models from Rs. 625/- to Rs.1500/- and from Rs.1000/- to Rs. 2000/- respectively.

#### Indo-China Co-operation In IT Sector

2704. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and China have decided to cooperate in production of low cost computers for their rural masses as well as for exports;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;
- (c) whether India has requested China to share their expertise in the hardware sector;
- (d) if so, the response of China thereto;
- (e) whether India has launched an ambitious plan to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural people;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the manner in which the agreement will help to bridge the gap between urban and rural people of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) During the course of

Minister's visit to China in July, 2000, an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for bilateral cooperation in the IT sector was signed between India and China, which, inter-alia includes computers and provides the scope for establishing manufacturing joint venture of information technology equipment.

The MOU has expired in July, 2005.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched the following programmes to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas:-

- NIC has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in North Eastern States with the objective of providing Internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks 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 (28), Nagaland (52), Tripura (29), Sikkim (40), Jammu & Kashmir (113) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2).

- E-Governance Scheme for development of Core infrastructure entitled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) covering 6000 Blocks, Tahsils and District Hqrs. was approved by the Government in March, 2005 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3334 crore for the entire country. Under the scheme, proposals from 20 States/UTs have already been sanctioned.
- Provision of Internet access and IT enabled services to the community at large and facilitating establishment of 100,000 Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country with Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) using 2 Mbps connectivity being provided through SWANs (State Wide Area networks) under its National e-Governance Plan.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) under its "Internet Dhaba" scheme, provides Internet

Access to franchisees of Internet Dhabas in the rural Block Headquarters. As on December 31, 2005, a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various States in the country.

- To enable wide proliferation of content development in Indian languages software tools and fonts in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, have been made available.
  - Media Lab Asia has initiated project on Rural Net and Rural Wi-Fi for the rural community.
- (g) No, Sir. No such agreement has been signed.

*[Translation]*

#### **Accounting System for Urban Local Bodies**

2705. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) has observed that the accounting system followed by urban local bodies is faulty and due to this development schemes of the local bodies are affected leading to misappropriation of large funds;

(b) If so, whether the Government is taking any action to replace the present accounting system; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Most of the urban local bodies (ULBs) are following cash-based single entry accounting system in which neither do they prepare an income and expenditure statement nor a balance-sheet. The annual account prepared by them reflects only cash flow, i.e. money actually received and spent during a financial year without taking into account the accrual income and outstanding liabilities pertaining to the year. The Eleventh Finance Commission in its report had, therefore, recommended that the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of India should exercise control and supervision over proper maintenance of accounts of ULBs and their audit. The C&AG, in turn, constituted a Task Force under the chairmanship of Deputy C&AG of India in February 2002 to recommend budget and accounting formats for ULBs in India.

In their report submitted in December, 2002, the Task Force recommended accrual based accounting system and suggested budget and accounting formats along with significant accounting policies, cost of important utilities and services and MIS reports. Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) circulated the report to all States for implementation in April, 2003. Further, MoUD in cooperation with C&AG has developed and circulated a National Municipal Accounts Manual in January, 2005 to help the States prepare their State-specific municipal accounts manual to adopt accrual based accounting system. MoUD has also been organizing national and regional workshops to help the States adopt recommended accounting system for their ULBs. Adoption of this accounting system would ensure proper financial reporting and assist ULBs access capital markets to meet their fund requirements. Moreover, the recommended accounting system would ensure transparency and accountability in ULBs. Most of the States have initiated action to adopt the accrual based accounting system for their ULBs. It is worth mentioning that Public Entry Accounting System has been made as one of mandatory reforms for ULBs under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for accessing central assistance.

*[English]*

#### **Basic Service Providers in Telecommunication**

2706. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether contribution of Basic Service Providers (BSPs) towards rural telephony has been dismal, rather negligible ever since private sector participation in telecommunication;

(b) If so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the obligations of BSPs towards rural telephony contemplated under New Telecom Policy (NTP) 1994 and 1999;

(d) the extent to which these obligations have been carried out by them; and

(e) the action taken against them for non-fulfilment and non-compliance of their obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Private sector participation in basic telecommunication services commenced in 1997-98. The contribution of Basic Service Providers (BSPs) towards rural telephony has not been dismal as rural teledensity has increased by more than four times from 0.43 in 1997-98 to 1.8 by December 2005.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to NTP-94 licences were issued in 1997-98 for Basic Services, which stipulated obligations in terms of Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The licences issued in 2001 stipulated obligations in terms of setting up of Point of Presence (PoP) in Short Distance Charging

Area (SDCA) in equal proportions in each category of urban, semi-urban and rural SDCAs in a service area. Further, consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) regime all private Basic Service Providers migrated to UASL regime on payment of requisite fees and their roll-out obligations were changed to the coverage of 50% of District Headquarters or any town in lieu thereof. The details of the obligations and performance are in Statement-I & II enclosed.

Liquidated Damage (LD) Charges to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered from six Private Basic Telephone Service operators for delay in commencement of service as well as delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) as per details are given in Statement-III enclosed.

**Statement-I**

**DEL and VPT Status of Old Private Basic Service Providers (1997-98)**

Item	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Madhya Pradesh	Tata Teleservices Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. (HUGES)	Reliance Telecom. Gujarat	Shyam Telelink Rajasthan	HFCL Infotel, Punjab	Total
Month of commencement of service	June 1998	March 1999	Oct 1998	May 2000	June 2000	Sept 2000	
No. of uncovered villages As on 15.8.2000	19188	6096	11091	6911 (4202)#	17338	Nil	60604
No. of VPTs Committed in first 3 years from effective date*	16500	9635	25760	8635	31834	5442***	97806
Cumulative No. of VPTs provided as on 31.10.2003	611	1408	2643	4114	3010	879	12665
No. of DELs Committed in first 3 years from effective date*	203516	300000	607900	288000	146909	525000	2017809
Cumulative No. of DELs provided as on 31.10.2003	228883	349231	379544	372809	103888	124673	

\* These commitments were to be met by 30-9-1998 in case of AP, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30-9-99 in case of Maharashtra. For MP and Rajasthan the same were to be completed by 30-9-2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively.

\*\* Figures are as reported by the licensees.

\*\*\* As all villages have been covered in Punjab by BSNL, the faulty MARRs are replaced by the private licensees.

# In Gujarat 4202 are the villages which do not have a telecom facility. 2709 villages have phones but not a public phone.

**Statement-II***Number of DELs & VPTs provided by Basic Service Licensees as on 31st Oct. 2003*

Name of Company	Service Areas	DELs			VPTs	No. of SDCAs in which PoP set up (Total No. of SDCA)			
		Wireline	Wireless			Total	Urban	Semi-urban	Rural
			FWT	Handheld					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	180	84548	43390	108118	NIL	14(25)	26(104)	1(1)
	Karnataka	644	73577	45297	119518	NIL	5(22)	27(136)	4(22)
	Andhra Pradesh #	115955	102705	130571	349231	1408	12(32)	0(141)	0(70)
	Gujarat	4541	49476	32178	86193	NIL	9(21)	20(126)	3(14)
	Delhi	4272	52097	96568	152937	NIL	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)
	Total	125592	342403	348002	815997	1408	41(101)	73(507)	8(107)
M/s Bharti Teletel Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh #	200825	28058	0	228883	611	16(23)	11(283)	0(55)
	Haryana	64333	0	0	64333	NIL	5(10)	7(34)	2(11)
	Delhi	89466	0	0	89466	NIL	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)
	Tamil Nadu	100408	0	0	100408	NIL	6(25)	16(104)	0(1)
	Karnataka	60553	0	0	60553	NIL	6(22)	21(136)	0(22)
	Total	495585	28058	0	523643	611	34(81)	55(557)	2(89)
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	61476	10785	31427	103688	3010	13(14)	13(168)	2(76)
M/s Tata Teleservices Maharashtra( Ltd.	Maharashtra #	210849	81150	87545	379544	2643	12(27)	0(202)	10(77)
M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab #	79931	19876	24866	124673	879*	10(11)	25(42)	1(2)
Telecom Ltd./ M/s Reliance	Gujarat#	180	24204	348245	372609	4114	21(21)	80(126)	12(14)
	Andhra Pradesh	0	10590	426102	436692	NIL	20(32)	129(141)	45(70)
	Karnataka	0	6855	372584	379439	NIL	16(22)	101(136)	16(22)
	Maharashtra	0	44495	838040	882535	NIL	14(27)	141(202)	42(77)
	Punjab	0	6043	243142	249185	NIL	8(11)	34(42)	2(2)
	Rajasthan	0	3809	135717	139526	NIL	6(14)	78(168)	32(76)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Orissa	0	3369	46682	50051	NIL	6(7)	42(89)	3(24)
	Madhya Pradesh	0	4194	140759	144953	NIL	10(23)	127(283)	24(55)
	Tamil Nadu	0	8387	591926	600313	NIL	23(25)	99(104)	1(1)
	Bihar	0	140	60691	61031	NIL	6(15)	62(135)	15(29)
	West Bengal	0	23005	282577	305582	NIL	10(16)	26(41)	11(16)
	Kerala	0	13782	239121	252903	NIL	12(12)	29(29)	17(17)
	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	8133	203501	211634	NIL	9(18)	63(127)	10(19)
	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	1680	1680	NIL	0(1)	5(25)	2(7)
	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	1267	136862	140129	NIL	14(21)	42(76)	4(6)
	Haryana	0	878	91835	92713	NIL	9(10)	33(34)	11(11)
	Delhi	0	40774	592936	633710	NIL	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)
	Total	160	199925	4754600	4954685	4114	185(276)	1091(1756)	247(446)
	Grand Total		973593	682197	5246440	8902230	12665		

\* Licence issued in 1997-98 with roll-out conditions of DELs & VPTs.

Rest licences issued in 2001 with roll-out conditions of setting up of POP in SDCAs.

\* Replacement of VPTs as all villages were covered by 15.08.2000.

Figures are as reported by the licensees.

### Statement-III

#### Details of LD charges from six old private Basic Service Operators

Name of the operator	Service Area	Month of commencement of service	Total LD Charged for non commissioning of service & delay in provision VPTs and DELs (In crores of Rs.)	LD for delay in provision of VPT and DEL (In crores of Rs.)	LD Charged for non commissioning of service (In crores of Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bharti TeleNet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	June 1998	4.00	4.00	NIL
Tata Teleservices	Andhra Pradesh	March 1999	13.00	6.50	6.50
Hughes Tele.com	Maharashtra	October 1998	7.75	6.50	1.25
Reliance Telecom	Gujarat	May 2000	13.00	6.50	6.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
Shyam Telelink	Rajasthan	June 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
HFCL Infotel	Punjab	Sept., 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>53.75</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>22.25</b>

*[Translation]***Mobile Services**

2007. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have provided the mobile services in all districts and tehsil headquarters in each state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of districts in each state where the services have not been extended; and

(d) the time by which the mobile services will be extended to all the districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched its cellular mobile service in 2002 and is progressively covering all the District Headquarters (DHQs). BSNL has so far covered 591 District Headquarters and 2381 Tehsil Headquarters in the country.

The mobile service is not presently extended to nine DHQs—one DHQ in J&K, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura, two DHQs in Nagaland and three DHQs in Arunachal Pradesh.

BSNL has plans to cover remaining District Headquarters during next financial year subject to security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs for the DHQs falling in buffer zone of the international border.

*[English]***Agreement between India and Russia**

2708. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have reached an agreement under which India will reimburse its one billion dollar debt to Moscow, which will then invest the funds into the Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No agreement has been reached between India and the Russian Federation on any change to the arrangement contained in the Letters of Exchange of January 28, 1993.

**Accommodation for Kendriya Bhandar**

2709. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Bhandar does not have any accommodation of its own and was allotted Government accommodation in 1963 under a cabinet decision to run its outlets for the benefit of Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the accommodation from them without providing alternative accommodation/land;

(d) if so, is there any proposal to reconsider the decision and allow Kendriya Bhandar to retain Government accommodation on normal rental;

(e) whether Kendriya Bhandar has asked for allotment of Government land on rates at which land was allotted to other institutions like newspaper etc. at nominal prices to build their infrastructure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and

(b) In accordance with the cabinet decision of 1963, it was decided to allot suitable General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) to run Kendriya Bhandar outlets under the aegis of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, on payment of normal licence fee of Re. 1/- per month plus charges for services. Kendriya Bhandar was set up with the objective of providing consumer goods of daily necessity at reasonable prices. It also continues to sell a wide range of stationery and office equipment to the Government offices. Prior to 1.5.2003, it was selling commodities under the Public Distribution System. It has, since, diversified its activities to offer a large range of products, particularly consumer durables to meet the expanding market for such goods. As Kendriya Bhandar had a role in the Public Distribution System, units of accommodation were allotted over the years to Kendriya Bhandar in Delhi and some other places, for opening and running retail outlets in various Government housing colonies.

(c) The matter regarding continued allotment of Residential accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar was reviewed in October, 2005 and it was decided that accommodation allotted to Kendriya Bhandar at various places shall be got vacated in a phased manner over a period of three years.

(d) At present there is no proposal under consideration to withdraw the decision to get the accommodation vacated from Kendriya Bhandar.

(e) and (f) A request dated 9.11.2004 was received from Kendriya Bhandar for allotment of 1500 sq meter of land in Rouse Avenue or any other location in Central Delhi. However, no land has been allotted to Kendriya Bhandar so far.

#### **Removal of Superstitions**

2710. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific project aimed at developing scientific temper to fight against superstitions especially in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as a part of such projects, the Government is proposing to involve NGOs in this task; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, Government is committed to stimulating scientific temper and fighting superstitions. Increased level of awareness through education, exposing scientific principles behind tricks used by fraudsters, developing capacity for understanding cause and effect in sequential events etc., are objectives addressed through mass media as well as field demonstrations. Training of resource persons and demonstrations for common people have been organized through over 15 NGOs in 20 states/ union territories. Using competent and committed NGOs, such efforts have over the past two decades resulted in perceptible increase in the level of understanding of science among people.

12.01 hrs.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

*[Translation]*

THE 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 the following on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3947/06]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3948/06]

- (3) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3949/06]

- (4) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer

Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3950/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): On behalf of Shri Lalu Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 66(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3951/06]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3952/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3953/06]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Statement alongwith Award of Board of Arbitration (Hindi and English versions) regarding rejection of Board of Arbitration Award C.A. Reference No.2 of 2002 – Grant of HRA to Central Government employees for the period from 1.1.1996 to 31.7.1997 at the pre-revised rates but with reference to revised pay under clause 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3954/06]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3955/06]

- (3) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3956/06]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.70 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2006, approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Leave Travel Concession) Amendment Regulations, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3957/06]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, for the year 2004-2005.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3958/06]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3959/06]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3960/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3961/06]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3962/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3963/06]

- (3) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3964/06]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3965/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3966/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and

Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, 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. L.T. 3967/06]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3968/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3969/06]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3970/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and

Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3971/06]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, 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. L.T. 3972/06]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2003-2004.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3973/06]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3974/06]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2004-2005.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3975/06]

- (13) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism and Culture for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3976/06]

- (14) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3977/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3978/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3979/06]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, 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. L.T. 3980/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Nainital, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Nainital, 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. L.T. 3981/06]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3982/06]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3983/06]

- (9) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3984/06]

- (10) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Ocean Development for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3985/06]

- (11) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Ocean Development for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3986/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3987/06]

- (2) A copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3988/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-2005.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3989/06]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3990/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India -Union Government (Commercial) (No. 13 of 2006) – Telecommunications Sector – Transaction Audit Observations (Regulatory Audit) for the year ended the 31st March, 2005 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3991/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:-
  - (i) S.O. 1743 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four laning or six laning) of National Highway No. 25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
  - (ii) S.O. 1674 (E) and 1675 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th November, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 58 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
  - (iii) S.O. 1817 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3992/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Planning Commission for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3993/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-
  - (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations,



2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 38 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2006.

- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Custodian of Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 39 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2006.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Venture Capital Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 93 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3994/06]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

- (i) S.O. 4468 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 4469 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. 4674 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000 to 2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. 4675 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh" under

section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.

- (v) S.O. 4676 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2005 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3995/06]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-

- (i) G.S.R. 81 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 90 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 42/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (iii) G.S.R. 91 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Special CVD of 4% on all imported goods in lieu of State Taxes/VAT.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3996/06]

(4) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R 83(E) to G.S.R. 89(E) and G.S.R. 92 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes in the context of the Budget proposals announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2006, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3997/06]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 82 (E)

(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify the date for fixation of tariff value on Vanaspati as 1st March, 2006, issued under section 133 of the Finance Act, 2003

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3998/06]

- (6) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R 93(E) to G.S.R. 114(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise Duty changes and exemption in context of Budget proposals pertaining to indirect taxes as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2006, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3999/06]

- (7) A copy each of the Notification Nos. G.S.R 115(E) to G.S.R. 121(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding certain changes made in service tax in the context of Budget proposals as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2005, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4000/06]

- (8) A copy of the Draft Notification No. F.No. 15/2004-BOA (Hindi and English versions) granting exemption to the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) from application of section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for acquiring 100% shares of Bharat Overseas Bank Limited under sub-section (2) of section 53 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4001/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4002/06]

12.04 hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2005-2006):

- (1) Twenty-sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the 62nd Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Ganga Action Plan".
- (2) Twenty-seventh Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Non-disposal of uncleared/unclaimed imported cargo in ICDs/CFSs".

12.05 hrs.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Imtiaz Maqbool, President of L.N.M.U. Dental Students Federation on behalf of all the Degree Holders/Students of the Three Dental Colleges of Darbhanga, Bihar requesting for taking concrete steps for recognition of the B.D.S. Degrees by the Dental Council of India, awarded to students of different dental colleges of Darbhanga, Bihar by L.N. Mithila University.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4003/06]

12.05½ hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the 11th, 12th and 13th Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance

[English]

\*THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained

\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4004/06.

in the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 01.09.2004.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and laid its Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports on the Table of Lok Sabha on 25.02.2005. These Reports contain a number of recommendations on the proposals contained in the said Bills. All the recommendations of the Committee on the three Bills were considered by the Ministry of Company Affairs. Subsequently, the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2003, Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2003 were withdrawn and fresh Amendment Bills viz., the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005, the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2005 containing proposals of the Government, prepared after taking into account the recommendations of the Committee, were introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 6.12.2005 and were passed by the Rajya Sabha on 13.12.2005 after due consideration. These Bills were passed by Lok Sabha with amendments on 23.12.2005 and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for concurrence. Rajya Sabha at their sitting held on 20th February, 2006 agreed to the amendments made by the Lok Sabha and also made further amendments. The Lok Sabha at their sitting held on 3rd March, 2006 agreed to further amendments made by the Rajya Sabha.

12.06 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the 6th and 11th Reports of the Standing Committee on Urban Development on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation**

[English]

\*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of your new direction, which reads as under:-

\* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4005/06.

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally related Standing Committee of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry".

2. I would like to inform for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members of the House that the 6th report of the Standing Committee of the 14th Lok Sabha on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation was presented to the Lok Sabha on 21st April, 2005. There were 30 recommendations made in this Report. Action taken notes on these recommendations were submitted by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation to the Standing Committee on 30.9.2005.
3. After considering the action taken notes on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report furnished by the Ministry, the Standing Committee presented its 11th Report in the House on 1.12.2005.
4. Mr. Speaker, Sir, All the 30 recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government. Status of action taken on recommendations of the Standing Committee accepted by the Government has been indicated against each recommendation in the enclosed statement. I would like to inform the Members that further follow up action wherever necessary, will be taken.

12.06 ½ hrs.

- (iii) **Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the First and Fifth Reports of Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Demands for Grants**

[English]

\*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Suresh Pachouri, I rise to lay this statement that the

\* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4006/06.

Standing committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 25 recommendations in its First Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. I had informed this Hon'ble House on 13.5.2005, that out of 25 recommendations made in its First Report, 8 recommendations had already been implemented. In regard to the remaining 17 recommendations, Sir, with your permission I lay 2 Statements on the Table of the House. Statement No.1 indicates that 10 of these recommendations have since either been implemented or no further action remains to be taken on them. Statement No.2 lists the status of remaining 7 recommendations, which are still in various stages of implementation. The progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

Sir, with your kind permission I further state that the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 32 recommendations in its 5th Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. To apprise the Hon'ble Members of the present status of implementation of these recommendations, Sir, with your permission, I lay two more Statements on the Table of the House, i.e. Statement No.3 and Statement No.4. The Statement No.3 indicates the recommendation of the Committee, which have either been implemented or where no further action remains to be taken. Statement No.4 lists the status of the remaining recommendations, which are in various stages of implementation. The progress of implementation of these recommendations of the Committee is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

12.07 hrs.

**MATTER UNDER RULE 377\***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day, may please be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to enhance Minimum Support Price of cotton in the country.**

[Translation]

SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of cotton growers of Haryana and Punjab. Cotton growers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce and therefore are reeling under the burden of debt. Farmers are incurring losses instead of earning profit from agriculture. The Farmers are on the verge starvation, poverty and haplessness. Last year, the Minimum Support Price declared for cotton was Rs. 1800 per quintal, which was insufficient. The farmers were unable to repay the debt. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to satisfy the hunger of his countrymen, himself remains empty stomach and toils hard mixing his blood with sweat and despite all this he is reeling under the burden of debt. In the last few years, many farmers have committed suicide due to increasing debt burden. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the seeds of Bt. Cotton cost Rs. 2000, D.A.P./Urea Fertilizer cost Rs. 1500, pesticide spray cost Rs. 3000, Labour/sowing costs Rs. 1000 irrigation/water costs Rs. 1000 and labour of farmer in terms of money costs Rs. 2000. Mr. Speaker, Sir in total around 11 thousand rupees are spent on an acre. Today, cultivation of cotton is proving to be loss-making deal for the cotton growers.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Government that in view of the problems of the farmers, the Minimum Support Price of the cotton should be enhanced upto Rs 3000 per quintal, so that the farmers could get relief.

- (ii) **Need to construct toilets in every village under Total Sanitation Scheme of the National Rural Health Mission**

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): The National Rural health Mission is a laudable concept because it seeks to increase public expenditure on health and correct the imbalance in our health care system. Even though more than seventh per cent of our population lives in the rural areas, only a quarter of that has access to health care system. The 25% of our population that is urban in character has access to 75% of the benefits of our health care system. The UPA Government therefore deserves to be complemented for this concept in the Rural Health Mission.

The Mission includes a Total Sanitation Scheme which, among other things, provides for toilets in individual households. This is indeed a commendable objective as it will be a major step towards providing our rural folk with

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

modern amenities. The lack of this facility poses a big convenience to our womenfolk apart from being a drawback in our sanitation system. But providing these facilities will take time. Even as steps are taken towards achieving this target it is suggested that public toilets should be provided. It will be possible to plan and build them in much less time. For this, suitable public land should be identified for the toilets to be built in every village. They will plug a big gap in our rural sanitation system and form a legitimate part of the Mission.

I request the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to kindly consider this proposal positively.

**(iii) Need to introduce circular trains linking Guntur, Tenali and Krishna Canal in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Railway Minister to the following problems:-

(1) There is a long pending demand from the people in the three towns of Guntur, Tenali and Krishna Canal for introduction of circular trains. However, the proposal cannot be implemented unless the track is doubled and electrified. Thus the request for doubling of tracks between Guntur-Tenali and electrification between Guntur-Krishna Canal, Guntur-Tenali is pending.

(2) A feasibility survey for doubling of track and electrification between Nallapadu (Guntur) and Pagidipalli (Bibinagar) stations was conducted long ago. However, no further actions taken so far.

(3) In view of the heavy road traffic in some parts of the Guntur city and on a persistent demand from the people of the area I had been from time to time requesting for construction of Railway Bridges at two important locations, viz. LC gate No. 312, Pattabhipuram, Guntur, and LC Gate No. 25 at Nehru Nagar, Guntur. For both these locations, even the Municipal Corporation of Guntur had agreed to share the cost with Railways on 50:50 basis. However, the people are dejected as none of the proposal has been taken up for implementation, so far. To release the heavy road traffic congestion at these two locations, sanction for construction of proposed RUB at these points is necessary.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly accord approval to the above proposal at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to take steps for revival of Cachar Sugar Mill in Chargola, Karimganj district, Assam**

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): Cachar Sugar Mill, a unit of AIDC, was established in 1976 as a PSU in Chargola a very backward area under Karimganj district in Assam. The production commenced in 1978 and made a record of crushing 55,000 MT of sugarcane in 1983. This Sugar mill provided indirect employment to about 1000 people in cultivation of sugarcane, and direct employment to another few hundreds in production and distribution of sugar. But unfortunately the mill was closed down in 1986. Later the mill was taken over by a private company on a temporary MOU with AIDC and started production in 1999, but it also could not continue due to difficulties in infrastructure for marketing and the mill was reverted to AIDC in the later part of 1999 itself. Now over the years about 55,000 acre of land belonging to the mill for production of sugarcane is massively encroached. Buildings and factory of the mill are within a campus of 100 acre and facing rapid depreciation. Machines are also missing due to inadequate vigilance. These assets worth about Rs. 15 crores at present market value, which are being idly depreciated, if utilized, it could also contribute to the increase of GDP for the nation and improve the economic condition of the local people by generating a large number of employment along with its growth.

I request the Government to take appropriate action to revive this mill.

**(v) Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Jharkhand.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the state of Jharkhand is a hilly area. The ground water level over there is far below. Due to last year's drought, the water level has gone down further. All schemes of the State Government related to potable water are proving a failure. Hand pumps, wells, ponds, rivers drains etc. are dried up even before the arrival of summer season. Drinking Water Supply from Mathane Dam to Dhanbad Coalfields, Chas Prakhand, Potable water Scheme from Damodar and other Potable water supply schemes like Gawai Barrage Scheme are lying incomplete. It means that potable water crisis is taking the form of a natural calamity on arrival of summer season in Jharkhand. The State Government is neither sensitive towards this

possible calamity, nor is attentive towards any Exigency Management Scheme. The State Government has started the Scheme of construction of ponds under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for 100 days, but there is no question of getting water from that pond. Since potable water problem is directly related to the common people, therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government to be attentive about the problem likely to occur in the near future.

Therefore, I demand from the Government to take stock of the situation by sending a Central team of experts to Jharkhand and to ensure potable water supply to the state from Exigency Fund by bringing drinking water problem under natural calamity management.

**(vi) Need to expedite opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Gopeshwar in Chamoli district, Uttaranchal.**

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last NDA Government had granted permission for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Gopeshwar in Chamoli district, Uttaranchal. But, even after a lapse of two years, the said Vidyalaya has not been opened at Gopeshwar Headquarters. Correspondence was made with the concerned Minister and Head of Departments in this regard, but till now the Government has not taken any action in regard to opening of this Vidyalaya. I would like to urge the Government to immediately open this Vidyalaya, so that local people are benefited from it.

**(vii) Need to provide special grants to the institutions engaged in promotion of Gandhian Philosophy in Gujarat**

*[English]*

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): The Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2006-2007, has declared special grant to two Gandhian Institutions to promote Gandhian Philosophy. It is very disheartening to know that no institution from Gujarat where Gandhiji was born has been considered for development.

I request the Government to consider "Smriti Mandir" the birth place of Mahatma Gandhiji at Porbandar, 'Rashtriya Shala' at Rajkot where Gandhiji started his initial non-violence movement and Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad for special grant to promote Gandhian ideology.

**(viii) Need to formulate a policy for the benefit of farmers cultivating mustard in Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, sir, there is a probability of bumper mustard crop this year in Rajasthan. But there seems to be no end to the farmer's woes. As you are aware that the produce of mustard has arrived in Kota mandi in January itself and mustard procured last year by the Union Government is still lying in the godowns. The farmers are not having cold storage facility and they are likely to suffer heavy losses due to it.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to restart the closed Oil mills of the state so that people may get employment and farmers get benefit. Cold storages should be arranged for farmers and a mustard policy should be formulated to manage its production and delivery so that farmers' problems could be readdressed.

**(ix) Need to release funds for completion of gauge conversion work on Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana rail sections**

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for gauge conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sidulpur-Hissar and Ratangarh-Degana rail sections of North-Western Railway is pending for last many years. Due to the doubling work of Delhi-Rewari rail line, the movement of trains has been restricted to Rewari only. Due to this a large part of Rajasthan has been cut off from Delhi. After the sanction of Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Hissar gauge conversion, a nominal financial provision has been made for it and due to this the people of the said area are agitated. The High court, Jodhpur has also issued orders of gauge-conversion in this regard. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to make full budgetary provisions for the gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Hissar rail section and to give relief to the people of this area by giving approval for the remaining section of Sadulpur-Bikaner, Ratangarh-Degana line.

**(x) Need to implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in Jalore Parliamentary Constituency and other parts of Rajasthan**

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the August House and the Government towards utter

poverty, illiteracy prevalent in Dalits and tribal communities and lack of health facilities in my home State Rajasthan and my parliamentary constituency, Jalore. No improvement is seen in the plight of the dalits in Rajasthan even after five decades of independence. Most of them are living below poverty line. The condition of the tribal communities is even worse. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had conducted a survey on health and malnutrition among the privileged tribal groups of Saharias in Rajasthan recently. The survey revealed that more than 80 percent of Saharias are living below the poverty line and the rate of malnutrition and ailments among them is much higher. The same is the case with dalits, backwards and other tribal communities. Their financial condition has to be improved to remove malnutrition in them.

I therefore, demand that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme may be implemented immediately in entire Rajasthan. The whole Rajasthan remains in the grip of Malaria. A comprehensive Malaria Control Programme should also be implemented in the State. Dalits and tribal communities inhabit in backward and remote areas, so, they should be provided medicines and treatment through mobile dispensaries and the children and women should invariably be given Iron and Vitamin capsules. Central grants should be provided to the Government of Rajasthan to implement these schemes so that dalits and tribals could get the required relief.

**(xi) Need to clear the proposals of the Government of Kerala relating to development of tourism in the state**

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The immense potential of Kerala in the tourism sector is yet to be exploited. Trivandrum has excellent potential for all kinds of tourism products due to the climate, International Airport, health tourism including Ayurveda and all other facilities related to tourism.

In Kerala, tourism sector plays an important role in local economic development and contributes a significant share of the State economy. The tourism sector is identified as an alternative economic growth source for the State and the state capital, Trivandrum functions mostly as a transit point for domestic and foreign tourists.

The Kovalam-Poovar sector is fast growing as the tourism hub of the state. The proposal submitted by the

State Government 1) for setting up of an International Convention Complex and 2) to declare the beach front of Poovar-Kovalam sector as a Tourism Economic Zone (both at Trivandrum) have not yet been considered favourably for inexplicable reasons. I request hon'ble Minister of Tourism/Commerce to sanction these projects and to formulate schemes in collaboration with the state Government to make the most of these nature's gifts.

**(xii) Need to enact a legislation providing for conversion of Tripura University Into a Central University**

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): The people of Tripura and the State Government have long been demanding for conversion of Tripura University into a Central University. The Tripura University was established in 1987. But due to paucity of Funds it has not been possible to develop necessary infrastructure and diversify the courses to provide quality education, academic excellence and innovative research and development programme. There are Central Universities in the North-East Region at Kohima, Silchar, Tezpur, Aizwal and Shillong which are in better position to provide infrastructure and academic facilities mainly because of Central funding. This peculiar situation has created huge imbalance in educational facilities within the region. Recently, Manipur University has been converted into a Central University. Considering the backward and remoteness of Tripura, it is urgently necessary to convert the Tripura University into a Central University to minimize the imbalance in educational facilities available in the North-Eastern region. I, therefore, strongly demand that the Union Government should introduce a Bill in this session with a view to convert the Tripura University into a Central University.

**(xiii) Need to improve the functioning of the Gramin Banks in the country**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker. Sir, the loan amount is constantly being increased in the agriculture sector by the Government over the years, but the Government have grossly ignored the institutions providing loans and the procedure of receipt of the loans. Loan can be provided only by the rural banks for agriculture but, it is a matter of regret that the Government, willy-nilly, are reducing the number of the branches of these banks gradually. This number has been reduced from 196 to 152. These rural banks have deposited Rs. 68,000 crore from the rural zones during the last years and also disbursed Rs. 35,000 crore. The recoveries of the loans

by these banks are upto 78 percent, while the percentage of NPA is 9 percent only. The annual profit of these banks is almost hundred percent after fulfilling social obligations. The existing system of these banks requires comprehensive information. In the years 1993 and 2003, the Government committees had submitted their recommendations to the Government in this regard, but the Government have not taken any step in this direction, rather they have reduced the number of the branches.

I, therefore, request the Government that steps should be taken to improve the functioning of the Gramin Banks on the recommendations of the aforesaid Committees and the functioning of these banks made effective.

**(xiv) Need to create a forest reserve for protection of endangered species including 'Black Deer' at Chand Khamaria, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Black Deers, around 250 in number are found in Chand Khamaria under Menja Tehsil in Allahabad. So far as I know, Black Deers are found nowhere in India except Rajasthan. This species is one of the endangered species. If these are not protected, they will become completely extinct. Similarly, in the village Sallaiya Khurd in Menja Tehsil itself, thousands of migratory birds come here and stay in a huge pond located in the area. These two places are adjacent to each other.

I would like to submit that a forest reserve for the Black Deer and a Sanctuary for these birds should immediately be made so that they could be fully protected.

**(xv) Need for construction of a bridge on Bhuthi Valan river on Indo-Nepal border**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, NH-104 running parallel to Indo-Nepal Border is a highway of strategic importance, which is the lifeline of the people living alongside the border. The life of these people gets paralysed and transport modes get disturbed in the rainy season as there is no bridge over Bhuthi Valan river between 194 km and 195 km on the highway. For this reason, SSB, deputed by the Government of India finds it difficult to keep a vigil on Nepal border. The Detailed Project Report for the construction of this bridge has been sent to the Ministry for approval. I would like to state that the Government should take steps to initiate the construction work of bridge over Bhuthi Valan River on priority basis for the free flow of traffic on this part

of the highway keeping in view of the public interest and for the sake of border security.

**(xvi) Need to check the pollution caused by unauthorized slaughter houses and by effluents released from industrial units in Unnao Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my parliamentary constituency Unnao, in U.P. unauthorized slaughter houses are being run, and there is no veterinary authority present. Apart from this, industrial units situated there also are polluting the environment.

The people of my parliamentary constituency are very agitated at the unauthorized slaughtering of the animals and pollution caused thereby and also with the careless attitude of the industrial units towards the environmental laws. The public life has become very tough due to polluted atmosphere in the region.

I, therefore, would urge the Central Government, through this House, to constitute a high-powered committee at the ministerial level to look into the incidence of pollution being caused by industrial units in Unnao parliamentary constituency and by conducting surprise-checks of unauthorized slaughter-houses being operated in absence of veterinary doctors and also to take stern action against them.

**(xvii) Need to check import of duty free Vanaspati from neighbouring countries with a view to protect the interest of indigenous industry in the country**

*[English]*

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Sir, The Government has proposed to increase custom duty from 30% to 80% on vanaspati in order to protect the Vanaspati Industry. Sir, the said proposed increase has no meaning when already there is a policy to import vanaspati at 0% duty from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh who would like to import vanaspati from other countries at 30% or 80%. The proposed hike in custom duty does not deal with the issue of import of vanaspati at 0% duty from Sri Lanka/Nepal/Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the duty free vanaspati from Sri Lanka has resulted into closure of more than 120 units out of total of 260 units rendering thousands of workers, labourers



unemployed and affecting the farmers. The remaining units are at the verge of closure and reeling under pressure having capacity utilization of 20%.

Sir, the domestic industry can be benefited only if the Government puts certain kind of check on import of duty free vanaspathi from Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries.

I request the Government to look into the matter.

**(xviii) Need to include all the districts of Orissa in the 'Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme' with a view to accelerate the Socio-Economic development in the region**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Planning Commission, Government of India has been indicating that Central assistance would be provided under "Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)" to most backward districts in the country on the pattern of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Given the multifaceted backwardness and persistent chronic poverty prevalent in Orissa, there is a growing demand from the people for stepping up of developmental activities in all the districts of Orissa. On the basis of the criteria fixed by the Planning Commission, such as productivity of cereals, agricultural, wage rate and percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population, all the 30 districts should be included under Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme. All the 30 districts have high concentration of Scheduled Caste and or Scheduled Tribe population. Agricultural wage rates are very low and agricultural productivity is also very low. The yields of cereals population below poverty line as well as the depth of poverty is very alarming.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for substantial increase in public investment in all 30 districts of Orissa, especially Cuttack with a view to accelerate the socio-economic development. I urge upon the Government to include all the 30 districts of Orissa to be included in Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme (BRGF) from 2006-2007.

**(xix) Need to take steps for reopening of Punalur Paper Mills Limited in Kerala with a view to protect the interests of the workers of the company**

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): The Punalur Paper Mill, a private limited company established in the year 1876 by a European was taken over by Shri L.N. Dalmia in the year 1968.

The company was locked out in the year 1985 due to attachment of the properties of the mill for default of payment of Sales Tax, Employment Provident Fund, contribution to E.S.I, besides the repayment of loan availed from various financial agencies. On filing a suit by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation India Limited before the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, the court appointed Court Receiver to take charge of the company. From 08.05.86 onwards the Mill is under the charge of the Court Receiver.

Since 1986 several attempts were made to re-open the Mill. Lastly the Government of Kerala entered into an Agreement with the Management of the company in 2002 according to which the Management agreed to re-open the company. But unfortunately the Management did not take any step to re-open the company till this date. At the same time the Kerala Government could not take any step against the Management for violation of the agreement. By this time the employees numbering about hundred committed suicide due to financial constraints.

The ex-employees numbering about 1000 were entitled to get huge amount towards gratuity, provident fund, wage arrears, Bonus etc., at the time of closure of the company. They were very hopeful about re-opening of the mill, all these days. So it is submitted that the Union Government may kindly extend the helping hand to the ex-employees of Punalur paper Mills by way of either taking steps to reopen the Mill or to get their dues towards arrears of wages, Provident Fund, Gratuity etc., at the earliest.

**(xx) Need to release funds to the State Governments for providing better amenities to jail inmates**

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): I am to draw the attention of the Union Government through you, Sir, that the condition of prisons in India and the plight of the inmates are in a sorry state of affairs. Central Government should look into it. Jails of all States should be visited by the teams of Central Government. Very recently news regarding worst conditions of jails of the various States was in the newspaper. Security of jails should also be improved so that what happened in Bihar is not repeated. Recently, I was imprisoned for some political activity and kept in Vellore Jail in Tamil Nadu. There I happened to see a lot of inhuman activities. Mainly the quality of the food serviced to the prisoners drew my attention. Norms should be made and the implementation should be monitored. New laws should be enacted in tune with the

times and the prisoners should be given a human touch. Jails should become an eye opener to such elements by imparting periodical lectures by eminent people to create a spark in their thinking with a positive note. There are so many welfare organizations/NGOs who are ready to preach them the values of life by organizing meditation camps. Jails should act in a way to transform the life of the culprits who are prisoners by the influence of time and atmosphere. When they come out of jail they should come out as new and good persons and thus live as good citizens. Their time spent in prisons can be well utilized by teaching them some vocational courses; they can also earn their own living. Lastly, I request you Sir, to form a new panel of eminent people from all walks of life and with their knowledge and guidelines, the present scenario, as explained may be improved. Union Government should issue guidelines to all State Government in this regard and also monitor the implementation of the guidelines. Union Government should give more funds to State Governments to improve the conditions of jails and also some Central force should also be provided for security of jails in States.

12.08 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET, 2006-2007 –  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

**(Ministry of Rural Development) – contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demands Nos. 78 to 80 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I want to raise a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. You may raise it tomorrow, but not today.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the acts of victimisation by the Rajasthan Government against the Emanuel Mission are continuing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kurup, please sit down. You may take this issue tomorrow, not today. It has already been

decided in the Leaders Meeting that this issue would not be taken up today. I cannot make an exception.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not worry; I am not allowing him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader has also agreed to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word of him is being recorded. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kurup, please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kurup, it has already been agreed to by your leader.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kurup, if you do not cooperate, I will adjourn the House and go away. I have said repeatedly that I would not allow you to raise it today, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, please sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been agreed that all the matters of urgent public importance would be taken up tomorrow. We would try to accommodate all the hon. Members. Please cooperate.

Today, very important Demands for Grants are going to be discussed. Please cooperate.

\* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kurup, if you do not cooperate, I would have to adjourn the House and go away. If the Leaders' decisions are not being carried out by the Members, then I shall stop calling the meetings of the leaders in the House.

The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 78 to 80 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case, any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

These three Demands i.e., Demands No. 78 to 80 will be discussed till 6 p.m. As the Members are already aware, guillotine will take place at 6 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasmunsi, do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I want to make a small submission.

I will be thankful to the entire House today if, through you, Sir, a ration, with regard to time is followed. I request all the Leaders of Parties and the Chief Whips to kindly extend a special support to the Treasury Benches today because the List of Business for Today indicates that at 6 o'clock, we have to apply 'guillotine' for all the outstanding Demands. So, I request, through you, Sir, the Chief Whips of all the Parties to ration the time of the speakers who would participate in this discussion in such a way that we accommodate them so that the hon. Minister could reply finally at 5 p.m. or 5.10 p.m. and everything is over before 6 o'clock; and the hon. Speaker can apply 'guillotine' at 6 o'clock. This is my only submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Third column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 78 to 80 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh wants to say something. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, I will call you after this.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you, to this august House, to leaders of all political parties and also to the Business Advisory Committee that a discussion on the wages and means of 74 crore population living in about six lakh villages of 66 districts in this country is likely to take place. It is a golden opportunity that the all-powerful House is going to discuss about crores of people living in rural India. Dr. Lohia used to advise to find out a leader who has strong concern for the public at large. Mahatma Gandhi would also say that only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. So to say, that the conditions of rural India are not perfectly known to all. We have to see that national progress is not possible without remembering Gandhian ways, without developing rural areas and upgrading the poor. I would like to tell the Members about the increase in the Rural Development Budget. Previously, there used to be an increase of only Rs. 1000-1500 crore in the Rural Development Budget, as in the year 2004-2005, the estimates were to the tune of Rs. 16000 crore and the revised estimates to the tune of Rs. 18000 crore. But in 2005-2006, it was increased upto Rs. 24000 crore from Rs. 16000 crore in the previous year. This year in 2006-2007, we have a budget of Rs. 31,700 crore. Previously, the expenditure on this subject used to be to the tune of Rs. 8000-10000 crore with rated increase of 5-10 % but recently we have registered 40-50% increase in the Rural Development Budget.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is very happy that his Ministry is being discussed today.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We have received the Demands involving an amount of Rs. 48000 crore this time, and we are very grateful to you and this august House that you have paid attention to an important and relevant subject like Rural Development. Our Finance Minister and Prime Minister have claimed that we have achieved a growth rate of 7-8% but as the UNDP has also accepted that until and unless our villages get rid of unemployment and poverty, progress of villages is not possible. Unless we make our rural areas prosperous, the nation wouldn't become prosperous.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He will be engaging all of us.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I, therefore, urge the hon. Members to make their valuable suggestions and direction to which we will be paying due attention.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let his budget be passed without discussion. We are satisfied.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If any hon. Member wants to submit his written speech, he can do so.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants in regard to the Ministry of Rural Development. This is a well-known fact that India is a vast country and the most of our population lives in villages. In other words, "India lives in villages."

So, Sir, it is but natural for us to ponder over the concerns of our villages. The budget of Ministry of Rural Development should also be discussed with the view whether the schemes being implemented benefit the Villagers, the poor, the backward, residents of remote hilly areas and SC/ST classes or not. This should be seen.

12.16 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Sir, it is true that the allocation for this purpose has been increased comparatively. The Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram mentioned in his speech about the

schemes of Rural Development while talking of 'Bharat Nirman Yojana'. I do not want to go into details, but though the allocation in the Budget for this purpose has been increased this time, and I am happy about that, yet regrettably some schemes initiated by the then NDA Government have been re-fabricated by name and the credit has been unduly taken.

Sir, many schemes have been merged with the Rashtriya Gramin Guarantee Yojana, which has been much boasted of. The 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana' and 'Food for Work' scheme are already under implementation. Now, a new scheme as amalgamation of many other schemes have been started with a propaganda that it will ensure a minimum of 100 days employment. I want the hon. Minister to arrange for the effective and definite implementation of this scheme. Only then, we will be able to provide employment in real sense to the rural public. I would like to briefly, point out the conditions in the life of rural areas and also about a few schemes.

Sir, first of all, the means of transportation is a must for rural areas. If we look at this and think of the road-links, we see that there exists 'Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana' started by the then NDA Government and the present Government has only talked of increasing some amount thereto. What is the status of that Scheme. Hon'ble Minister set up an Authority for roads which was called as National Rural Road Agency. Hon'ble Minister had recently mentioned about that in a programme also. I think that these schemes are of such a nature vide which if we have been successful in providing the transportation facilities then the articles prepared in villages, agriculture produces may reach the urban markets and the farmer shall be prosperous and benefited. Therefore, special attention should be paid in this matter. But the state of affairs is that the work of 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' which was started at a fast speed has since been slowed down. This slow down occurred because of lack of allocation. Hon'ble Minister had recently assured the House that there will be no scarcity of funds to this scheme and whatever amount will be required that will be released. I would like to urge that sufficient amount should be allocated for the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' started by the NDA Government so that all the villages should be inter-connected.

Sir, there are certain norms, guidelines of the scheme which required to be partially amended. In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister that as per the guidelines of that scheme connectivity

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

cannot be provided to a village from two sides, but if there is any path or road which provides connectivity from two sides and distance between two villages or the distance of a village from the main road or a general road is less and a distance of 15-20 kilometer is bypassed then the norm of two sides connectivity should be acceptable otherwise, this norm could be followed. Hence, I urge that if the villages are benefited, then the norms may be amended accordingly. These guidelines are meant for the roads to be constructed under 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, and National Rural Roads Development Agency. Their guidelines are required to be amended. There is a need to do some other amendments if there is any school building, temple or office of Gram Panchayat, or any 'Majra' of a village and they could be connected to the road, then no matter, whether the distance of road is 500 meters or 200 meters, they should be connected to roads. So please slightly amend its guidelines.

Sir, about the second scheme related to Rural Hygiene campaign, I would like to say that even after spending a lot of money under this scheme the work is not being done to the required extent under this scheme and you have also included the schools under the Rural Hygiene campaign. But what is the factual position, if I take a reference from the 14th Report of your Standing Committee on Rural Development, it has been mentioned at page 58 of the report that priority should be given to maintain hygiene in the schools of rural areas. But, unfortunately, it is not being done, you are requested to look into this matter and accord them priority. There is a need to reconsider the matter of allocation of funds under the hygiene campaign so that more funds could be distributed in a proper manner. One more observation made by the Committee is that we cannot make any contribution from MPLADS or Member of Parliament fund towards those schemes. Many a times there is a need to make some contribution under Rural Hygiene campaign or to provide drinking water in schools, but we are not able to make any contribution towards them. Please look into this matter. Along with rural hygiene you should also pay attention towards the health facilities in rural areas.

Alongwith that I would like to urge you further that hygiene and drinking water, both the problems are inter related. The problem of drinking water has been viewed from many angles. The Government have introduced the 'Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme' along with an already functional 'Swajaldhara' Scheme in the rural areas.

This 'Swajaldhara' Scheme was introduced by the NDA Government and the work of that scheme is also going on at a very slow pace. Under these schemes timely allocation is not made to the States. So, as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, I know that the State has still not got its share of allocation. I would like to submit that allocation should be made or the matter of ten per cent of contribution reconsidered. In several cases the Gram Panchayats are not functional and peoples' participation is not ensured because of which the required work is not done and benefits of 'Swajaldhara' Scheme is not realised. Presently, there are lakhs of villages which are still deprived of the facility of pure drinking water. Under the other programmes, where the Government provide the transportation facilities and maintain hygiene, would the Government also provide the facility of drinking water. Would the Government also like to review the Accelerated Water Supply Scheme regarding providing drinking water facility so that more and more people could be benefited from it.

There are some other welfare schemes like 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana' and 'Swajaldhara' Scheme. Would the Government like to pay some attention towards them also. I am speaking only keeping in mind the time. In addition to that we have some other schemes in this regard and we have also formed some self-help groups in the villages so that they can work themselves in future and there is a need to strengthen them further. Whatever schemes you have formulated aimed at providing the facilities of transportation, safe drinking water and maintain proper sanitation and provide electricity in the rural areas like the urban areas. All these schemes are urgently required to be implemented. Presently, there are several such villages where you may find electricity but if there is a small hamlet just half a kilometer away from the main village, there is no electricity. There are thousands of such villages where electricity has not reached as yet. You have mentioned about making allocation for Rural Electrification Scheme but factual position is that you are not concerned about Rural Electrification Scheme as less power is being generated nowadays. If power generation is increased then you will certainly be able to provide electricity but whatever electricity is available at present the work of rural electrification should be done expeditiously on that basis only. Electricity should be made available in the village dominated by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and hilly and remotely located villages where there is scarcity of electricity. If we are successful in fulfilling our promise of providing drinking water, roads, electricity and employment under Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme, then certainly we will be able to make the development of villages in the way as we perceive. There is also a need of strengthening Indira Avas Yojana.

I would not like to mention about the Governments other schemes for providing hostel facilities to the girl students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is a need of constructing the hostels and properly implement the 'Kishori Shakti Yojana', I am hopeful that you will implement this scheme. You have also mentioned about construction of watersheds in drought and flood prone areas. The works related to the schemes of watershed and water conservation is not going on properly. The agencies engaged in the works related to those schemes should be asked to expedite the work. If the agencies undertake their work in a proper manner then the schemes shall be beneficial. From that point of view I would like to remind you about which I have already called the attention of the Hon. Minister that in each state you have formed a Vigilance and Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of the hon. MPs, but the meetings of the said Vigilance and Monitoring Committee are not sometimes conducted timely. Secondly, the decision taken in those meetings are not implemented properly and timely, by the agencies of the state Government. There must be directions from the Central Government that the decisions taken by these Committees in these matters must be implemented so that all Central Government schemes, may it be Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna, Accelerated Water Supply scheme, Sampurna Gramin Safai Yojna or the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, its benefits must reach the common man.

12.26 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR)

Concluding, I would like to draw your attention to the 14th Report of the Rural Development Ministry. On page 34 of the Report it has been stated that villages should get safe drinking water. From the figures submitted by the department, the Committee found that even now the water is affected with the impurities like Arsenic, salinity, iron, fluoride, nitrogen etc. Madhya Pradesh is also one of the states worst affected by the drinking water problem in the rural areas. The Committee also found that presently, 15 per cent of the total money from Accelerated Rural Drinking Water Supply programme can be spent to solve the drinking water problem. Allocation for this purpose is insufficient and should be increased. We all want the development of

villages should be in a proper manner. There should be no gap between the rich and the poor. The rural and urban areas should have equal facilities. Village people think that they do not have any facilities. The village people should also feel that they do have facilities comparable to urban areas and the Government is concerned about them. The Government, people's representatives and common people should take part in the development of villages and extend the rural development programme. The schemes which I have mentioned, although you have rechristened the old schemes, but their proper implementation should be your concern.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to recollect the words of Mahatma Gandhi. He said that every village has to be self-sufficient to become a Republic. He also said that there is no *purna swaraj* without *gramin swaraj*. Undoubtedly, the UPA Government has allocated a huge amount for rural development. All together, the allocation for rural development is Rs. 31,400 crore including drinking water and sanitation. We have an allocation of close to Rs. 2900 crore for housing under IAY. We have an allocation of Rs. 15,300 crores for Gramin Sadak Yojana, Rs. 11,300 crores for National Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rs. 3000 crore for SJSY and Rs. 1,200 crore for SJRY. So, all put together, we have more than Rs. 31,400 crore of allocation for rural development. It is a remarkable increase compared to the earlier regime when only Rs. 10,400 crore was the overall allocation. This year, it is brought over to Rs. 31,400 crores. It is three times increase for rural development. But we want to understand the exact number of villages covered. Does this allocation fulfil the needs and aspirations of the people living in the rural areas of the country? No doubt, they have been called the sons of the soil. But that does not mean that they should keep toiling in the soil all through their life without basic infrastructure. This Government gives priority to this sector. It has been proving it not only in words but also in deeds that rural development has to be given priority. That is how, under Bharat Nirman, they have identified 15 lakh houses to be constructed in the entire nation. I would say that in Andhra Pradesh alone, the figure is 15 lakh houses a year. That means, on an all-India basis, we need to make the number of houses to more than one crore because that is the requirement in the country today.

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

Why do we need to increase the allocation? It is because a reasonable man always adapts to the circumstances, but an unreasonable man would always like the circumstances to adapt to his needs. Here, standing in this august House, I would like to say that we have to be unreasonable when it comes to the question of demanding grants, especially for the Ministry of Rural Development. Of course, I know that the hon. Minister has always been demanding more grants. In fact, he had demanded an allocation of Rs. 46,000 crore in this Budget. But he is still fortunate to get Rs. 31,400 crore because that outlay is the biggest outlay than any other Ministry or Department has got. Still we need to see as to how to increase the allocation to this Ministry.

This Ministry has also got a plan to connect every village through roads, which has a habitation of more than 500 people. To do that we need a huge outlay. The Ministry itself has estimated that it needs Rs. 1,42,000 crore in order to connect all the villages and also to upgrade the existing roads. But for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana the allocation is only Rs. 5,300 crore. Undoubtedly it is much more than what the NDA Government has allocated. They had allocated only Rs. 2,300 crore. This Government has increased that to Rs. 5,300 crore, which is a quantum jump of Rs. 3,000 crore, compared to earlier allocation.

For drinking water scheme, this Budget has allocated Rs. 4,700 crore and for sanitation it is Rs. 720 crore. Put together it comes to nearly Rs. 5,400 crore. This is excluding Rs. 600 crore allocation made in this regard. So, it means drinking water and sanitation schemes alone has got Rs. 6,000 crore. But if you divide that by the number of habitations, it comes to a very meagre amount. We have about 12 lakh habitations, if we take into consideration panchayats and other satellite areas. So, it means every village will get only Rs. 50,000 for drinking water and sanitation schemes, which is not at all enough. That is because every village needs overhead tanks, pipeline connection and source for the water supply. Even though the allocation has been increased, still it is not quite enough to satisfy the needs and fulfil the aspirations of our rural population.

We have launched another important Programme, that is National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. Undoubtedly it is a unique Programme and first of its kind. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was instrumental in launching this Programme. When the hon. Prime Minister launched this Programme, he announced an allocation of Rs. 11,300

crore. It covers only 200 districts for 100 days minimum for every family. We need to see as to how we can expand it.

The important thing which I would like to point out is this. Some districts are partially developed. One part of the district is developed and the other part of the same district has remained backward. Take for example, my district Krishna. One part of that district is delta area, but the other part is barren. So, it means half of the district is developed and the other half of the same district has remained backward. We need to devise a policy that instead of the district as one unit, we need to split it up, into Mandals, etc. and see how it can be developed. What happens is that when a district gets the benefit of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the people belonging to the adjoining districts would always feel left out. They develop some sort of hatred because they are not getting the benefit of that scheme. So, we need to see that every needy family in every village gets covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme or SJSY or SGRY. We need to ensure that every family gets the benefit.

We have another novel scheme called scheme for Self-Help Groups. For that, through the SJSY, this Budget has allocated Rs. 1,200 crore. We have more than eight lakh Self-Help Groups in this country. This year, we have set a target to add another 3,80,000 Self-Help Groups. The combined credit that they are getting as of now is Rs. 4,800 crore. The State of Andhra Pradesh alone has got one-fourth of this entire group and the allocation. Eight lakh Self-Help Groups mean eighty lakh women are covered. But if you look at their population it is much more. The population of this country is 100 crores. If you remove fifty per cent of the population, as it is the male population, it comes to fifty per cent. If you remove the population of children, etc., the population of women comes to 25 crores. That means we need nearly two-and-half crores of such Groups in order to cover the entire country. So, we need two-and-half crores of such Groups, but actually we have only eight lakh such Groups. It is hardly 3.5 or 4 per cent of the entire requirement. The State of Andhra Pradesh is, of course, much forward in this regard. We have ten per cent of the families covered under this Scheme. We have more than 2 lakh Self-Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh. When compared to other States, we are much forward.

But, still here, I would like to point out one more thing. In fact, we are allocating Rs. 4,800 crore credit link for all these Self-Help Groups. What we need to take note

of is that there are a lot of other private micro finance companies. They have come up like mushrooms. They take advantage of these Groups and they are lending money at the rate of 36-48 per cent per annum. Even the Government banks are giving at 9 per cent. In some cases, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving an incentive of 6 per cent, which brings down the interest rate to 3 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: This is what we have to see how we can stop the exploitation of Self-Help Groups because these micro financiers are taking advantage of these Groups. They are taking advantage of their needs. It is not that they are lending their own money. In the garb of priority lending, the banks instead of lending the money directly to the Groups, they are lending the money through these micro financiers. They are giving the loan to these micro-finance companies at 12 per cent and, in turn, these companies are giving to these Groups at the rate of 36-48 per cent. We need to ensure how we can stop such funding. Once we stop the source of funding, definitely, that money will not come into the market. Instead, this money can come directly to the Self-Help Groups and benefit thousands of such Groups.

We have this Panchayati Raj Ministry. In fact, I am happy that our Minister, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is also here. The outlay of Rs. 75 crore is very meagre. But we have also to understand what Mahatma Gandhiji has said. He said that every village has to become self-sufficient republic. That can be achieved if the Panchayats are given the utmost priority, full rights, full responsibilities and full powers. I am not sure of these things though I have been here in this House for the last two years. This is a novel Department formed by this Government. A new Department has been formed. Earlier it was not there. Now, we see many questions being raised on Panchayati Raj. Unless the powers are given to the Panchayati Raj, I do not know how we can really prosper. I do not know what our Minister is doing, whether he is really taking the powers to the grass-root level and empowering the Panchayats so that all these schemes can be properly implemented. If you look at the schemes and the outlays, they seem very impressive because we have a huge outlay of Rs.31,400 crore. But, we need to see whether these outlays are going down and becoming outcome at the village level. What is important is not how you impress, what is important is how you express, not through words but through deeds. I am sure our Minister would be

unreasonable in asking for more grants because this Department requires much more than what is allotted. At the same time, our Panchayati Raj Minister is also here. I hope, he will also later explain how this Panchayati Raj system and the Department is functioning and how it is empowering, and how we are fulfilling Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Sampooma Swaraj and Grameen Swaraj.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I shall try to be as brief as possible so that other hon. Members can also participate.

The first thing is that we have a very competent Minister incharge of this Department. He is very vocal, very articulate and he has deep sympathy and compassion for the rural people. That is a matter of great hope. ...*(Interruptions)* First, we have a good programme. Although this is a coalition Government, which is based on the National Common Minimum Programme, the concern of the rural people is very much there. We believe that the Government, as different from the previous NDA Government, has understood the reality. If they fail or continue to ignore the rural masses, the rural areas, they will ignore their own future also. Do not forget about future. What has happened to the NDA? The NCMP gives adequate emphasis, proper emphasis on the urgent needs of the rural people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: But the provision made this year, I think, is too inadequate. I am making a reference to the Bharat Nirman. The current need of the Bharat Nirman Programme is estimated to be Rs. 82,000 crore over a period of four years. Who will provide the money to bridge the gap? Only, the NABARD can provide it in certain areas, as has been indicated. But, I fail to understand one thing. If it is a time-bound programme, where from the money is to be provided? We want to be assured that this Government is serious about what it has told its people about rural infrastructure.

Secondly, I come to drinking water. About drinking water also, we know that till today in many parts of India like Rajasthan, in parts of Maharashtra, in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and in many other places, we find that during summer, people are suffering from thirst. They do not have even a minimum quantity of drinking water that is required for them to live. They are even using polluted water at the time of drought! So, this problem of drinking water is very much there.



[Shri Rupchand Pal]

There was a Drinking Water Mission which was set up during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time. There have been umpteen Drinking Water Schemes and Projects. But, about the present one, we do find that the total required money support is Rs.25,000 crore. It will be a little less or more. What is the provision made? How much time will we take to provide drinking water to our countrymen?

We are speaking about growth. Growth alone cannot provide drinking water. The hon. Finance Minister said that growth is the best antidote to poverty. No. Coupled with this, what is required is distribution of income. He was speaking about the Chinese model. During the Chinese period of fantastic economic progress within the framework of a socialist system, they have done it but now they are addressing the issue to narrow the gap.

We have a large number of billionaires. The rich people are getting richer. More than 20 crore people are very rich in this country. The Indian market is very attractive for others because of this 20 crore very rich, upper middle class people. But, on the other hand, about 30 or 32 crore – whatever may be the figure – poor people are there. ...*(Interruptions)* It is more than 26 crore people. They continue to be in abject poverty. One of the main concerns was how can rural employment be provided. I am happy and we are happy that this Government has at least taken the historic decision of giving some guarantee through the enactment of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is for providing 100 days of employment. That is not enough. That is meant for one able-bodied person of a family. That is also not enough. If the minimum wage is about Rs.60 or Rs.62, the Government has to find out how it can expand this to more able-bodied people, for more number of days. There is no such vision reflected in the Demands for Grants. It is a good, welcome and historic step. We welcome this measure. We congratulate this Government, particularly the hon. Minister in this regard. But still the amount of money required to meet the current situation is not enough to meet the demands of rural employment.

Apart from this, rural industries are suffering. There are a good number of Self Help Groups. The womenfolk are having, through a process of employment, more income which is supporting their families. That is good. Not only the self-employed people in the existing schemes but also the rural industries, the rural artisans should get the support. They are not provided the necessary support

through the existing and innovative schemes. Such a vision, such a target and such a direction is not available in the present Budget. I believe that the Government should address this issue of revival of the village industries, the traditional industries to provide employment. But we find the de-reservation is continuing. The small industries are being neglected along with the village and the traditional industries which are sometimes working in unison, in cooperation with one another. One is supporting the other. But such a thing is not happening now.

Wherever there is growth in rural areas and wherever agricultural production has reached optimum level due to the hard endeavour of our farmers, they are experiencing disheartening situation because sometimes they are not getting even the cost of production. This is not directly related to the Ministry of Rural Development and there is a different Ministry dealing with this, but I would like to point out this because this is very important for the development of our rural areas.

So, if we have to address the problems of the rural poor, one basic thing that is required to be done is that the land relationship will have to be changed in favour of the landless. Some people are asking as to how the same party is running the Government in West Bengal for nearly 30 years whereas we find governments changing after every five years or at the most after every 10 years and in the Centre also there is a continuous uncertainty. There is suspicion in the minds of some people whether some scientific rigging takes place in West Bengal during elections. No, that is not the case and there is no magic. The reason for the continuance of the Government there for such a long time is that the power has been given to the people, the people themselves are capable of protecting their rights and their right to enjoy land reforms. So, through land reforms the rural poor have been empowered in West Bengal.

Sir, I am told that the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj will intervene in this debate. We have not invented the Panchayati Raj system in West Bengal. It was already there and we have implemented it. When land reform was done in West Bengal, there was so much of criticism saying that land is being taken away, the ordinary people, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Other Backward Classes, the poor people are given such poor, anarchy is being created and all that, we remember that there was a historic observation made by our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will bear me out. At Salt Lake Stadium, Shri Rajiv Gandhi said:

"The West Bengal experience of Panchayati Raj will have to be spread throughout the length and breadth of this country." But till today elections to Panchayati Raj institutions have not taken place in some States.

Sir, we have a very capable Minister. He is a great admirer of Panchayati Raj system. In a country like India, we have to empower the people, the OBCs, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women through reservation and send money directly to local bodies. This is the only way to improve their standard of life. This Government has some intentions, but it is not getting involved in the direct intervention process and so, whatever intentions are there, they cannot be implemented in many States and the money cannot be used for the development of the rural poor.

At the same time, there are some difficulties also in the present arrangement. Sometimes the money reaches them very late and sometimes the State Governments are not able to provide matching grants to implement various schemes at the ground level. I would like to draw the attention of this House that the Government has provided inadequate allocation to some of the flagship schemes that come under the Ministry of Rural Development and even the Ministers are complaining about it. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is one of the most notable schemes in the world under which 12 crore children are being fed nutritious meal every day in schools. Such a scheme needs more financial support. Then, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is a very good scheme and it is making a very good impact at the ground level. Such a purposeful scheme should be universalised.

Sir, Bharat Nirman is a very good programme where communication facilities are improved in the villages, rural roads are constructed, rural electrification is being implemented etc. All these are important. Along with this, the social sector is also important. This Government is quite different from the previous one and it is careful about implementing such schemes.

We welcome it, we support it, but it is too inadequate. We are wondering where from the money will come, even though, in the existing schemes, there is an increase. The hon. Minister was making a mention that there is an increase from Rs.8,000 crore to Rs.31,000 crore in the Rural Development. It is a very remarkable increase. But in a country like India, there is no dearth of resources, there is no dearth of money, but resource mobilisation is not being done by this Government. It is because of its

friendly attitude even to those people who can pay the necessary quantum of income tax but are not paying the tax.

There is rampant tax evasion. This is not my report. But it is the Annual Information Report of the Government of India and the Finance Ministry, which is indicating the number of billionaires, rich people having enough wealth and enough income, but they are not paying the tax in terms of the income tax and in terms of the corporate tax. It is far too low. This is not the right place to discuss all these things because we will be discussing it again the course of discussion on the Finance Bill.

This Government has taken right steps in the right direction with right schemes, but that requires more money. Only leaving it to the NABARD and schemes like agricultural credit from the banks will not do because we know what the banks have been doing. We know how they are neglecting it and how they are performing their responsibility in this regard.

I can understand that sometimes they cannot do it because of the contrary that you have to reflect the commercial profit in the balance-sheet also. But, simultaneously, the directives are there that some amount has to be given to the agricultural and employment schemes also. So, this is making this Government not just acceptable to the rural masses because they are suspecting that they are speaking more about the schemes than having the intention to implement the schemes.

I will mention two-three points more and then conclude. I have spoken about rural employment, I have spoken about Bharat Nirman, I have spoken about Self-help Groups. Now, I come to the budgetary provisions related to the Ministry of Rural Development. I believe that with this, we will have to discuss the issue of drinking water, the amount of resources and the rural development. If we discuss all other things together with Panchayati Raj System, agriculture, agricultural credit, we feel that in spite of the good intention, this Government is not reflecting its intention in the budgetary provisions. That has happened in the case of Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development also. In the process of implementation, there is a lack of coordination in the system. Some States are waiting for the money to come. The money is reaching too late.

The Outcome Budget has been placed today and new steps have been taken to give it a new orientation

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

that the budgetary allocation, the budgetary provisions will have to be judged not by the amount but by the outcome. This is a good thing. But what I find from my experience is that at the end of the year, from the budgetary provisions to the revised estimates, to the actuals, there is such a gap that the small amount of money that is being given is being taken away. Some times, the State Governments are not in a position, at a particular point of time, to find matching amount. How can the Central Government solve this problem of coordination, the coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments, between the State Government and the Panchayati Raj System?

In many States, there is no Panchayati Raj System. In many States, money is not being used as it should be done. So, monitoring is another thing. This Government is careful about monitoring. At the district level, Monitoring Committees have been set up where there is no effective panchayati raj system. I believe that this Government should come out with a report, a quarterly report, if possible, about the performance of this Ministry in the rural areas as per the schemes and as per the money provided so that we shall come to know how much outcome we have got. It is because at the end of the year, sometimes it is very difficult. As it is happening in the case of the recommendation of the Standing Committee, within a stipulated period of time the Government, the Ministry has to submit action taken report. Also there should be regular monitoring about the implementation status of the scheme, about the outcome as to how much we have achieved may be it is in respect of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan and may be in respect of Health Mission.

Lastly, I conclude with a suggestion. In Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan there are problems and I am not going into that, but as far as 'Health' is concerned, there are some suggestions which I mentioned in the course of the General Budget discussion that 'Health' requires such amount of money, particularly rural health. There is a Universal Health Insurance Plan for the rural poor. We suggest that two per cent cess should be specifically imposed for this purpose. Rural health is in absolutely dire doldrums and chaos. People do not have access to the minimum health care system. There is lack of infrastructure. In such a situation, if we have to save the health of the rural people, then more money is required. If the Government has to provide more money to other important areas, then exclusively for health two per cent health cess is required. I am supporting the Demands for Grants. I am happy that the hon. Minister,

at the time of introduction of his Budget, has spoken about the importance of this Ministry.

India lives in the villages. Till today, after so many decades of independence, we have not been able to do justice to the rural areas. We have umpteen number of Schemes; we have declared many things from the ramparts of the Red Fort and through the Planning Commissions, but till today the situation in the rural areas, as has been rightly and correctly mentioned by the hon. Minister, desires a lot of improvement and urgent improvement. The Tenth Plan is towards the end. We know in the Mid-Term Appraisal what has been stated. We know what has been stated by the Report of the UNDP about our status in the Human Development Index. We know how the Approach Paper is indicating certain things. It is high time and if we fail to address this burning issue about the development, infrastructure, employment, education, health and nutrition of the rural people, then the rural people who have so much of faith in this new Government, so much of trust in the NCMP, may get frustrated. What may be the situation as a result of frustration? This Government knows very well what has happened in the North-East and what has happened in many countries. There, many young people, rural people, out of frustration, joined such forces, which are not welcomed, which are not helpful for the development of the country. With these words, I support the Demands and I conclude.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the demands for grants presented by the hon. Minister, is a 'chalo gaon ki oar' kind of budget, I would specially like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to 2-3 points. Whatever be the pious motive of budget, if that motive do not reach the commonman of villages and it is misused, it would defeat the purpose of this budget. The noble intention and the powerful way in which he express himself, and he is always concerned about the budget, similarly I would like to state that provision made by the previous Government for toilets at the village level, these toilets just remained only on papers and funds allocated for their construction were embezzled. Although the Minister has made some progress on the front of toilet cleanliness and has increased the allocation of funds but even today a person like me thinks that with increased allocation, there are also possibilities of a large scale corruption and with this allocation it is not possible

to construct toilets at village level. Similarly, this budget is a stumble block in the way of development of villages. Hon. Minister should try to increase the budgetary allocation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that the decision for the development of villages set out in this budget and the developmental effort made also include the Indira Awas Yojana for downtrodden and poor people living in Jhonpris. A target has been fixed under the Indira Awas Yojana to construct Jhonpris for them. This target has been fixed for Dalits, the backward and poor people living below poverty line. But I have a suspicion about this budget. The manner in which corruption is going on from top to bottom, all are engaged in corrupt practice. In this if the selected candidate is not able to pay bribe then they are deprived of the benefit under this scheme. The Minister had made a statement in the House on a previous occasion that candidates would be selected by assembling people through beating of drums in public places. I want to state that there is groupism in the villages. Deserving candidate is over looked and by way of influence the person having groupism is selected. And even the Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha Members though have a say in the process, cannot provide a list of the deserving candidate in this perspective under the provision you have made.

Sir, there are floods, there are incidents of fire. Not only in my constituency but in the whole country who are the people living in these Jhonpris – the poor, the downtrodden, and the backward people. If one jhonpri catches fire and the whole village is burnt. After the whole village is burnt these people have no shelter. I want that a Minister like you, who has presented this budget, this budget should see that the Budget should have a provision the places where jhonpris are burnt due to fire should necessarily be covered under Indira Awas Yojana. I request that at least the provision should be added to it, as if it not only happens in the eastern Uttar Pradesh but in the whole of the country. Where fire breaks out Jhonpris of villagers are burnt, people are burnt and they become shelterless. They have to live under open sky. On humanitarian grounds if the Minister make a provision for this, then the construction of home for them would be binding.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, like wise at the time of floods, the houses of the people residing near the bank of river, are washed away by river. They do not have any means of livelihood and they are not able to construct houses. The people living below the poverty line should

also be covered under this provision. The way, you have presented the budget, I would especially like to impress upon two things that the people who are the victims of the floods and fire accidents should be given priority.

Sir, the Uttar Pradesh Government have decided to give Rs. 500 as unemployment allowance to eligible unemployed youths of Uttar Pradesh. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji has done a commendable job. Hon. Raghuvansh Ji, you are Rural Development Minister, the youths are migrating from the rural areas to urban areas, I would like to say that being a Minister, the budget you have introduced, please make arrangements for unemployed youths in this budget by increasing budget allocation. You may not be remembering that we people used to raise slogans that either give work to employed or give them unemployment allowance. Hon. Raghuvansh Prasad ji, can I expect that you will take steps to turn this slogan into reality, i.e. to make provision to provide unemployment allowance to unemployed people as villagers do not have employment opportunities and youngsters are migrating to urban areas.

Sir, I feel elated for the fact that village electrification programme has been launched under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. The Government had claimed that it would complete rural electrification within five years. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have declared that they would do this within three years. However, there are some discrepancies. For instance, in a big village there are several hamlets. And they are not being brought within the fold of electrification. But the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has made efforts to provide electricity to such hamlets. It is my request to you that efforts should be made to provide electricity to all hamlets, bazars and crossroads all over the country. Similarly, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan reels under corruption. It is not being implemented as per your directions. Therefore, you ought to give special attention to this. Even after so many years of independence, classes are held under trees. School buildings and schools are non-existent. It has been the effort of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to construct as many school buildings as possible. At least, for the sake of the development of the villagers, school buildings should be built all over the country.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the industries and self-employment opportunities, which are getting lesser in villages. Now-a-days village industries are almost nil. Absence of assured electricity and lack of good roads have compounded their problems. Those running small

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

handlooms and engaged in spinning are now engaged in agriculture. There is no plan for their rehabilitation. It is my request to the Minister to improve the situation in this regard not only in the State but all over the country which would be the crowning glory of the Government. There is the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna to link all villages with a population of 500-1000. However, the time frame within which this is to be done is not clear. But the benefits from all these schemes are almost nil. The pace of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna which is very slow in Uttar Pradesh should be increased. For this, the budget needs to be enhanced. Road can be constructed in villages only through increased budgeting. There are a large number of villages where patients die even before reaching the hospital just because of non-availability of roads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have another request for the Minister. He should increase his budgetary allocation for his village oriented budget. The Ministry should also be enthusiastic like the Minister.

I would conclude with my final observation. The target under the Indira Awas Yojana last year for my district Deoria was 19,000, but it has been brought down to 5,100 this time. The entire district is agitated over this. My request is that instead of reducing this target, it should be increased further. This would pacify the people. Therefore, it should be reconsidered and the target achieved. With this, I conclude and support the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Hon. Members desire we can skip the lunch break.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: All right.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is one more thing. The hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches can lay their speeches on the Table. They will be treated as part of the proceedings.

Now, I would request Shri Sita Ram Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-2007.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a country of villages.

Country's 74 per cent population resides in villages. It is a matter of pride that the House is debating the issue of development of villages today. First of all I would like to thank the Government. After years of independence the UPA Government and specially Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, the Minister of Rural Development, who himself comes from a village, understands the pain and suffering, should be commended for this. With a rural background, the Hon. Minister, a follower of Lohia and Gandhiji, has formulated schemes for villages. I congratulate and thanks him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I went through Ministry of Rural Development's Demands for Grants pertaining to previous years Budget. I have also gone through the Budget of the Ministry of Rural Development for the years 2002-2003, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007. The amount in the Budget for rural development has actually been increased. This is not for mere popularity. This shows the government's concern and commitment to rural development. To achieve this, the UPA government first of all introduced the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Hitherto, there was no Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now the Government has made a law to provide at least one Member of a family, 100 days of guaranteed employment in a year. There is nothing unusual in it. There is no doubt that the UPA Government needs to be commended for this. I thank the UPA Government and specially, the Hon. Minister profusely for this.

Some of the rural development schemes in operation now are in contravention of earlier schemes and some have been remodelled. All these schemes are very good in themselves. The hon. Minister wants to give it a practical shape for which he is making constant efforts. He is touring the States. He convenes meeting here also to execute the schemes successfully through discussions. I want to make some suggestions. We live in villages. We still have a feeling for villages. The amount being provided for the villages should be used judiciously. There is no problem in it. Considering this, I would like to make a few suggestions to the Government.

Firstly, about the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, whatever may be the conditions in other states, but I would like to talk about Bihar. Our hon. Minister also comes from Bihar. He has given work to big companies and has also provided money to them, but I am concerned about one thing that the way work is being started is right but it is not being completed as per schedule. Even hon. Minister is also not feeling good about it and we too are

facing problems. The process for making DPR is being delayed due to company's tender procedure. Owing to it our commitment to rural people is being delayed by two years. Though now they have started work but not a single road has been completed. There are a few roads which are given to these companies in DPR but that work didn't went in tender. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a fact. Hon. Minister feels the same. He too has problem with this and he is continuously making efforts. We all are making efforts for it, but I would like to suggest that hon. Minister should bring out a circular and take a decision that to whomsoever the work is given, there will be a time schedule fixed for the same and if the work is not completed in stipulated time, then there should be ways to penalize that those officers and the company. Then only it can be completed practically in stipulated time schedule, as per your wish. This is my suggestion and I will request the hon. Minister to take stringent action for the same.

Secondly, I would like to say about Indira Awas Yojna. We people come from villages. You have made rules for the same. I would like to thank you for this that when you were taken in Government, you took first step within a week regarding increasing its amount from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000. I would like to thank profusely for the same but I would like to say about procedure adopted by you.

Sir, all the hon. Members are sitting here. What does general body meeting of the village mean? I am not talking about other states, I am talking about my State. It is the responsibility of village head to call general body meeting. When village Head calls general body meeting, then quorum decreases on that day and the day when quorum is not there then touts or two Gram Sewaks and village head complete quorum and give money according to their own wish. You have increased the limit from Rs. 20 thousand to Rs. 25 thousand. How can I speak against a public representative, but this money is going to the pockets of touts. Village Head is a public representative and hence I will not attack him directly but this money is going to the pockets of middlemen and touts. I have great regret on making village Head as Chief. What kind of Panchayati Raj is this, where MP doesn't have the power to issue cheques. Prime Minister doesn't have power to give money by issuing cheque. Chief Minister doesn't have power to give money by cheque, what kind of Panchayati Raj is this. I oppose this. I have said this a number of times to the hon. Minister. He replied that other Minister is looking after the work of Panchayati Raj, ask him to improve this. I would like to tell all the hon. Members that if the same is

not happening in villages then all your arrangements are good but if the same is happening then what kind of Panchayati Raj are you running?

Today on this demand and discussion, either you or hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj, Sir, kindly don't ring the bell. I will take one-two minutes more. I am speaking about villages, please don't disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible for me to allow you to speak as per your wish, your party Members also wish to speak on this matter.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: I am the first Member of my party to speak. If time remains then only other Members will speak. You kindly make a law, if necessary issue letter, circular, whatever you wish to do. This should be ensured as to how general body meeting should be called in villages. If BDO, SDO are not in general body meeting then it can not be a general body meeting. What kind of law is this where village head organizes a bogus general body meeting and that becomes gazette. It cannot be changed by BDO, SDO and Collector. All powers have been given to village heads and he distributes money among the touts and middlemen. It is happening in Bihar, it is also happening in other parts of country. I oppose this.

Indira Awas Yojna, for which you are giving such a big amount to villages and will further increase the amount. I urge to increase this amount, it is my request.

My other demand is that you should ensure this law that money should reach the same poor fellow for whom the money is sent. Money should not go in the hands of middlemen. I would like to touch one-two points more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Yadav is sitting with you, ask him. Your time has finished.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Sir, I would like to say something in this regard. I request the hon. Prime Minister that no public representative has the power of issuing cheques, hence this law should be eliminated done a way with in Panchayati Raj also.

Secondly, I would like to say about Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. This scheme is being run in villages and is very important for village's development.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You kindly finish your speech.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: It was said with regard to Bihar also that this scheme will be completed in two-three years. We even gave money to NHPC. The place from where I come, Motihari comes under it. I would like to say that no engineer of NHPC has visited any village in my area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is fraud, fake and not even a single village has been reviewed. Ever since the Government said this, more than 15 months have passed but not even a single village has been electrified. Center has given money to Bihar for electrification, but Sir till date electrification has not been done. Bihar is in such a position and NHPC has made a mockery of it and it has not even started the work of electrifying villages. If it happens, then all schemes of the Government will fall flat and owing to this rural people will have many problems. I would like to request, through you, to the hon. Minister, who is directly looking after that department that he should call us and show us as to in how many villages work of electrification has been started. NHPC people say that survey has been done. I would like to say that no survey has been done. Not even a single nut has reached the villages. N.H.P.C. has deposited the funds taken from the Union Government in its account and it is earning interest from it. Therefore, I would request to enquire into this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, please sit down.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seldom get the chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party's time is over now.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing that Sam Vikas Yojana is a good scheme. I would like to state only one thing in this regard that funds are provided to districts by the Union Government but guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, Bihar Government and the Union Government are not followed as there are no clear cut guidelines in this regard and these keep on changing in every meeting. As a result no scheme has been implemented properly. The entire amount remains unutilized because the persons who formulate schemes have no idea of that area and we formulate schemes while sitting here in air-conditioned rooms. Our area is a flood prone area. So infrastructure should be developed there. Bridges should be constructed there but it is being said that funds would be spent for connectivity. The public representatives are not being

consulted in this regard. There is no scope for it. I would like to suggest that MP of that area should be consulted for implementation of Sam Vikas Yojana. There is no need to put such restrictions that any one work either constructions of canals or digging work will be undertaken. If water is not there, then there is no use to construct canal, if officers have taken decision in this regard. Sir, I know about Bihar and Siwan Lok Sabha Constituency there where funds are not being spent under this scheme. So, there is a need to change guidelines to spend funds under such schemes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sita Ram Singh Ji, thank you, now, you please sit down.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seldom get a chance to speak. I am talking about villages only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sita Ram Singh Ji, you have taken all the time of your party.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to discuss about rural employment guarantee scheme. So far only 22 districts of Bihar have been covered under this scheme. In view of backwardness and poverty in Bihar I would like to request the hon. Minister to implement this scheme in all districts of Bihar.

Sir, it is not correct that State Governments implement the schemes of the Union Government as the state schemes. I would request the Union Government, through you, to enact a law to restrict State Governments to publicize the schemes of the Union Government as their own schemes. We are ready to work with vigour. The Union Government should not depend on State Governments. An enquiry should be conducted to find out the reason as to why the State Governments are publicizing the schemes of the Union Government as their own schemes. With these words, while supporting the budget and demands for grants of Ministry of Rural Development, I conclude.

*[English]*

\*SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, Indian live in villages, the entire economy mostly depends upon agriculture and rural development. This year fortunately a substantial amount has been allocated for rural development. Rural Employment Scheme which is

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

the primary instrument to combat Rural Unemployment, hunger and poverty. For 2006-07 the total allocation is Rs. 14,300 Crore. Of this, Rs. 11,300 Crore (including NER component) will be under NREG Act and Rs. 3000 Crore including (NER Component) will be under SGSY. Since there is a legal guarantee of employment under the NRET Act. More funds will be provided according to the need. The rural population is grateful to you and request that this programme should be implemented strictly.

In the first place, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of employment scheme. In this budget, the amount allocated under the Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana and SGSY should be increased. The amount providing for employment is not enough when we take into account the widespread unemployment in the rural areas, specifically.

Under the Employment guarantee Scheme, only five districts of Karnataka have been included. I would request that Haveri district which is one of the most backward district of Karnataka, and other backward districts, should also be included in Karnataka to help the farmers and unemployed to get employment guarantee at least for 100 days a year, specifically when farmers and unemployed have been acutely affected by droughts for the fourth consecutive years.

In regarding to providing sanitation facilities in the rural area under the Rural Sanitation Campaign 2 lakh toilets in Karnataka have been constructed. A subsidy of Rs 500.00 is provided at present it is too meagre. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to enhance it to Rs.2,000.00.

Regarding providing drinking water, 58,270 habitations and 1,40,000 schools are expected to be covered with the drinking water supply. Under multi Village river based Scheme drinking water 10% amount of people's contribution to be made. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to decrease this to 5% it is very difficulty to the poor families in villages. Hence it should be contributed Rs 100/- or Rs 200/- per families to contribute.

There is a Rastriya Swayam Vikas Yojana is introduced under the backward area development scheme through out the country. Under this scheme, four districts, they are Devangere, Chitradurga, Bidar & Gulbarga.

Under the National employment Guarantee Scheme five districts have been identified in Karnataka. In addition to the above four districts mentioned Raichur district is

included. Under such circumstances, if both the scheme like Backward Area, Development Scheme and national Employment Guarantee Scheme are taken in the same districts the benefits will be doubled to each districts mentioned above. Hence, I kindly request Hon'ble Minister to consider other districts which are not covered backward Area Development Scheme and National Employment Guarantee Scheme should be taken up separately for other districts also.

The Union Government has started the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyautikarana Yojana with 90% capital subsidy to fulfill its commitment under the National Common Minimum Programme for completing Household electrification in five years. This Yojana was launched on 4th April 2005 and I wish the Government to all success in this regard.

Unfortunately, in Karnataka once a power surplus state is facing acute shortage of electricity for the last ten years. IT and BT companies are also facing shortage of power. Infact some of these companies have already declared not to invest any more in their Bangalore companies. Now Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to Karnataka has requested the Union government to modify its policy and extend the benefits or mega power status to Bellary Thermal Power Station which is of 500 MW Capacities. But, the centre has still not modified its policy on Mega power projects. I appeal to the Centre to 3 clear this genuine request of the state of Karnataka.

Similarly, government of Karnataka has urged the Centre for allotment of Mahan Coal Block for captive use by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited Ministry of Coal should expedite this matter immediately.

There is a proposal of special projects under Sampurna Grameen Swayam Yojana (SGSY) in Belgaum district. This will enable the state to improve the financial position of the weavers in Belgaum District.

Karnataka state has already sent additional proposal for missing links under PMGSY Phase-I with a road length of 30.59 Kms costing Rs 5.14 Crore and under phase-II 180 works proposal with a road length of 412.09 Kms costing of Rs.78.50 Crores. These proposals are pending with the Union Minister of Rural Development. My humble request to the Hon'ble Minister through you sir, is to clear these proposals without any delay.

The new Government in Karnataka has announced



[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

its 20 points programme of the eve of the state golden jubilee celebrations. The state government has declared to take the state on the path of progress and prosperity. These declarations have been made on 14.03.2006 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa. They have announced that three lakhs houses would be constructed for the poor people especially for those who live in the rural areas. They have also released its Common Minimum Programme.

Implementation of this common Minimum Programme require huge fund. Karnataka Government is looking forward for a substantial financial assistance from the Union government. The Union Ministry of Rural Development should come forward to provide funds generously for taking up rural development programmes.

There are two projects, which the people of Karnataka are keenly looking forward. These are the KALASA NALA DIVERSION SCHEME and BANDURA NALA DIVERSION SCHEME which can provide drinking water to a very large rural area. I request the centre to clear these schemes without any further delay.

Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was a grand success during the previous regime. Our leader and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee initiated this popular programme and thousands of thousands of remote villages in the country were connected. I want to know from the Centre, the steps taken by the present regime to line the rural remote village which have no connecting roads. The Centre has to provide substantial funds for constructing road for connecting villages such that the transport system in rural areas can improve.

Even after 58 years of independence there are thousands of villages in Karnataka which do not have drinking water facilities. I hope the Centre will consider this problem seriously and provide drinking water facilities to all the villages in the country especially in the rural areas in Karnataka.

Sir, Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is the HARBINGER OF RURAL PROSPERITY. Its goal is to march forward with a missionary Zeal, which will make KMF a trail blazer of exemplary performance and achievements backing other milk federation in the country in pursuit of total emulation of its good deeds. It is eager to ensure prosperity of the rural milk producer who are ultimate owners of the federation. It wants to promote producer

oriented viable cooperative society to impart and impetus to the RURAL INCOME, DAIRY PRODUCTIVITY AND RURAL EMPLOYMENT. Its aim is to abridge the gap between price of milk procurement and sale price. The condition of the rural poor is such that they cannot consume milk which they produce. They can only sell and fetch some money for the livelihood. This is the level of poverty in the rural areas of Karnataka especially in the backward district of the state. Therefore, KMF is zealous to develop the business acumen in marketing and trading disciplines so as to serve consumers with quality milk, give a fillip to the income of milk producers. KMF is curious to complete with MNCs and private dairies with better quality of milk and milk products like chocolates, ice creams, varieties of curds etc., and in the process sustain invincibility of co-operatives.

To enable the KMF to achieve the above objectives the union government should come forward in a big way to provide cold storage's, bulk milk scheme and other infrastructure facilities for the emancipation of the poor and helpless rural masses of Karnataka with a special help to backward districts like Heavier Dharwar, Bidar, Gulbarga, Kolar and Chamarajanagar. I am sure that the Hon'ble Minister for Rural development will definitely raise the living condition of our villages.

[Translation]

\*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for increasing budget for rural development. But the present Government have only changed the names of Swarna Jayanti Gramin Swarajgar Yojana, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana and National Food for work Programme started by the Government under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ex-Prime Minister to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and there is no difference between the old and new schemes. The roads in State are in a poor condition, as a result goods transportation is being affected. The Government should start the Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojna started by the hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which would help improve transport system in villages. Attention has not been paid towards rural cleanliness. Additional amount is required for Swajaldhara Yojna. There are several villages where electricity is not available so far. There is a need to give priority to localities of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Employment should be provided to youth in villages and if all facilities are provided in villages then

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

people will not migrate to urban areas. It would eradicate the difference between cities and villages. The Government should pay more attention towards Indra Awas Yojna, Food For Work Programme, Water Conservation Mission and Rural Health Mission etc.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since hon. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has taken the charge of the Ministry of Rural Development, proper attention is being paid towards rural development.

13.29 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh used to present his views with emphasis while he was in opposition and today when he is Minister he is doing the same. Today when discussion is started on budget and demands of his Ministry he gave speech about this Ministry and did not forget to mention about increase in this year's Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is true that required rural development has not been made in the country so far and I think the budget of 31 thousand crore rupees provided in this year is not sufficient. There are several schemes like 100 Days Employment Guarantee Scheme which was formulated and publicized with much fanfare. Advertisements have been given in all newspapers. Officers rushed to perform stone laying ceremonies. But when applications were invited under this scheme such persons also register themselves who had no need for employment. Because they knew that even if they do not get employment they would get the benefit of 100 Days Employment. The most important aspect is that the survey conducted regarding the B.P.L. families is wrong. As an hon. Member said that whenever a survey is conducted the Pradhan of a village and the survey officer do not include the names of poor people in the B.P.L. list as they are in connivance with each other. House to house survey is not conducted. The survey officer just prepares this list while sitting at residence of the Pradhan of the village. The deserved people who are living below poverty line, who are landless and have no other source of employment are not included in the B.P.L. list. Those who are well off get themselves included. When we go to the villages we come across such instances where the names of persons having 4-5 acres of irrigated land figuring in the B.P.L. list. Therefore, my request to the hon. Minister is that a new criteria should be evolved for conducting B.P.L. survey. Because if the officials belong to

the same district or same state they include the names of their relatives. This defeats the very purpose of the survey. It is my humble suggestion to the hon. Minister that a survey should be conducted at the national level as well as at state level regarding the families living below poverty line, and for this purpose the employees from one state should be posted to other states and vice versa, as it happens during the time of elections. When the elections are held in Bihar, people from Maharashtra are deployed there and when elections are held in Maharashtra people from Madhya Pradesh are deployed there. If a proper BPL survey has to be conducted and all the beneficiaries are to be benefited by it then a survey should be conducted at state level, separately from different places, of the people living below poverty line and where they should not have any connections with the villages. People of Bihar should be sent to Maharashtra, people of Madhya Pradesh to Bihar and an accurate door to door survey should be conducted. If the survey is conducted on these lines then we will be able to provide assistance to them as per the provision that has been made in the budget.

Our country has completed 60 years of independence, but even then drinking water is not available in villages. Every time when the Government changes, the schemes also change. At the time when NDA was in power, sectoral reforms were started along with a pilot project. It was being implemented in four districts of Maharashtra, including my district also. A scheme of 21 crore rupees was formulated and in 2003-2004, when the scheme was implemented it was half done and the Sector Reforms Pilot Projects were discontinued. Scheme in my district was of 21 crore rupees. Funds were not provided to all the districts separately and in four districts only half the funds were provided. Those people who had invested 10 percent share in the scheme got only 10-11 crore rupees and none of the remaining money. Today those schemes are half done and water sources have been identified, but there is no water. Pipelines have been laid but there is no water tank machine, water is not reaching the people. People have deposited 10 percent money and it has been two years, after that but they have not got their money back. At places where the scheme has been half implemented and the Sector Reforms Pilot Projects were approved, a new 'Jal Swaraj Scheme' has been introduced but it has not been implemented so far. My question is whether the Sector Reforms Scheme of Rs. 21 crore provided sufficient water to the district? There are thousand villages in the district, out of those thousand villages, the scheme was formulated for only 125 villages and for that

[Shri Anand Gudhe]

too only half the funds were granted and not the entire amount of funds. People deposited their share of 10 percent money, even then they are deprived of water. I would like to urge that wherever 'Jai Swaraj Scheme' has been introduced and where Sectoral reforms are already being implemented, the 'Jai Swaraj Scheme' should also be recognized there. We should lay only one condition that water should be made available on priority basis in the villages where there is shortage of water and for this 10 percent money should be charged from the local people. But unfortunately, even after 58 years of independence we have failed to provide safe drinking water in villages. Hence, this budget of 31 thousand crore rupees is not sufficient. People need water and sanitation facilities. Our priority should be to provide drinking water and sanitation facility. As long as we do not do this we cannot make any progress.

Sir, a scheme was introduced under PMGSY during the tenure of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji under which villages were to be inter-connected. But a number of roads have been constructed in Maharashtra under the EGS scheme. The unmetalled roads in villages cannot be upgraded under PMGSY. I would like to urge that such roads, which require upgradation and were constructed 8 to 10 years back and have become useless now, should be included and upgraded under this so that we can achieve our goal of connecting all the villages with each other. Without including this we are not able to implement the PMGSY scheme the way it should be implemented. The programme year for PMGSY scheme was upto 2007 and some changes have been made in that also. Hon. Minister has prepared a programme to include those villages by which maximum population can be connected. This is a good programme but the unmetalled roads in the villages that had been left half built are lying in the same position. As such these roads should be included in this programme so that we are able to achieve the target of providing roads to each village.

I would like to thank the hon. Minister for constituting a Vigilance Committee and appointing Members of Parliament as their Chairman. The entire funding for this programme is provided by the Union Government but the Chairman of its governing body is not a Member of Parliament. If the Rural Employment scheme is to be implemented properly then it is necessary that the Chairman of DRDA should be a Member of Parliament. What is wrong in it if a Member of Parliament is given the responsibility? What requires to be done? They can bring

the issue before the House. The tenure of a District Council Chairman is one year which causes different decisions to be taken each time. Further he has other responsibilities also. Therefore, they are unable to do the kind of duties they are supposed to do for this Committee. Therefore, I think the work can be done more efficiently if a Member of Parliament is appointed as Chairman of DRDA instead of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee.

I would like to draw his attention towards the Indira Awas Yojana. Even today, there are thousands of such families in the country who need houses. He must divide them into two categories. A waiting list has been prepared for five years for this. There is a need to make separate provision for providing houses to those affected by natural calamity. Recently, thousands of houses were swept away due to heavy rains in Maharashtra and people were left stranded on roads. How do we include those people into this. Such natural calamities affect the poor people. ...*(Interruptions)* I demand that a separate provision should be made in the Budget for constructing dwelling units for them. ...*(Interruptions)*

The budget of 31 thousand crore of rupees is too meagre for rural development. It should have been 80 thousand crore rupees at least. Hon. Minister should urge the Finance Minister to make a provision of, at least, Rs. 80 thousand crore in the budget for rural development.

*[English]*

\*SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Jyongar): Sir, while this Budget has provided for an increase by 20.4% in the Budget support for the plan, the proposed outlays for agriculture, health, education and employment generation are low and inadequate for meeting the NCMP goals. In view of the fact that the actual Central Plan outlays in all sectors except rural development and communications were of the budget provisions last year, the current year's meagre increases are a cause for concern.

However, I must appreciate that, unlike any budget in the past, this Budget has exhibited some shift towards emphasis on employment generation, development of infrastructure in rural areas and investment in social sectors.

The National rural Employment Guarantee scheme (NREGS) has been launched. This is a combination of programmes such as the on-going programmes of

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP), both are to be subsumed within the NREGS. The said NFFW Programme was allocated an amount of Rs.11000 Crore in the Budget 2005-06. This year the NFFW Programme is converted into the NREGS with an allocation of Rs.11300 Crores and if we compare the enhancement made in this budget with the Budget 2005-2006, it is highly negligible or we can say that there is no enhancement at implementation. Further the scheme is being started with covering of 200 districts of the country only which should be increased and spread across the country without neglecting any parts or States of the country.

Secondly, the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) scheme. This scheme has been conceived as a holistic self-employment programme with the objective of establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in rural areas. This is the only self-employment programme presently existing for the rural people. In this scenario, allocation of an amount of Rs.1200 Crores would not be enough to provide self-employment to the rural people covering all over the country. Therefore, the Government should consider to increase the allocation for this Scheme and should take efforts to cover more number of rural areas and people to benefit through this Scheme. The Government should also plan for interdicting more such schemes for the self-employment segment of rural people.

The Government has launched the Bharat Nirman project having six components for building infrastructure and bringing basic amenities to rural India and the Drinking Water Supply is one among them. The drinking water supply should cover more habitations and schools and the persistent problem of slippage should be tackled by conservation, better operational management and water quality monitoring and capacity building at the village level. There should be increased provision for the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and for the Rural Sanitation Campaign. The Government should also ensure that such a Mega projects like Bharat Nirman should not suffer with any funds shortage in its implementation.

If we can say, the National Rural Health Mission is one of the important fields to be covered under the Bharat Nirman Project. Rural Health is to be given topmost priority with adequate funds as there is a widespread under-nutrition among women and children and still the maternal and child health remain areas of great concern.

I hope there would not be any disagreement that the growth of rural India would help Indian Business to grow and business in turn can fuel rural growth. Therefore, the Business Sector should be entrusted with the responsibility and commitments for the development of rural India.

Also I would like to urge upon the government for taking necessary steps to make the State Governments for proper implementation of these schemes and to make use of the funds available through the schemes of Central Government meant for rural India. Overall, I welcome the initiatives taken by the Government for the development of rural areas of our country and with this I support this budgetary allocation made for the Rural Development. With these words I conclude.

\*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura):  
Sir, I need not repeat the words of our Bapuji, that is, Mahatma Gandhi, who lived for the down-trodden and poor people in their motherland. After seeing their hardship and plight even to refuse to wear comfortable clothes and to eat food. He is the role model in poor's life. Unless we achieve Gram Swarajya, we cannot build the strong India. Let us strengthen Panchayati-raj.

All of us know that India's 72 per cent population is rural based, and 80 per cent depends on the rural work force. What is the living condition in rural India today? Even after nearly 60 years of our Independence, our people in rural areas were deprived from safe drinking water, safe housing, good schools, comfortable transportation, health, sanitation, nutritious food, rural electricity, good libraries, sports centres, rural industries, quality primary education. A handful of people are grabbing all the opportunities due to the ignorance of rural people. Sir, in any civilized society, communication and transportation plays a vital role. Many of our villages do not have uninterrupted transportation. Due to very bad roads, no modern vehicles will take the risk of transport. So, rural students struggle to reach their schools; rural farmers suffer to reach their agricultural produce to the market places in time; rural women struggle to reach the doctors. On many occasions, during emergency, infants face problems to get timely treatment.

All the villages should get the fruits of independent India. All the opportunities in higher education, professional education, educational opportunities abroad must reach the rural children, otherwise, there will be a wide gap between rural India and urban India, which may create a

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\* The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

grave social conflict one day. So, let us realise our potential, national and social responsibilities to develop India on the basis of equality.

Rural women are the worst sufferers of malnutrition. Their income level is very low. In spite of our several schemes, they are suffering from diseases like anaemia and other deficiencies. Let us ensure these proud mothers of rural India good food and other basic needs. Self help groups are extremely doing well in rural India. They need more support. I feel, we must set up a National Women's Bank to address their financial needs.

Rural electricity plays a very vital role in increasing their income levels. With a lot of hardships, farmers are taking loan from the banks and digging bore wells to draw underground water to their agricultural crops. But due to the lack of quality power supply and uninterrupted power supply, their crops and income are suffering. Let us ensure them good electricity to prosper, otherwise helpless unemployed people will start to migrate to towns and cities which are already posing and causing a challenge to the administration.

Housing is an important need in the society. In the villages, almost 98 per cent are living in their century old traditional kaccha houses which are not safe to live. Recently, in Karnataka, in my Kanakapura constituency, Ramnagar taluka one whole building collapsed due to heavy rains. So, Sir, it is our social responsibility to provide them financial aid to build the safe houses.

In my State during the Congress Government under the leadership of Shri S.M. Krishna's Chief Ministership, Government has done a revolutionary work by building 11 lakh houses in four and a half years. It should be the motive of all the State Governments.

Rural area must be ensured with compulsory sanitation. We must provide every village with overhead tanks to ensure safe drinking water. Rural children must get up to date education like computer, good English speaking courses to meet the challenges in the modern world. Thus, let us resolve ourselves to build India with Sampooma Gram Swarajya.

I am happy to see the allocation raised towards rural development in our UPA Government under the leadership of Smt. Soniaji and our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji. Of course, our Rural Development Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji is having a mother's heart towards

rural poor, but compared to the rural needs, we must raise the Budget furthermore.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma. Please take note of the time.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, here we are talking about villages, not about cities. Too many talks and discussions are held about cities but very few talks and discussions are held about villages. Since it is the topic related to peasants and villagers therefore, a little extra time may be allowed. You have given me an opportunity to express my views. I thank you for the same.

Ministry of Rural Development – what development of villages have taken place even after 58 years of independence? The condition of villages have not changed till today. The same kaccha roads are there and the same mud houses, same water from ponds and studying in schools with dilapidated condition and the same commuting to far away villages and same problems. How many questions should I count and remind you, even after 58 years, the condition of villages remains unchanged. But when our hon. Minister goes in front of media, he boldly announces "we will build India and create new employment opportunities for the villagers. How will they create new employments? They have talked about employment guarantee scheme but if we see the conditions of the villages very minutely we would find that proper development of villages has not taken place. If some development has been there, it is the development of those who sit in five star hotels, it is the development of those who travel in aeroplanes and expensive cars and it is the development of those whose income is growing by leaps and bounds. But the condition of the villagers remains the same. They are unable to manage their two square meals. They are in trouble.

Rs. 11,300 crores have been allocated in the budget for 2006-2007 under the rural employment guarantee scheme. Every year 100 days i.e., three months employment has been promised to one member in each family in 200 districts of the country. Is it possible for a person to run the family by working only three months in a year. If there is a magic lamp of Aladdin, then they should be given that lamp also along with 100 days of employment so that the villagers are able to live with earnings of those 100 days.

Rs. 24026 crore have been allocated to the department of rural development, Rs. 14018 crore to the department of land resources and Rs. 6000 crore have been allocated to drinking water supply department. Just now, a mention has been made about drinking water. There is a severe problem of drinking water in the villages. People are leaving their villages. Two days back there was a news in the television that a woman in Madhya Pradesh brought drinking water from a place a distance of 2 miles. Her husband took bath with that water. That lady said, "I have brought water from a place 2 miles away and you took bath with that water." She was so hurt with that she set herself on fire and she lost her life for only a pitcher of water. Such is the pathetic condition of the country today. Go to far off villages. When we go to our constituencies, women ask us when will they get water. It has rightly been said that more funds need to be given. You are from a village, you feel the pain of villages, we know that. I met you in Gujarat. You had come to Gandhinagar. You have seen the development of villages of Gujarat. You very well appreciated it also. Rs. 800 crores have been given for rural sanitation. But still the same garbage and litter can be seen in villages. Even today there are no toilets for our sisters, they go out on roads in nights. When big vehicles pass by that side they switch on the lights of their vehicles and our sisters are forced to stand up. This is the condition even now. The wise people passing by that side switch off the lights of their vehicles. The funds given for toilets is very meagre. Only Rs. 50/-? You have given them more money. If wider roads or bridges are not constructed, it does not matter much but if you have to undertake rural development, you will have to come forward for this. Rs. 3000 crore have been given for "Sampurna Gramin Yojana" and Rs. 5225.62 crore for "Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana". But this amount is quite inadequate. It needs to be increased further.

You have taken note of the waste land also. If you are going in a vehicle for ten minutes, you will see the farms and far next half an hour you can only see the waste land. I want to say that this waste land should be given to all the farmers of the villages. Those who do not have farms, they should be given this land for tilling purposes and for house construction purpose. People need three things to live in the country – food, clothes and shelter. Thus it can help providing all these three things to the village farmers, labourers and poor. If you arrange all these three things for them in the village itself, then none will remain poor or hungry.

Mr. Chairman Sir, you have allocated Rs. 270 crore for desert area development programme. It is quite essential to develop desert area too. People in the villages are suffering for want of electricity. There are people in your Bihar state who have not even seen electricity. People still light earthen lamps there. Today, people are going to Moon, Mars but we are showing 'Diya batti' to poor people of the villages even after 58 years of independence. It is a matter of shame for you and us. Thousands of political leaders have come and gone in these 58 years but none has done the needful for the country or the villages. We all should atone for all that.

United Nations have formulated a programme for poverty elimination at the world level till 2015. But I want to know if it has been eliminated from our country? Today the poor are becoming poorer and rich are getting more and more rich. In other countries the gap between the poor and the rich is being bridged but in our country it is getting wider day by day. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should give attention to this side also.

Golden Quadrilateral Scheme was introduced during the regime of hon. Atal Bihariji. Under this scheme pukka roads from cities will pass through every village. Every village through which the road passed, developed well. This scheme covers Porbander to Silcher and Kanya Kumari to Kashmir. Similarly there have been talks about linking of river ports with each other. ...*(Interruptions)* This scheme has been left unattended now. I urge the hon. Minister that although it is not the concern of your department, but you make some efforts for this also. Apart from that under 'Rashtriya Shram Vikas yojna', 170 most backward districts of the country were made to dream big things. The scheme was formulated by the NDA Government and maximum number of districts covered under this scheme are from your constituency. I think there are 34 districts from your state. The scheme was started during the regime of hon. Atalji, wherein 100 backward and 13 terrorism affected districts of the country were included. The UPA Government increased this number to 170 districts. There was a provision of incurring expenditure to the tune of Rs. 15 crore per district. They had also made a provision for this scheme in the budget but the most distressing thing in this is that the scheme introduced during the regime of NDA Government has come to a standstill during the regime of UPA Government. You are a witness to it. UPA Government could not translate this scheme into action because they could not decide where to spend the money. One year has passed in this

[Shri Ratilal Kaildas Varma]

way. Again they have made the villagers dream big things that, they had made budget provisions for them. You kindly pay more attention to it.

I would like to ask what changes have come in the life of a common man after 58 years of independence. He has been deprived of many basic facilities. He has to indulge in endless struggle in every field of life. Rural people got false assurances only. The UPA Government has made many claims in the Budget. I am not opposed to it. They can make high claims. They have said that they will provide employment to common man and uplift the villages but in reality the condition of the village remains the same.

At the end I would like to say that hon. Minister may kindly keep his promises. I conclude with these two lines.

"Desh abad to ham abad,  
Varna sab hoga barbad  
Mantriji mat phiro banke azad  
Gaaon ko bar-bar karo yad"

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to intervene in the discussion.

A question has been raised here as to what is the purpose behind constituting the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. I want to reply because I feel that much clarification has not been given in this regard till date. There is only one purpose behind constituting this and i.e. the provision made in part 9(A) of our constitution may be properly implemented and we proceed with our administration under that provision. Panchayati Raj is not a project or plan sponsored by the Centre but it is an internal component of our administrative system and what the Panchayati Raj Ministry has to do will be decided after having an understanding of that. If it is a matter of thousands of crores of rupees then ask this question to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji because my Ministry has only a few crore rupees by which I have to complete my work. My work is not to allocate the money neither to implement any project or plan. My responsibility is only that whatever has been done at district, region or village level, as described in our constitution, regarding economic or social justice, the

responsibility to prepare plans and implement them should not be of bureaucracy only but elected representatives also. That is what is my work. Although it is the Central Government's responsibility to ensure honour of the constitution but this work is related to Panchayati Raj and cannot be done by the Central Government but that work is to be done by the State Government under the provisions of the Constitution. When our Ministry was constituted then instead of organizing the Ministry I organized seven round table meetings of all Panchayati Raj Ministers of the country in 150 days only from July 2004 to December, 2004. During this period Panchayati Raj Minister of Central Government and his associates means Ministers of State Governments identified 18 points of Panchayati Raj in the meetings. After having identified these eighteen points, we have discussed these one by one and unanimously. I want to state this emphatically that we reached about 150 conclusions as to what are the steps to be taken so that we could achieve the goal imagined by Mahatma Gandhiji. We have decided that we have to cross 18 points to achieve that goal. To cross these 18 points what are those 150 concrete steps to be taken because I have placed before my colleagues as said from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The gist of these conclusions after holding a discussion with them and asked them whether they agreed to that. After this, we have accepted the amendments sent by them and then these 150 suggestions have been sent to the Chief Ministers of States after having passed by the Ministers of Panchayati Raj. No Objection had been raised by them. Then in April, 2005, I thought that now we have consensus at national level, we have the cooperation of State Governments also as to what are those guidelines by adopting which the imagination and dream of Gandhiji can be realised. Now the rest of the work is that all the State Governments which have approved these 150 recommendations should try to implement them.

I do not have any power to direct from Delhi. If I give directions, that amounts to violation of the constitution. I can say only that you all have decided yourself as to what steps have to be taken. You tell me as to what are difficulties in doing that what can I do for you, what type of technical Machinery can I give you and is there some sources or cooperation needed providing which is my duty.

I have visited eight states and two union territories in this regard from April last year till date. First of all, I visited Karnataka. Karnataka is a very highly placed state with regard to Panchayati Raj. Then I visited West Bengal

because Panchayati Raj is already in existence there, even before amendments in the constitution. After reaching there I thought that we have the information with which we can go to those states where Panchayati Raj has not been that much successful. Therefore, I visited Uttaranchal, then Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Orissa. Then I visited Rajasthan and after that two UT's, Lakshadwip and Chandigarh.

I can tell you with much confidence that although we have not reached near the goal but we are marching towards that with consensus. It should not be thought that nothing is being done regarding Panchayati Raj the work is being done and much is needed to be done. But that will be done according to these states. We are marching towards the goal fixed by these states hand in hand. We have unanimously decided that very first step is that there should be devolution of power in true sense. I am not talking about decentralization but about devolution of power. Decentralisation means delegation of powers or authority to someone and asking him to exercise those powers on my behalf. Devolution of powers implies handing over or transferring one's powers to someone else and giving him the complete authority in the exercise thereof. There is a mechanism to execute the process of devolution which we call as activity mapping.

14.00 hrs.

Through activity mapping it is made clear as to which work under a particular subject will be executed at village level through the process of devolution. Secondly, what will be the functions of that Panchayat at the middle level? Thirdly, what will be the functions of District Panchayat at the District Council level and what do we expect them to do? Once this activity mapping is done it would ensure that the funds and finances spent by the state Governments or the central Government for these works reaches the Panchayats which is imperative and justified. Once these functions are coupled with finances, the functionary i.e. the bureaucracy would intervene there. When these three sources unite at any level of Panchayati Raj then it would be able to function properly. Unless this kind of transfer of powers takes place, Panchayati Raj should be established.

Sorry, I was told just now that I forgot to mention one of the states I visited, I also visited Arunachal Pradesh.

I am glad to state that many states have prepared such activity maps to transfer power and those who have not adopted it, are being encouraged in this regard. Once activity mapping is done, the Panchayati Raj would start

functioning on its own. We will not have to provide them any scheme or project. All the ministries, be it Rural Development, Health, Education, Tourism or Culture Ministry – will prepare their own schemes and projects and ascertain the role and status of Panchayati Raj Institutions. For this purpose, we will sit in a meeting with our Union Ministers and discuss the possibilities to ensure the centrality of the Panchayati Raj Institutions so that they are able to perform the work related to economic development and social justice at the district or block level or at village level and they be associated with the work of Raghuvansh Prasad ji or any other Ministry. We have made many efforts in this regard and I am happy to say that in the new schemes, for example, in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, it has been clearly stated that these Panchayati Raj Institutions will become principal authorities. And planning and implementation will be its main functions. Last year the hon. Minister of Finance in regard to all the Bharat Nirman programmes announced in this very House that the centrality of the Panchayats shall be ensured. With such schemes we are trying to explore the possibilities as to how we can give due regard to these Panchayati Raj Institutions. A letter by the Planning Commission was sent to all the state Governments apprising them that the 11th Plan will be based on districts plan prepared in conformity with the Constitution. We are asking all the state Governments to constitute a District Planning Committee. This way draft district plan should be prepared in every district and we will ensure them all assistance. We hope that we will be able to change the mindset of the people and will make them realize that it is in the fitness of things to give Panchayati Raj Institutions their due position in the society. Similarly, we have to percolate it at the village level as well where Panchs should be from the village Panchayat itself. We have Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Centre who is running the Government with his council of Ministers. But the Sarpanch should not function hand in glove with the Patwari, otherwise the meaning of democracy will not be achieved in real sense. If one state is acting in contravention with the defined objectives of Panchayati Raj then they will have to think twice as to why they are lagging behind as compared to other states. The reason is that the State is mainly responsible for its implementation. We cannot change a law enacted by the Centre in respect of a State. You can put this demand there. Besides this, I have sent a copy of 150 suggestions to every honourable Member but a few Members have sent me the letter of thanks. It is with you; you can go through it and see that the State you are representing is not running properly. So please support us



[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

because everybody is thinking about implementing Panchayati Raj effectively. Sir, I would like to request all honourable Members, through you, to go through it as it is with them. If these suggestions are being violated, it means that the Minister of that State, who is responsible for its implementation is violating his own thinking. You look at me and Minister of every State, I hope we can support them. We can support them in many other schemes and projects like Panchayat Empowerment Investment Fund. It will increase resource. Besides, we are preparing Gram Swaraj Yojna. We hope it will provide all those things to Gram Panchayats and Panchayats at every level which helps them run the administration of a village. I have been given a new responsibility of Backward Regions Grant Fund recently, we are preparing its guidelines. Till now, it has been announced in budget speech of honourable Finance Minister only and I hope that the Cabinet would empower us with clear right because it is our responsibility. We would certainly discuss this with all Members of Parliament, particularly with those who represent backward districts and we will see as to how can it progress.

I am concluding my speech. You should not forget that you are a Member of Parliament. You are not a head of Gram Panchayat. If you want to do the work of head of a Gram Panchayat then you should contest the elections. When you became a Member of Parliament it becomes your national responsibility. I am not ready to accept your statement that if you come to power, then everything will be all right and will be done honestly and in your absence or if you are not Chairman corruption will prevail there. I believe in people of our country. I think only a hungry man knows the importance of hunger, only the homeless person can understand the importance of home. Only an illiterate knows what he lacks being an illiterate. So, I have faith in them. As, Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji desired that we should have full faith in our people, we should give rights to them, they should also contribute. Creation of a country should be in the hands of people of that country. Our country has a population of hundred crores. Hundred crore people should feel that they also contribute to it, they are shaping their country with their own hands. It is not such that only five hundred Members of Parliament, who are sitting in Delhi or 30-40 Ministers are shaping this country. Our people should shape our country in such a manner that the name of our country shines in the world. But it is not possible till the Indians do not give shape the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, honourable Minister has mentioned the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi just now. When he was Prime Minister he had

mentioned that I send one rupee to the villages but only 15 paise reach there. He had expressed this view when he was himself Prime Minister. What would you say in this regard.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Because this allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: It is not allegation.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Please have some patience, when I was with him he had mentioned this many times. The basis of this sentence is that Planning Commission had presented a report that administration spends 85 paise on itself and only 15 paise reach upto common people. Since then distorted version of his statement has been presented that 85 percent is swallowed by corruption and only 15 paise reach the villages. No Sir, it is not correct. It is necessary in Panchayati Raj that we should lessen the administrative expenditure. Elected representatives of people do not want all those things which officials right from Collector to VLO want. Therefore, we have reduced administrative expenditure. If the administrative expenditure is reduced from 85 paise to 50 paise then there will be double progress in our work. So, we should understand it and encourage Panchayati Raj. If administrative expenditure is decreased then people of our country will have double benefit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brahmananda Panda ji, now it is your turn to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Honourable Minister has said one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has just intervened, reply will be given later.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Honourable Minister has raised a very good subject. I want to ask only one thing that honourable Minister has said that if an MP does not become a Chairman then corruption will be eradicated. But while discussing about Gram Sabha I will like to mention about Orissa. In Gram Sabha only the influential person calls all Sarpanchs. ...*(Interruptions)* he calls them. Please suggest what can be done in this regard?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, I am not allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, I have not allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: As it is not going on record I would not reply. But I will request Shri Kharabela to accompany me and I will talk to his Government in Bhubneshwar and see why it is happening under his rule.

\*\*SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, a provision of Rs. 11,300/- crore has been made by the Rural Development Ministry for Gramin Rojgar Guarantee scheme and it has been decided to allocate a total amount of Rs. 31,440 crore this year so that the problems of villages like unemployment, water, housing and road construction etc. can be solved. We all know that India lives in villages and more than 70 percent people live in villages and most of them are dependent on agriculture and wages. If people living in villages are poor, then how can we fulfil the dream of India building? If farmers are unable to get remunerative prices for their produce and commit suicide owing to interest and loans, how can we say that India is shining? Does his Ministry know this fact that even today people do not get safe drinking water in villages. Punjab is considered as a developed state even today. The people of this state do not get safe water to drink. Today, in Kandi and Beet areas of Hoshiarpur district women are facing a lot of problems in bringing water, and may be you will be astonished to know that money given by you is either spent in papers or is heard in speeches only. Where students have to waste their time in bringing drinking water before going to school and farmers have to waste their time in bringing drinking water before going to their fields. How will they develop the area? The area which still has drinking water problem, how can it develop?

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that special measures may please be taken for

resolving water problem in my area Hoshiarpur and specially in Kandi and Beet areas and a Central team may be sent there to understand the problems and to find out their solutions. As has been said that till April 2005, 96.1 percent of rural population has been provided with drinking water facilities and 3.6 percent has been covered partially and 0.3 percent has not been covered. Then should we think that as per my above statement these data are wrong or the 0.3 percent area which has not been covered, is only in my constituency. In eight districts of Punjab fluoride contents in water are between 3 to 5 percent whereas this quantity should be 1.5 percent. In such a situation how people of Punjab will get safe drinking water? Government should look into it.

Sir, a poor down-trodden person's child studies in a village school, but it is very painful that if schools are there, the condition of building is very miserable. If building is there then no teacher is available there, then where should the poor and down-trodden's child go to study? Can we fulfil the dream of India building without educating children? I would request the hon. Minister that proper arrangements should be made for village schools and their staff so that poor, down-trodden and farmer's children can get education. A lot has been said in the budget regarding roads that roads have been provided in villages under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I would like to give only one example that in my constituency people have been dreaming since independence to get a road of five kilometres from Kot Patyal to Nangal Zariyal. But even today, due to non-availability of this five kilometre road, people have to detour 90 kilometre through Himachal border. Nearly one lakh people will be benefited by this road. But unfortunately this road has not been constructed till today. I have only said this as an example. I wish that you will give due attention to it.

In the end, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards one point that in Punjab's Kandi area under forest Act. Farmers can not use their land according to their wish, neither they can cut those trees, which they planted for their use in tough time and nor do they get any compensation for the same. You might have read and heard that a good number of young people from Punjab are in Pakistan jails. The reason for this is that they went there in search of employment but they have been caught by agents and now they are languishing in jails illegally. Most of them are from villages. Had these children got work in villages they would have worked for the development of their country and not have been in

\* Not recorded

\*\* The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

jails. People are coming to cities from villages and creating an imbalance. If villages have work, education, medical, safe water and road facilities then why would people run towards cities? I, therefore, request you that there is a need to provide more & more funds for the development of villages and it is to be ensured that work is actually done and people are able to work for area's and country's development by taking maximum advantage of government schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely obliged for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate.

Sir, so many sweet announcements are made in this august House but the real approach towards the rural life is really far away from the real development. As you know, Orissa is a very backward State. It has become the disaster capital of India. It is under constant threat of flood, cyclone, drought, etc., and as a result of which, the financial backbone of the entire State has collapsed. My humble appeal to the hon. Minister of Rural Development is that we talk about the national integrity and with regard to the regional balance between the different States. But the regional imbalance, which is created with regard to the State of Orissa, is really shocking. Though Orissa is vastly rich in natural resources, we feel proud of the fact that for years together, we have been supplying coal, iron ore to the entire country for its economic growth. But actually, proper attention has not been given to the life of rural people of my State. As a result of this, the real spirit of rural development has not yet touched the people of Orissa State.

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Members that Shri Biju Patnaik, late lamented leader of this country, a hero and a true patriot, made immense contribution to the entire country. His contribution will be remembered in the history of India for centuries together because he was the only person who rescued the Supremo of Indonesia. This party has been named after the great son of the soil of Indonesia. The motto of the great leader was that 'every State of the country should equally grow'. He dreamt that 'every State should economically prosper so that the dream of a prosperous India can be achieved'.

I represent a State, and a Constituency, which starts from Paradeep Port and Konark Temple, which is one of the wonders of the world. But I find that rural roads are in

such a wretched condition that the poor people in the rural areas are not able to approach a hospital. The roads are never maintained. The way the rural roads in rural areas are constructed is that they are never properly attended by the people. The integrity, the honesty and the dedication for constructing a road in rural area is really far away from the truth.

I would like to appeal, Mr. Chairman, that Orissa needs special attention under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. As you know, 47.15 per cent of people are living below the poverty line. Most of the people belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In Orissa, there are many wonderful things like the Chilka Lake. It attracts not only the people of this country but also the people of the world. Chilka is a nice lake. Shri Gopbandhu Das, the maker of modern Orissa, while he was travelling in a train, cited a poem.

"Rak Rak Khaney Baspiya Sakat  
Dekibi Chilika Charu Chitrapatta  
Chitramanejanu Nahi Anubhaba  
Bastaba Biswaki Chhabi Sambhaba."

With all the vast resources, a State like Orissa is neglected and no proper attention is paid to it. Rural development is a mere slogan. The needs of rural people are never attended.

Drinking water has become an acute problem in my State of Orissa. So far as the coastal, the sea-belt is concerned, on 14th March, I had been to one of the places in my constituency. I found that there was a large gathering. The female-folk had to cover a distance of two to five kilometres to collect drinking water. They are deprived of getting a cup of drinking water even after 58 years of Independence! I do not know when they will get it. We make all sweet announcements in this august House. The real approach to our rural life is not correct. The targets are never achieved. My humble appeal is that the dream of a prosperous Orissa should really materialise.

Rural roads, which are constructed, are never maintained. Nobody looks after the maintenance aspect. Invariably, there are absolutely no roads to approach the town areas though we say that we are here for Bharat Nirman. The dream of Gandhiji, the Gramiya Swarajya should actually materialise through the different policies and programmes of the UPA Government. In this regard, I would like to point out that as per the latest estimates, still 47.15 per cent of the population is living below the poverty

line. Those who belong to backward areas of South and North-West Regions have an unequal share of poverty burden. Those who belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are facing the worst situation. They are still deep in poverty. The UPA Government is taking several representations and appeals from the people but it has done precious little to improve rural life. ...*(Interruptions)*

With regard to distribution of houses under Indira Awaas Yojana, I would like to say that we see that a poor person who is really living in a hut has never seen the pucca house. I find that such poor people are deprived of getting a house under the Indira Awaas Yojana whereas an affluent person, with all facilities in his life, is having a house under this Yojana. This shows how the distribution system is implemented and who is the person actually getting the benefit under this Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Prabodh Panda to speak now.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: In this connection, I would like to appeal to the Government that for rural development, the Rural Development Ministry should declare a special package for Orissa to remove the regional imbalances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know very well, Lord Jagannath, who is preaching the theme of peace, prosperity, love and brotherhood among mankind, is in my State of Orissa. The theme of our culture is true devotion. Dasia, a Scheduled Caste person, was a great devotee of Lord Jagannath. Like that, Salabega, a Muslim, was a great devotee of my Lord Jagannath. In such a situation, if the rural life of Orissa is neglected, then Lord Jagannath will never excuse the Rural Development Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)* So, it is high time that Orissa should be given all priority for the development and all-around prosperity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda. Please speak now.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, how can I speak if one Panda is not allowing another Panda to speak?

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: We are all best friends. He is my senior.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. I have called him to speak.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: With these words, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to broadly support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Sir, it is already stated by several speakers in this august House and it is known to you very well that Bapuji remarked that India lives in the villages. But I would like to submit that the villagers of our country have been deprived of their due share since Independence.

We thank the UPA Government because this Government at least thinks about the genuine problems of the villagers and the Minister of Rural Development Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is a very efficient enough to handle this Ministry. When he was sitting in the Opposition Benches, he used to raise many matters related to the villages very forcefully, but now eventually he has taken charge of this particular Ministry which is related to development of the villages of our country. So, I, once again, specially extend my thanks and gratitude to him.

Sir, the UPA Government has already gathered a lot of experience from the past and that is why they are giving more emphasis to this Ministry. At the outset, I would like to suggest that the UPA Government should set up a Group of Ministers for the development of the villages. The problems of the people living in the villages are multi-dimensional and only one Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Rural Development cannot solve all the problems of the rural people. The Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, Panchayati Raj, Human Resource Development and other related Ministries should come together and a special Group of Ministers should be set up to deal with the problems of the villages.

Sir, we see that an amount of Rs. 11,300 crore have been allocated to the National Rural Employment Guaranteed Programme. May I ask the Minister whether he is happy with this meagre allocation for this programme? At the initial stage, they are going to cover 200 districts of our country. If we take that a minimum of 5 lakh employment opportunities to be created in each district on an average, then the figure may go to more than Rs. 60,000 crore. How can this meagre amount cover 200 districts of our country? So, I would request the Minister to think over it so that enough allocation is made for this

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

programme. I feel that at least Rs. 50,000 crore, if not Rs. 60,000 crore, should be allocated for this purpose.

Sir, there are other schemes like Bharat Nirman. But Bharat Nirman cannot be done without improving the life style of the people of rural India.

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, National Food for Work Scheme, Assistance to the DRDA, Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Yojana and all these schemes are there.

Now, I come to the problem of drinking water supply and the problem of sanitation in this country. May I know from the hon. Minister how many villages are still facing the drinking water problem? The hon. Minister may kindly reply to this in the course of his reply to this debate. In my opinion, the money allocated for that is very meagre. More money should be given for that. Even for the sanitation work also more funds should be allocated.

As far as land use is concerned, it is a general term. Without land reforms, land use is meaningless. Most of the States of our country are ignoring the land reforms policy. They are ignoring the ceiling of the surplus land to be distributed equally among the poor people. I mean to say that the egalitarian system of the surplus land is not being done in most of the States of our country.

In the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government, it has already been stated that the Government will implement the land reforms programme across the country. But it is still not being implemented. What is this attitude? Without proper land reforms, the land use policy has become useless and meaningless. Only proper land reforms can change the social equation in the villages, the social equation of the down-trodden people, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the backward classes and the poorest of the poor. It is not at all understood, how they can stand in life, how their economy will improve and how their lifestyle will be enhanced. So, this area should be given proper emphasis. As far as land use is concerned, what sort of proposals are there, it should be clarified to us.

As far as human resources are concerned, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a very good thing. But for that, proper emphasis should be there. That problem should be addressed to properly.

Sir, I am not going to take much time of the House. Many things have already been stated by various hon. Members in this House. During his intervention, Shri Mani

Shankar Aiyar, the hon. Minister of Panchayati Raj has stated many things. But with humility I would like to submit that I am not convinced with his arguments. After coming to power of the UPA Government, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar used to move around the globe. Now he is moving around the States and I think, in the coming days he will be moving around the villages.

I raised the matter of Panchayati Raj several times in this august House that Panchayati Raj should be one of the agenda for governance in this country. I have stated that it should be discussed at length. But it is not being discussed properly. So far as my State of West Bengal is concerned, we are running panchayats quite well. It has already been appreciated by one and all. Our departed Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi Ji, had also appreciated the system of Panchayati Raj in West Bengal. Now, it has already been democratised in forming the village level development committees. I would like to know how many States of our country have already passed the rules for delegating the power to the rural panchayats or the gram panchayats. This should be discussed threadbare.

I do agree with Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that democratisation means delegation of power to the villages, delegation of power to the panchayats. So, we should know, how many States have come up for delegating the power to the rural panchayats.

All these things should be discussed in a proper manner in this august House so that we can express our views. In short, I once again support these Demands for Grants. I think, the hon. Minister is efficient enough. He knows the basic problems of the villages. He is not superfluous like many others of our country. So, I think, he will think it properly and do justice to this Department by allocating more money for the development of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, discussion is going on the Demands for Grants of the Rural Development Ministry. Several hon. Members expressed their views on these demands and the whole country knows that India lives in villages. 70 percent population of the country lives in villages out of total population of the country, nearly 70 crore lives in 6 lakh villages. Amongst our hon. Members nearly 70 percent belong to rural areas. Our hon. Minister also belongs to a village. Hon. Minister is very capable and he has strong feelings for villages.

Sir, when the hon. Minister was not a minister and was sitting in opposition, he used to present issues of village people with such a loud voice that we were forced to remove our headphones and sometimes the situation became such that we used to demand for silencer alongwith headphones. I would like to thank the hon. Minister because he strongly raises the voice of the people of the area to which he belongs and even today, he is running his Ministry very strongly.

Sir, the reality is that even after 58 years of independence, development has not taken place in villages. People living in villages constitute a big segment. It has backward classes and down-trodden people. Their financial condition has not improved significantly and nor government has been able to do something for the development of villages. Unless people living in villages are provided social, financial and basic facilities, villages will not be considered developed. Even today, villages have many problems like education, health services, road, water, electricity and hospital. Population went on increasing but development did not take place accordingly. It is a continuous process but even after such a long time, government has not made efforts for any significant improvement.

Sir, as per figures mentioned in the Demands for Grants, an amount of Rs. 31444 crore has been allocated for rural development, which is only rupees 7 thousand crore more than the previous year. I would like to bring 2-3 points to the notice of the House, through you, that a lot is being said about Employment Guarantee Scheme. Under this scheme Rs. 113 crore have been allocated to be spent in 200 villages. I do not want to put question mark on this right now. I will ask about this after completion of one year. Then I will ask the hon. Minister as to what impact has been made by the scheme which was started and how much successful is it?

I want to state about 'Swarn Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana' that last year an allocation of Rs. 899.94 crore was made and this year allocation of just one thousand crore has been made. This kind of meagre increase in allocation has been made. In the Sampoorna Gramin Yojna allocation of Rs. 7650 crore was reduced to Rs. 2700 crore and for Food for Work Scheme the allocation of Rs. 5400 crore has now been reduced to Rs. 4050 crore. For rural Housing Scheme allocation has been increased marginally from Rs. 2475 to Rs. 2625 crore. Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna which is the most popular scheme for the rural people and allocation for that scheme has been

marginally increased from last year's allocation of Rs. 3835.35 to Rs. 4353 crore, for land reforms a marginal increase of allocation from Rs. 1399.20 crore to Rs. 1421 crore has been made. For barren land it has been reduced from Rs. 453 to Rs. 452 crore and for desert land it was increased from Rs. 268 to Rs. 270 crore, i.e. an increase of only two crore rupees. That means for a few schemes it has been decreased and for a few it has been marginally increased. And we are boasting of India shining. With this small budgetary allocation can we actually make development in India? With these figures can we make development in India? I feel that our Minister of rural development is now not paying proper attention. The air conditioned rooms of the Secretarial have made him a changed person. Here the figures are presented after being calculated in the Air-conditioned offices and cottages, the public is being misguided. The ground reality in the villages is altogether different, but the statistics presented here are all concocted. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: North Eastern area has not been included in these figures, whatever you are naming as decrease that has actually not taken place. I will tell you of the whole story. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: I am telling you that. This is all jugglery of figures. In reality on the ground level, the facilities for the rural people have not increased much. Total central scheme of what you were saying is, to the tune of Rs. 24025 crore as compared to Rs. 21334 crore. An increase of Rs. 3-4 thousand crore has been made. All this is an eyewash. Its nothing but jugglery of figures, all this are a concocted figures, by showing an increase in allocation people are being misguided, of which you are aware as well. You also belong to rural area.

Agriculture is no more a profitable business. Therefore farmers are committing suicides. Farmers get neither electricity, nor water, nor remunerative prices for their crops. Every time problems of farmers are discussed in this House, every member share the concern, but, in reality I do not think that the discussion has resulted into a concrete action. Farmers are neck deep in debt, suicide cases are evident from the states of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh to Haryana. The most important thing is that problems of farmers are widely discussed in this House but to what extent the problems are solved or not solved, that we all can see. Here the problem of downtrodden is widely discussed but a large chunk of this backward section is formed by the rural artisan, blacksmith, carpenter, washermen, oilmen,

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

barber, 'Dhiwar' and cobbler. Problems pertaining to them are not widely discussed and their traditional profession and their modes of employment, all have been ruined. Beta, Tata, Dalmiya, Birla & other big builders have taken over the profession of these small artisans. They have become shelterless and are migrating towards the urban areas. They are given neither any concession in the interest, nor their small scale profession are promoted nor they are given any subsidy in electricity. The Government is not paying attention to them. This is such a big section of our country. They are poor people. The hon'ble Minister must pay attention to them and you should take special interest in the people of the backward classes.

Women form a large part of our country. Around 50 percent population of our country is women. Even after 58 years of independence the condition of women remains the same. Economically and socially also their condition remains the same. No doubt some women in cities have attained education and made progress but in the rural areas the condition of our sisters remains same and they are victims of exploitation. They have been victimized socially. No special scheme has been launched for their upliftment. It is need of the hour to pay attention to them also.

Every time we discuss in the House about the Natural calamity and the problems faced by the farmers. Sometimes there is a situation of flood. Sometimes there is drought, sometime there is hailstorm and sometime there is an infestation of some insect. Every time discussion takes place, but till now no special policy has been formulated. Crop insurance scheme was started during the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but that has not been fully implemented. There is a scope for improvement. Credit card scheme was started for farmers. That has certain lacunas. It needs improvement. Unless and until concrete provisions are made in the budget for farmers and poor people, the problem cannot be solved.

Sir, Panchayati Raj Minister was saying that the extent to which Panchayati Raj institutions are strengthened the rural development schemes would be implemented to that extent. But we can see that in reality Panchayats have no power. Bureaucrats and BDOs have real powers. Panchayats have neither any financial powers nor do they have any administrative powers. If we do not strengthen our Panchayats and unless we delegate rights to them centre and state Government cannot implement the schemes in an appropriate manner and no progress can take place.

Sir, a few days back this issue was raised in the Parliament that our traditional sports becoming extinct. Today sports like Kabaddi, Hockey, Football, Volleyball and wrestling are becoming extinct. Whole country is concentrating on cricket only. Cricket is a game of elite class, and of business class. Our traditional sports are becoming extinct. Reason behind this is that the Government is not paying attention to it. This is also a problem that there is no space in villages for playing these games. The area of 'Lal dora' of villages has not been increased. There is a need to increase the 'Lal dora' area. There is no common land left now. The land of common land should now be acquired so that children get a ground to play.

Sir, I want to say one more thing. You must have also suffered this thing. Whenever we go to villages and meet the players they always request to get a stadium constructed for them. Please extend a helping hand for sports as we do not get any thing from the Government. Villages do not have common land or area. Therefore we should be given permission to release funds for MPLADS funds for the construction of stadium for promoting sports so that we can purchase sports goods for children to get the stadium constructed for them. This provision should be made to promote sports in the villages.

Sir, it has been 58 years since we became independent, but we are not able to provide safe drinking water to people. It is my request to the hon'ble Minister that he should discuss this matter with the Minister dealing with MPLADS and make a provision for release of funds from MPLADS towards sports and provision of safe drinking water. Swajal Dhara Scheme was started by Atalji. It proved to be quite successful. In this scheme 90 percent fund is released by the Government and 10 percent contribution is made by the people. But many villages are quite poor, where Panchayats do not have funds. Therefore permission must be granted to members to make ten percent contribution from the MPLAD funds. We can make contribution in place of villages, so that the problem of drinking water can be solved. If such kind of permission is already there then it is a good thing.

Sir, after agriculture, animal husbandry is a secondary source of income for farmers, but now Livestock has been reduced. There were 454 animals per thousand population but now they have been reduced to 188. Attention should be paid to it. Schools have been opened in the villages, but there are no teachers. For this purpose budget should be increased.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister was talking about the vision of Gandhiji that this country resides in villages. As long as the villages are not developed, the country cannot progress. But I regret to say that we have forgotten the real Gandhi and are adoring a foreign Gandhi. This is creating all the problems. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kunwar Manvendra Singh Ji, please deliver your speech from your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ok as you please.

\*SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the scenario emerging from the implementation of the Bharat Nirman Yojna aimed at achieving the practical development of villages indicates that the action plan initiated by the UPA Government for augmenting rural development, has given a significant targeted direction to the pace of rural development. It is by dint of Bharat Nirman Yojna that we are able to harness the resources of our country, specially the countryside rural area. We cannot visualize the country's development in the absence of rural development. To achieve this goal the Government has chalked out a six point agenda. These points are the fundamental pillars of rural development without which we cannot achieve success in it. In the field of irrigation, we have decided to irrigate those arable fields whose farmers were dependent on rain water and now, they will be able to irrigate their land even if there is no rain. Many irrigation projects have been lying pending for years together. The Government has decided to complete these irrigation projects in a phased manner through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The Government has earmarked huge funds for construction of rural roads, but if the State Governments also cooperate then we will be able to connect every village with all weather roads. Even today, many poor people in villages do not have good houses. The Government has provided Rs. 2260 crore for this purpose.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through this House, towards the fact that the money Government of India was supposed to release to the Government of Gujarat under DPAP, Drought Prone Area Programme, has not yet been released. A lot of carelessness is being witnessed in generating new

opportunities of employment in rural areas through CAPART and hence it takes three-four years in CAPART. When a proposal comes to CAPART, it should have a fixed time limit and if it is not considered in the stipulated time the Government should take action against the officers of CAPART. It has also come to my notice that CAPART is engulfed in corruption, against which a special campaign should be initiated.

This year Government has started Rozgar Guarantee Yojna to stop migration from rural areas and to eliminate unemployment in rural areas and has given Rs. 14300 crore for this yojna. This is being welcomed in rural areas but State Governments need to run this Yojna in a planned manner. This scheme should be implemented in all districts in a phased manner. I, also demand that this year it should be started in Amreli, Gujarat.

Rural people are still not getting health facilities and if someone falls ill in a village then he has to be taken to city for treatment. The Government has started Rashtriya Gramin Swasthya Mission and I thank the Government for the same. I also demand that a mobile dispensary should be started in Amreli district.

Rural people will be benefited from the increased amount provided in the Budget for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day meal. SC, ST and OBC girls will get education with residential facilities under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme and 1000 residential schools will be constructed for this purpose.

This House has a strong belief that rural development will get a boost from this budget.

[English]

\*SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I am sure of the priority accorded by the Central Government to enhancing rural infrastructure as well as generating investment and employment has a number of flagship programmes that seek to address these priorities. I am grateful for this opportunity to put forward my views on vicarious issues related to these programmes.

At the overall level, I would like to mention that the current stable of centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development covers almost every requirement of rural areas and the rural poor. Infrastructure needs, housing, improving natural resource availability,

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

\* The speech was laid on the Table.



[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

creation of employment opportunities and making available productive assets and skills to the poor are all addressed by these programmes.

However, these are discrete programmes with State-wise allocations. Often State needs and priorities in the different schemes do not match these allocations. There is also a difference in the pace of implementation of different programmes every year. There is therefore, perhaps need to introduce flexibility for State to make inter-se changes in the allocations for different schemes of Ministry of Rural Development. This can be on the lines of the autonomy made available to States under the old Basic Minimum Services now dovetailed into the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana. Such types of flexibility can enable the States to make proper use of resources keeping in view their socio-economic and geographical conditions. With regard to specific programmes, we have promised our people that by 2007, all Gram Panchyats will be provided road connectivity.

Roads are practically the only means of transportation in our State. The possibility of providing alternatives like rail and air are limited due to our topography. Therefore, enhancing connectivity through road communication is of prime importance for our State so that our potential in sectors like Horticulture, Tourism, Forests and exploitation of our Hydel power potential could be tapped to the fullest. Since the cost of construction and maintenance of roads in the hills is considerably higher than in the plains, I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of rural Development to enhance the allocations under PMGSY suitably so that we are able to provide connectivity through all weather roads to all our left out villages.

A large number of our left out villages require road construction through Forest land. As the roads constitute a basic need especially in hill areas hence I would request to consider amendment in Forest Conservation Act to exempt the PMGSY roads from the preview of this Act. It is also requested that the road had many times to pass through the private agricultural land. This subjects the already poor farmers to great hardship because no compensation is payable under PMGSY for land brought under road construction. May I request the Ministry of Rural Development to address this problem by making provision in the guidelines for payment of compensation based on negotiation.

Watershed Development projects are playing a major role in water and soil conservation, afforestation and

pasture development as also employment generation in State. Evaluations have revealed significant gains under the programme. Keeping in view the fragile nature of our land and the difficult terrain, higher cost is involved in the treatment of watershed areas. Hence, the unit cost per heater should be enhanced from Rs.6000/- per hectare to Rs.8000/- per hectare in availability of moisture and productivity of land can be enhanced by specifying that action plans of projects include appropriate output indicators with baseline measurements to benchmark improvements.

I would like to touch upon the rural water supply scenario in our state. Our Govt. has accorded high priority to the provision of safe drinking water to all the people of the State. There are some left out habitations in remote areas, which require high cost lift schemes. The funds needed for this have been projected by the State Govt. to the Department of Rural Drinking Water supply. It is hoped that this will be considered favourably. The State Govt. has also made efforts to implement the Swajaldhara Programme. In spite of all the above efforts the State of Himachal Pradesh is facing drinking water difficulties due to a drought situation almost every year. In view of this I would request the Government of India to provide more financial assistance to mitigate the drought like situations in the State. For promoting accountability, the PRIs have been empowered to check the field functionaries of IPH Department.

After the 73rd Constitutional Amendment the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State have been strengthened. The Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sabha have been empowered to manage and implement various developmental schemes. Recently Elections were held to Panchayati Raj Institutions of Himachal Pradesh, except some of the tribal areas where elections will be held in June, 2006. The elections went off smoothly and the new PRIs have assumed office in the last week of January, 2006. We intend to bring statutory changes to enhance accountability and to give a greater role to panchayats in basic services like primary education, primary health, drinking water and rural roads.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is a historic initiative of Government of India aimed at attacking the problem of rural unemployment in India. In Himachal two districts, Chamba and Sirmour have been covered under the Act. These two districts have been probably selected keeping in view the comparative backwardness of these two districts but keeping in view the tough gen

climatic conditions and economic status. May I request the Rural Development Ministry to bring more districts under the purview of NREGA in the coming financial year.

Encouraging sanitation through the intervention of IEC activities, School sanitation, strengthening the delivery mechanism has been adopted as an important developmental goal by the State. We undertake to provide fullest co-operation of the State of Himachal Pradesh in implementation of this programme.

State is committed to the development of its rural areas and we shall put in our best efforts to ensure timely and effective implementation of all the rural development programmes of the Government of India.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support Demands for Grants of the Rural Development Ministry. I also thank the UPA Government, the hon'ble Prime Minister, the UPA Chairperson hon'ble Soniaji, Rural Development Minister, Minister of State and officers associated with these schemes because 80 percent people of India live in villages and a thought has been given to them and a provision of a very handsome amount has been made this time for them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have consumed two minutes in giving thanks only.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Please do not restrict me to two minutes time, give me more time, or else, I take my seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

A few days back the hon'ble Prime Minister started the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for which a provision of Rs. 11,700 crore has been made. The number of people dying in the country due to unemployment and poverty is quite high. In rural areas labourers and farmers are committing suicides. This will help them because a provision of minimum hundred days work for them has been made and maximum they can work for 365 days. In it at least one member of a family either female or male or elder boy can work. He will be employed in this. Apart from it, I would submit that as of now only 200 districts have been covered. The place from where I come is the birthplace of Radha-Krishna which is an important religious place. If he includes Mathura in this scheme, then I will convey my thanks to him and Radha-Krishna will also shower their blessings on him.

As far as irrigation is concerned, the target of irrigating 6 lakh hectares of land in AIBP has been fixed, for which there is a provision of nearly Rs. 944.18 crore. If we look at the condition of irrigation, then due to non-cleaning of canals and non-repair of tracks water does not reach in fields. I will talk about my area. From British era in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Western Uttar Pradesh three arrangements have been made – Agra, upper canal, Agra lower canal and Ganga canal. In these 58 years not even a single provision has been made for a canal due to which irrigated area has not increase. I would like to tell, through you, the hon'ble Minister that sources of new canals should be developed from this money, so that more and more water can be provided to land which is without water and the financial condition of farmers can be improved. The lone crop which farmers grow is also dependent on rain only. The sources of water are receding. There is a need to protect and augment them. More and more area of land should be covered under canal-irrigation so that agro-production may increase. There was a plan to link the major rivers of the country with each other. Thought was also given to construct dams. Dams help increase power-production and give way to multiple means of irrigation. When floods come, they create property-destruction on a large scale and claim several lives. Farmers lose their houses, land and crops in flood. Every Member of this House is aware of the destruction floods carry with them.

Today, there is a need to provide for river-cleansing. We should carry dredging work to clean out the silt deposited in the rivers. You can see that rivers are regularly desilted in foreign countries and fresh water is always available. It allows the rivers to flow fully and freely and loss of water is minimalized. In our country the yearly floods incur loss of billions and billions of rupees. If we pay proper attention and invest money towards river-cleansing we may get rid of floods to a certain extent. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to address this issue. River-cleansing will increase water resources and farmers will be relieved.

This year's budget includes a provision of Rs. 3000 crore under Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. The 'Revenue Villages' have been covered under it. I want to come to the issue of my district. In our district, there are 30 villages under 'Revenue Village' Scheme. You have allocated a sum of Rs. 4 crore for them and the work is going on. I would like to suggest that there are many medium and small villages too, apart from the 'Revenue

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

Villages' and 4 to 10 such villages in number are there in a 'Revenue village' at more than one places.

14.57 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister, through you, that the aforesaid medium and small villages are deprived of power facility. So money should be given to them for electrification work. Our UPA Government has vowed to electrify each and every village and household. Until we electrify these medium and small villages, nothing much in this direction could be done. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to pay special attention towards rural electrification work.

The allocation under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission has been increased from Rs. 3645 crore to Rs. 4680 crore this time. It is a matter of pleasure. I would like to mention here that when Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1984, at that time I was also a sitting Member of this House from Mathura Parliamentary constituency. I am pleased to state that in his regime a 'Jal Nigam' plan was in vogue under which a water-tank used to be constructed in a village. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 10 minutes. Please conclude now.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: It is a very important matter. I request your kindness to allow me some more time. It was arranged to construct a water tank in a village and supply water therefrom to 3-4 villages. A pipeline was also laid for water supply. That 'Jal Nigam' plan is almost dead today, in outdated condition. The personnel working therein do not get their salaries due to scarcity of funds under this plan. The women of such villages are compelled to fetch water from a distance of 4-5 kilometres. It is a matter of shame for all of us. Even after 58 years of the Independence, the women of this country are bound to carry water pots on their heads from long distances in order to get drinking water.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to please take steps for reviving this plan. I have no hesitation to say that for the last two years, none of your plans has shown any substantial progress. The hon'ble Minister has said that he has allocated funds for UP. But what are the reasons that it has not reached the targeted areas? I have submitted

at least 50 proposals for the villagers of my area and stated that by clearance to these, many other villages of adjoining areas will also be getting drinking water. But regretfully, there has been no progress on these proposals. I would urge the hon'ble Minister to ask the UP Government to take special interest in this plan and to arrange supply of drinking water in the villages. I will be obliged.

You have also allocated Rs. 5225.62 crore for Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister, through you, Sir, that a scheme involving a cost of Rs. 10 crore in this connection was approved for my district, but this year I find its cost reduced to Rs. 7 crore. I have sent some projects involving a total cost of Rs. 25-30 crore from our side and I request you to please clear them. If this clearance is not given, I feel there is something lacking in your norms. Under PM Gram Sadak Yojana, if the constructed road passes by the outer area of two villages yet not linked with each other, it is deemed that the link has been established if only one of those villages is linked, albeit others remain disconnected. You should attend to it properly that all villages under PM-Scheme should have to be linked with each other from all possible sides. Then, there are allied problems with the Health Sector. The Health Centres running in rural areas are in a bad shape. Their buildings are dilapidated, there are no doctors, no nurses, no medicines for women and children and they are compelled to suffer and lose their lives. Conditions are so worse that many a time a pregnant woman delivers midway in a tractor-trolley or bull-cart even before reaching a medical center. This is virtually shameful for us. You should ensure proper medical facilities in each and every health center.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have housing development authorities in our towns and urban areas. You have come out with a provision to give houses to the BPL families. Why do you not give a thought to make Rural Housing Development Authority on the lines of those in urban areas so that the people living in rural areas could also take loan from the banks and construct their own houses?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. Please conclude now.

Smt. M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: There should be housing authorities in rural areas also, on the lines of urban housing development authorities like DDA etc. so that the rural people may also fulfil their housing needs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 20 members willing to speak. I would like the hon'ble Minister to reply at 5 O' clock so that we could complete the work as per our agenda of today and as decided previously. It would be better if hon'ble Members take lesser time to make their points.

\*\*SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, it is a matter of happiness that the Government is conscious about the development of rural areas and efforts are being made to make about 65 percent population residing in rural areas progressive and to uplift their standard of living through special schemes. Due to some reasons, obstacles are coming in the way of the efforts being made in this direction which I want to bring to your notice.

Panchayat Bodies working at district level and playing an important role are also not free of corruptions. Due to this a pessimistic environment is being made and situation of partisan is being created. In all important schemes, be it distribution system or a matter of allotment of Indira Awas or observance of construction work in rural areas or matter of BPL Survey, corruption is clearly rampant everywhere and even the Government bodies have also become a part of this corrupt system due to which the process of development has got a jolt. I myself had raised voice against corruption rampant in my district as a result of which Mafia prevalent in distribution system has come to light. Foodgrains and kerosene amounting to more than Rs. 270 crore have been stolen in Kheri district itself. 2700 FIRs had been lodged and dozens of officers were suspended. But nothing happened after that. All corrupt officers have been reinstated one by one and black marketing of foodgrains restarted. All the complaints have gone futile. Three responsible persons have also been murdered by this BPL Mafia. But this case is being hushed up. Other schemes are also being made ineffective in the same way. Keeping in view the cases of corruption in these situations a clear report at national level should be issued so that a comprehensive discussion can be held on this issue and system of supervision may be active and the culprits punished.

\*Not recorded.

\*\*The speech was laid on the Table.

There is also a need to make sub committees constituted under Panchayat bodies active so that peoples' participation can be increased in Panchayat processes and development schemes and arrangements of performance grading of Panchayat bodies should be made under development blocks and incentives should be given to Panchayat bodies showing better performance.

Although provision of work is being made in every Gram Sabha under Employment Guarantee Scheme but migration from villages could not be stopped because this provision has proved to be inadequate. The Provision of BPL is the provision made to save the people from starvation. This is not meeting the other important needs. So many problems are coming in the way of the process of eradication of poverty due to very slow pace of development of economy in rural areas. The process of converting unskilled labourers into semi skilled or skilled labourers is not moving ahead and therefore, we have not been able to eradicate poverty. Problem of child labour is still prevalent in rural areas and total income of Gram Sabha is not increasing.

The Government of India has given permission to FDI in retail section. Multinational Corporations are making up their mind to do retail business in India. In such circumstances there is nothing wrong to think that consumer behaviour of common man will change rapidly and the trend of processed food items and readymade garments will be prevalent. This market is a market progressing gradually. It is a matter of concern that most of the multinational super markets ensure supply of processed products from Latin American countries, It has become a big challenge. Now Gram Sabha should be converted in an efficient economic production unit through Panchayat bodies and monopoly of local products on domestic markets of the country be ensured with the quality, value and availability. For this, it is necessary that special directions should be given to Panchayat bodies by making an prospective plan in every Gram Sabha and district. A comprehensive demand base survey of the total area should be conducted and a production blue print of every district be made immediately, in consultation with the experts. Due to unnecessary delay, we have not been able to prepare an investment blue print in backward areas and precious time is wasted. It is a great responsibility of the Government that it should cooperate with State Governments by making a comprehensive action plan in this regard and ensure capacity building of representatives of the people and all concerned persons by establishing village development institutes in rural areas.

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

Arsenic poison has been found in drinking water in my parliamentary constituency and the areas of entire India along the Nepal border. As a result the poor people are turning patients permanently on a large scale. A bad effect of this is apparent on the development of women and children. I request you that checking of pollution in all those Gram Sabhas where drinking water is polluted is to be ensured and availability of safe drinking water be ensured increasing allocation for drinking water schemes.

Rural sanitary programme is an important programme but unfortunately due importance is not being given to it. It is requested that approval for special plans for community latrine in rural areas be given. These experiments have been very successful in many areas. It is necessary that clean toilets of good quality be constructed instead of temporary ones.

Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana is a very important scheme but roads have not been constructed after phase three inspite of their approval. More allocation of funds is required for construction of these roads and proper implementation is also required. One third population of India is still living below poverty line and Government of India is making big plans for their upliftment but all Ministries are implementing these plans in their own way. Coherence in these are lacking very much and things have not improved much even after so many years. We have received information that more and more people are coming in the category of below poverty line also. Constitution of social security council at national level is required to implement these schemes in totality so that time bound development of all persons living below poverty line can be ensured and they can be included in the main stream of economic development of the nation.

Provision of more allocation of funds is required for rural development Ministry, I support the demands made by Rural Development Ministry.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development on behalf of the DMK Party.

In the words of the Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, India lives in the villages. There can be no assured development for our country without systematic and well-organised rural development.

Today, we are happy to note that our country is on the path of sustained growth. The GDP has grown at 7.5 per cent plus; the savings rate keeps increasing, and it has crossed 29.2 per cent; and the rate of investment is 30 per cent plus. All these indices reflect a growing faith in the future of India, and that the economy is poised for an accelerated growth. However, we are saddened to note that agriculture is still trailing behind in terms of growth in comparison with other segments of the economy.

At this juncture, it will be very apt to bring in the words of the great Tamil Saint Valluvar. He says:

"sulanumerp pinnadu elagam adanal ulandum ulave talai."

The meaning of these lines is that: "The world depends on the plough more than on any other avocation in life. Therefore, despite hardships agriculture is still the best."

Agriculture is a really productive vocation, and it is the worthiest of all occupations. The farmers doing this worthiest job are the founders of civilisation. It is heartening to note that the UPA Government has fully appreciated the fact that the farm sector holds the key for sustained growth of the economy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, do you want to read your speech? I would suggest that you lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, we are all new Members of this august House. Therefore, kindly help us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, kindly continue with your speech. We will certainly encourage you.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, we need much more time to deliver speeches without the papers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will definitely help and encourage you. Please continue with your speech.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: In this context, the hon. Finance Minister rightly says that: "Unless agriculture grows at 4 per cent, whatever combination and permutation we may try, we cannot attain 10 per cent growth...."

The Budget of 2006-2007 has launched a set of

initiatives to remedy this situation for accelerating agricultural growth and rural development. Unless agriculture thrives on a sustained basis, rural development will be a mirage. Realising this fact, the hon. Finance Minister has consciously made the Budget farmer-friendly. In a revolutionary move, the hon. Finance Minister has proposed to increase the quantum of farm credit to the level of Rs. 1,75,000 crore in 2006-2007. Going an extra mile to help the farmers, the hon. Finance Minister proposes to fix the lending rate on farm credit at 7 per cent, and the Government proposes to provide Rs. 1,700 crore from the Budgetary resources towards interest liability.

Generation of employment in the rural sector is a crucial weapon to combat poverty and hunger. The total allocation for rural employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is Rs. 14,300 crore.

We are happy to note that the ambitious Bharat Nirman programme is on its happy march in terms of performance with reference to the six components, namely, accelerated irrigation benefits; accelerated rural water supply; rural roads; rural housing; rural electrification; and rural telephone. We are delighted to note that a larger Budgetary provision of Rs. 18,696 crore has been made for 2006-2007 registering an increase of 54 per cent over the previous year.

We are also quite happy to note that the Budget continues all the flagship programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services with increased Budgetary allocations.

All the development programmes aiming at all-round rural development aptly designed and launched by the UPA Government should also be implemented in a sound manner. We all know that proper implementation is as important as sound planning. So far, the UPA Government has launched all necessary efforts to ensure proper implementation. We hope the Government of India will continue to maintain its vigilance over the implementation, and also institute necessary administrative and technical mechanisms to carry out quality audit in order to achieve flawless implementation of development programmes.

I would like to record the following suggestions and requests with particular reference to my Ramanathapuram Constituency.

First, allocation of resources to rural sanitation programme should be substantially stepped up, considering the urgency to enhance environmental health of the villages.

Second, under the Rural Housing Programme, for people below the poverty line, per house allocation of financial assistance should be enhanced to facilitate the inclusion of a toilet room, to ensure better hygiene and sanitation in the village.

Third, necessary allocation of funds may be made to create a corpus for carrying out annual maintenance of houses constructed under rural housing, involving appropriate contributions from State Governments and the beneficiaries.

Fourth, warehousing including cold storages should be set up as part of rural infrastructure programme in select places of my Constituency to promote agricultural marketing.

Fifth, a special allocation of funds may be made to my Constituency for repairing and rejuvenating lakes, ponds and water bodies, with a view to help irrigation and drinking water supply in villages, considering the fact that my Ramanathapuram Constituency is an economically backward region.

Especially in coastal areas like Mandapam, Kadaladi, Thiruppullani, the number of ring wells should be increased. In the inner dry lands like Kamaesthi, Kadaladi, Narikudi and Thiruchulli, the seasonal rainwater should be stored in the rivers like Malattaru, Paralaianu by way of deepening and widening the rivers. The Chakkarai Kottai and Kalavi Tanks in my area should be converted as big reservoirs in order to help better irrigation and drinking purposes of the people and cattels. In some more places like Kanchirankudi, the desalination plant should be started. In Tsunami affected areas like Rameswaram, Muthupettai, etc., the mangrove trees should be cultivated in order to prevent erosion. Retaining walls should be constructed wherever we find habitations in the coastal areas of my Constituency.

Sixth, agro industries may be promoted to generate rural employment.

Seventh, I also urge upon the Government that a Rural University may be established to strengthen the knowledge base and to accelerate rural development. The people of India have voted decisively in the Fourteenth

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

Lok Sabha Elections for secular progressive forces, for parties wedded to the welfare of farmers, agricultural labour, weavers, workers and weaker sections of society, for parties irrevocably committed to the daily well being of the common man across the country. These welfare plans come under the Rural Development Ministry and the development of these poor sections of the society is the dream of my revered and most respected leader Dr. Kalaignar. Since the UPA Government concentrates more in this field by allocating a good amount in the budget, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development on behalf of my DMK Party.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of this budget brought by Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development. Even after fifty eight years of independence, crores of people in this country are not getting food properly, crores of people are not getting pure drinking water, crores of people die of diseases for want of medicines and crores of people are living in the open, for whom no arrangement of housing has been made. It is a very serious and sad matter. Supporting the budget I had also said last year that a poor man in this country sells his son for ten kgs of grain and sells his daughter for twenty kg of grain to ease his hunger. It is a very serious matter that in this country a son is sold for hundred rupees and a daughter for two hundred rupees and a foreign dog is sold for Rs. Fifty thousand to One Lakh. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development had made a number of assurances in this House last time and he is saying so even today. I would like to finish my speech by making certain suggestions.

So far as Indira Awas Yojana is concerned, due to price rise no house can be built in twenty to twenty five thousand rupees. I, therefore, demand from Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development that this amount should be fixed at least, Rs. Fifty thousand for Indira Awas Yojana keeping in view the increasing price rise. At the same time, the problem of pure drinking water is there. When we parliamentarians go to our constituencies, people there demand that they should be given India-mark hand pump but we are helpless because we cannot give them this pump. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also said that the Members of Parliament would be given one hundred fifty India mark hand pumps but these hand pumps could not be installed, as ten percent contributions were required from beneficiaries. The Members of Parliament from opposition also had said that they would make a

contribution of ten percent and install India mark hand pumps in the villages wherever required and can provide pure drinking water in the villages. At the same time I would like to say that the most important question is that despite Indira Awas Yojana, they are not having land, then where would they build houses? This problem always remains there. In this regard I have a request that Consolidation process be started in the whole country and the additional land should be distributed among the eligible persons of scheduled caste and backward class so that they could build houses on their own land.

The problem of ration card is also a serious matter. Last time also I had said about it but no improvement has been made in this direction yet. So far the matter of the ration cards is concerned, the poor have been given the cards meant for the rich. The people, who have tractor and trolley and own two storeyed houses, have been given Annapurna card which is meant for the poor. The people, who have no huts or have no shelter, have been given the card, which is meant, for the rich. Even today, it is being misused. The ration cards of the poor are with the quota-holders and they are misused. Goods are being sold from the shops but the poor are not getting ration. It is a serious matter. I want the Hon'ble Minister to pay attention to it. It is true that the progress of villages and the prosperity of the country depend on the villages and agriculture sector, but last time also I had said that the problems cannot be solved unless eighty percent of the budget is spent for the development of villages and for farmers. Last time also I had mentioned that if we look at the basic problems honestly, we will find that the national problems, which includes rural problem also, would not have remained in the country today, if the constitution of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar had been implemented fully. What are the national problems? These are untouchability, inhumanity, inequality, insecurity and injustice. These are the five national problems of the country and one of those problems is that even after fifty-eight years of independence we are unable to give a hut to the poor. Today there is no arrangement of pure drinking water for the people of the villages; the problem of electricity is there and there is no arrangement of roads. We hail from the villages but as yet i.e., even after fifty eight years of independence, those villages have not been linked with roads. I would like to attract the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards these problems and would finish my speech. My constituency Basti is the most backward area of Uttar Pradesh. Floods

play havoc in Diksir, Kaptan-ganj, Haraiya, Nagarpurab, Basti Sadar area of my constituency. The roads have broken and the houses got dilapidated.

I had requested the Minister to make, at least, twenty five thousand houses under Indira Awas Yojana in my constituency because the people of this area are in difficulties. The people make a demand when we see broken huts. I conclude my speech with the hope that hon'ble Minister would pay attention to my constituency, Basti.

\*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, the mechanism of the economy of the whole country is linked with the development of the rural areas. The economic, social and educational development of villages would take place automatically if the implementation of the schemes meant for the development of the villages is done properly. It has been said that through Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, One hundred day's employment would be given but serious thinking is required for the employment of the people for the rest days so that their families may not suffer from hunger. For it, employment opportunities should be enhanced by increasing small and cottage industries and local products in the villages. The farmers should be encouraged to install Tomato sauce and potato chips plants where potato and tomato are grown in abundance and pulse and rice mills should be installed where pulses and rice are grown in abundance. For it important schemes like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, should be effectively implemented. Through these roads the farmers may carry their products direct to the market and receive remunerative prices for their products and the labourers will get their wages in time. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was to be completed upto the year 2007 but its time has been extended. So increased amount of funds should be allocated to complete the scheme in a short period and the roads should be built upto the school of the village, hospital and panchayat Bhawan.

Even today, there is the problem of drinking in many a village. The women go to fetch water on their heads from a long distance. So the work of Swajaldhara Yojana should be implemented in these villages on priority basis. There should be a provision to contribute from the MPLADS. Many states are not getting the funds of this yojana. Madhya Pradesh is lagging behind for want of funds for Swajaldhara Yojana.

A number of villages in Devry and Jaisinagar Blocks of my constituency, Sagar, are facing a grave problem of

high contents of fluoride in water. Alternative arrangements should be made in all such villages on priority basis.

Gramin Swachhta Abhiyan should be made a movement as Mahatma Gandhi ji had run Swayam Seva and Swachhta Abhiyan. This will help in developing villages and at the same time there would be no disease in the villages and the villagers will remain healthy.

There is a need to further strengthen the work of self-help groups. By giving priority to the products produced by them in government supply, the financial condition of women will be strengthen. At some places we have received positive results of this and we should reward as well as encourage the Samiti there. Even today there is problem of electricity in rural areas throughout the Country. With the electrification in rural areas the rural people would be saved from going to far-off places to get their flour. The farmers would be able to irrigate their fields timely and with the use of computer they would also be able to come in direct contact with the current status of the market. Electrification would also encourage setting up of small and cottage industries in the rural areas.

This year unexpected heavy rains and hailstorms in the month of February have led the farmers and rural labourers suffer heavy losses in many regions of the country. In Madhya Pradesh many people have lost their lives including four to five persons in my Parliamentary Constituency Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. The farmers are extremely upset because their standing and harvested crops have been damaged completely because of natural calamity. This has caused heavy losses to them. The Union Government should take some steps towards rural development by giving special package as compensation for the damaged crops to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh along with other States where natural calamities have damaged their crops, because if a farmer loses his spirit then the entire economy may collapse. The farmers in many States are committing suicide due to heavy burden of loan. Therefore, if we want to realize our resolution of Bharat Nirman then we have to provide special assistance to these farmers.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): The Demands for Grants presented in the House by hon'ble Minister of Rural Development reflects that, although his intention is good but there has been some confusion in deciding the priorities. It seems from the papers that the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana formulated by the previous Government had started yielding results. There

\*The speech was laid on the Table.



[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

were five constituents of the scheme – education, electricity, drinking water, irrigation and health – but now the scheme's name merely has been changed. Till date there is no Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana under this. At that time there were only two schemes, one was S.G.S.Y., which was started on 1 April, 1999. You are demanding for the same and its results have also been good. The self-help groups have experimented a new thing in the villages and you have also appreciated the same. There is no question of disagreement on providing employment in collective form for any handicraft or small-scale industry. You have come up with these demands and we are supporting all the demands that have been made.

The second scheme was S.G.R.Y., which was started on 25 September, 2001. Now Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is also being run and it has also been taken as a constituent of Bharat Nirman and the target for this will be achieved by the year 2009, whereas earlier it was targetted to be completed by year 2007. An objection has been raised to this but hon'ble Minister had assured that in hilly areas the standard of 250 was to be achieved after the year 2009. There are small villages in hilly areas with the population of upto 150, 200 and 250 people. In such a way these villages would never be connected by roads and their condition would remain as inapproachable. I would like to urge that this issue should be reconsidered. Hon'ble Minister should reconsider setting the standard of 250 in the target of year 2009.

Based on the experience of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana one thing that has come to our notice is that there are no funds for maintenance of roads constructed in the beginning of year 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively. There is no agreement with the contractor or department for their maintenance. That is why these roads have got damaged extensively and it is no longer possible to use these roads. Some kind of provision should be made by hon'ble Minister for the upkeep of these roads also.

In the beginning I was saying as to where can be the fault. There is a scheme called Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (P.U.R.A.) for providing urban facilities in rural areas. The idea behind this was to build quality infrastructure in rural areas itself in view of a large number of people migrating from rural areas to big cities in search of employment. Similar facilities like Mandi, electricity etc., that are provided in big cities, should be provided in rural areas so that migration on such a large scale can be checked. But it has not been mentioned separately as to

how much budget allocation has been made for this. Rs. 14.60 crore have been allocated for other developmental works. The amount has been reduced to a large extent whereas there are four to five schemes under this and 'PURA' scheme has also been included in this amount of Rs. 114.60 crore. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister to give some importance to this scheme while finalizing this or at the time of bringing supplementary demands for the same. There is a need to lay importance to this entire scheme because it supplements their aim of Bharat Nirman. I would also urge the hon'ble Minister in the direction of providing maximum urban facilities in the rural areas in future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two very important schemes were running under the Rural Development Department. We have been able to get information and review the situation through the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Government at the district level. Their response has been really good, but the only thing is that we do not have any records and we only give directions for investigation that a District Magistrate should investigate the matter. If there can be some more deliberation and if some concrete action is taken, then we can get some positive results thereof. We have got to know from the district that under the Indira Awas Yojana a provision of Rs. 27,500 has been made for hilly region whereas it is Rs. 25,000 for the plains. He is aware that our hilly area covers the entire Himalayan region. The transportation charges in that area are extremely high and the cost of transportation of cement, bricks, or steel etc. upto 10 or 20 kilometres by head load comes to more than double. Therefore, its component should be increased. It will not be accomplished by merely a difference of Rs. Two thousand five hundred. The result is that the houses that are constructed for poor people do not prove useful.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to mention about drinking water. In this regard I would like to suggest as to how we can utilize water in a collective form or at the village level by collecting through rain water harvesting. Under the drinking water schemes that are being formulated presently, either the water level of natural resources of water goes down after two to four years or the source dries up completely which causes the schemes worth crores of rupees become useless. Therefore, there is a need to make special provisions for storage of rainwater. Besides, there is a need for handpumps also because ultimately when there is no source of water left in summers we can use underground water through these handpumps.

Therefore, in consultation with the State Governments we must provide maximum funds to them. Today, an allocation of Rs. 6 crore have been made for the department of drinking water supply. But keeping in view the present scenario this amount is insufficient, since we have to make available potable water in each and every village by the year 2009. It is true that it is not possible to raise this amount at present as per our demand but in future, I believe that Hon'ble Minister will also support it by enhancing this amount. Therefore, funds should be increased.

Now, I conclude after mentioning one last point. Earlier 'Food for Work' scheme was there which has been discontinued. People think that programme for Rozgar Guarantee is the same programme have already drawn money earmarked for 150 districts in this regard which is nearly Rs. 5400 crores. Besides, you have closed a number of schemes and managed to get an amount of Rs. 10170 crore. Though in the beginning Mr. Sangwan was of this view but we will not be making comment. Our best wishes are with you and in our constituencies we will co-operate with you and wish that we may get good results and whatever suggestions and complaints will be there. These will be brought into the notice of the hon'ble Minister. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, I would like to add something to it. In northern states like Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. There are no teachers in Government primary schools. Students and buildings are there but no teachers are available there. The children of poor people study in Government schools. We cannot imagine the development of children and villages without teaching them. Can any provision be made which may help in the progress of children of the poor people. You should think over this issue.

[English]

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to improve the lot of the rural poor and to ensure rural development in the country, the Union Government is spending thousands of crores of rupees. But, there are certain State Governments that would prefer to take the credit for implementing such Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Not only that, they also tried to throw the blame on the Central Government. The UPA Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh and ably guided by our Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi have evolved

several welfare measures for the uplift of the rural poor. Whether they are rural development schemes or integrated rural development schemes, or Prime Minister's Rural Road Development Scheme, (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), we have been allocating thousands of crores of rupees every year. Considerable amount has been earmarked for providing drinking water supply to the rural masses.

At this juncture, I would like to highlight the controversy pertaining to Periyar Dam at the Tamilnadu border. It was raised based on an agreement to last for about 900 years. Now, when the height of the dam is sought to be increased from 136 feet to 142 feet, an unnecessary controversy is sought to be created. Needless fears give rise to an unnecessary tension causing disputes between two neighbouring States. Though the Supreme Court has come to the rescue of Tamilnadu, we are not able to get relief. Hon'ble Supreme Court has given its direction. It needs to be implemented. If it is implemented fully without any delay, it would benefit at least five districts in Tamilnadu. Assured water supply will augment the irrigation facilities there. These otherwise drought prone districts would be ensured of water resources both for drinking and irrigation purposes. This would help the Government to provide protected drinking water.

Irrigation canals like Pathinettam Canal constructed long back is one of the ancient irrigation systems are now dry and parched. We now find encroachments along the canal. This results in accumulation of silt. This aggravates the problem of floods, especially rain floods like the ones devastated Tamilnadu recently. The bunds of canals have breached in several places and even houses have washed away. These flash floods have washed away several houses from many habitats. Such waterways have to be desilted and such measures should be included in rural development programmes. The prime need of the hour is to desilt and reclaim the canal evicting those who have encroached upon.

As such only upto a level height of 120 ft. of water stored in the dam can be utilized for irrigation purposes. Though it is 136 ft., the use of water is restricted to the water level at 120 ft. As silt has accumulated in a big way, water cannot be drawn beyond that level as in VAIGAI DAM 75' height after 50' water cannot be drawn. This needs to be attended to. The water stored in such dams can be utilised only when we overcome the problem of silt accumulation. The Periyar Dam in my constituency is one of the ancient dams in the country and a historical one. It

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

used to store water upto a height of 152 ft. When Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi was Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, the water level at that dam was 152 ft. Several changes of Governments both at the Centre and the State, resulting in difference of opinion causing disputes have affected the dam and now the storage level has been reduced to 136 ft. Now, the hon. Supreme Court has given a direction to raise the storage level to 142 ft. The parties concerned must obey the order of the Apex Court and must be willing cooperative partners to implement the direction of the Court fully.

In the absence of desilting of canals and in the absence of proper water supply in the rural areas around my constituency, the menace of water contamination affects children and elderly people. Fluoride contamination in drinking water has given rise to dental problems among the younger generation. Many of the children there are left with deformed dentures. It is a common sight in my constituency to see school going children below age of 15 are faced with this fluoride problem. Their teeth are yellowish and their eyes are also affected. The people in those areas are not able to get protected drinking water and that has resulted in these health hazardous. They use whatever water that trickle in. The polluted water causes several health problems. Hence, I urge upon the Rural Development Minister to evolve a scheme to ensure proper supply of protected drinking water.

Highways to a stretch of about 50 kms. are there in my constituency. From Cumbum in my constituency, you take a detour along the 50 kms. long highway stretch, you find that it is in the hands of a private estate. A private tea plantation is maintaining that stretch of road. It is only with their permission one can go through that stretch. The Rural Road Network in that area is highly inadequate causing great hardship to the people living there. Since people have to take forest routes to go from one place to another, they are subjected to the stings and bites of wild bees and insects. People who have retired from the services in the plantations, i.e., people who have crossed 58-60 years, are having physical deformities due to these insect bites. Some of these people have stretched fingers which cannot be folded. This is a pitiable condition prevailing there. This also highlights the problem of non-availability of health and sanitation facilities. Proper shelters have not been provided to the plantation workers. It is a vast stretch of 32 sq.kms. But, they claim that it is only 1,500 acres of land. About 6,000 workers have been engaged to work in a plantation that stretches to about 30,000 acres of land.

The plantation workers there are an exploited lot. They have to face severe hardships to earn their livelihood. The situation must change.

While taking care to improve the infrastructure facilities there as part of rural development programmes, our Prime Minister has also enacted recently National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It is a historic move. Several crores of rupees have been earmarked for this programme. We must ensure that the benefits of this programme reach the masses fully. Now, 200 districts have been selected for the implementation. The number of districts must be increased. To begin with at least 200 districts can be included. Because this will benefit the rural poor in a big way.

As far as my constituency is concerned, about 200 to 250 sq. kms. of hill tracts and terrains are there. The vast stretch of foot hills remain to be unutilized lands. You find this vast stretch of unutilized land to be neither a forest nor a land fit for cultivation. This waste land must be developed to benefit the rural poor around the place. The Vigilance and Monitoring Committee pertaining to this was summoned just once after my election as a Member of Parliament there. I find lots of money has been spent on waste land development there. But the expenditure is only on paper. No development has taken place there. That is the ground reality. I requested the District Collector there to find out whether the funds have been properly utilized there. Waste land development aims at providing lands to the landless and bring under cultivation the uncultivable lands. This will help the poor farmers to improve their lot. The Scheduled Caste/Tribes people living in the vicinity of that area would be greatly benefited provided the Waste Land Development Programme is implemented seriously and sincerely. Many such people live in those forest areas for many years, even many generations. But they are treated as intruders and are being driven away by the forest officials in the nearby forest areas. They do not get shelter, their children do not get education. Such hutments in those backward areas were provided with single point electricity supply when Dr. Karunanidhi was Chief-Minister of Tamilnadu. Thousands of hamlets in that area which were getting free electricity are deprived of this benefit currently. When revenue villages have got power supply, hamlets and traditional habitats of the marginal people do not have power supply, though it has become an essential need of the modern times. I urge upon the Rural Development Minister to ensure power supply to those most backward remote villages and habitats. The rights of

the Scheduled Tribes living in the forest areas must be protected. They live there for many decades now in a backward condition without basic amenities and education with which they can come up in life.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, please conclude.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: If you want me to lay my speech, I will do so. Or, if you give me some more time, I will conclude it. This is the first time I am speaking in Tamil; it is not my maiden speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have the written speech, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, this is very important; I will speak.

Rural connectivity and laying of roads in rural areas, have not been attended to in a proper way even after 50 years of Independence in many districts in the country. The Gnayiru village, that is our native village, is yet to get proper road connectivity. Similarly, our hon. Colleague Shri Krishnaswami's constituency has got two habitats – Keel (East) Colony and Mel (West) Colony. The Mel Colony has got only mud-path still. Metal roads and proper road connectivity is not there in those backward rural areas. I would like to record this in this august House. Similarly, in Ramanad district, in many of the fishermen villages, you still find mud-paths only. Metal roads are not there. They have not even dreamt of it. Such backwardness must go from villages. We have been spending crores of rupees for rural development for all these years. Rs.4835 crores has been earmarked in this year. Rural electrification has also got enhanced allocation. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that he hailed from a village where there was no electricity and he had to study with kerosene lantern lamps which had affected his eyes. In remote rural pockets and hamlets in the Kodai hills, we find this condition still.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, you are giving time to Members who speak in English and Hindi. This is the first time I am speaking in Tamil. Let me speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than ten minutes.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Through Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Rs.3645 crore were spent in the year 2004-05. Rs.4458 crores were spent in the year

2005-06. With this, the entire Tamilnadu ought to have got protected drinking water by now. I urge the Centre to ensure that all the problem villages must get drinking water all over the country. We must ensure that the Mission is accomplished. Rs.11372 crore to be spent on Bharat Nirman, the comprehensive Rural Infrastructure Development Programme. In order to ensure that the benefits accrue to the people, the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee must have regular quarterly sittings. Though they are to be convened once in three months, it has not been convened even after six months. This has not taken place in my constituency Periyakulam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you; please conclude.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I will lay the remaining part of my speech. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Now, Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, Special programmes like Rural employment Guarantee Programme has been allocated Rs.11,300 and Food for Work Programme has been allocated Rs.2,700 crore. Under SGRY – a sum of Rs. 12,870 crores have been allocated. Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana has received a grant of Rs.4,220 crore.

Sir, I wish to point out here that the State Governments run by other political parties, other than the UPA alliance partners are spreading false message that Central Government sponsored programmes are their own programmes. In fact, they are diverting the funds allocated under the Central schemes for implementing their own schemes.

In my parliamentary constituency, there are 9 townships, namely Kodaikkanal, Podi, Theni which are lacking proper and protected drinking water facilities sanitation, sewerage connections. I have requested the District Collector a number of times to undertake a survey and submit the report to the State Government so that State Government could seek funds from the Central Government to provide the above facilities in my area through various Centrally-sponsored schemes. I have even written a number of letters but all has gone in vain with literally no results. This is the sorry state of affairs that the Government provides these basic amenities, it would be a landmark programme for the people living in the rural

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

areas and those people would not forget such a gesture from the government when they are specifically lacking safe drinking water, sanitation, roads, etc. the UPA government should intervene in the matter and provide the basic amenities to my constituency people.

I would like to appreciate last year's Shram Vikas Yojana which has been implemented only in the North-Eastern State and Goa. It is a 100% sponsored programme and is provided free of cost. I would request the Government that this programme should be extended to Tamil Nadu also where there is a need to implement water conservation programme, land development programme and to control floods. I hope with the implementation of this scheme, Tamil Nadu would benefit immensely.

There are lakhs and lakhs of wasteland in my parliamentary constituency. In the last Vigilance Monitoring Committee meeting, I had taken up this subject with district authorities headed by the District Collector and Project Officer but they have not replied to my queries. It seem that have misappropriated the funds meant for wasteland into cultivable land, country cold irrigate more land and rural employment problem well be reduced considerably.

About six months back, there was flash floods in my constituency when a well has caved in causing damage to life and property. I have brought this matter up with the District Collector. This is happening because of the encroaching in the waterways and channels. Hence, I would request the Central Government to bring a strong legislation to ensure that waterways and channels are kept free of encroachment. Particularly, in Andipatti of my constituency, many houses have been washed way. State Government has extended some relief. My request is that the Central government should also give relief to the affected persons on such occasions.

My constituency is inhabited by a lot of tribal population in Kodaikkanal High Ways viz. Kambam, Mettu, Bodi. They are chased away by the forest officials. In such a scenario, where will they go? They are illiterates who are not in a position to write even a writ petition. Their rights should be restored and they should be protected as guaranteed by the Constitution of India. I would request the Government to handover lands on which they have been cultivating should be given to them. In fact, they are the protectors of forest land. They are not misusing.

30 km. area has tea plantation whereas only 1,500 acres is shown. There are about 6,000 people working in

this area where there are no proper roads, sanitation facilities, nor transport facilities with the result people are suffering a lot. Retired persons are unable to fold their fingers. Their fingers are straightened due to insect bite and there is nobody to take care of them. This is the precarious situation of the people in the area. Government should conduct an immediate survey to know exactly how many acres of forest land is with the Kodaikanal highways viz. Tea Estates and how many acres of Government land are being misused by them. They are not even allowing the local authorities to enter the area. They are not even allowing the workers in the tea estates not to even milch the cows, thereby, crushing rights of the employees. I would like to stress to the Government to send a team of surveyors to know the exact status of the area they are cultivating. They are fooling the government by saying that they have only 1,500 acres. By conducting survey, they should take away the excess land from them, give only 1,500 acres and through auction, the balance land should be given to the small cultivators and workers who are toiling day in and day out this process would bring in more revenue to the government with which it can provide roads, sanitation facilities, provide electricity, etc.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betia): Sir, Department of Rural Development of Central Government has launched a programme for the backward, underdeveloped and unemployed people. If it is completed within its time frame then the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan can be realised and this country will emerge as a strong country in the world.

Hon'ble Minister has implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Act under Bharat Nirman Programme which will result into strong Rural Economy and stop the migration of unemployed people to developed states.

This Act provides employment for at east 100 days in a year to an adult member of a rural family who is willing to work and if no employment is provided he will get unemployment allowance.

When India became free, the builders of our nation had a dream that lacs of people who were suffering from poverty, illiteracy and diseases would be able to get rid of these problems with the help of this scheme. I demand

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\* The speech was laid on the Table.

that this scheme should be implemented in each district of our country.

As per the guidelines of watershed development more attention has to be paid on the common land of the villages, equality in terms of distribution of profits, implementation of projects and for post project maintenance institutional community participation at village level, emphasis over continuous sustainable rural livelihood assistance system through self help groups and users groups, capacity building as an important component committee systems at the state and district level for the monitoring & implementation and preparation of decentralized planning by the local people living in a watershed area. But there is a need to improve in the implementation of this programme.

Indira Awas Yojana –

Bihar is a poor and flood affected state. Every year poor people bear heavy losses on this account and this houses are damaged. The houses of nine lakh poor people got damaged during previous years due to flood. Out of them more than six lakh people are homeless at present. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that these houses should be constructed for the poor people of Bihar after conducting a survey in this regard.

A commendable work has been done under Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP). I extend my heartiest congratulation to them. This year Nirmal Gram Award is being conferred on a large number of Gram Panchayats in comparison to the last year by the honourable President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 23rd of March.

Under Sampooma Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Gram Yojana, DRDA Administration, D.P.A P., D.D.P. and under the IWDP, Watershed Development Programme, Computerization of Land Records, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Field Development Project, Jaldhara, Rural Sanitation Programme etc. are such magnificent and important programmes of this department that are getting appreciation by one and all. Now I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to some other issues.

Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana – Honourable Minister is well aware of the condition of new roads and rural roads of Bihar. Under my parliamentary constituency, roads for Betia, Belwatiya, Raghunathpur Path, Madhopur, Baghi, Ramgadhwa Pirpati Adhakpariyan Parpati Phulwaria, G.V.C. Seva Ghodasahan Branch Canal of

Sugauli block of Eastern Champaran; under Western Champaran, Pujaha Parjikka Sant Ghat, from Sant Ghat to Pakhnahan, Baghambar Put to Bintoli, Betia to Narkatiyaganj, Betiya, Nautan, Mangalpur, Tengrahi Ghat, from Betiya to Benya Parekhan, Gulab Chowk to Sareya, Bagahi to Tumkadiyan, Pipra, Ranipakdi, Gangauli Railway Gumiati, from Machhargawan Kanal to Sivrajpur Bandh etc have been approved by your department but the pace of construction work on these roads is very slow which should be completed at the earliest.

I would like to request you that only 20 kilometers of road has been approved in respect of Ghodasahan Kanal road. If it is extended by another 25 kilometers this will be linked from Raxaul-Melari to Ghodasahan and consequently this will become an important road for Indo-Nepal border.

In respect of Sam Vikas Yojana only officers are involved in the supervision and selection of the schemes whereas people's representations have no involvement. I demand that involvement of the people's representations should be ensured in the implementation of this scheme. Last year the honourable Finance Minister included 36 districts from Bihar in 170 backward districts of the country and had made a provision for providing Rs. 5 crore to each district separately but it has not been implemented so far. So, I demand that the aforesaid money for the current year & the last year may be disbursed to the backward districts.

*[English]*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the MPs, 70 per cent of them, come from the rural background, from villages. So, this is the most important subject for all of us. Mahatma Gandhi had said that India lives in villages. About 70 per cent of India's population lives in villages. It is the bounden duty of both the Government of India and the State Governments to provide shelter, drinking water, education, health, telephone, good roads, drainage and employment. These are the primary objectives of the Government under the Directive Principles of the State Policy and the Constitution. There are separate Ministries for health, education, communication and all other areas come under the Rural Development Ministry.

Everybody has appreciated the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. It was launched on 2nd February,

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

2005 in Vanapalli Village, Narpeta Mandal, Anantpur District. Hon. Prime Minister, UPA Chairperson, Chief Minister and Rural Development Minister were all present. Vaarta is the second largest circulated newspapers of Andhra Pradesh. It has written a big article on this. It has been mentioned that 513 people applied for employment and job cards were given to 89 people. Hon. Prime Minister had launched this scheme and the UPA Chairperson was also present but till date people are migrating to other areas for employment. On that day, the Prime Minister gave an assurance that though the job cards were not given the Government was ready to provide employment. Though, the Prime Minister had inaugurated this scheme in Vanapalli village, the Government need to get the information as to how this scheme is being implemented in other parts of the country. In Andhra Pradesh alone 34 lakh people applied for employment under this scheme but they have not been given the job cards. This is a good scheme but it has to be implemented in its true spirit otherwise, there is no use of having such good schemes. It has been confined to 200 districts. I would like to know how would the Government provide employment in other parts of the country.

In the Year 2004 the National Food for Work Programme was launched with an allocation of Rs.6000 crore. Similarly, we have the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana. If you go through the figures you will find that in the year 2004-05 the allocation made to SGRY was Rs.5,100 crore. In the year 2005-06 it was reduced to Rs.4000 crore and this year, that is 2006-07 it has been further reduced to only Rs.300 crore. This is the best programme of our country. About 50 per cent of the amount goes to the Panchayat, 30 per cent to the block level Mandal and 20 per cent to Zila Panchayat. The money allocated to the scheme is being reduced year-by-year. There is activity everywhere and if the Government allocates 50 per cent of the money under this programme to the Gram Panchayat, they can provide employment to the poorest of the poor, to the under-employed. So, we need to increase the amount allocated under this programme.

Shram Jayanti Gram Swaraj Programme is a self-employment programme and the increase in allocation for the whole country is only Rs.300 crore. Last year Budget allocation for this programme was Rs.960 crore and this year the allocation made is Rs.1200 crore only.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana was launched on 25th December, 2000 with the objective to complete

roads for more than 1000 population in three years. By the end of this Tenth Plan the Government has to provide all weather roads beyond 500 population. The Tenth Plan is going to end by 2006-07. How will the Government provide roads as per the principles and objectives of the PMGSY? The amount allocated is very meagre. It is not at all sufficient.

Thousands of villages do not have link roads. There are no all weather roads. You have increased the allocation by Rs.2000 crore but it is very meagre. Now, the cement cost has increased three-fold and iron cost has also increased. Therefore, even with this increased allocation you cannot achieve more kilometres. So, you have to provide more money for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Then only you can proceed according to your estimation and programmes.

Now, I would come to rural housing under Indira Awas Yojana. In the year 2005-06, the Budget allocation was Rs.2775 crore. In this year, you have increased it to Rs.2920 crore. So, you have increased the allocation by Rs.160 crore. You are providing Rs.25,000 for each house. Whereas for Tsunami affected people, you are providing Rs.40,000 to every fisherman. So, how is it possible to construct a house with Rs.25,000 only? Therefore, I would request you to increase it to Rs.50,000 per house. If you provide them Rs.25,000, they will construct the house up to roof level and then they would start searching for some private moneylender. He will take money from him for completing the construction of his house and will have to pay higher interest. So, I would say that in the present circumstances, Rs.25000 is not at all sufficient. The cost of iron and cement has increase by three-fold or four-fold in the last 10 years. That is why, I would request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to increase the unit cost to be given under Indira Awas Yojana.

For the Rural Water Supply Programme, you have allocated Rs.5200 crore which is not at all sufficient. In Andhra Pradesh, various districts like Medak, Mahabub Nagar, Nalgonda and other districts, there is a lot of fluoride content in the ground water. We have the coastline running into 1000 kilometres from Srikakulam to Ichapuram. Everywhere there is brackish water. Therefore, people want more money for the drinking water schemes. We have to bring water from the rivers to provide drinking water to the fishermen and villages. Therefore, this allocation is not at all sufficient. We have fluoride and

saline water in all the sea coast villages. So, more funds should be allocated to Andhra Pradesh for drinking water schemes speedily.

According to the UNDP's global human development index, India stands at 127 position out of 177 countries of the world. This is India's global position as far as human development index is concerned. Everybody is very happy that we have achieved a GDP growth rate of 8.1 per cent. We are creating wealth but ultimately that wealth should trickle down to the common man and the poorest of the poor. In villages, there are no teachers in the schools. So, how can we give good education? If you can provide good education, the development will come automatically. All these problems are there. We are happy about our GDP growth rate which is creating wealth but it should percolate down to common man and poorest of the poor. Then only the society will be lifted. That is not happening. That is why, in the present scenario, I must request the hon. Minister of Rural Development that he should ask for not less than Rs.50,000 crore for his Ministry. Then only he can satisfy the whole country. Otherwise, how is it possible to do all these things? For Indira Awas Yojana, you have increased the allocation by Rs.150 crore. But how can you satisfy people throughout the country? You are providing Rs.25,000 to each beneficiary. He is constructing the house up to the roof level and then he is forced to approach the private moneylender for completing his house. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except the speech of Shri Yerrannaidu, nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, three wonderful schemes are there. They are – Waste Lands Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Development Programme and Dessert Area Development Programme. How much money are we providing? For each hectare, you are providing Rs.6000. When you introduced this Scheme in 2001, you were providing Rs.6000 and now we are in 2008. That is why, your projects are not completing. The cost of labour and material component is also increasing.

You are providing only Rs. 6000 per hectare. If that be the case, then how can they execute the entire Wasteland Development Project? So, the ceiling level of Indira Awas Yojana, the Desert Areas Development

Programme, the Wasteland Areas Development Programme and the Drought-Prone Areas Development Programme should be increased and only then the projects will be completed on time. The States are not providing funds because they are not well placed economically. Even in the case of the centrally sponsored scheme like Pradhan Mantri's Sadak Yojana, you should make it fully Centrally funded and not 75 per cent or 25 per cent State funded. Some States are not providing their share and so, they are not sending their utilisation certifications. As a result, you are not releasing the second instalment of funds. So, you should make all the rural development schemes 100 per cent Centrally sponsored and only then your programmes and schemes will be implemented perfectly.

I would request the Minister to accept important suggestions given by me like the increase of unit cost in the Indira Awas Yojana.

\*SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, so for the Performance of this Ministry is concerned, it has been excellent. It is, in fact, trying it best to satisfy the common People aspirations through its various programmes.

Sir, I intend to concentrate only on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Sir, this has been the historic year, as this Government passed the Right to Information Act. Passed another act to Provide equal rights to the women in the ancestral property and of course passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Sir, the implementation of this act has given a lot of hopes to the people in the rural areas. Sir, under the act, who ever intend to seek an employment has to make an application. These application then would be verified, identify card will be issued, and states has to provide the work within 15 days, failing which states have to pay the unemployment allowance.

Sir, the Act is in force. The state Governments have begun implementing it. But I am sorry to say, that many state Government are tardy in its implementation and have adopted non-supportive, in some cases negative attitude towards its implementation. Take the example of Gujarat State.

NRGEA is implemented in six districts of Gujarat. They are Banaskantha, Dahod, Sabarkantha, Dang, Narmada and Panchmahal. The total number of Pancha-

\* Not recorded.

\* The speech was laid on the Table.



[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

yats in these districts are 2878. Of these Panchayats, 306226 persons has applied for registration till 15th February. Of this 300294 applications were registered and only 28,221 cards were issued. Also, I have sought the information from my district. This information is as follows:

As on 10th March 2006 out of 707 Gram Panchayats, 1,27,306 persons had applied for registration. Of this 1,22,602 persons were registered. While 41,344 job cards were issued.

As for the work are concerned, 1669 works were given administrative sanctioned, while 2046 works were technically sanctioned.

Upon inquiring about the works in progress and the payment received by the labour, to my horror, I found that only seven works were in progress employing 1381 labourers and from this 7 works on one work, at Nana Chekhala Village in Talod Tehsil. Labourers paid Rs. 15 per day while on the other work at Dobhada Pond at Vadali Tehsil where 65 workers were working. They got only Rs. 19 per day after eight hours work. This is an awesome information, while we are propagating that the labourers would get minimum Rs. 60, they in reality got Rs. 15, Rs. 19, Rs. 20 and so on.

On inquiring about the low wages paid by the administration, I found that the labourers on the above 7 works paid on the old SOR which the Govt. of Gujarat used to pay the labourers engaged on scarcity works. This is wrong.

On further inquiry it is found that the Gujarat Govt. entrusted the work motion study to one NGO and it has not submitted its report. Though I drew the attention of the Govt. of Gujarat, the Gujarat Govt. seem to have not moved. To me it seems the Government inaction on this front sound deliberate and malafide because the Gujarat Govt. seem to have hell bent on to prove that the works as agricultural workers. Besides, this being the Central Govt. Programme, the Gujarat Govt. is not interested at all.

Sir, I demand that the Minister take a special and quick action in this, if he does not take then I would say that I will loose the trust of the labours and people at large, atleast in Gujarat.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, on behalf of my party, PMK, I am delighted to support the budgetary proposals for the Ministry of Rural Development which

has come before the House for an approval of Rs. 31,471 crore. We will have to look into rural development not only in terms of the outlay which has been given only for this Department but we will also have to look into the outlays given for the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food Processing, Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice. All these Departments have a bearing and impact on the development of rural areas and the people living there. When we talk of all these outlays, we tend to have a feeling that the UPA Government under the Chairmanship of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has allotted at least 50 per cent of the total outlay for rural development. It is because we cannot take only these three programmes but also take other programmes into account. So, the concern shown by the Government towards rural development is clearly reflected by the budgetary provisions that have been made for different Departments. Perhaps, this Government believes in the dictum of Mahatma Gandhi who said that India's heart beats in its villages. The heart of India beats in villages and unless rural areas are developed, India cannot develop because only in these rural areas you have primary activities going on and they are the backbone of India. Activities like agriculture, fishing, dairying and so on are going on in rural areas. In spite of all our efforts of urbanisation, even today 65 per cent of our population live in rural areas. Therefore, without developing these areas which have been neglected for a long time for various historical reasons, there cannot be much improvement. We will have to bring more growth impulses in the area of rural development. This Budget has done a great thing towards development of rural areas. Therefore, I compliment and congratulate this Government and especially the Minister who is a dynamic and committed person in the area of rural development. Hon. Member, Yerrannaaidu was lamenting that he has not earmarked sufficient funds and that he has not got at least Rs. 50,000 crore for this Ministry. I share his concern. But we must also accept that we have got a Minister who can deliver much at the lower level. Therefore, we must appreciate him.

I would go into the details of some schemes. The Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana is a very good scheme and it tries to take a holistic outlook and tries to promote Self-Help groups in the rural areas and tries to help especially the womenfolk in the rural areas. One important difficulty at the ground level is that the subsidy under this programme is given only to those Self-Help groups which are formed by DRDA and not by voluntary organisations.

But voluntary organisations today do a tremendous work in forming Self-Help groups. Therefore, all the NGOs which are organising these Self-Help groups must also be given due attention in terms of subsidy.

This programme aims at the people living below the poverty line. You are setting a target that fifty per cent of the beneficiaries would be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, forty per cent of the beneficiaries would be women and three per cent of the beneficiaries would be physically challenged persons. Why have you left out Other Backward Classes? There are a number of people who are more backward among the Other Backward Classes. I would request, therefore, a provision should be made for these people also in the allotment of benefits under this Scheme.

Now, coming to National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, I would like to say that it is a revolutionary and historic step, which this Government has taken. No other Government in the Independent India has realised the importance that provision of employment is the surest antidote to poverty. If poverty has to be eradicated, it cannot be eradicated by doling out subsidies, grants, etc. You will have to provide full employment to the people. Now, here is the Government which has realised this fact and it wants to ensure or guarantee employment or payment of wages to the people. But unfortunately this scheme is extended only to 200 districts, and Union Territory of Pondicherry has not been included in this. There is a district called Karaikal in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. It is more backward than any of the backward districts of Bihar. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to include Karaikal district of Union Territory of Pondicherry under this Scheme.

Regarding the Indira Awas Yojana, he has brought a number of modifications and innovations to suit the rural needs. He should also take into account the type of coordination that is required at the State level. It is because at the State level each State Government is implementing a housing scheme. In our Union Territory of Pondicherry, the maximum amount that is provided for the housing scheme is Rs. 50,000, whereas under the Indira Awas Yojana, you are giving only Rs. 25,000. But our Government gives Rs. 50,000 and people are flocking towards the State Government schemes rather than to the Central schemes. Therefore, you should think of revising this ceiling. In this, sixty per cent of the funds allocated is meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Some funds should be earmarked for OBCs.

The third point is with regard to DRDA. I am happy to find that Budget notes recognise the fact that the DRDA is a specialised agency. It is not a general agency and it is a specialised agency, requiring professional output and input. It is only the DRDA which has to identify the people below the poverty line. It has to identify various technical factors to decide about the people who are below the poverty line. It should see what are the schemes involved and what is the delivery mechanism that is required. A number of technical questions are involved in this. But, whom do we appoint as Chairman of the DRDA? It is normally a Generalist from Civil Service. This Generalist comes there, works for five months and then goes away. Before he could learn anything about this Department, he leaves to other Departments. Therefore, the Government of India should treat this Department as a technical Department. It should be entrusted to technocrats. We have got an excellent service called the Indian Economic Service and the Indian Statistical Service, where we can find many young men and women with calibre and competence to tackle the issues of rural development. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to post officers from the Indian Economic Service to the DRDA. You give them a fixed tenure of five years and do not transfer them. In all the 6,400 districts, you post them, give them work, give them power, autonomy and accountability and tell them that within five years they should lift so many people above the poverty line. Only by fixing this kind of target can we banish poverty from this country. The DRDA can be really useful in that regard.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana covers only villages which has a population of 1,000. But there are a number of villages which has less than 1000 people. It does not cover those villages. Therefore, I would like to suggest a modification to include villages which has 500 to 1000 people and 25 per cent of the funds must be allocated exclusively for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe habitations, because the scheme does not provide for coverage of people under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe habitations.

Regarding water supply, I would like to say that the hon. Minister must understand that in spite of all that has been done, according to the World Bank Survey, today we find that fifty per cent of the rural household do not have water for consumption as well as for hygienic needs. The World Bank's recent Survey says that each household must have 50 litres of water per day. Have we provided it? No. Only fifty per cent of the households have been

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

provided with water. Still 3.6 per cent of the rural households do not have full coverage of water and they are only partially covered. There is greater diversity in the matter of State-wise coverage. Therefore, as regards the water supply, I would request that you should insist on quality of water and we should provide water for their minimum consumption.

16.00 hrs.

You should be able to institutionalize water quality monitoring and surveillance through a catchment area approach and try to do it. What is more important for maintaining water supply is that you must have maintenance and operation wing. This wing is a very important thing to sustain the water management. For that, no adequate provision has been made. You should make a provision for that.

According to an estimate, we require about Rs.6,000 crore to maintain all the water bodies that we have already created. But we have not addressed this issue. We should be able to do it. One recent habitation survey says that there is a large incidence of shifting of fully covered villages to partially covered villages. Those villages which were fully covered last year have now come under the category of partially covered. Those villages, which were partially covered, have now come under the category of 'not covered'. This should be taken into account because there is an increase in population. The sources are going down lowering the ground water table, and the systems are outliving their uses. All these things are there.

The last word is about the poverty line. All your programmes have a concentration on reducing the poverty of persons living below the poverty line. How are we defining poverty line? We are defining poverty line in a way that is utterly irrelevant to the existing situation. What we define today as a 'poverty line' is merely a 'hunger line', a starvation line, and not poverty line. We should know that poverty is an economic condition and hunger is a physical condition. What we are defining in terms of calorie is that if a person has got less than 2,400 calories in rural areas, he is considered to be a person below poverty line. This figure of 2,400 calorie determines the starvation of a person. If he does not have this 2,400 calories, he goes under the starvation line. Therefore, even this figure of 2400 was fixed by the Planning Commission 10 years ago.

But now, the Indian Council of Medical Research

says that a person to be on a starvation line must have 3,800 calories. In that case, even to have this starvation line food, he must have an expenditure of Rs.500 per month per head. We are giving only Rs.300 as the poverty line. That is not adequate. More than that, a person cannot just live by food grains alone. ...*(Interruptions)* He must have other nutritious diet also. Nutritious diet must also be there. The other basic needs like shelter, clothing, water supply, health care, education, etc., must be taken as a package to determine who is a poor person. We just cannot define poverty line only by calorie intake. Therefore, for that purpose, we have worked out something. In fact, I have worked out a 'poverty line' which gives that a person must have Rs.840 per month per capita.

I hope, you will take all these suggestions and help the UPA Government in eradicating poverty and unemployment from the soil. That would be a great credit to you, Sir.

[Translation]

\*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, the standard of living in the rural areas is pathetic. The villagers do not have even the basic facilities like food, drinking water, clothing, proper school buildings etc. if we want to see the smiling faces of villagers and to improve the living standard then we have to provide all the basic amenities.

The major problem of the villagers is that they do not have drinking water facility. Women have to go several Kms. daily to fetch drinking water and this is the condition even after 58 years of Independence. The water that is available in the wells is full of germs and bacteria. Hence, it is not safe and in fact this water may spread diseases like cholera, Malaria etc. The Union Government has an ambitious target for the current year for drinking water supply and it will be completed. It will cover 56,270 habitations and 1,40,000 schools. Apart from non coverage, there is the persistent problem of slippage. The Centres strategy to tackle both includes conservation, better operational management and water quality monitoring and capacity building at the village level. The Government will provide non-recurring assistance of Rs. 213 crores in 2006-2007 for setting up district level water testing laboratories and field level water testing kits. The Finance Minister has proposed to increase provision for the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission from Rs. 3645 crores to Rs. 4680 crores next year. I hope that the villages especially all the remote villages would be

\* English Translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Kannada.

able to store sufficient water and get good drinking water in the near future.

The tanks in the villages will be full during rainy season and most of the tanks will dry up in two months. The Bunds are weak. District Panchayats, Villages Panchayats are not functioning efficiently. The funds that are provided for the development of villages are not at all sufficient. Therefore desilting of all the tanks must be taken up immediately. This step will provide jobs to the poor and it enables the storage of water.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana had started very well. During the previous regime this programme had started. But, now there is no news about that. The villages have to be connected by proper roads. They should also be provided with help link roads such that the villagers can go to the towns easily. This will transportation of all types of goods, agricultural produce etc. The credit of Gram Sadak Yojana should go to the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Strangely, there is no progress in implementing this scheme and I urge upon the Centre to implement and expedite this Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The fund that was allocated for the desilting of tanks has been either diverted or it has been misused. The contractors are swallowing this money. This has to be checked and there should be a strict monitoring system. All the tanks in the country must be desilted under "Food for Work" programme and the role of middle man must be avoided completely. The Centre and the States have to take the responsibility of checking misuse of funds and they should provide clean administration.

In the past each village had a garden with a large number of trees. There is rampant felling of these trees by the contractors. The contractors are making money by cutting and selling these trees. This felling of trees is affecting the very survival of the village. Similar felling of trees is going on in the hilly areas also. Nilgiri trees and even Sandal wood trees in Karnataka are disappearing very fast. The survival of humanity itself is in danger and hence the Union Government and the State Governments should take stringent measures to stop the felling of trees. The Village Panchayat should be given the responsibility of protecting the village gardens. The working of the Gram Panchayats should be strengthened through out the country. The Centre and the State should ensure that the employees of the Gram Panchayats work sincerely and effectively.

Drainage and sanitation facilities should be provided to all villages in the country. Other wise, the stagnant water in and around the villages will be breeding ground for the mosquitoes. Various Health Programmes must be taken-up at the village level.

Societies, N.G.Os, Voluntary Organisations should be involved in these Health Programmes. The Union Government has started the National Rural Health Mission on April 12, 2005. According to the Centre more than 2,00,000 Associated Social Health Activists (ASHA) will be fully functional and over 1,000 Block Level Community Health Centres will provide round the clock services. The Finance Minister has increased the allocation for NRHM from Rs. 6,553 crore to Rs. 8,207 crore for the next year. This amount must be judiciously utilised and the Centre should monitor NRHM scheme. I hope and trust that the villagers will be free from disease like leprosy, Polio, Malaria etc and maintain good health in future.

The Panchayats should get funds such that they can take up all the Developmental Programmes effectively. Collection of revenues should be done promptly. The Panchayat Members and all others concerned should work promptly. Self-less service is the need of hour. Voluntary organisation can play a major role in helping these panchayat to work more efficiently.

All individuals must take the responsibility in keeping the village neat and clean. Every one should be keen to take part in the Developmental Activities of the village. Similarly, the villagers should cooperate with the schools to impart very good education. Sufficient number of black boards and proper seating arrangement should be there in all the schools and sufficient number of teachers should be appointed. Temporary and probationary teachers should be made permanent teachers after a certain period of service. In Karnataka there are thousands of teachers who remain as ad-hoc teachers even after ten to fifteen years of continuous service. How can we expect Good Educational System without giving a sense of security to the teachers? I request the Centre and the States to take good initiatives in this direction. Let these schools and teachers lead our country into a few world of peace progress and happiness.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the rural development Ministry. At first I would like to say about panchayats. In several states election for panchayats have been completed but election has not been held in my state.

[Shri Tek Lal Mahto]

16.04 hrs.

(SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

B.D.O. is playing the role of Mukhiya there. The money being sent by the center is not being properly utilised. Hence, my submission is that state government should be directed to hold panchayat elections early. Sir, 70 percent of our population lives in villages. India can not develop without their development. Drinking water is not available in villages even after 58 years of independence. People are compelled to drink water from the small wells and tanks particularly in Jharkhand. Our Minister of Rural Development had held a meeting with the MPs of Jharkhand, Orissa and Bihar. We had deliberated with him and had submitted that our area is facing acute water problem, you kindly solve this problem. He had noted it but nothing has been done in this regard. Through you I would like to say to hon. Minister that my parliamentary constituency Girdih is a coal belt and water level has gone down considerable due to these coal mines. There people are crying for water. A scheme costing Rs. 27 crores was formulated for Girdih but the state government did not give money for that and said to take loan to complete the scheme. I would like that central government should intervene because Girdih is a big city and people are facing water crisis.

So far as rural roads are concerned, as long as villages are not connected with roads and transport facility is not made available how can we move forward on the path of development. Someone has to go to hospital, someone has to go to schools and no roads are there then the village will remain undeveloped. Hon. Minister knows that REO does not have money for maintenance of roads it made ten years earlier. I would like that a direction be issued for REO and fund should be given so that the REO can maintain the roads built by it.

Deliberations are going on regarding Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. At other places construction of fourth stage is going on but in Jharkhand, particularly in my area, due to lack of funds, construction of even second stage is not being completed. Many big rivers are there. They say that to construct bridges on rivers is not our job. Roads are being constructed but traffic is not possible due to lack of bridge. Your dream of connecting one thousand villages with metal roads, but if bridge is not constructed over the river then it will not be possible to utilize the roads. Hence

it should be decided to construct bridge over all the big and small rivers. I would request hon. member to issue direction to construct bridge.

The employment guarantee act passed by the government is a very good scheme. It has been appreciated all over but one thing is pertinent to note that the form filled for job card, specially the DC of Bokaro and Giridih. ...(*Interruptions*) job card is not being issued. Earlier it was told that first fill up the form. Once forms were filled up, it was said that DC will issue job card. DC is not sending forms, therefore leave alone the matter of job, even job card is not being issued. My submission is that you should direct the DC to make the job forms available and the process to fill it should be started.

To take care of health, hospitals are being constructed but doctors are not being appointed. If doctors are not appointed to those hospitals what is the use of the hospitals. ...(*Interruptions*) In the hospitals medicine are not available and where medicines are available, there is no compounder and nurse to dispense it. Sometimes ago anti rabies vaccines were available for the bites of mad dogs or Jackals but today vaccine is not available resulting into the death of poor adivasis. I would like that the vaccine which used to be available in the hospital. ...(*Interruptions*)

Today lot of discussion are on electrification. In Jharkhand, there is lot of electricity. There are power stations but people are not getting electricity. There is abundant source of water there. Likewise, Coal, Charcoal, pillars and labourers are available but people do not have access to electricity. I would like to convey to hon. Minister that DC says that under the employment guarantee scheme brick drains, digging of wells, construction of PCC is not covered. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: I am concluding in one minute. My submission is that we get only Rs. two crore for MPLAD. In my state MLAs are also given Rs. two crores and MPs too are given Rs. two crores while there are six legislative assembly constituencies and eighteen blocks in my constituency. Thus only Rs. 5 lacs comes to the share of one block. My demand is that amount for MPLAD be increased to rupees one crore per legislative assembly constituency, so that we can fulfill our dream of

providing potable water to the people by digging wells, in sufficient numbers and the lanes could be repaired.

With these words I conclude my speech. I hope that hon. Minister will pay attention to my submission and will try to increase the amount for MPLAD to rupees one crore per assembly constituency.

*[English]*

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a strong supporter of Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji and under his leadership, I have a dream and hope for the future of this country, but this time he has created regional imbalance in the country. That is why, I will not be able to support the Demands for Grants relating to his Ministry.

Sir, I would like to inform this House that a lot of schemes are being implemented through the Ministry of Rural Development. But for proper implementation of all these schemes, we need to have good Centre-State relations and within the State we need to have a good Panchayati Raj system.

*[Translation]*

I would like to draw attention of hon. Minister that to implement this scheme properly union government and state government will have to coordinate with Panchayati Raj. I would like to ask why regional imbalance allowed to creep in? You can not take all the states together. You will have to make separate budgetary provision for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and the north-eastern states. I am saying so because all your existing schemes can not be implemented in north eastern states, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh. Hon. Minister, Sir, you also belong to rural areas and I also belong to rural areas. There is only one difference that I belong to a village situated in the Himalayan mountain and you belong to a village situated in the plain terrain of India. I would like to inform you that you will have to think in different way in respect of Himalayan and North eastern states. I am sure that you have made a lot of efforts but the way policy is made in Delhi, sitting in an air-conditioned room, your officers do not want to go to hilly areas. My request is that this aspect should be given attention. I would like to say one more thing. One district from every state has been selected under RSB and NREGP. My submission is that while implementing it would be better to treat the small states like of north eastern states as a district SGSY scheme is a very good scheme.

The subsidy for this is to be provided through Banks only, but there is no bank in the villages of our hilly areas. Therefore there is a need to see that in a state like our especially for the tribals residing in north eastern states, Himachal Pradesh and deserts, it will be better to include this subsidy under DRDA and thus there will be no regional imbalance. As you have informed, you are involving Panchayats in SJSRY and other schemes. I was hearing the speech of Shri Manishankar Aiyar. He himself visited our state. In Arunachal Pradesh the development activities are not included in Panchayati Raj till date. I have read the performance report. A lot of information has been provided in this regarding the role of Panchayats but how the utilization certificate of Arunachal Pradesh has been accepted? Panchayati Raj System is prevailing in this state but it has not been given power, how you are believing their report? I have given the report of monitoring committee to you, in which it is stated that Panchayati Raj should be included in this.

Sir, I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that if a house in Arunachal Pradesh is built at the cost of Rs. 27,500, it can be included in Guinness Book of World Records. The information given by bureaucrats is not correct. It is not possible to build a house at this cost in Arunachal Pradesh because transportation of building materials from district Head Quarter to the hills takes two to three days. Therefore it is not possible. The hon. Minister should pay attention to it.

Arunachal Pradesh is one of north-eastern states which is bigger than Assam with 84,000 sq. km. area, but population of this state is 11 lakhs. The concerned ministry is distributing the funds on this basis which is creating regional imbalance. There is a district Debang valley in my Parliamentary Constituency, which has an area just 500 sq km less than the area of Tripura State. Rural Development Ministry releases less fund for this area. This is creating regional imbalance. Therefore, the Government should rectify the procedure under which funds are allocated on the basis of population. If this procedure continues, it will increase Regional imbalance and this will not be helpful in the nation building but it will destroy India. Therefore the Government will have to formulate a separate scheme for all hilly areas from Jammu-Kashmir to North-Eastern States and the budget for it will have to be increased. Next time when these demands are rectified we will surely support them but them time I oppose the demands for grants.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, with your kind permission I rise to support the demands for grants of Rural Development Ministry. I want to congratulate the UPA Government and particularly the Minister for this. The hon. Minister is a very simple and down to earth man. I have been impressed by his answers.

I want to say that in our state Jammu & Kashmir 80 percent of the total area covers villages whereas the percentage of the same in the rest of the country is only 65. The real nation which we call real India lives in villages. Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt of Panchayati Raj for the development of villages and our leader late Rajiv Gandhi had given more power to the Panchayats to fulfil his dream. We should support the Panchayats to achieve this goal. Even today we need to strengthen the Panchayats. There are Panchayats which enhance and centre send the committees to review their work as in case of our state also but these committees not visit the Panchayat to get first hand information. These committees do the work of up gradation sitting in a room in Jammu. They are not aware of the ground situation of our state, the population and the area. They were rigid that they will not do this, they will do that. I was very surprised to see that. It is not possible for the persons to do justice to the people of the state where they visit and to the department, if they are not aware of the ground situation of that state. Therefore my suggestion is that the Government should pay attention towards this.

Today, there are not even 'Panchayat Ghar' in all the villages in India. In our state there are much less in number. There is lack of staff and infrastructure in the Government department. It has been observed that the names of the schemes implemented there are changed most frequently. I would like to say that whenever the name of a scheme is changed and another scheme is implemented the work of first scheme should be carried with that of new scheme but it is not being done. There are so many examples of it in our state. If a building is being constructed under a scheme but as soon as the name of the scheme is changed, the work is not handed over under the new scheme. As a result the roof of the building is not constructed. Similarly plaster of many houses or other works remain incomplete. Therefore if the Government formulate any scheme and thereafter start a new scheme by changing the name of the scheme and the objective of the scheme is same then the incomplete work of the previous scheme should be carried over alongwith the new scheme. Till date, it has been not done and as a result work of many houses and roads are incomplete. Somewhere roads are incomplete,

some where the building of primary school are incomplete or without roof. There is similar position of hospitals.

Therefore, I would like to say that when schemes are formulated the Government should ensure the completion of work under earlier schemes. The Government build houses under Indra Awas Yojana. Two houses have been sanctioned under one Panchayat. If the schemes are implemented like this then how can the poverty of India and people living below poverty line in villages will be alleviated. They will remain poor. The Government have announced to build 60 lakh houses under this scheme. My request is that, when there was Avalanche, heavy rains and earthquake, Madam visited the state and she consoled us and announcement was made to start relief work under her guidance. There was large scale loss of property due to natural calamities last year and this year also, and my submission is that out of 60 lakh houses damaged at least two lakhs houses should be approved to be reconstructed there. This will rehabilitate the people displaced so far.

If the Rural Development Department will work sincerely more in the right direction and fulfil the peoples' aspirations, the migration from the villages will stop. Today people are migrating from villages to cities because there are no roads, no school for children, no hospital for treatment and no means of employment.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana not even four roads have been completed in our state.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are a number of speakers and the hon. Minister has to give reply. We will have to finish this discussion on the Demands for Grants in time.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, the PMGY scheme is in first, second and third phase but I think our number will come in fourth phase. The population of a village in our state is hardly more than 250-300.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your Party has given you only five minutes. How can I help you? I have allowed you to speak for six minutes. So, please conclude now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Roads will have to be provided to all the villages under PMGY by the year 2009. But the work will not be completed by 2009. I want that ponds dug by our ancestors should be maintained. New ponds are being dug. Old ponds need to be maintained.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai. Your language, Tamil is a very good language. You can speak only five minutes please.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, thank you for your compliment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tamil language is a very nice language. I make this comment because you must conclude your speech within five minutes.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Sir, I welcome on behalf of our party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) and on behalf of our leader VAIKO, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-07. Father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, said that he dreamt of a State meant for guaranteeing a comfortable life for the poor and they should get a guarantee to have their essential needs get fulfilled, and he also said that our Independence will not be a complete one till our villages attain self-sufficiency and only when Gram Savrajya is attained, we can claim that we have won freedom. After so many years of Independence, we find that about 1,25,000 villages are without electricity. 2,30,00,000 people are not having shelter. About 55,000 habitats are not having protected drinking water source and supply. About 60 per cent of our agricultural land are rain fed and proper irrigation facility is not there. Considering the want and the wide gap, the Union Government has evolved Bharat Nirman Scheme involving eight social service sectors. This has been evolved as a comprehensive programme integrating the already existing ones with the thrust on building rural infrastructure. Rs. 7,000 crores of enhance allocation has been made this year for this. I welcome and support this move.

Our hon. Rural Development Minister is simple and

affable and a dynamic administrator, I would like to congratulate him. While the schemes conceived are good and while the fund allocation is satisfactory, we need to ensure that the implementation is flowless. But, I am constrained to point out certain flows in its implementation.

SGRY, Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana is one of the important rural development schemes evolved by the Centre. People who are employed through this scheme, are paid of their wages in the form of cash or kind, i.e., foodgrains. But, it is only after two or three months after rendering their labour these rural people get paid. Foodgrains are not supplied in time. Foodgrains are hence sold to wholesale marketers. The foodgrains that are sent to the State Government by the Centre, change hands in between and reach traders instead of the needy rural masses.

Indira Awas Yojana is another scheme that needs to be commended. Similarly, improving of Kaccha houses is also a welcome scheme. But, in our Tamilnadu, we find such houses crying for renovation even after 25 or 30 years. Even houses that were built when late Kamraj was the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, still remain to be poor tiled houses. There is no provision in the scheme to renovate such houses.

In Virudunagar, that come under my constituency, there are about 6,000 tiled houses that calls for renovation under this scheme. With the help from the State Administration, only about 3,000 houses have been renovated. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that the remaining houses are also renovated under the scheme to renovate Kaccha houses to Pucca houses.

Sanitation programme to be carried in villages have taken off very well. Rs.500/- is provided as a grant to construct a toilet unit in rural areas. During Question Hour this morning, our hon. Minister stated that this will be enhanced to Rs.625/-. But, I find that a minimum of Rs.1,500/- is required to construct a toilet unit in a village. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to increase it to Rs.1,000/- instead of Rs.625/- as proposed. In villages where there are narrow lanes and insufficient space, the individual toilet scheme will remain a dream. Hence, the Government must take it upon itself to identify common villages in the area and go for constructing individual toilet units for families at an enhanced cost of Rs.1,000/-. This would help improve the sanitation conditions.

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.



[Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai]

SGSY is to encourage entrepreneurial ventures of the rural youth. Its implementation is encouraged, but still certain suggestions for improving it needs to be share with the Government. When there is no training facility and when there is no technology transfer, mere extending of loans may not really help. Ensuring credit facility is not enough.

In Tamilnadu, Namadu Ghramam, is being implemented. Seven social services have been integrated to benefit the rural people. School going children, child labour, pregnant women are greatly benefited by the scheme. Even without having to spend more merely by way of coordinating and streamlining the existing service facilities, the social service facilities reach the village people under the scheme. The benefits of the scheme must be taken to all the villages in the country. I urge upon the Government to initiate suitable action in this regard and I make this request on behalf of our party MDMK. Expressing my support to this. Demands for Grants, I conclude my speech.

[English]

\*SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, I am thankful to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for increasing the allocations of the Ministry from Rs. 24,480 crore in 2005-06 to 31,444 crore for the year 2006-07, that is, an increase of about 28.4%. The allocation of funds for various programmes under the Department of Rural Development has been increased from Rs. 18,334 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 24,026 crore in 2006-07, that is an increase of about 31%.

The allocation for Rural Development is in my opinion, the highest after Defence and I fully welcome it because most of our population lives in the rural areas. With more and more development in these areas and the provision of urban amenities in the villages, I am sure the exodus of population from the rural areas to the big cities will come down considerably.

Under the guidance of UPA Chairperson, Smt Sonia Gandhi and the vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, the Government has launched Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with effect from 2.2.06 in 200 most backward districts, including Sirsa and Mohindergarh of Haryana. Although an allocation of Rs.11300 crore has been made in the Budget for 2006-07 against the promise of the Planning Commission for providing Rs.16500 crore, I hope the Govt. will provide sufficient funds, if required, in

the Supplementary Demands, to meet the aspirations of the people of these most backward districts.

I also express my sincere gratitude to Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Ji, Minister for Rural Development, for placing before the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, the requirements of funds for various schemes under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana from Rs.862.24 crore in 2005-06 to Rs.1080 crore in 2006-07.

Allocation for Rural Housing has also gone up from Rs.2497.60 crore to Rs.2625.05 crore. Allocations for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and for projects/schemes for the benefit of the North Eastern Region have also been stepped up from Rs.3809.50 crore and Rs. 1833.40 crore to Rs.4853.06 crore and Rs.2252.56 crore respectively. Similarly, allocation for Special Programmes for Rural Development and Land Reforms, including those in North Eastern Areas, has been increased from Rs. 1396 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 1418 crore in 2006-07.

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development. It is aimed at generating self-employment in all the 6 lakh villages of the country. This is the best way of making the unemployed youth, both male and female, self-reliant. Sir, more than 22 lakh self-help groups have been formed since April 1999. These groups are engaged in handicrafts, mats, ready-made garments, pickles, papads, dairy farming, poultry, to name only a few activities.

I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to some of the problems being faced by the self-help groups. Whenever they apply for bank loans, the banks take a very long time to disburse those loans. Secondly, the rate of interest charged from these poor beneficiaries is as high at 9.5% to 10.5%. As a result, the people get frustrated because it is out of their reach. I suggest that the rate of interest should be reduced to the minimum. Hon. Finance Minister has reduced the rate to 7% for farmers in his budget speech which is highly welcome. The same may be followed for SGSY also.

Another suggestion I would like to give is that Zila Panchayats and District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) must create marketing facilities and provide new technologies to the self-help groups so that they can sell whatever they produce and earn handsome returns. In the absence of such facilities, several groups go out of their business and confine to intra-group lending.

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, of all the schemes launched for rural development, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is perhaps the best executed providing the much-needed connectivity to lakhs of village. I am happy that during the Tenth Plan upto January 2006, 82,792 Km of rural roads have been completed although the approved road works are 1,49,422 Km. I hope that the shortfall will be met before we enter into the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These roads are very vital. They are helping the farmers to bring their produce to the markets. Patients can be rushed to city hospitals and students can go for higher education to the cities. The roads are ushering a great change in the life of people in rural areas.

The National Common Minimum Programme stipulates provision of drinking water for all rural habitations in the country. To this effect, the Government has been progressively increasing the Annual Central Outlay for Rural Water Supply Sector over the years. Rural Drinking Water is one of the components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to build rural infrastructure in four years period from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. Under the Rural Drinking Water Component of Bharat Nirman, it is envisaged to cover all un-covered habitations of comprehensive action plan, 1999 and also address the problem of slippage and water quality. The allocation of funds under this Scheme has been increased from Rs. 3645 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 4680 crore in 2006-07.

I would like to suggest that the State Governments should be advised to ensure sustainability and quality of water. Simultaneously, efforts should also be made for rainwater harvesting for which awareness needs to be generated among the villagers.

This Government continues to give utmost importance to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to provide sanitation facilities to the rural masses. Sanitation Campaign Projects have been launched in 540 districts. It is proposed to cover all the districts under the Total Sanitation Campaign by the end of 10th Plan. The allocation of funds under this Programme has been increased from Rs. 630 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 720 in 2006-07.

Provision of Rs. 600 crore has also been made under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Sanitation for North Eastern Region.

Here I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the amount of Rs. 625 being given to an individual for construction of a toilet is very meagre. It has

to be increased to at least Rs. 1500 in States like Haryana and Punjab, where minimum wages are quite high.

Although, the Government has been providing sufficient funds for various Schemes and Programmes under Rural Development, it is of utmost necessity to see whether the funds are being utilized in full and in a proper manner. It is common knowledge that the Central Teams do visit to monitor and evaluate the Schemes being implemented in various States, but these teams confine themselves to District Headquarters only and do not visit the actual sites. It is good that now the Hon. Minister is sending National Level Monitors to the villages to interact with the people and make on the spot study about the implementation of various schemes. I would like the Hon. Minister to tell the House about the salient features brought out by the Monitors and in what way their feedback is different from the one given by the officials of the Ministry.

Similarly, we must ensure that the funds allocated under a particular head are spent in full and within the financial year. Here, I would like to point out that under Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana out of an allocated amount of Rs. 8067 crore, only 6980 crore could be utilized to assist 62.75 lac self-employed persons.

Hence, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programmes has to be strengthened.

With these words, I support the initiatives taken by the Government for rural development and compliment Hon. Minister Shri Raghuvansh Prasad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Shailendra Kumar, you can speak. You can speak for four minutes only. You are very, very emotional. Please conclude within four minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker Sir, you have allowed five minutes to all but you are giving me just four minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time for your party, but I gave you five minute's time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on the discussion on demands for grants for the year 2006-07 of the Ministry

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

of Rural Development, I would like to express my thanks for the same. Expressing my support on demands for grants I would like to give some suggestions. Just a few minutes back some of the hon'ble members have giving some wide ranging good suggestions. It is really regrettable that even after 57 years of independence the people of villages specifically those who are living below the poverty line are unable to meet their needs of bread, clothes and shelter. Several schemes are being launched by the Government and recently hon'ble minister of Rural Development was talking about Mahatma Gandhi and in this context if you will see, you will find the dream of Sawarjaya & Panchayati Raj propelled by Mahatma Gandhi had been fulfilled by late Sh. Rajeev Gandhi and the Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi, who is dedicated to execute the dream of Gandhi ji and she is also sitting here. Special thrust has been laid on building India in the budget this time. By increasing 54% provision for Rs 18696 crores has been made in the current budget in the name of building India specifically under Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Yojana there were 150 district earlier and now their number has increased to 200 districts. For this a provision of Rs. 11300 crore has been made in year 2006-07. About Rs. 7000 crore has been increased from allotment of funds as covered to last year. I would not like to go in to details provision of Rs. 5,200 crore has been made for providing potable water in villages at rural level. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to remind you that UP Government's budget has been passed recently. We hon'ble members always raise complaints that whenever we visit our constituency the public asks for roads, power and water and everything and at times we are helpless to explain them that we are the people who formulated the Constitution of India and we have no concern whatsoever with development. Recently UP Government has declared that 200 handpumps are likely to be allotted to each MLA. Election of Block Pramukh has been recently held. Ministry of Rural Development has implemented Savjal Dhara Scheme. When I enquired about it from the officers of my constituency, they intimated that boring work of water tank under Savjal Dhara Scheme has not yet been awarded to water corporation and it has been awarded to some Self-help Group of the village. Self help institutions who have no technical knowhow are executing it. How they should be able to install tank. You have fixed a target of Rs 25 lakhs for installation of a water tank. This will certainly be a loss to budget. It will remain incomplete and boring work will also not be up to the mark and as a result thereof

Savjal Dhara Scheme of Potable water will fail. Therefore, such works should be awarded to water corporation, which has the expertise to execute it properly. This will certainly help in the construction of water tank. The people will finally get drinking water from it.

Sir, similarly you have made special arrangement for providing power, water and telephone connections in the budget. It is my fortune that I am a Member of the Consultative Committee under the Ministry of Rural Development. Electrification scheme pertaining to 90 villages under Rastriya Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Yojana, Savjal Dhara Yojana & Rajeev Gandhi Rural Electrification schemes have also been launched in my Constituency but the pace of work is very slow. The budget is increasing every year but the speed of work is decreasing day by day. Therefore, there is a need to award this work to experts so that progress could be made in this regard.

Sir, the Swaraj & Panchayati Raj system may achieve better results there only. Reserve Bank also praised that this budget is Rural Development oriented budget. It is a fact but the matter of concern have is that if you have the far sightedness and you will be able to discover India even today and you can have an assessment of the development made so far. Schemes have been prepared for the villages but if you will go through the figures then you will see the real truth. Just now Shri Lal Singh jee was saying that despite launching several schemes for rural people what is the reason for the migration of villagers towards cities. This tendency should be discouraged. Today there is a need to provide basic amenities with in the villages itself. You have appointed me the Chairman of the monitoring committee wherein. We had also Members from 13th Lok Sabha but whenever we visit villages people directly asks for schemes.

Sir, I would like to say that the MLA's are already availing lots of facilities in the states. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Shivanna

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please conclude. Shri Shivanna, you can start your Kannada speech.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I have learnt that the Members of Consultative Committee all the facilities under various schemes had been given. In rests bell I would like to say that we will get a glimpse of the appropriate nature of our rural economy, production at rural level. Here we have to start from our village level then only we will be able to save the lives of people living below the poverty line. We have provided 100 days employment but we are unable to provide it for 265 days. There is a dire need of rural development institutions for bringing awareness among people by propagating all such things open only institutions at block level. I conclude my speech with these points only.

[English]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Demands for Grants 2006-2007 pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development. "Rama Rajya" was the dream of the Mahatma, the father of our nation. But, unfortunately, this dream of Ram Rajya has not become a reality even after 59 years of independence. I can go to the extent of saying that the life of villager has worsened. At this juncture, I am reminded of the great poet and philosopher Sarvajna of Karnataka. It says that it is like eating sweet milk with rice while taking loan. It is like breaking the side ribs when repeatedly insisted to pay back the loan. The Hon. Agriculture Minister, while replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants (Agriculture) has said that 340 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka last year. In fact, the number is more than that. After all, why farmers commit suicide? Because, his living condition especially in the rural area is deteriorating. He is waiting for the God rain who is not cooperating with him. He takes the loan but cannot repay the loan. Installment. He has neither food nor shelter. Ultimately he decides to commit suicide. Therefore, it is very essential for the Union Government and the States to come to the rescue of the rural people. Those who are living by the side of the rivers some how manage to earn their living. But those who are depending completely on rain are ruined. There is no support price

for agricultural produce. Even marketing facilities are very poor and pathetic.

These rural people especially the farmers do not get continuous supply of electricity for their cultivation. Karnataka once a surplus state is resorting to power cut every day. Keeping these serious problems in mind the Centre has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" a scheme for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification April, 2005. I would like to quote National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). It says (i) Household electrification will be completed in five years. (ii) The UPA will pay special attention to augmenting and modernizing rural infrastructure, electrification. Strangely the first years target has not been completed in Chamarajanagara which is a backward and hilly area in Karnataka. I therefore, urge upon the UPA Government to take up this programme very seriously such that it can go a long way in realising the goal of providing access to electricity to all households by the year 2009.

Drinking water facility is another major problem which the rural people are facing. The Bharat Nirman Programme which epitomizes the UPA's approach to Governance. Against the Physical target of 56,270 habitations, 47546 habitations have been covered until January, 2006 under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Project (ARWSP). The effort should continue and the backward, remote and hilly areas like Chamarajanagara should get preference at all strategies of implementation of ARWSP Scheme. The other Schemes which are providing some kind of relief are SGSY and SGRY.

PMGSY has also made headway. Strangely, this scheme is not heard these days. Providing link roads in the rural areas is an important aspect of rural development. Hence, I plead the Centre to provide sufficient funds for constructing link roads in the rural areas, especially in the backward districts like Chamarangara, Bidar in Karnataka.

I appreciate and thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister who introduced National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which is the primary instrument to combat rural unemployment and hunger poverty. For 2006-07, the total allocation for rural employment will be Rs.14,300 crore. Of this Rs.11,300 crore will be under NREG Act and Rs.3,000 crore will be under SGRY, since there is a legal guarantee of employment under the NREG Act. The Minister has said that more funds would be provided according to the need. I welcome the stand taken by the Finance Minister in this matter. If this programme of rural employment is

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

implemented sincerely, I am sure, it will lead to the emancipation of the rural poor.

Karnataka Government under the able stewardship of Mr. H.D. Kumarswamy has already announced the Twenty Point Programme. The Chief Minister is so kind and courteous that he holds special meetings with physically challenged persons and trying to find out solutions for their problems. His approach to the problems is innovative and path breaking. Karnataka Government is constructing 3,00,000 houses in the near future for the poor people. Many other optimistic and brave declarations have been made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka on the eve of Karnataka Golden Jubilee celebrations in Bangalore.

The Centre has to increase the financial assistance from Rs.25,000/- to Rs.40,000/- for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana. The Centre should continue and expedite the Grameen Sadak Yojana such that all the villages are inter-linked. It will also help in transportation and business. The Banks, NABARD and Cooperative should be directed to provide loans to the rural poor at a very low rate of interest. Life insurance facilities should be extended to all the rural poor.

Sir, my Constituency is one of the most backward districts in the country. It is hilly and remote area which is under developed. There is no drinking water facility throughout the district. There is only a chilling centre in the district. It is true that Karnataka Milk Federation is flourishing in the State. The production of milk has increased manifold. But what is the use? The milk producer in my Constituency cannot consume milk himself. He cannot afford to offer milk to his children. He has to sell the milk and make his living. This is the poor condition of poor milk producers in the rural areas of my Constituency. One litre of water fetches Rs.15/- whereas a litre milk fetches Rs.13/- only. What an injustice to the milk producers? Hence, the Centre has to come forward in a big way immediately to save the milk producers in my Constituency immediately. The Hon'ble Minister Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is here. It is he who has assured the people of my Constituency last year that he would sanction Rs.6.5 crore for setting up a BULK MILK SCHEME in my district. Till now nothing has been sanctioned despite our repeated reminders. I am requesting him again in this August House

to release funds for setting up the much awaited Bulk Milk Scheme. In addition to this, at least two cold storage centres have to be set up without any further delay. Separate funds should be allocated by the Centre for this purpose, especially to backward districts like Chamarajanagara.

In addition to the above, the Centre should extend financial assistance to Karnataka to succeed in its implementation of SARWA SIKSHA ABHIYAN programme. The school students in my district should be given at least one cup of milk along with mid day meals. Special attention should be given to implement, Indira Awas Yojana and Ambedkar Ahar Yojana. The poor people and their family members should be provided jobs. The hunger and poverty should be rooted out from our villages. Therefore, the Union Government should take up this National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme more seriously. It should be monitored and the entire amount that has been allocated, must reach the poor people of these hapless villagers. There should be no middleman.

I have full faith, Sir, and I hope that both Centre and States will join hands to take rural masses to a new world of bright future there by making the long cherished dream of the Father of our Nation a reality. Sir, I thank you and with these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN): Please conclude. Kannada is a musical language. You need not extend it.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Yes Sir, I have concluded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, Tamil is beautiful and Kannada is musical. What about Malayalam?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kannada is a beautiful language and language of music. The South Indian music originates from Kannada.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, what about Malayalam?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is also good. Malayalam is another good language.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity

to take part in this important discussion being held here. Being a Member from the opposition party I wanted to oppose this demand but, hon'ble Minister is such a nice and kind human being that I am compelled to support him. There are some schemes which are really very good but there are certain flaws in some of their provisions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is shortage of time therefore, through you I would only like to represent for a few things. They want to do Bharat Nirman, and we all support them on this but it would only be possible when every nook and corner of the country makes progress. If a city is an arm to the nation then the village is certainly its feet and therefore, without developing these villages, real progress can never be made. I believe, if Raghuvansh Ji had been our Finance Minister, then he would have sanctioned huge funds. But I am happy for what all he is doing in his capacity of being the Minister of Rural Development. My colleagues have stated about the Himalayan region that people as well as Member of Parliament have to travel on foot for two to three days in the areas from Jammu Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh to reach their villages. Therefore, I always think of the day when I would be able to reach my village by a vehicle. If hon'ble Minister so desires, it can be done. I believe in that. There is one thing for sure that this work can not be accomplished under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. The Government has fixed a criteria that the population of a village must be 250 to 500. I mean to say that we must understand that whenever the Government initiate this programme, it does not prove fruitful to us. They must not view the entire country from the same perspective because every place has its own climate and the programmes should be run accordingly. In our area it is not possible for 500 to 600 people to live at the same place? By nature it is such a place that not more than 300-400 people can live at one place. Which means that the Government would formulate such a scheme so that roads are not laid upto our villages and we are never able to commute to our villages by vehicles. But I hope hon'ble Minister would not allow this to happen this time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, once hon'ble Minister had decided in consensus with the Members of Parliament of the North-Eastern States that provision for roads made on the basis of cluster system with a population of 50 to 100 people. I would like to give an example that there is polling station in our area where only 3 voters reside but 15 people go to that place to get those 3 votes, the police, polling officer and staff is deployed there. Whether this criteria would be applied in respect of Arunachal Pradesh where the

population is less and because the population is less, less funds should be allocated. They must allocated money in the national interest. We are not asking as to why 10 crore rupees are being spent on Kargil per day, because we understand that it is in the national interest. Please do not raise such a question that if it is spent in Arunachal Pradesh then it is not in the national interest. Some officer say that although the population of Arunachal Pradesh is less but the funds are being provided. If we think on these lines, then how is our country going to survive? Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that the population based criteria, as my colleagues have mentioned, should not be applied in case of Arunachal Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have formulated a scheme for constructing dwelling units in villages at the cost of rupees 27,500. But this remains a dream in my region. We have to walk on foot for four to five days to reach our village. This amount together with the cost of transporting bricks, cement etc. to our village works out Rs. 5 lakh. The Government wants to construct that house in Rs. 27,500, what an irony it is? We all must understand that poor and tribal people live in those areas. Hon'ble Minister had promised to me that he would visit those areas with me but he has not kept his words till now. Hon'ble Minister would have to fulfil his promise by accompanying me to those areas on foot or the government should depute a group of people to find out whether the villages could be reached only after walking for 10 days or not? He can reach there by helicopter in just one hour therefore, I would request him to take me also along with him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a number of points to mention but due to I shortage of time and on you repeated persistence to conclude, I would like to convey my points to hon'ble Minister by meeting him separately and request him that he must realize the pain and anguish of the people of our region and work for Bharat Nirman.

In the end I would say that I support these demands.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I would request the cooperation of hon. Members who want to speak from now onwards. The Minister has to start the reply at 5.15 p.m. Since the guillotine process will start at 6 p.m., you must realise the situation. I would, once again, request the hon. Member who want to speak to confine their speeches within the time allotted.

Now, I give the floor to the Shri Nikhil Kumar. I hope, you have heard what I have said.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have listened to your advise and I would genuinely try to conclude my speech in five minutes. I would like to mention three things only.

I agree with the fact that the funds approved or allocated for Indira Awas Yojana are too less. An amount of Rupees 25000 is too less and this amount should be increased. Hon'ble Member from Arunachal Pradesh has rightly stated that the amount of transportation raw material to these places exceeds the amount of construction. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to raise the amount allocated under the Indira Awas Yojana.

Secondly, I would like to state that Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is a very good scheme and it is believed that our rural areas would be connected with each other under this scheme. The people of our country have a long standing complaint as to where do they walk? Since there are no roads, neither vehicles go to such places and nor the private transporters can run their vehicles. To address this complaint it is most important to construct roads in the rural areas. We all are aware of this fact and that is why we have formulated the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Under this Yojana seven roads have been selected in our area. Earlier also I had requested hon'ble Minister in this regard. Out of these seven roads construction work on three roads has been started. Tenders have been invited for two roads but so far quotations have not been received for them. It is not in my knowledge as to why quotations have not been received and if received, then why a decision is pending on the same. For the remaining roads even this formality has not been completed. I have been talking in this connection since a long time and it is pending since October 2004. We claim that we will get this done, we will get that done. Despite that work has not been started on the roads which are to be constructed under such an important scheme. Therefore, my submission is that it should be monitored.

Sir, today, I got an opportunity to raise a question during Zero hour in the morning also. But, I could not get the appropriate reply. Again, I would like to say something in that regard. We should respect the women in the rural areas. We can respect them by constructing toilets for them. The provision for private toilets in the homes is a

good step. The amount which was earmarked earlier for this purpose has been enhanced to some extent. Now it is to be seen whether the enhanced amount is sufficient for the work or not. We will have to see it because I think the enhancement which has been made is meagre and there should be a condition in this regard. But we will give them a chance. It will take a lot of time to construct these toilets. It will take a lot of time to construct private toilets in each and every home. Hence, my suggestion is that public toilets should be constructed there. It is very necessary to construct these toilets. Unless and until these toilets are constructed the women will have to suffer a lot and they will continuously be got insulted. I have talked with the District Magistrate of my area in this regard. No such direction has been given to his area and he says that no such toilet has been constructed in his area whereas this mission has been going on since 1986. It is an old scheme, even then not a single public toilet block has been constructed in such an important area till now. It is the NGOs who use to construct toilets.

17.00 hrs.

These NGO's have been referred in this scheme. These NGO's should be asked to construct toilet. There is no dearth of government land. I would like to say if there is dearth of government land, I will also provide private land for this purpose. But, action must be taken in this regard. These are the three things for which I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Rural Development to act upon them.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2006-07 being discussed here. I congratulate the hon. Minister. I thank you for making provision for the developing regions of the country. But, you have not provided as much amount as would have been provided for the tribal people, scheduled caste and backward people living in tribal region of the country. Therefore, while condemning I would like to say that there is need of an allocation of one thousand crore rupees for the welfare of tribal people, the people belonging to the scheduled castes and backward classes and there is need to allocate atleast one thousand crore rupees for the development of the people belonging to scheduled castes living in rural areas. There is backwardness in the tribal regions of the entire India. What the government of the independent India did for us? It is a very serious matter due to which demand of secession is being raised

in each and every corner of Hindustan today. If the people want to secede from the existing provincial state, you people call them separatist. It is the situation of the North-East region. Therefore, I demand that every village of tribal area of Bodoland region should be connected with Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to provide path to all the tribal people.

I would like to tell you another serious matter. If you want to construct one kilometre road in North East region under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana it will require an amount of rupees 35 to 50 lakh. But, you people are sitting in Delhi. If more than 25 to 30 lakh rupees are spent for construction of one kilometer road in the North-East region, you people make some doubt as to what is the need of such an amount. Therefore, I demand that atleast 40 lakh rupees should be allocated for construction of one kilometer road for tribal villages in the North East region and each and every village which has population of less than five hundred people should be included under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Financial assistance of Rs. 25 thousand is provided to the poor people for the construction of house. An amount of Rs. 25 thousand is insufficient for construction of a house. My friends have also mentioned in this regard and I also demand that atleast Rs. 50 thousand should be allocated to a person for construction of house.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, arrangement should be made for providing house under the I.A.Y. to the people living in the tribal areas, poor people and the destitute.

*[English]*

I would like to appeal to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi that one lakh houses under the I.A.Y. should be sanctioned in favour of the poorer sections living in the Bodoland territory.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Bodoland territory are living in a worse condition. Therefore, through you Sir, I demand the government that arrangement for electrification, water, rural hospital and sanitation should be made for the people living in the tribal region and in the Bodoland territory. The land and property of the people of tribal region occupied by others should be returned to them. If it is not done then you will not be able to get the tribal people free from their sufferings.

*[English]*

Hon. Chairman, if you want to bring radical developments in the health sector in the rural tribal areas, AIIMS-model institutions should be set up within the Bodoland territory. Why AIIMS-model institute not be set up in the tribal areas, why only in six States? Bodoland Central University should be set up in the Bodoland territory. One National Institute of Technology should also be set up within the Bodoland territory. A Central Agricultural University should be set up in the Bodoland. A Nursing Training College should be set up in the Bodoland. A good number of agro and forest-based industries should be set up in the Bodoland territory.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the government do not formulate such policy then the future of all the tribals would not be blessed with pleasure.

*[English]*

Developmental aspects of the tribal people should be taken care of in the days to come. The Government of India should take appropriate steps to help to bring in development in the socio-economic sector of the tribal people in the whole country.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE (Khargone): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Rural Development to some points, through you. The most important scheme under his Ministry is the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. This scheme will definitely prove to be a milestone in the progress of the country. But when we assess the progress of this scheme we find that it is lacking the expected momentum and there are many obstacles in its way. These obstacles have to be removed.

Sir, if I raise this matter in regard to Madhya Pradesh, I would like to inform that only a number of 1997 roads have been constructed under 'PM Gram Sadak Yojana' over a count of years. There is one very important factor under this scheme, i.e. WBN. Roads, which are constructed in the last phase of the scheme. The roads constructed 10-15 years ago in locationally important villages are now reduced to be neither W.B.M. roads, nor any sort of kutch-



[Shri Krishna Murari Moghe]

pucca roads. So, given that the W.B.M. roads are constructed in the last phase of the scheme, a time frame should be fixed for their categorization. This is because we are facing problems to fix some criteria for those roads constructed 10-15 years ago. Secondly, we construct a road to link two villages under PM Gram Sadak Yojna, but if the real-location of the village still falls short of the linkage provided, the proper utilization of the funds somehow misses. For this, I urge you to fix a kilometer-limit for the link road so that the proper utilization of it may be ensured.

Thirdly, the biggest hurdle in the way of this scheme and which requires an appropriate solution from here itself, is the large forest area of our country. If some link-roads are delayed due to forest-area overlapping, the decision in the matter is to be taken by the Government of India and till then, the work is disrupted. My constituency falls under tribal and forest belt of M.P. and that makes the speed of work under the scheme almost nil. The hon. Minister should take notice of this to solve this problem. One more point, the tenders of construction-work are repeatedly cancelled. Many of them stay pending for years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Sir, I would take only two minutes. I have to raise a point about the 'Swajaldhara' yojna. You provide the maximum funds under this scheme for the boring-work. But as the level of ground water receding constantly, the boring done elapses within a short span of two years. I urge the Ministry of Rural Development to consider this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Alright, I lay concluding speech on the Table of the House.

\*Sir, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is definitely a milestone in our path of progress but its pace is affected due to non-availability of funds in-time. In

\* The speech was laid on the Table.

Madhya Pradesh, only a number of 1997 roads have been constructed within last five years.

1. Secondly, the criterion to cover the roads under this scheme is very hard. For example, if a W.B.M. road was constructed to link locationally important villages some 10 years ago, the same road is at present reduced to be neither a W.B.M. road, nor falls under any other category. As a result, those locationally important villages linked previously will be covered in the very last phase of the scheme. So, this criterion must be revised to properly categorize such W.B.M. roads constructed some 10-15 years ago.
2. When two villages are linked together with a road under the scheme, a provision should also be made to cover those surrounding villages also, which are located within 2-3 km. area.
3. The link-road should go upto the farthest end of the village.

Proposals amounting about Rs. 100 crore are pending under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. Earlier, many proposals were given clearance at special requests by members; these pendencies should also be cleared.

Rural electrification is a good plan but its pace is slow. Although 47 districts of M.P. are covered under this plan, yet only 9 districts have been given the allocated amounts in the last one and a half years. From this point of view, this scheme seems only to be an ineffective assurance.

As for 'Swajaldhara' yojna is concerned, its guidelines should be made comprehensible first. I would like to allude Madhya Pradesh in this matter. We had sent proposals of Rs. 5.5 crore in 2002 but could get only a sum of Rs. 5.29 crore against them. When we corresponded in this matter, we were told that under 'Swajaldhara' project, only a maximum of 20% of the total sum is allowed to a State.

Similarly, we receive very less amounts for rural areas and with that the work for installing a tube-well is not possible. So, until this scheme allows for a pond, a well thereby and also a pipeline through which the drinking water could be supplied, its success seems to be doubtful.

Under 'Indira Awas Yojna', the amount being made available to the homeless BPL families for housing is very less, keeping in view their living conditions. Therefore, the

target and funds under IAY should be increased so that the poor families may be benefitted.

Similarly, the 'Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY)' aims to provide loans through banks to BPL families to carry out economic activities for their livelihood and this is done through 'Self-Help' groups by making these families their members. The Government also provides a matching grant-in-aid with that. Most of the bankers demand a guarantee from the members of these Self-Help groups at the time of sanctioning the loan. Since these members come from BPL families, they cannot furnish a guarantee or deposit the security, in absence of which the bank does not finalize the loan.

Under SGSY, these Self-Help groups are provided with loans and grant-in-aid and 25% of such assistance should go for benefit of persons such as, handicapped, widow, abandoned etc.

An study to ascertain the time to be taken to reach the allocated funds to the Panchayat is also necessary. Therefore, fixing a time limit for this seems necessary. Funds have just been allocated for 12th Finance Commission. Some Panchayats have got rupees 10, 20 thousand also because of their population base. To include funds from MP, MLA local area development schemes is not permitted under this plan. As a result, money will go in vain and it will not be beneficial for villages. Hon'ble Minister may consider in this regard also.

Therefore, effective system of monitoring of plans of rural development is necessary. Without this, benefit of this will reach the poor, is doubtful. Plans are being made for the last 58 years. Funds are being released. But rural life is almost the same. I think that it is mainly because of the lack of emphasis which should have been given on their implementation.

[English]

\*DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, as our Father of the Nation Mahatma's vision that 'India Lives in Villages', 70 per cent of Indian population live in villages. In every aspect of life whether it is health, education, employment, electrification, telephony, there is a wide gap that exists between urban and rural area. This rural divide in all aspects should be abridged. Targeted programmes for bridging this gap should be formulated.

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

I do congratulate the Government for bringing out a legislation for guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household. This is a revolutionary reform with a political will. But it has to be implemented promptly. Even though, it has been launched in February 2006, yet the employment could not be provided till now. And, only 200 districts in the country are included under this Scheme. The amount allotted to this scheme is not adequate. During 2005-06, the Budget outlay for National Food for Work Programme was Rs.11,700 crores and only 150 districts were included in NFWP. This year 200 districts are included under NREGP, but the Budget outlay is only Rs.12,870 crores. This amount should be enhanced and more districts have to be included under this Scheme. There is no gender specification under this Scheme. Fifty per cent of the employment should be earmarked for women.

Under the SGRY, the allocation has been decreased from Rs. 7,650 crore to Rs.2,700 crore. There is no Budget allocation for food grains component too. Food grains are provided free of cost to the States. The other day while answering to a Starred question in the House, hon. Minister had mentioned that, SGRY, NFWP are merged together to formulate NREGP. This is not correct. NREGP is being implemented only in 200 districts of the country. SGRY is a programme implemented through Government in the country and through this programme, several rural durable and community assets were built throughout the country providing employment also. This is denied to the other districts while implementing the NREGP. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the implementation of the SGRY in many States is not effective. Utilisation of fund is inadequate. Incomplete works and corruption are very rampant in the implementation of the SGRY. Works are implemented by the Beneficiary Committee. The Beneficiary Committee entrusts the work to a contractor and the contractor would take the food grains, do some work and quit the place. This is usually happening and the works remain incomplete. Some strict monitoring should be brought out. This should also be there for NREGP also, otherwise it would be a failure.

Under the Indra Awas Yojana, the cash assistance ceiling now for house in plain area is fixed at Rs.25,000. This is a very meagre amount. In my State Kerala, there are housing schemes for SC/ST where Rs.50,000 is provided as grant. Moreover, production cost is increased. So, the Indra Awas Yojana cannot be implemented there. I request the hon. Minister to increase the assistance to Rs.50,000.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

Regarding PMGSY, this is an innovative scheme. This has to be extended to the next Plan period also. As far as Kerala State is concerned, where the density of population is very high, the criteria of eight metre width for the roads built under PMGSY would be difficult to be implemented. I request the hon. Minister to provide relaxation in this criteria at least in Kerala where population density is high and land is a precious entity.

I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention to the suggestions put forward. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, thank you for giving me permission to lay my speech regarding demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development on the table of the House.

Since the hon'ble Minister has assumed the charge of this department, the department has been implementing plans but villagers are facing a lot of problems today. Be it a matter of sanitation system or drinking water, the situation of rural areas is the worst.

I request the hon'ble Minister that drinking water should be supplied to every Gram Sabha through pipelines. My constituency is an ravine area where Barhpur block, Chakamagar block, Azitmal Block, Oraiya block falls under ravine areas. In these areas, there is acute problem of drinking water and irrigation. Although, there should be development of the whole country but I demand a special economic package for my constituency for providing drinking water and provision for funds for sanitary arrangement in villages should be made separately. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a very good scheme but all districts should be brought under this scheme. There is a need to enhance the Budget for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. I demand for a special economic package for hilly areas in my parliamentary constituency Etawah. There is a need of improvement in Panchayati Raj System. Development of villages is taking place as a result of giving direct rights to Gram Sabha, today. But there is still a need of more improvement in this regard. All villages and small towns should also be included under Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana. Provision of atleast rupees 20,000 crore should be made for rebuilding the houses damaged in fire or natural calamities and rupees 50,000 should be given for the construction of each house.

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

Once again, I request the Hon'ble Minister through you that special emphasis should be given on employment schemes in rural areas. I conclude my speech with the demand that arrangements should be made for 300 days employment in stead of 100 days in a year.

\*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, the real India lives in villages. All problems exist there. It seems from the demands presented by the Hon'ble Raghuvanshji that he is a villager himself. He has the information about village matters.

But these are some points that need to be considered—

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana is a very important yojana. Former Prime Minister hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee has launched this and it has proved to be a revolutionary step for rural development. There is a need to reconsider some of the points of this Yojana.

1. Roads should be constructed till the last end. Construction should be with RCC in villages.
2. Bridges-small bridges having length more than 30 feet are left. My suggestion is that large bridges should be constructed otherwise roads will be useless.
3. Roads are constructed on the basis of distance from main road. Where there is a possibility of joining more villages with some more or less difference, it should be done.
4. It is necessary to ensure quality.
5. Beginning of repair works of roads already constructed is necessary. It is also necessary to repair these roads under guarantee period.

Funds allocated for Swajal Dhara Yojana under rural drinking water supply yojana, AUWSP are very less. Many plans have been made in my constituency Khajuraho and Tikamgarh and Panchayate have contributed fully to those also but these plans are pending for want of the central assistance.

Sir, it is an irony of Khajuraho constituency that first, floods and then drought ruined the entire area this year. All the six tehsils of Tikamgarh district have been drought affected. Naugaon of Chhattarpur has been badly affected

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

by drought. Thereafter, the crops of arhar, lentil gram and mustard damaged by insects and atleast hailstorm took place. 250 villages have affected badly in Tikamgarh district and in Chhatarpur district 150 villages have got affected.

Therefore, situation of migration has been created. Sir, an emergent situation has been created. Employment Guarantee Scheme is not sufficient. There is a need of special package for this area.

"A plan has been prepared to connect 180 villages to roads in flood affected areas. For this, only 15 crore rupees are needed. If approval to this plan is given then flood affected villages of Chhatarpur district will get connected with roads and people of this area will be able to save themselves during floods. Toilets and pure drinking water in villages are needed under CRSP Total Village Sanitation Programme. Allocation made for this is not adequate.

[English]

\*SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, Alleviating rural poverty and ensuring quality of life for rural population, especially those below poverty line are the basic functions of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Since India lives in the villages it is needless to mention that improvement and development of the lives of the villagers is very important for the development of the country. Allotment of funds for the schemes such as generation of self unemployment and wage employment, provision of housing to rural poor and rural roads are far below the need. More and more support services and other quality inputs such as assistance for strengthening of DRDA administration, development of voluntary action etc. should be made. I urge upon the Minister to increase the bio-mass production by developing wastelands and degraded lands in the country.

Sanitation of drinking water is the main problem of the rural poor, they have to walk miles to fetch drinking water. Effective measures should be taken make available clean drinking water for the rural poor.

Sanitation facilities do not exist in the villages, Hence steps should be taken by the Ministry to have more sanitation facilities in the rural areas.

More and more employment oriented training

programmes should be implemented for the benefit of rural women in the country. One district level resource training Center should set-up in every district, which will provide training for self employment, the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) should be extended to each and every village of the country. As per 2001 census about 15 million families are shelterless in rural areas. While big cities have housing development agencies should be set up at the rural areas and fund should be allotted to give shelter to the rural poor.

Grater thrust should be given to additional wage employment and food security in the rural areas. Even though the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana is the single self-employed programme for the rural it has not made much progress in the rural masses. More funds and vocational training programmes should be arranged for the implementation of the scheme. Poor rural road connectivity is a key factor which acts as a stumbling block to remove poverty. About 40% of the villages in India do not have proper road connectivity. Hence there is an urgent need to develop rural roads in the Country.

District Rural Development Agencies should be strengthened by giving funds without delay.

I urge upon the Minister to take urgent and effective steps for the growth of the rural areas in the Country.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): If the hon. Minister does not start the reply in another five to seven minutes, it will be difficult to complete the entire thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan to speak. She is the last speaker.

[Translation]

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): I thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak in Punjabi on Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Even after 58 years of independence, the condition of our villages has not improved. Although, a lot of funds are sanctioned every year in the budget for the development of our villages, the condition remains the same. This is because the policies are not implemented at the grass root level.

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

Sir, even after 58 years of independence, there is an acute crisis of drinking water in the villages. In the Malwa belt of Punjab, human beings and animals share the same source of drinking water. Women have to trudge long distances to fetch water. The water-table has gone down rapidly. The water itself is polluted and it contains carcinogenic substances. As a result, people are dying of cancer. At some places, water-works have been installed to supply to villages. But a single water-work caters to the needs of several villages. There is lack of proper maintenance of these water-works.

In reply to a question, the Hon. Minister for Rural Development has claimed that the Ministry has adequate funds. However, it is unfortunate on the part of Chief Minister of Punjab to have claimed that there is no drinking-water crisis in the Malwa belt. He has also claimed that the Rural Development Ministry has not provided any financial assistance to the state. I think, the Hon. Minister is not telling the truth. Who is telling the truth and who is not? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate. Anything unparliamentary will not come on record.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: This is the reality. It has been published in the newspapers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything unparliamentary it would be deleted. Please come to the point.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: I appeal to the Government to conduct a survey in the Malwa belt. Water-treatment plants should be set-up in this area. A hospital for treating cancer patients should also be built in this area.

There is a lot of corruption in the distribution of foodgrains meant for PDS. The foodgrains meant for Public Distribution System are being diverted to the open market by corrupt officials. The poor people throughout the country are not getting food grains through PDS. Immediate steps should be taken to check this malpractice and streamline the Public Distribution System.

A fresh survey should be conducted to identify people living below poverty-line: The earlier survey had not been conducted properly. As a result, in Bhatinda district, the number of BPL families came down from 54,838 to 8041 only. However, this does not reflect the ground reality.

The Panchayats have been given financial powers. However, in the absence of sufficient funds, they have become toothless tigers. They cannot execute the schemes in the absence of funds. For instance, in 500 villages in Bhatinda district, the water-works are being closed as the villagers have not been able to pay their electricity bills.

The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been an utter failure. Two years after its implementation, not even a single unemployed person has been granted employment under this scheme. In Punjab, there are 30 lakh unemployed persons. Education and employment go hand in hand.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: The schools in rural area of the state are in a bad condition. About 30,000 posts of teachers are yet to be filled up. As a result, students are dropping out of these schools in large numbers. The enrolment rate in these schools is dismal.

The health-care system in rural Punjab is in shambles. There are no doctors in the hospitals. Health-care is non-existent. People are dying of various diseases. In Punjab, 50% people have become anaemic.

The Government claims to be a champion of Dalits and their rights.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, kindly conclude. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Schemes meant for the welfare of Dalits are not being implemented. No new schemes are being announced for the welfare of Dalits. Dalits and their interests are being ignored. Money earmarked for building toilets for Dalits, is being diverted elsewhere.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Paramajit ji, kindly sit down now. You can lay your speech. So, kindly sit down. The Minister will reply now.

[Translation]

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: A paltry sum of Rs. 25,000 only is being given to the rural poor for the construction of houses. It is a cruel joke. Can 'Pucca' houses be constructed with this measly amount? Even this amount is not reaching the poor. 58 years after independence, the rural poor are suffering under the yoke of poverty.

The money being sanctioned by the Central Government for education is being diverted and misused by the State Government. Money earmarked for the development of schools is being spent for other purposes. Misappropriation of funds is taking place in the 'Sarv Siksha' scheme. Proper monitoring of these schemes should be done. Money meant for schools is being diverted to Congress workers. They are utilizing this money to garner votes in elections. This must be checked.

Roads being constructed, under the 'Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojna' are in bad shape. Money sanctioned for the repair of roads is being used elsewhere.

There is no doubt that a lot of schemes have been announced by the Rural Development Ministry for the development of villages. But, these schemes are not being implemented properly.

Villages are the heart and soul of our nation. The progress of India is inextricably linked with the development of its villages. The Government must take concrete measures to achieve this.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Chairman Sir, 29 hon'ble Members have participated in the discussion on demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development and several other Hon'ble Members have laid their written speeches due to paucity of time. It has been permitted by your good self to be included as part of the proceedings. I would like to assure all those Members that they would not be put to any loss. We will go through all these speeches and their written replies will be sent to them and action would also be taken on the same. I would reply to speeches made by all the hon'ble Members by addressing them personally.

\*\* English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Punjabi.

17.18 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the kind of importance that has been given in this august House to the demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development would have generated excitement and interest amongst those 74 crore people living in villages that a discussion regarding them, their problems, for their development, against poverty and unemployment is taking place in this House and all the Hon'ble Members are participating into it, putting their views and listening to others as well. This would raise the excitement and boost morale of the people living in villages. Their faith would be strengthened that now their own development would also be taking place.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been dreaming that by the year 2020 India would figure amongst the front line countries of the world. For that, it is necessary to give importance to rural development works and to eradicate poverty and unemployment from villages. The economists have calculated that even after the implementation of 11th five year plan, 11 percent people would still remain below poverty line. But it is not 80, there are 15 points mentioned at 15 places in the Common Minimum Programme of UPA, which is related to the Ministry of Rural Development. In view of the execution of that, which has been done so far in nearly 20-21 months, I can surely believe that the pace at which this is being done, it would not leave anyone to remain below poverty line after Eleventh Plan and everyone will come above the poverty line. I will tell them the reasons for this. The reason is that the Chairperson of UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji, hon'ble Prime Minister and all other hon'ble leaders of UPA are keen on eradicating poverty and unemployment, creating job opportunities, rural development and brining prosperity among villagers under the Common Minimum Programme for those 74 crore people who live in villages. Besides, the leftist leaders are very vigilant and acting as watchmen as to whether the Common Minimum Programme is being implemented or not, the people from Samajwadi Party and BSP would certainly honour their commitment. The reason behind this is that the leftist people lead the way and keep a check, they are not part of the Government and are supporting the Government from outside. They are observing as to whether rural, poor and equality-oriented policies are being implemented or not. They keep raising questions everywhere and issue guidance to us. Similarly, Members of Samajwadi Party and BSP party are also not part of the Government but they are keeping a check from outside

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and providing support too, they encourage us also and guide us on how the problems of crores of poor farmers, labourers and unemployed persons living in villages can be addressed.

When the people of opposition use to sit on the treasury benches, we use to repeatedly warn them that the party supporting the Government should support the Government at the time of division in the House but otherwise should raise the actual problems of the people. Shri Kirit Somaiya ji, Shri Swain and Shri Malhotra ji use to sit here and all these three Members use to praise the Government even if, things were being done wrongly by the Government. Its unfortunate result was that they had to go there and we came here to sit upon the treasury benches. ...*(Interruptions)* We kept warning them that crores of poor people who are living in villages keep pondering as to what is being done in the Parliament for their welfare. They never get a reply in the Parliament.

Sir, on that day you allowed me to make a statement and I was raising a question related to crores of people but Malhotraji was raising a question regarding security personnel entering the Parliament. The question concerning crores of people living in villages should have been raised here.

Where has the Volker issue disappeared? These people here remain engrossed in such issues. This Government would take care of three things, Gandhi, Village and Poor and we have to realize our dream of bringing India amongst the top line countries of the world by the year 2020.

There is paucity of time otherwise, I would have mentioned the budget of his entire tenure, I remember it all. The budget of 8000, 9000 crore rupees, that they use to allocate, we are raising that much of budget each year. ...*(Interruptions)* How much budget they use to allocate 16,000, 18000 to 24000, 31,000 crore rupees, but even then most of the hon'ble Members have expressed their concern in their speeches that this should be increased further. Hon'ble Member Shri Rupchand Pal ji is an expert in the field of economics. He has also expressed his concern over this. All the hon'ble members of opposition as well as of supporting parties have expressed their desire that the budget for rural development should be increased further, which is also our desire. Although there has been an increase but it is not sufficient, therefore it should be increased some more. This increase should be made to check the poverty, unemployment and the

problems of villages in the country. Not only Indians but also people from allover the world are looking forward to NREGP. Both the houses of Parliament have passed National Rural Employment Guarantee Legislation unanimously and with heavy support. The law was launched in the village Bangla Palli and Anantpur district of home district of Ex-President Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy of Andhra Pradesh on 2nd February 2006. I would like to tell here that Hon'ble Prime Minister and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi could have launched the law by inviting all the people in Delhi itself, but they launched it there in "Gram Sabha." This law was first enforced in 80 thousand Panchayats. Hon. Prime Minister and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh etc., all went there in Gram Sabha and launched it. We asked all the hon. Chief Ministers that all the union and state ministers. Hon. Members may be sent there so that it is commenced and people know about it. I have already given a statement in this regard. Now in the brief the National Rural Employment Guarantee law, which has been notified, was launched in 200 districts on 2nd February. We have issued operational guidelines also. NREGP reports have been received from 181 districts of 17 States where in 23,99,362 households have applied for registration. These people have got their names registered. Reports are awaited from some other districts these are expected soon.

*[English]*

Number of job cards issued – 62,79,278; number of Gram Sabhas held – 1,61,230; number of workers offered employment – 250514, funds released to 200 districts – Rs 3,630 crore.

*[Translation]*

It has been released in 200 districts till 21st March for this year.

*[English]*

It enables MIS deployed to Monitor NREGP.

*[Translation]*

it means there is provision for information technology and entire monitoring also.

*[English]*

External National Level Monitors and Internal Monitor Department officials are sent to districts to monitor the programme.

[Translation]

National Level Monitor and our officer is being sent form here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. The hon. member has violated the rule. No hon. member expects the Minister can approach the official gallery. Please remember that.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We are not sitting unconcerned, consistent monitoring is being done to watch how the law is being implemented in which state and which district and where the mistakes are, etc. and the hon. members are also expected to monitor as to how the work is being done in their constituency. Now hon. member Shri Roopchand Pal and several other hon. Members have mentioned that the provision of Rs. 11,300 crores made in Budget won't be sufficient. We agree with them but did correspond in this regard. We raised this question with entire promptness. Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and the Planning Commission made us satisfied that it is an open handed programme where the poors have been given legal rights and therefore a provision of Rs. 11,300 crores has been made in the Budget, but whatever expenditure will be made, there wont be shortage of funds. All the leaders have assured us that they will give the funds then only we have accepted it. No doubt the amount in the Budget seems meager, but there won't be any shortfall of funds in implementation of the scheme. Unemployment allowance in any state will not be deferred due to lack of funds. That is why we are enforcing the employment Guarantee Act which is our priority. We will arrange whatever funds would be required at any point of time. I have been assured about it.

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey has expressed his worries about the news of change of name of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. I want to say that we don't believe in change of name. That was NDAs work. Our job is to work properly. We believe in working and that such a big country cannot be run with tricks and crookedness. Only truth, faith and transparency can help us run this country and work for progress. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana was started in the year 2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Deenadayal Rural drinking water scheme was being operated who changed the name of this scheme.

Name of all the schemes have been changed on the name of only one family and they say that they don't change the name. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. It is very important debate.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: At the beginning of Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana it had been mentioned that villages with a population of upto 500 would be connected with Pakka roads. At that time it was assessed that an amount of Rs. 60000 crores would be spent on it and a provision of Rs. 2500 crores to be spent every year was made. But for the purpose of connecting all villages having population upto 500, Rs. 1,32000 crores are needed. They had made an estimate of Rs. 60000 crores. The country cannot be run with this kind of estimate. This work will cost more than double of their estimates. At that time they had prepared an estimate of 60 thousand crore rupees and made provisions for 2500 crore rupees per year. According to this, this work will take 20-25 years of time to accomplish. The country can not be run like this. Now we have given the right estimate and prepared a time bound, targeted programme for Bharat Nirman and have arranged money for this. Six items have been envisaged to Bharat Nirman and 1,74,000 crore rupees have been kept for them. These six items have to be completed in four years i.e. till the year 2009. Among them, 3 items come under the Ministry of Rural Development and for them we have to spend approx. 85,000 crore rupees in four years.

Sir, under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, approx. 48,000 crores rupees would be required to connect villages having population upto 1000 in plain areas and 500 in tribal and hilly areas. We have to spend 12,000 crore rupees annually for this purpose. There people were spending 2500 crore rupees and we are going to spend its five times i.e. 12000 crore rupees. This is called strong will power, this is called strong resolution and this is called rural oriented programme. We have prepared 'Rural Roads Vision, 2005' for the rural roads, for the development of villages. 33 lakh k.m. length of roads has to be constructed throughout the country, out of which 68 thousand k.m. National Highway, approx. 1.25 lakh k.m. state Highway, 3.5 lakh k.m. District roads and approx. 5 lakh k.m. other district roads are to be constructed. Further, 26 lakh k.m.



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length of rural roads has to be constructed, same funds have to be given for these roads. Therefore, Bharat Nirman has been kept at number one and for this scheme, 48,000 crore rupees have to be spent in four years. Not only money has been kept, this time 4200 crores rupees have been spent one month ago and we have demanded for more money whereas you were not able to spend 2500 crore rupees even in one year. Budget provision of 5000 crore rupees has been made for next year, and out of them 4000 crore rupees are likely to be received from NABARD as assured by them. In this manner we have opened a window and we have made budget provision for 20,000 crore rupees out of 48,000 crore rupees and approx. 12,000 crore rupees in the external funding in that. In this manner, the gap which is of approx. 18,000 crore rupees, has to be given by NABARD. Therefore, these are not the data on the papers only, but the money has also been provided in the budget and work has also been started. I would like to tell in brief the achievements which we have made in this regard. It is necessary to apprise the house of the progress made under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana till date. 85,641 k.m. length of roads has been constructed till yet as far as the length of the roads constructed is concerned. As far as the value of the projects cleared is concerned, it is 25,759 crore rupees, Expenditure by states is 12,592 crore rupees, 24,738 villages have been connected under Habitations connected. Some states were lagging behind in spending money. We called the meeting of their secretaries, their Ministers and we met their Chief Ministers and told them that State Government should increase consuming capacity, because it is their duty to make. Therefore, we believe that consuming capacity of those 15 states which were lagging behind has also increased after the meeting was held. This year we have been able to spend 4200 crore rupees, next year we will spend 9000 to 10,000 crore rupees. And next to next year we will spend 13000 to 14,000 crore rupees and there after also we will be able to spend this much amount. We have got the plan from states for spending 48,000 crore rupees and we are implementing that plan.

Hon. Member Shri Tek Lal Mahto has raised the question of bridges. It is right that if bridges will not be constructed, how the connectivity of villages can be possible. We will bear the expenditure upto 25 metres and state Governments will bear the expenditure if it will be more than 25 metres. If any state Government is not in a position to bear, then they should approach to NABARD we will take from them but state will have to approach. Therefore the cooperation of state Governments is also necessary.

One hon. Member was speaking about WBN roads. When they were in power, they used to talk about new connectivity. We have talked about not only new connectivity but upgradation also. The roads which are not in good condition, where WBN is diminishing, there is provision of budget for improving the condition of those roads also. When we got instructions from Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Sonia Gandhiji when we decided that there should be good roads and there should be one k.m. connectivity in respect of the roads.

Uma Bharti ji was saying that runways are made, if there would be 20 km. road stretch in bad condition and further 1-1½ k.m. road of village will be in good condition, then that will be of no use. That is why we have decided that the provision of upgradation that was not there during the regime of NDA Government should be there during the regime of UPA Government. That is why I agree that your question and your demand is reasonable.

Here a mention has also been made about Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana the time of the maintenance of the roads to be constructed under this scheme has been decided to be upto five years. There is also a condition that whosoever will be the contractor, will do the repair work of the roads upto five years. But, this is the responsibility of State governments to get this work done. Hence, we are mounting pressure on them. We have also written to Planning Commission in this regard that there should be a provision for road maintenance in state's budget and best quality roads should be constructed. If there is no maintenance, roads will get damaged and then there will be the need to construct them again. This way it will cost more, hence, maintenance can't be neglected. There is a need to maintain these roads in future also. Sir, during the financial year 2005-2006, 15316 kms road constructed out of 15492 kms nearly 15316 kms road were constructed. Nearly, 4068 habitations were provided connectivity and decision was taken that in next financial year 2006-2007, 61030 habitations will be provided connectivity and work on new construction of 35182 habitations will be started and 54669 kms will be upgraded. The question, which has been raised by hon. Member that old roads are in bad condition, a provision has been made for their upgradation also, it is in our agenda. People of state government's do not tell right things. They should ask as to what is being done by the Central Government.

Secondly, the issue of drinking water is very important. Several hon. Members have raised questions in this regard. A target has been fixed for spending rupees 26 thousand

crore within four years for drinking water. There are many villages where still 40 litre per person water is not available. According to CAT of year 1999 out of 74000 villages, 5920 villages were such where drinking water was available less than 10 litre per person. Nearly 69 thousand hamlets were such where drinking water was available between 40 litre and 10 litre. This is called as partially covered. Where drinking water is available less than 10 litre per person, that is called as not-covered. Where more than 40 litre of drinking water is available, the same is called as fully covered. It has been announced by the hon. Finance Minister that during the next four years everyone will have drinking water and funds have been allocated for that. Not only water, but we have to provide safe drinking water because there are 2 lakh 17 thousand such hamlets in the country where safe drinking water is not available. 8 districts of Bengal have arsenic in water and 79 districts of Jharkhand have poisonous water. 5 thousand habitations of Nalgonda region (Andhra Pradesh), Rajasthan and Karnataka and some other areas have fluoride and it is also poisonous due to which bones are badly affected. It causes cancer, stomach problems, skin diseases and poor people die after drinking this water. In Bihar, 35 hamlets have arsenic in water, and 35 other hamlets have fluoride. Similarly, complaints have been received from areas falling under Ganga basin and Brahmaputra and Assam of arsenic in water. In the areas, rich in mines and minerals like Jharkhand, Assam and Orissa there is iron. Hence, a target of providing safe drinking water to all the 2 lakh 16 thousand habitations has been fixed. Rupees 264 crore have been sanctioned for water quality surveillance, quality of water, availability of water, sustainability of water out of which rupees 55 crore have been released to the States. Hon. Members should know as to what all arrangements have been made in this regard.

In every panchayat at least 5 persons will be trained for examining water qualities and they will be provided kits for the same purpose. These trained persons will remain in villages and will examine all types of water whether it is from private chapakal or government chapakal. Poor people don't know about the quality they are drinking polluted water due to which they are suffering from various diseases. Hence, if safe water is available in villages, half of the diseases will disappear itself. Due consideration will be given to quality surveillance, quality of water, availability of water and sustainability of water. During summers chapakal dries out and during rainy seasons these are full of water. Therefore, our three problems related

to water have been made part of Bharat Nirman, in which rupees 26 thousand crore are expected to be spent. A provision has been made to spend rupees 29 hundred crore in the first year and rupees 4 thousand 50 crore in the second year and rupees 5 thousand crore this year and states have been asked to spend the money. A Member from Punjab uttered some filthy words in her speech. We will give information to all members regarding the money given or being given to the States. It is your work to supervise it districtwise and statewide. There is a need to look into it district wise by the Vigilance & Monitoring Committee. There is a need for stringent monitoring of 14 rural development schemes of central government and hon. Members have shown interest in the same. We have received reports from more than half districts of the country that hon. Members are showing interest in this regard. My third point is related to rural housing. Nearly, one and a half crore families are homeless. These are living in slums or they are somehow managing. A target has been fixed for constructing 60 lakh houses for them within a period of four years. For that amount for rural housing for the year 2006-2007 has been increased from rupees 27 crore to rupees 29.5 hundred crore. A number of hon. Members have raised a question that there is manipulation in the distribution of Indira Awaas. For that we have made a provision. We were unable to do anything due to the stay order of Supreme Court. Now Supreme court has withdrawn its stay order. ... (*Interruptions*) We have asked all the States that for next financial year and for future, a waiting list should be prepared and Gram Sabha should be organized. BPL survey 2002, according to which a list of the poor people based on 13 parameters of poverty was made, should be published, its computerized network should be published and by painting school or Panchayat Bhawan, the name of the poorest family should be written on the top, thereafter other names will be written on the basis of poverty. Shri Biswamuthiary has left, he was raising this issue and was demanding a separate budget of rupees one thousand crore for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. If we calculate, then his demand will cause loss to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. I am saying this because whatever will be spent on rural housing out of that rupees 60 thousand crore, 60 percent is fixed for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In SGRY whatever amount goes to district out of that 20 percent and 22.5 percent goes to income generating assets for individual beneficiaries of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, 30 percent goes to blocks, in which 22.5 percent has been fixed for income generating

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assets for individual beneficiaries of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In the entire country, rupees seven hundred crore are being spent for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Money is also being given for drinking water out of it 25 percent is to be spent for scheduled castes and 10 percent is to be spent in the tribal areas. There is a need to monitor the same. There is a need to look at it. We have made all provisions for that and we have given priority to scheduled castes, tribes and backward classes. Hence, we have made arrangement for this drinking water scheme. One hon. Member was raising question in this regard. Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission was going on, one submission project was there, that all was stopped by NDA. ...*(Interruptions)* The name of that project was Rajiv Gandhi drinking water mission. ...*(Interruptions)* Somewhere in papers name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, we people some great man. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): What is the work of politics in country's development? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There was name of Rajiv Gandhi drinking water mission before NDA government came to power, they stopped it. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, we have started it again. ...*(Interruptions)* Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's name was nowhere. If you raise the name of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya then I will start telling the truth.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on demand only. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Who brought this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are delivering such a good speech. Leave this aside and speak about the rural development.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Dr. Lohia used to regularly meet Deen Dayal Upadhyay and he agreed with his school of thought, he was our pioneer. Therefore, these people may not be that much acquainted with Deen Dayal Upadhyay. They are employees of R.S.S. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, we are. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, such words should be expunged from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very respected name in the Indian History.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, these three schemes stands for 'Bharat Nirman'. Without the farcical element of 'India Shining'. Bharat Nirman. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a strong resolution and will and this is not a farce. It is a fourth programme of 'Bharat Nirman'. Hon'ble Member has raised the question about the six lakh villages which are not having electricity. The provision of electrification has been made under Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme so as to all the habitations or villages which not having power may get electrified. Not only this, the provision for providing free electricity to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe habitations has also been made under the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. Excluding the irrigation and telephone connectivity one lakh 74 thousand crore rupees have been provided under the said scheme for the six different programmes out of which Ministry of Rural Development will contribute upto Rs. 85 thousand crores. The contribution for this year has been made and three more years for the same still remains.

I am hopeful that hon'ble Members will cooperate with us and also extend their support. With the leave of your goodself, the discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development has been conducted. The discussion on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture was together held in 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989. The separate discussion on the demands of Ministry of Rural Development is a milestone in itself. India has been stigmatized by this evils, one is unemployment and other is poverty. People call it twin evils. If unemployment is removed, then poverty will hold no meaning and vice-versa. Economist hold unemployment to be the root cause of poverty.

According to the Prime Minister, employment opportunities should be increased and how to do it is the moot question. We have implemented the Employment Guarantee legislation in two ways one the poor have been given legal rights and secondly by initiating not only self employment, but Self Productive Employment, through Self-Help groups. Women, Scheduled caste people and every poor person of village will be mobilized under Self-Help Group Mission. Our target is that atleast one person

from every family should become the Member of Self-Help Group, now the question is as to how this will be accomplished? Finance Ministry is bringing Micro-Finance Bill in this regard which will enable them to get Financial assistance from banks. Till now, 22 lakh Self Help Groups have been constituted, around ten Members are there in one Self-Help Group and 22 lakh Self-Help Groups have been constituted. 12 lakh of them are of grade one and five lakh are of grade two and 2 lakh 20 thousand Self-Help Groups have come under economical activity. It would be assumed that those who have come under economic activity have got the self-employment and are earning money, Banks have given loans of around a thousand crore rupees and subsidy is also being given to them. A member of family get financial assistance of around 23 thousand rupees. Therefore, Self-Help Group Movement of SGSY, Self Employment Programmes have been launched to remove unemployment, there is a need to do work in this direction. All these programmes are of this kind.

Hon'ble Member, Shri Rupchand Pal has raised the issue of land reforms. ...*(Interruptions)* Land Distribution of ceiling surplus of all states. ... *(Interruptions)* I have brought papers in this regard. We are not lagging behind, we always exert pressure on State Government. Along with it, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is also there Old Age Pension Scheme, Family Benefit Scheme and Annapoorna Yojna for the poor are covered under this scheme. The hon'ble Finance Minister has announced that now the Rs. 75 would not be given to the senior citizen under Old Age Pension Scheme, but the Government have allocated Rs. 200 crore for this scheme and the poorest of poor would be covered under this scheme. The provision for the poor residing in villages, hapless and other people has been made under Family Benefit Scheme and Annapoorna Yojna. Therefore, I thank all the Members who took part in the discussion on Demands for Grants on Ministry of Rural Development. Besides that I thank you and all other Members present here. The Ministry of Rural Development should work enthusiastically, so that the poor residing in villages may be benefited. Along with this, I conclude my speech with the affirmation that long live the most of rural development and the rural prosperity.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: At least everybody has heard him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, five percent extra should be given for hon'ble Minister's speech.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He will be happy.

I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 78 to 80 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.57 hrs.

#### SUBMISSION OF OUTSTANDING DEMANDS TO VOTE OF THE HOUSE

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote of the House.

I hope all the Ministers are present.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):  
Yes, I am here, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in

respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof, against:-

- (1) Demand No. 4 relating to Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries;
- (2) Demand Nos. 5 and 6 relating to Department of Atomic Energy;
- (3) Demand Nos. 7 and 8 relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers;
- (4) Demand No.9 relating to Ministry of Civil Aviation;
- (5) Demand No. 10 relating to Ministry of Coal;
- (6) Demand Nos. 11 and 12 relating to Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (7) Demand Nos. 13 to 15 relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;
- (8) Demand No. 16 relating to Ministry of Company Affairs;
- (9) Demand Nos. 17 and 18 relating to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
- (10) Demand No. 19 relating to Ministry of Culture;
- (11) Demand Nos. 20 to 27 relating to Ministry of Defence;
- (12) Demand No. 28 relating to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;
- (13) Demand No. 29 relating to Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (14) Demand No. 30 relating to Ministry of External Affairs;
- (15) Demand Nos. 31 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 44 relating to Ministry of Finance;
- (16) Demand No. 45 relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
- (17) Demand Nos. 46 and 47 relating to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
- (18) Demand Nos. 48 and 49 relating to Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises;
- (19) Demand Nos. 55 to 57 relating to Ministry of Human Resource Development;

(20) Demand No. 58 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

(21) Demand No. 59 relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment;

18.00 hrs.

(22) Demand Nos. 60 and 61 relating to Ministry of Law and Justice;

(23) Demand No. 63 relating to Ministry of Mines;

(24) Demand No. 64 relating to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;

(25) Demand No. 65 relating to Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs;

(26) Demand No. 66 relating to Department of Ocean Development;

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- (42) Demand No. 90 relating to Ministry of Steel;
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- (45) Demand No. 93 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- (46) Demand Nos. 99 to 101 relating to Ministry of Urban Development;
- (47) Demand No. 102 relating to Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation;
- (48) Demand No. 103 relating to Ministry of Water Resources;
- (49) Demand No. 104 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and
- (50) Demand No. 105 relating to Ministry of Minority Affairs."

*The motion was adopted.*

—  
 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, you have to make it over. This is the grossest type of breach of privilege. I am very sorry that I have to remind every hon. Member about the mobile phones.

18.02 hrs.

#### APPROPRIATION (NO.3) BILL, 2006\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Appropriation Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07, 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 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 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.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 18th March, 2006, at 11 a.m.

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, March 18, 2006/Phalgun 27, 1927(Saka).*

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 17.3.2006.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

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