

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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Dated....16 July 2007.....

(Vol. XXI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 28, 2006/Sharada 6, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now. Q. No. 81—Shri K.C. Pallani Shamy.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday while cabinet meeting was on at Prime Minister's House, a car breached the security arrangements and entered there ...(Interruptions) Two Prime Ministers have already lost their lives earlier. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it after one hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the country is concerned and logically you are also concerned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down quietly. I appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members to raise this important issue. I will allow you to raise it after one hour. Further insecurity will not creep in.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not proper on the part of the Government to say that there is no security lapse ...(Interruptions) The Government should come out with a statement in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I implore you. Kindly allow the Question Hour. You also object when your Question are there.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, let the Home Minister make a statement on this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the Government appreciates it.

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 81, Shri K.C. Pallani Shamy

Assistance to Farmers

*81. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are facing difficulties in getting loans from banks in time and are also forced to pay heavy interest on such loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has announced recently any special relief package to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers and for waiver of interest on loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said package is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether co-operative banks have shown their inability to implement the said package;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide hassle free credit to farmers and to implement the relief package?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the house.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The loan disbursed to Agriculture and Allied Sectors during 2003-04 was Rs. 86,981 crore. In 2005-06, it was Rs. 1,67,775 crore. The target for disbursement to the sector during 2006-07 is Rs. 1,75,000 crore which is likely to be surpassed. During 2005-06, Government granted a 2% relief on interest on Short Term Credit from Banks and an amount of Rs. 1700 crore was released for this purpose. Guidelines have been issued to banks to provide Short Term Production Credit for 2006-07 upto a principal of Rs. 3 lakhs @ 7% per annum.

(c) to (f) Keeping in view the extreme conditions of the farmers in six districts of Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra namely Amrawati, Wardha, Yavatmal, Akola, Washim and Buldhana, the Government has announced a rehabilitation package. The main items of the package relating to agriculture credit are as under:

- (i) The entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 will be waived in the six affected districts such that all farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date. The estimated amount of interest on overdue loans in these six districts as on 01.07.2006 is Rs. 712.00 crore.
- (ii) The overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 will be rescheduled over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium.

(iii) An additional credit flow of Rs. 1275 crores will be ensured in these six districts in 2006-07.

Cooperative Banks have not expressed any inability to implement the package.

(g) The Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks operating in Vidharbh Region have been advised to ensure that all the farmers' loan accounts which are overdue on July 01, 2006 are rescheduled on the lines of the package and the interest thereon is waived. Besides, a Steering Committee of the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) is monitoring the progress of implementation of the package. District teams have also been constituted with representatives from NABARD, RBI and Banks to monitor the implementation of the package at the field level.

[Translation]

*SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Sir, when I have raised a question pertaining to the difficulties faced by the farmers all over the country in getting crop loans. Hon'ble Minister has replied, that there are no difficulties. And he has given details pertaining to the total loan extended to the agricultural sector including its associated activities in the past three years. I would like to point out that exact information pertaining to distribution of loan directly to the farmers as crop loan. But the ground reality is that the farmers are facing many difficulties in getting loans from the institutional credit sector. Particularly, it is very difficult to get agricultural loan from the State Bank of India. Hence, I would like to know from the Minister whether Finance Ministry would evolve a viable mechanism in association with Ministry of Agriculture roping in self-help groups and NGOs to study the problems faced by the farmers in obtaining agricultural loans?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as soon as this Government took Office, on 18th of June, 2004, we said that farm credit would be doubled in three years. In 2003-04, it was Rs. 86,981 crore. Doubling in three years would mean that we should reach the target of approximately Rs. 1,72,000 crore in three years. Actually we had nearly the target in the second year itself. In 2005-06, the total farm credit that was given was Rs.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

1,67.775 crore. I am not denying that there are many farmers who do not get institutional credit. We are adding approximately 50 lakh to 50 lakh new farmers under the institutional credit mechanism every year. So, it will take some time before all farmers are covered. But more farmers are covered today than before.

As announced in the Budget, in all nationalized banks, all RRBs, under the NABARD refinanced portion of the cooperative bank credit structure, short-term crop loan is being disbursed and given at seven per cent. If there are specific complaints about any part of India or any bank not adhering to those guidelines, please bring it to my notice. I had a meeting with all Chairmen of the nationalized banks only a week ago.

I have visited Bihar. I am acquainted with what is happening in Tamil Nadu and some other States. If there are any complaints, certainly we shall look into those complaints. But the intention is to extend the farm credit to as many farmers as possible at rates, which are reasonable.

[Translation]

*SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Hon'ble Finance Minister has highlighted the measures taken to mitigate the sufferings of farmers due to debt burden in six districts of Maharashtra. It would have been better the status pertaining to farmers in debt trap all over the country State-wise has been studied unfurnished. It would have been better still if the situation of farmers in identified districts where Employment Guarantee Scheme is being implemented. Hence, I would like to know from the Minister the steps taken to strengthen co-operative banks and to wipe the tears of farmers who face hardships in getting timely loans. And the Minister may also state whether a distribution policy guidelines at a National level to make available crop loans to farmers?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Vidarbha Package is a separate package. This is part of the 31 districts identified by the Ministry of Agriculture as suicide prone districts. Six districts in Maharashtra in Vidarbha have been identified. The Prime Minister announced this package on 1st of July. This package has been implemented in Vidarbha.

Likewise 16 districts in Andhra Pradesh, six in Karnataka and three in Kerala have been identified by the Ministry of Agriculture, and packages are being worked out for these districts making a total of 31 districts, which have been identified as suicide prone districts. So, this is a separate package and not to be mixed up with the larger question of the farm credit all over India.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jivabhai Ambalal Patel—Not present.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Sir, while keeping in mind the pathetic conditions of the farmers in Vidarbha Region I would like to appreciate the necessary steps taken by our hon. Finance Minister to save the farmers and their families further from hunger and suicide.

While supplementing the question put by my hon. Colleague, Shri Pallanishamy, I would request our able Finance Minister as to whether such a rehabilitation package or scheme could be extended to the farmers in Tamil Nadu, who are affected every year successively either by rains or by droughts. In the list given by the hon. Finance Minister, there is no mention of any district in Tamil Nadu being affected either by rains or by droughts. But I am sure, there are so many districts in Tamil Nadu, which are affected every year either by rains or by droughts.

Sir, I would also request the hon. Finance Minister whether he could issue instructions to the nationalised banks to give loans to farmers liberally. Though he had issued offhand instructions, they are not adhering to them. I would also ask him whether he would take steps in regard to lending to farmers at less than 5 per cent interest.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Wish I could say 'yes' to all these questions. But I am afraid I cannot. As I said, these 31 districts stand on a different footing. They have been identified as suicide prone districts, and therefore, this package is being worked out for these 31 districts.

As far as instructing banks to move liberally in lending to farmers, I believe, I have taken more meetings with the Chairmen and Managing Directors than any Finance Minister in recent memory. I meet them three or four times a year. It is because of the constant monitoring and constant urging them to be more liberal that doubling

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

of farm credit has been achieved in two years rather than three years. But surely, I would continue to make efforts to ensure that banks lend more to farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply has mentioned just now that loans outstanding against farmers have been waived only in 31 districts of three States. However, there are other districts in the country, which come across the same problems every year. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether a survey will be conducted in all those districts to provide relief to the farmers. And whether a survey will also be conducted to provide package in other districts as has been approved for those 31 districts. I would like to know a specific reply from the hon'ble Minister in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These 31 districts have been identified after, I believe proper study by the Ministry of Agriculture and I am going by the list identified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: The hon. Minister has stated that 31 districts are suicide prone districts. But we know millions of farmers are debt-trapped. Has he got anything about the quantum, the total amount of loan, taken from private moneylenders throughout the country?

Secondly is he ready to provide cheaper credit as per the recommendation of the Swaminathan Commission?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Government of India has no authentic information about the total monies owed by farmers to moneylenders. In the nature of things it will be difficult to collect that kind of information. From time to time studies appear based on sample studies. But there is no authentic information.

Secondly the question of interest rate for farm credit was debated when the Budget was discussed here. I know hon. Members had asked for lending to farmers a lower rate but I had explained the reason. In the circumstances that we find ourselves in, the best we can do is to ensure that farm credit is available at seven per cent for short-term Rabi and Kharif crop. It used to be between 9 and 12 per cent. We have now ensured that

farm credit will be available at seven per cent through the institutions under the control of the Government of India.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree to what the hon'ble Minister has stated just now. All the regional rural banks operating in the country are charging not less than 9% rate of interest. The hon'ble Minister wants a specific complaint from our side. My submission in this regard is that hon'ble Minister should go through the balance sheets of all the rural banks and conduct an inquiry into it.

[English]

What they are charging is, either they are charging seven per cent or more than nine per cent.

[Translation]

Till date farmers are not being given loans at the interest rate of less than 9%.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as announced in the Budget, from Kharif 2006, the RRBs have been instructed to lend short-term crop loan at seven per cent. If there is any RRB, which is charging a higher rate of interest—well the whole nation is watching us—we clearly advise all those RRBs that severest action will be taken if there is any case, please bring to my notice and action will be taken within 48 hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately, Mr. Dushyant Singh, that is not being recorded. You say it later on. This is not the time.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the issue concerning the lives of the farmers. Just now an hon'ble Member has stated that he does not agree to the reply given by the hon'ble Minister. I would like to present figures of Reserve Bank of India in this regard. There are two things, first is about loans being granted to farmers and the other is related to package. So far as package is concerned, earlier not more than one incident of suicide by a farmer in Vidarbha used to occur in a

*Not recorded.

week but now after the grant of the package at least two such incidents are reported every week.

[English]

I will not elaborate these things in detail. This is the crux of the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I am speaking in terms of Reserve Bank. As he has said, in all the scheduled commercial banks, there is a mess in between these agriculture and allied sectors.

[Translation]

As per the figures of Reserve Bank of India, 2004, there is 40% allocation in priority sector.

[English]

You have allocation up to 40 per cent. In 2004, the Reserve Bank's figure was 35.30.

In 2005, it was 35.40 and in 2006 it is just 34.56. This is the figure of RBI in terms of percentage of the priority sector. You said 65000 is immaterial. What is the ratio and what we have consumed?

[Translation]

I put straight question as to what is the share of agriculture in priority sector and in agriculture, what is the share of farmers and marginal farmers and whether we are meeting the targets for marginal farmers?

[English]

This is the crux of the question. I want a specific answer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, within the priority sector, lending to agriculture should be 18 per cent. Now the figures are available bank-wise and year-wise. If the hon. Member puts a separate Question. I will furnish him the figures bankwise and year-wise as to how many banks reached 18 per cent and how many did not. Some banks have and some have not. But the issue is really this. The hon. Member says that the total amount is immaterial and the ratio is material. Frankly, Sir, you will kindly appreciate the total amount is more material than the

ratio. I will tell you why. If the total lending to the farm sector increased from Rs. 85,981 crore to 1,67,775 crore that shows the amount of money that has been lent to the farmers. The ratio may go up by a decimal point or come down by a decimal point depending upon the total outstanding lending of the banking sector.

Today non-food credit is growing by about 30 per cent and the home loans are growing by 44 per cent. If the denominator grows more rapidly, then obviously the percentage will go up by a decimal point or the percentage may go down by a decimal point. So, while the ratio is important, I submit with respect, it is equally important to note the quantum of money that is actually lent to the farmer. I would certainly be very happy to send to the hon. Member bank-wise and year-wise achievement as against the 18 per cent target.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Subbarayan to put the next supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have only 30 names. Kindly consider the great dilemma.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I should expect some other notices from you also which are not coming. What can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, the agriculture sector has suffered a severe setback. The incidents of suicide among the farmers are increasing day by day. Therefore, will the Government of India consider giving interest-free loans to the small farmers through the banks?

MR. SPEAKER: That answer has been given.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I deeply sympathise with what the hon. Member says. But in the present circumstances that is not feasible.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: In my State, a farmer has to produce "no dues certificate from all the other banks of the area if he approaches a bank to get loan and each bank charges Rs. 100 for issuing "no dues certificate". In some areas there are around 50-60 nationalised and rural banks. Obviously, farmers have to

spend on fare and other expenses to reach these banks. I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister whether any restriction will be put on these banks which are causing an additional burden of Rs. 100, being charged from the farmers for providing no dues certificate.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this question does not arise as a supplementary from this Question. If there is a special problem in Uttar Pradesh relating to any bank or any RRB which is refusing a no-due certificate or denying a loan on the ground that the no-due certificate has not been made available, kindly bring it to my notice and I will certainly look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: It has come to your notice. I have written a letter to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that the Government has taken steps to reduce the number of suicides in different States. There is no doubt that farmers have received loans but at the same time, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has analysed or he has gone into details of the persons who are getting loans to find out whether the small farmers are getting more loans in comparison to the big farmers. That is the point. Amongst the farmers who are committing suicides, the number of poor farmers is more in comparison to the rich farmers. I would like to know whether any mechanism has been developed or taken by the Government to see that especially these small farmers get loans on time when there is a need as well as they could sell their produce in time without any difficulty so that their burden is lessened and they get the opportunity of selling their produce on time.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I can only answer about the credit part of the question. The larger question of procurement, marketing etc. should be addressed to the Minister of Agriculture.

As far as credit is concerned, ~~me~~ me assure the hon. Members that land-holding farmers get credit. It is the tenant farmer who has difficulty in getting credit. I concede

that Because of lack of title, lack of evidence, the tenant farmer has difficulty in getting credit. Usually, the smallest farmer is the tenant farmer. So, we have instructed banks that they must try to increase the proportion of loans given to tenant farmers through two instruments. One is the self-help group mechanism and the other is joint-liability group mechanism. These instructions were issued only after the UPA Government took over.

Last year, a very small proportion of loans went to the tenant farmers, but this year, we have set a higher target. I am confident that by the end of the year, a slightly larger proportion of loans will go to tenant farmers, but there are serious difficulties because of absence of title, absence of evidence and denial by the landlord that he is a tenant. There are serious difficulties there, but we are trying to get over them through the joint-liability groups mechanism and the self-help groups mechanism.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Sir, this problem of the farmers is known not only in six districts of Vidarbha area; it is the problem all over India for the small and marginal farmers. Particularly in Vidarbha region, the Government announced a special package to give loan, but after the announcement of 1st July, 26 days have passed and already 15 farmers have committed suicide in that area. The special package is not the process to save lives of the farmers. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they are thinking of any other programme to save the lives of the farmers in all these areas.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this package is being worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture is consultation with the States concerned. I recall that towards the end of the last Session, there was a discussion in this House where the Minister of Agriculture announced that in the suicide-prone districts, he is preparing a package and that package would be implemented. The Ministry of Finance and the banks come in to implement the package. We are implementing the package.

The Government of Maharashtra has a major responsibility in ensuring that the package is implemented and farmers do not take the extreme step of committing suicide. The package also includes discretionary amount of money which is kept at the disposal of the District Collector to ensure that farmers in distress can approach the district administration to get immediate relief.

I have done whatever is required to be done by ensuring that the credit part of the package is

implemented. I shall certainly convey the sentiments of the hon. Member to the Minister of Agriculture and the Government of Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: The tenth and last supplementary on this Question to be asked by Shri Yerrannaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not raise your hands.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Please utilise it properly.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, nearly 4,000 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh between May 2004 and today. The situation is very pathetic and alarming. Has the Government of Andhra Pradesh sent any package, for sanction, to be given to these 16 affected districts of Andhra Pradesh? What are the details of the package? Why is there a delay in sanctioning it? I am asking this because our State is the most affected State in this respect as nearly 4,000 farmers have committed suicide in these 16 districts.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we all are aware about it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: You have announced one package for Vidarbha and I am very happy about it. Why are you delaying the sanction of a package for the State of Andhra Pradesh even after repeated requests by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh? I would like to know about these issues from the hon. Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered this question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I have also given a notice to ask a question from the hon. Finance Minister.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, everybody has given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not want to get into any competitive politics. ... (Interruptions) Please sit down. ... (Interruptions) I do not want to get into any competitive politics whether the suicides have occurred before 2 May or the suicides have occurred after 2 May. It is a matter of distress whenever a suicide takes place, and all of us should be unhappy that suicides are taking place. Therefore, I do not think that there is a cut-off date for suicides to measure suicides. I think that we should leave this kind of competitive politics out of this very distressful situation.

The Minister of Agriculture is consulting with the States. The first package came from Maharashtra and that package has been cleared. According to my information, a proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh, and it is being considered within the Ministry of Agriculture. Once the Ministry of Agriculture finalises the package, the Ministry of Finance will step in and provide that package.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 82. Shri Pankaj Chowdhary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, I have also given notice to ask a question. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please give a notice for a proper discussion. You want everything to be solved here in the Question Hour! I have allowed 11 hon. Members to participate in this particular Question itself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Sir, this is an opportunity to ask questions from the hon. Finance Minister on a very important issue concerning our farmers. Hon. Speaker, I just want to draw your kind attention.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, nothing should be recorded as he is speaking without my permission.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

*82. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electrified and non-electrified villages in the country, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achieved in terms of rural electrification during the last three years;

(c) whether some of the rural electrification schemes have not achieved the desired results;

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

(e) the number of households below the poverty line benefited under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and Minimum Need Programme so far, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide electricity to all the villages in the country?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) The number of electrified and un-electrified villages in the country State-wise is at Annexure-I.

(b) The targets fixed and achieved in term of rural electrification during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Target	Achievement
2003-04	24011	2781
2004-05	23861	3884
2005-06	10,000	9819

(c) and (d) Government has implemented a number of schemes for rural electrification *viz.* Minimum Need

Programme (MNP), Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Kutir Jyoti (KJ), Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP), Accelerated Electrification of one lakh villages and one crore households. However, the schemes could not get desired results because:-

(i) The pace and direction of rural electrification was left to the States and that had a decelerating effect on rural electrification.

(ii) Funds did not reach the implementing agencies in time.

(iii) State utilities were in bad financial health and were unable to provide support to the schemes.

(iv) State Electricity Boards were reluctant to take up rural electrification as it would lead to more losses.

(v) The revenue sustainability of the additional electrification infrastructure was not being taken into account to service the debts and to recover the cost of the investment made in the infrastructure.

(vi) The State Utilities did not have adequate man power in rural areas for maintenance of rural electricity infrastructure so created.

(e) Under Minimum Need Programme only village electrification was aimed at. However, under Kutir Jyoti Programme free connection of BPL families was provided for.

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) provides for *inter-alia* 100% free connection to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. So far, 42,745 BPL connections have been provided under RGGVY. State-wise BPL connections released under RGGVY are at Annexure-II.

(f) In order to intensify the rural electrification and to provide electricity to all villages Government of India launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in April, 2005. It aims at providing electricity to all villages by 2009. Under RGGVY 90% grant is provided for creation of rural electricity infrastructure. All the earlier schemes have been merged with RGGVY. The steps taken under the scheme, *inter-alia*, are:-

- (i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone Component has been included in the rural electrification programme for the first time.
- (ii) Village electrification has been taken on a project mode basis. Projects have been taken on turnkey basis for effective implementation.
- (iii) To ensure revenue sustainability of the rural electricity distribution, franchisee installation for management of distribution has been mandatory under the scheme.
- (iv) States have been advised to set up District Committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification work.
- (v) Services of Central Public Sector Utilities *viz.* National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), National Hydro Electric Power

Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation Limited (DVC) have been made available for implementing the scheme in those States which wish to avail their services.

- (vi) Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC) is the nodal agency for implementation of RGGVY. It has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY. REC has also updated its existing technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.
- (vii) A Monitoring Committee for RGGVY has been constituted under Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) to periodically review the implementation of RGGVY.

Annexure I

Status of Village Electrification As Per 2001 Census

Sl.No.	States/UT	Total No. of Inhabited Villages as per 2001 census	Total No. of Villages Electrified	No. of un-electrified villages
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26613	26565	48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3863	2335	1528
3.	Assam	25124	19081	6043
4.	Bihar	39015	19251	19764
5.	Jharkhand	29354	7641	21713
6.	Goa	347	347	0
7.	Gujarat	18066	17940	126
8.	Haryana	6764	6759	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	16891	604
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6417	6301	116
11.	Karnataka	27481	26771	710
12.	Kerala	1364	1364	0

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	52117	50474	1643
14.	Chhattisgarh	19744	18532	1212
15.	Maharashtra	41095	40351	744
16.	Manipur	2315	2043	272
17.	Meghalaya	5782	3016	2766
18.	Mizoram	707	691	16
19.	Nagaland	1278	1216	62
20.	Orissa	47529	37663	9866
21.	Punjab	12278	12278	0
22.	Rajasthan	39753	37276	2477
23.	Sikkim	450	405	45
24.	Tamil Nadu	15400	15400	0
25.	Tripura	858	818	40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97942	57042	40900
27.	Uttaranchal	15761	13131	2630
28.	West Bengal	37945	31705	6240
Total (States)		592857	473287	119570
Total (UTs)		875	875	0
Total (All India)		593732	474162	119570

Annexure II***BPL Connections Released, State-wise under RGGVY till 14.7.06***

State	BPL Connections Released
Uttar Pradesh	21334
Uttaranchal	997
Karnataka	12268
Bihar	3211
West Bengal	4937
Total	42745

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has admitted in the House that results as anticipated have not been achieved. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any fresh action has been taken in this regard. I would also like to know the quantum of cost over-run of the project due to extension in time on account of non-achievement of target. The pace of electrification work in Uttar Pradesh is very low. The hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that the electrification work is to be executed by the State Government. However, if the State Government is not able to execute this work, then has the Ministry taken any action in this regard?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this project was started on 5 April, 2005. As a matter of fact, I have data pertaining to the period since 1996, however, I would not like to give its details at the moment. Till now Rs. 2151 crore have been provided to Uttar Pradesh Government for the said work. The work is in progress. Some days ago I myself went to Uttar Pradesh where I visited Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana office. I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that when electrification is done in rural areas under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran is required to be written on the transformers and the Government have given instructions to mention the name of the project and there is a provision of punishment for not complying with the instructions. Funds have also been provided for the said purpose. I myself am reviewing the progress of that project being implemented in Uttar Pradesh. I am doing district-wise review in this regard. The hon'ble Member should not be worried about this. I am glad to inform the House that till 27 May, 2006 ten thousand villages have been electrified all over the country and so far 14325 villages have been electrified as on date. Out of the fifty thousand villages that were proposed to be electrified in the Tenth Five Year Plan, ten thousand villages have since been electrified till now. Till now in all fourteen thousand villages have been electrified and the remaining villages will be electrified by the end of this year as four corporations have been entrusted with the task to complete the said work on a war footing.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Sir, demand of electricity in the villages have been increasing at present. In comparison to other States of the country there is

acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know whether the Government have any action plan to overcome the shortage of electricity or should it be admitted that villages have been electrified by merely fixing the electric poles, and putting wire. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether in view of the shortage of power in villages, the Government have any scheme for the electrification of villages in real sense of the term so that villages could get sufficient power.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact remains that the Uttar Pradesh Government has done little in regard to electrification work during the last ten years. I have held discussion with the Chief Minister and the Minister of Power of the State in this regard. Now, they have decided to do some work in this regard. If one sees the power situation till date, one will find that most of the power supply is made to the State by the Central Government. They have 3646 megawatt of firm share and 301 megawatt of unallocated share. Thus a total of 3947 megawatt power is available to the State. Maximum power supply is made to Uttar Pradesh by the Central Government in the country. I would like to submit to the House and I am also glad that the work of Tehri project which was started in 1970 and was stalled for some time has been completed and recently four days ago generation of power has started in this one thousand megawatt capacity project. Out of that 250 megawatt power has been made available to the State. I am going there the day after tomorrow to inaugurate the project. Uttar Pradesh will get 374 megawatt power from Tehri Project. Tala project of Bhutan will supply 300 megawatt power and tentatively 70 to 78 megawatt power will be supplied to the State from Dulhasti Project. Thus, a total of 752 megawatt of power will be supplied to them. However, power generation is the responsibility of the State Government. I have written letter to all the Chief Ministers of the States and conveyed to them about the utility that unless States contribute in power generation, demand for power cannot be met. Last time too I had stated in the House that we generate one lakh twenty five thousand megawatt of power in the country. It is our fixed programme. Presently, we are working on programme to generate further on lakh megawatt of power and our Ministry is working on this project on a war footing.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is wide gap in the figures of target fixed and achievement made that has been given in the reply. It has been stated

in the reply that till 14 July, BPL connections were provided only in five States and in remaining States it is zero. While requesting the Minister to provide list of the electrified villages of Jharkhand I would like to know about the proposed scheme of the Government regarding provision of power in 21713 electrified villages of Jharkhand and provision of electricity connection to BPL persons within stipulated time frame.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I have got the figures pertaining to electrification work when it was started in the country. In 1996-97 only 3843 villages were electrified. In 1997-98, 3207 villages were electrified. Thus it is evident from the figures that in one year the figures did not go beyond 2000-3000 whereas in 2005-06, 9890 villages were electrified. Earlier, sufficient funds were not allocated for rural electrification schemes. Somewhere the amount of loan was more and somewhere the amount of subsidy was less, however, in April 2005 it was decided by the U.P.A. Government to carry on rural electrification programme on priority basis to electrify all the villages of the country. So the programme was formulated for the electrification of one lakh twenty five thousand villages and in one-year time 14325 villages were electrified. If one compares the figures about rural electrification till the previous year, it will be clear that the figures was not going beyond 2000-3000. However, I would like to assure the House that in coming days we will complete the entire work within one year.

As far as Jharkhand is concerned, I have met 21 DPR in Jharkhand. In fact we have formulated a special programme for the States where the pace of rural electrification is slow. In comparison to other States of the country the status of rural electrification in UP, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam was less than 25 per cent. Provision of connection to household is different. So electrification work is being taken on priority basis by the Government in 6 States and Jharkhand has been kept under a special target. I would like to submit about BPL that there is an in-built scheme in this project that first of all connections will be provided to BPL families because as per the scheme, BPL families are proposed to be provided with free connection and I am myself monitoring the scheme.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, power is the key for development of any nation. It is important not only for manufacturing sector but also for agricultural sector and

in the rural areas. I am very happy that this scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana is providing 100 per cent free connection to the BPL households and 90 per cent grant for rural electrification.

The hon. Minister in his reply said that the State Electricity Boards were reluctant to take up rural electrification. He also said that the State utilities were in a very bad financial health. That means the large amounts of money which are being provided by the Government to the Rural Electrification Corporation are not being utilised. He also stated another reason that the funds did not reach the implementing agencies through the State Governments. I would like to find out from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will think in terms of implementing the same through either corporate sector or through the public sector undertakings of the Government of India.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it was a fact that before 2005 the position was that we have a number of schemes but the money never used to reach the implementing agencies. We had schemes under Minimum Needs Programme, the Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana, Kutir Jyoti Yojana, Accelerated Electrification of one lakh villages and one crore households, etc.

Subsequently, the Government decided to implement these schemes. I would like to state here that prior to 2005—as hon. Member mentioned—a lot of utilities and the State Governments were not spending the money allocated to them. They were diverting the funds. The loan amount was also huge. They were also not repaying the money. But, the UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh has decided to implement the programme under which all the villages of the country would be electrified. When we went into the past experience, we found that the utilities and the State Governments were lagging behind. At present, we are implementing our programmes through the Powergrid Corporation, NHPC, Hydel Project and Damodar Valley Project. These four agencies are working towards the implementation of the project. We are working on a war footing. Whatever is possible, we are doing, along with the corporate sector.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by hon'ble Minister of Power is confusing and may mislead the House. The Minister has said that Rs. 5-7 lakh is provided for the electrification of a village

under the Scheme that has been going on. But the amount is insufficient to cover an entire village. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he has a plan to electrify the hamlets and clusters still uncovered under the scheme, by 2009?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: We have considered to cover those hamlets too, so you are not to worry. He has raised a valid point and the Government have taken it into consideration. The fact that the hamlets adjoining villages were not being covered under electrification work. We have planned for that and that will be done within the next four years.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: In the answer given by the Minister, it has been stated that Kerala has no unelectrified village. This may be technically correct but the fact is otherwise. Anyway, we are expecting that under the RGGVY, all the unelectrified houses in Kerala would be electrified. But the fact is that, out of seven districts selected, nowhere this scheme has been taken off because of the procedure that has been insisted by the REC. This turnkey basis tendering was there, nobody came first. When it was again retendered, it has gone above the estimated rate of 75 per cent to 80 per cent. Now, under the particular turnkey basis, 80 per cent is material cost, and only 20 per cent is the labour cost. If this estimate rate is hiked like this, when will it be allowed? ...*(Interruptions)* Nowhere it is said as to whether it would be REC or by the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All these details cannot be discussed here.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The problem is, the scheme has not taken off at all as far as the State like Kerala is concerned. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to execute the scheme at the earliest. I would like to know as to whether the normal contract procedure would be followed under the RGGVY scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Brevity has no virtue.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I would have to see as to what exactly has happened in that particular case. But I must inform the hon. Member that from Kerala, seven schemes have come to us. We have sanctioned about Rs. 221 crore for Kerala. I would personally look into the problem of the hon. Member with regard to the tendering.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon'ble Power Minister the amount given for electrification works in the State of Assam till date? Apart from that, I would like to know about the policy of Government of India for electrifying the areas which are backward and predominantly inhabited by SC/ST- in the country, particularly those in our Bodoland region.

Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that all the villages of the country will be electrified by 2009, but I have apprehension about this. I apprehend that the tribal areas of my State, our tribal villages and remote areas can not be electrified even upto the year 2009!

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I can understand the feelings of the hon'ble Member and also his apprehension. It is time that the villages situated in remote areas, especially the Dalit and tribal areas, have still not been covered under electrification process but we are paying special attention to provide power facility in the clusters where our poor population lives. We have asked the Department of Non-Conventional Energy to make special efforts to electrify remote villages and they are working on it.

I want to reassure the hon'ble Member that we have included Assam in the list of those six backward States in the matter of power supply where power is to be provided on priority basis. But the State has sent only one project for the purpose as yet. We have allocated a sum of Rs. 55.55 crore for that project. I am myself in contact with the Chief Minister of the State and asking him to send the proposal as early as possible. I am monitoring the case in the Ministry.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, I would happily bring it on record, in this august House, that our revered Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has made an announcement yesterday about giving free electricity to all the poor people, that is, who are living below the poverty line, in Tamil Nadu. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal or plan with the Ministry of Power to give free electricity to all the poor people in rural areas throughout the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: He will lose his job!

Statement

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: So far, there is no such scheme with the Government of India.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is why we are having such an intervention.

Already eight hon. Members have put Supplementary Questions on this. Now, Q. No. 83.

Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

*83. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of success achieved by the Government in each State in the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) the nature of difficulties being faced by the States in implementing the Act;

(c) whether various sections of the society, particularly, minorities, women, old and physically challenged have been or are being denied/discouraged registration under it in certain States including Gujarat;

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

(e) whether the issue of finalization of minimum wages under the Act has since been resolved;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the instances of corruption noticed in various States, if any; and

(h) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of the Act along with making the public aware of the scheme?

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

(a) A progress report of NREGA is enclosed at annexure.

(b) States have been requested to provide administrative and technical staff at Panchayat and District levels. Positioning of staff is taking some time.

(c) and (d) The Act does not provide for any discrimination between women, old, physically handicapped and minority communities for getting employment under the schemes made under the Act. Para 6 of Schedule II of the Act instead, provides that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least 1/3rd of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work. However, there had been reports in the newspapers regarding a particular community being denied registration under NREGA in Gujarat State. The complaints were got examined and the State Government of Gujarat has denied any such discrimination between the various sections of the society.

(e) and (f) Section (6) (1) of the NREG Act provides that Central Government may specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act. Section (6) (2) further provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government, the minimum wage rate fixed by the State Government under Section (3) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered the wage rate under this Act. So far Central Government has not fixed wage rate in respect of any of the States. The wage rate fixed by the various States is applicable for the purposes of NREGA.

(g) A few complaints in the implementation of NREG Act have been reported. The reports have been referred to the concerned States for examination and for taking remedial action. In a complaint received from Government of Madhya Pradesh, two National Level Monitors (NLMs) have been deputed by the Central Government to look into the allegations made.

(h) State Governments have been instructed from time to time by this Ministry for making adequate staff available with the implementing agencies for effective implementation of the Act. NLMs have been appointed by the Central Government for making field visits of the various areas to watch the progress of the Act and submit their reports to the Central Government. Funds have been released to the States for organizing training programmes

for the staff working with the implementing agencies. All States have been requested to give wide publicity to the Act. States were asked to organize special meetings of Gram Sabhas on 26th January and 2nd February to

create awareness. Handbills, posters, wall writings were suggested in the campaign. Advertisement in TV and newspapers were also given. The process of creating awareness is still continuing.

Annexure

Progress of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Districts	Job cards issued	Employment demanded (No. of persons)	Employment provided (No. of persons)	No. of works taken up	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	4106477	721868	705822	22063	20000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	17480				272.85
3.	Assam	7	104383	11205	6990	534	13970.845
4.	Bihar	23	1071522	533009	505281	17619	40503.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	1534636	165245	162480	9671	17321.72
6.	Gujarat	6	597028	73791	73791	1716	4113.94
7.	Haryana	2	76421	20261	15573	288	913.39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	62408	29080	24848	2249	683.64
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	159158	20261	20261	1211	986.365
10.	Jharkhand	20	1205239	501388	467133	9513	37618.59
11.	Karnataka	5	315412	118810	66530	3678	6329.69
12.	Kerala	2					2179.51
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18	4144413	1913133	1804953	69783	109384.11
14.	Maharashtra	12	1094659	192867	183075	6152	17961.645
15.	Manipur	1	17880				570.89
16.	Meghalaya	2					2064.68
17.	Mizoram	2	36626	14508			298.9
18.	Nagaland	1	27884		15		430.11
19.	Orissa	19	1900553	577814	563681	23559	31516.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Punjab	1	33375		21284	976	755.75
21.	Rajasthan	6	1423013	853061	846263	13809	64100
22.	Sikkim	1	4696				451.5
23.	Tamil Nadu	6	535519	86625	82009	668	9889.21
24.	Tripura	1	58114	20148	16218	327	1456.66
25.	Uttar Pradesh	22	1662768	657041	528552	16293	33498.69
26.	Uttaranchal	3	187029	13522	11178	2221	1910.6
27.	West Bengal	10	1149145	646412	495493	3305	18358.84
Total		200	21525838	7170049	6601430	205635	437542.065

#Blank spaces in the table denote information not received from States.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the question that was put had sought information on eight important points. Many information were sought and unfortunately the Minister has given a computer release! It only gives information on 'the number of States, job cards issued, funds released'. But the question was much beyond this.

I would like to draw your attention to this. It is a case of avoiding an answer. You all know that the scheme is a new scheme and a laudable scheme; and there is bound to be teething problems. There have been many reports and many complaints. For example, there has been a complaint that a State had claimed 52 lakh mandays, but the claim has been called to question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a specific question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUTPA: There is a report that a lady has gone to the High Court because she was paid only Rs. 4. There is a report that a particular Ministry was saying that the minimum wage should be Rs. 60. Why I am saying this? In view of all these questions being raised about its implementation, will the hon. Minister clarify or kindly assure the House that he would set up a proper effective monitoring system so that we may know how much money had been spent, how many mandays have been created and what is the wage actually being paid, etc? May I know whether such a mechanism will be set up and whether the hon. Minister will come forward and make a statement in the course of this Session itself, on the impact of implementation of such a laudable scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: Both the supplementary have already been covered.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon'ble Member for appreciating this programme and plan and also for the eagerness shown by him to know more about it, even though I have given all State-wise details in the reply given here by me. The hon'ble Member has asked to establish a monitoring system and I want to inform him that we already have a three tier monitoring system, which supervises the district wise implementation of the Scheme. I had shot off this scheme when the election process in five States, including West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu had began. Further, this scheme could not take off well in Bihar too, as the process of Panchayat elections was going on there. But other States have shown very good feedback in this regard. Then came the rainy season and massive work under the scheme would be on after this season is over. Meanwhile, a total sum of Rs. 7000 crore, i.e. Rs. 3000 crore last year and Rs. 4000 crore this year, has been deposited into the funds of the districts of different States and the process has been started. We have also got the system of a governance for this scheme and online monitoring is being done in this matter. We have established connectivity with as many as 560 districts and only a few of them are still to be linked with this system. I want an MIS—connectivity in this regard so that desired information may be easily inseminated to

this House or hon'ble Members. I have also implemented a fourfold work pattern in this regard, namely People's participation, State Monitoring and Vigilance, Transparency and Accountability; so that any possible mismanagement could be strictly avoided. We have also the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees headed by the local MPs and I have requested them to closely monitor the situation in their respective constituencies and inform us about that. Since the State Governments are the nodal agencies for this scheme to implement it through Panchayati Raj System, we have arranged training to be imparted to members and the personnel of PRIs, members and officials of Local Vigilance Committees. I have asked the States to make arrangements in this regard. I have also asked the States to monitor at least 2% schemes under this plan with the help of State authorities and 10% by the District Administration to avoid any possibility of failure in the matter. I would also like to remind you the clause regarding minimum wages, as passed by this august House. I have promised to continue with the provisions under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, in the States. If need be, the Centre is empowered to declare a uniform minimum wages yet it has still not been required so far. The States are going on well with their respective minimum wages till date.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I would like to ask a one-line supplementary. How long will the Government take to extend the scheme throughout the country?

MD. SALIM: Sir, was it a one line or online supplementary?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, we started this scheme from 2nd February, 2006 in one-third part of the country. We have covered 200 districts out of 600 under it till now and as per the provisions of this Act, we will cover each and every part of the country within less than five years.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has presented State-wise details and he has also given some figures on job card, employment opportunities and release of funds in respect of my own State of Bihar. I won't like to waste time by going through them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No need to read it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to make it clear that the historical scheme launched by the Central Government with a view to providing jobs to the poor in their native villages itself, especially those in backward States who were migrating to other States in search of livelihood, is not showing desired results, as the funds being allocated for this purpose, especially in case of Bihar, are quite meagre. The work is being undertaken through mafias and contractors, through big machines, and they are misusing the funds allocated under said scheme. I think, not only in Bihar, the situation is same all over the country. Corruption is rampant. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell him that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not say anything.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: There is gross misuse of funds in my State. ...*(Interruptions)* Bogus job cards are being prepared. ...*(Interruptions)* and bogus employment of labourers is taking place. Such a situation is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your points and have also put your question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am quite pained to say that it is true. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply to the question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, first let me put question to the hon'ble Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, he wants to do earth work in rainy season.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon'ble Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will go to the next question.

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

MR. SPEAKER: You are not ready to listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Huge funds meant for poor go into the hands of contractors and mafias. What effective steps are being taken by the Government to check it? Secondly, what action is proposed to be taken to include the remaining districts of Bihar in the said scheme? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give him time to reply to your question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This scheme has been launched in 85 thousand panchayats of 200 districts in the country. Five months have elapsed and so far, we have received only 22 complaints. These complaints have been received from Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Tripura, but no complaint has been received from Bihar till date. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point and the hon'ble Minister has replied also.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, still I cannot say that the scheme is functioning properly everywhere. Members of all the political parties supported us whole-heartedly at the time of passage of the Bill. We were asked to be cautious in this regard so that no scope is left for any kind of misuse. The use of machines and also work by contractors is strictly prohibited under the said legislation. But to nab a person where the stipulated guidelines are violated. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I still say, if there is any problem, any hon'ble Member may communicate to me and I would get it investigated if any complaint of misuse. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister is replying. This is not the way. It is very wrong. This is not right. Now, I have one question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kriplani, you are disturbing the Chair.

I wish to find out how many Vigilance Committees presided over by the Members of Parliament have sat and given their reports to you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So far meetings of 376 District Vigilance Committees have been held. I have received their reports. I am pursuing the cases of districts, wherefrom reports have not been received through concerned State Governments. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has stated about 376 districts. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That shows that the Members are alert. They are doing their job.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, said Vigilance Committees have been contributed in 150 districts only whereas, the hon. Minister has made a mention of 376 districts. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, said report is totally bogus. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SEPAKER: Shri Scindia, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Fall in Share Market

*84. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI R. PRABHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a continuous fall in the share markets in the country in recent times;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the total amount of loss suffered by the small investors;

(d) whether the Government proposes to investigate the declining trend in the share market; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the small and medium share holders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The monthly average movement in the Sensex and Nifty in the recent times, along with percentage change over the previous month, is as under:

	Sensex	% change in Sensex over the previous month	Nifty	% change in Nifty over the previous month
Jan., 2006	9539.66	4.12	2892.68	4.33
Feb.	10090.08	5.77	3019.32	4.38
Mar.	10857.03	7.60	3236.36	7.19
Apr.	11741.74	8.15	3494.06	7.96
May	11599.16	-1.21	3437.41	-1.62
Jun.	9934.74	-14.35	2914.91	-15.20
July (till 24th July)	10531.35	6.01	3084.59	5.82

As can be seen from the table above, the rates of change in the stock indices show movements in both directions. Though the months of May and June, 2006 witnessed a fall in the level of Sensex and Nifty, the average movement of the indices during the month of July, 2006 (till 24th July) has been upwards as compared to the levels in June, 2006.

The movement in stock market indices is a function of many factors including investors' perceptions of the economy, the sector or an index stock. Movements of stock market also depend on economic factors, domestic and international events, market sentiments, corporate performance and prospects of future economic growth. The stock market capitalises the present and future values of growth opportunities while evaluating the growth of all sectors in the economy.

(c) The actual loss or gain of an individual investor will depend on the composition of his/her portfolio and the cost of acquisition of securities and benefits arising from the securities. Therefore, it is not possible to quantify the extent of the loss or gain, if any, on account of the aforesaid fall in share prices for a particular investor.

(d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the statutory regulator which has been established to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate, the securities market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Irrespective of the level of indices, SEBI looks into the market movements and in case of any abnormality noticed in the securities market, initiates appropriate action. In the instant case also, SEBI is keeping constant vigil on the market and is taking

expeditious measures wherever warranted. It has also been conducting weekly meetings with surveillance officials of the stock exchanges. The stock exchanges have been advised to initiate expeditious demonstrative action wherever warranted so as to protect investors' interest and ensure orderly functioning of the stock market.

(e) SEBI and the Government have been advising the investors, whether small or big, that they should take informed investment decisions based on their own understanding of the market or such advice as they may receive from investment advisors. Investors should guard against rumours and also not take decisions in panic.

Further, to protect the investors against impact of volatility, with effect from July 10, 2006, the risk management mechanism in the cash market has been strengthened on the lines of the practice in the derivatives market. The applicable Value-at-Risk margin rates are being updated atleast 5 times in a day. Exchanges have been advised to keep enhanced real time vigilance on volatility and deviance, if any, in the market.

[English]

Losses to General Insurance Companies

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

(a) whether due to the frequent calamities in the recent past most of the general insurance companies have suffered huge losses during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The General Insurance Companies have received a large number of claims arising out of losses due to natural calamities in 2004 and 2005. However, to protect themselves from such catastrophic losses, the companies seek reinsurance support from the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and from the international market, thus recovering a major portion of these claims. Based on their experience, the companies have re-designed their reinsurance programmes and increased the reinsurance cover for 2006-07. Company-wise details of incurred claims by the Public Sector General Insurance Companies on account of Tsunami in 2004, Gujarat and Mumbai/Maharashtra Floods in 2005 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Company	Tsunami in December 2004	Gujarat Floods in June, 2005	Mumbai/ Maharashtra Floods in July, 2005
National Insurance Company Ltd.	1.45	13.85	375.15
The New India Assurance Company Ltd.	7.31	35.26	476.34
The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.	16.73	21.55	350.70
United India Insurance Company Ltd.	11.59	32.54	270.96
Total	37.08	103.20	1473.15

[Translation]

Investment of Public Sector Banks/ FIs in Stock Market

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

(a) the amount of money invested in stock market by the public sector banks and financial institutions during the last year and the current year, bank-wise and institution-wise;

(b) the reasons for investing in stock market;

(c) whether the Government has issued any directive to the public sector banks about their participation in the share market in view of the inherent uncertainties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The banks and financial institutions (FIs) invest in stock market as part of their overall investment strategy to maximize their earnings. The total exposure of public sector banks and FIs in the capital market as at end March 2005 and 2006 is furnished in Statement I and Statement II respectively.

(c) and (d) To limit the risks associated with investment in capital market, RBI has prescribed certain

statutory and regulatory exposure limits for the banks in respect of advances against investment in shares, debentures and bonds. Presently, the banks are permitted to invest, in the capital market, upto 5 percent of their total outstanding advances (including Commercial Paper) as on March 31 of the previous year. Further, RBI has also directed Banks/FIs to formulate a Board approved transparent policy and procedure for investment in shares, build up adequate expertise in equity research, set up an Investment Committee in the bank, observe risk management norms, update Risk Management and internal control systems, carry out surveillance and monitor investment in capital market by the Audit Committee of the Board, disclose the investment in stocks in the "Notes on Accounts" to their balance sheets, etc.

Statement I

Total Exposure of Public Sector Banks in the Capital Market—FY 05 and FY 06

(Rs. in Crore)

Bank Name	Year (as at end March)	Funded Exposure (Advances) to capital market	Non-Funded Exposure (Financial Guarantees) to capital market	Direct Investments to Capital Market	Total Exposure to Capital Market
		A	B	C	D = A+B+C
1	2	3	4	5	6
Allahabad Bank	March 2005	10	30	183	223
	March 2006	0	25	337	363
Andhra Bank	March 2005	1	0	280	282
	March 2006	4	0	144	148
Bank of Baroda	March 2005	16	3	471	491
	March 2006	12	25	502	539
Bank of India	March 2005	120	440	488	1048
	March 2006	309	799	163	1271
Bank of Maharashtra	March 2005	2	12	64	78
	March 2006	12	29	86	127

1	2	3	4	5	6
Canara Bank	March 2005	29	220	343	592
	March 2006	128	355	560	1043
Central Bank of India	March 2005	19	29	102	149
	March 2006	30	26	208	265
Corporation Bank	March 2005	1	6	69	76
	March 2006	1	42	347	390
Dena Bank	March 2005	2	0	23	26
	March 2006	27	65	48	140
IDBI Ltd.	March 2005	0	0	2691	2691
	March 2006	115	92	1271	1478
Indian Bank	March 2005	9	18	142	168
	March 2006	7	47	168	221
Indian Overseas Bank	March 2005	6	36	345	387
	March 2006	13	65	340	418
Oriental Bank of Commerce	March 2005	54	97	193	344
	March 2006	48	253	334	635
Punjab and Sind Bank	March 2005	2	5	37	43
	March 2006	8	14	26	47
Punjab National Bank	March 2005	18	66	511	596
	March 2006	17	202	963	1182
Syndicate Bank	March 2005	1	10	78	89
	March 2006	1	35	265	300
UCO Bank	March 2005	15	34	114	163
	March 2006	2	154	146	302
Union Bank of India	March 2005	14	220	300	534
	March 2006	14	281	370	665
United Bank of India	March 2005	1	28	99	127
	March 2006	2	35	124	161
Vijaya Bank	March 2005	8	5	176	189
	March 2006	1	5	230	236
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	March 2005	0	0	90	90
	March 2006	0	5	134	139

1	2	3	4	5	6
State Bank of Hyderabad	March 2005	3	0	170	173
	March 2006	6	0	290	296
State Bank of India	March 2005	1097	65	2394	3558
	March 2006	33	1	2290	2323
State Bank of Indore	March 2005	0	22	63	85
	March 2006	1	22	85	107
State Bank of Mysore	March 2005	0	15	59	74
	March 2006	0	15	88	103
State Bank of Patiala	March 2005	0	35	96	131
	March 2006	1	21	172	194
State Bank of Saurashtra	March 2005	0	7	82	90
	March 2006	0	8	79	87
State Bank of Travancore	March 2005	1	3	46	50
	March 2006	1	5	93	98
Public Sector Banks	March 2005	1429	1406	9709	12543
	March 2006	792	2625	9862	13279

Note: 1. The exposure of the public sector banks consists of total advances, financial guarantees and direct investments in the capital market.

2. March 2006 data is unaudited and provisional.

Statement II

Total amount of money invested in stock market by FIs as on March 31, 2005 and 2006

(Rs. in crore)

Name	Outstanding as on 31.03.05	Outstanding as on 31.03.06
NABARD	Nil	Nil
SIDBI	57.61	87.25
EXIM Bank	48.41	44.15
NHB	Nil	Nil
IFCI	Nil	Nil
TFCI	0.03	0.08
IIBI	Nil	Nil
Total	106.05	131.48

*[English]***Disinvestment of PSUs**

*87. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terms of reference and constitution of the Disinvestment Commission;

(b) the performance of the Commission since inception, year-wise;

(c) whether changes have recently been made in the terms of reference of the Commission;

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

(e) the details of PSUs recommended for disinvestment and those actually disinvested by the Government under different categories of disinvestment modalities alongwith resources mobilized year-wise;

(f) the details of funds realized therefrom and utilized for each of social and industrial sectors, year-wise since inception;

(g) the Government equity in the various PSUs being disinvested, PSU-wise;

(h) whether any requests for putting on hold plans for disinvestments have been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At present, there is no Disinvestment Commission. Earlier the Government had constituted a Public Sector Disinvestment Commission on 23rd August, 1996 initially for a period of three years. Subsequently, the Disinvestment Commission was reconstituted on 24th July 2001 initially for a period of two years. The extended term of the reconstituted Disinvestment Commission expired on 31st October, 2004. The terms of reference of the Commissions are given in Statement-I enclosed. Regarding the performance of the Commission, a tabular statement indicating in brief its categorywise recommendations is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, as no Disinvestment Commission exists now.

(e) The details of CPSEs recommended for disinvestment by the Disinvestment Commission are contained in Statement-II. The details pertaining to sale of Government equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other companies through the strategic mode and related transactions during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 are given in Statement-III. The details regarding sale of small portions of equity in CPSEs and other companies during the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 are given in Statement-IV.

(f) The Government has constituted a "National Investment Fund" (NIF) in 2005-2006, into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Government equity in CPSEs would be channelised. 75% of the income of NIF will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable CPSEs that yield adequate returns, in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification. There has been no accrual to NIF so far. Prior to constitution of NIF, the amounts realised from disinvestment in CPSEs were credited in the Consolidated Fund of India, which, *inter alia*, were also used to finance social and economic development programmes, rural development, poverty alleviation, CPSE restructuring and infrastructure development through the normal procedure of budgetary allocations.

(g) to (i) On 6th July, 2006, the Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review.

Statement I***Terms of Reference and Composition of Disinvestment Commission Constituted on 23rd August 1996***

No. 11013/3/96-Admn.—In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, Government hereby constitutes a Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, initially for a period of three years.

2. The composition of the Commission will be as follows:-

1. Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, Full-time Chairman

2. Shri Dipankar Basu, Part-time Member
3. Shri M.R.R. Nair, Part-time Member
4. Dr. Suresh Tendulkar, Part-time Member
5. Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa, Part-time Member

The Commission will have a full-time Secretary who will be appointed separately.

3. The broad terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:-

- I. To draw a comprehensive overall long-term disinvestment programme within 5-10 years for the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group.
- II. To determine the extent of disinvestment (total/partial indicating percentage) in each of the PSU.
- III. To prioritise the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group in terms of the overall disinvestment programme.
- IV. To recommend the preferred mode(s) of disinvestment (domestic capital markets/international capital markets/auction/private sale to identified investors/any other) for each of the identified PSUs. Also to suggest an appropriate mix of the various alternatives taking into account the market conditions.
- V. To recommend a mix between primary and secondary disinvestments taking into account Government's objective, the relevant PSU's funding requirement and the market conditions.
- VI. To supervise the overall sale process and take decisions on instrument, pricing, timing etc. as appropriate.
- VII. To select the financial advisers for the specified PSUs to facilitate the disinvestment process.
- VIII. To ensure that appropriate measures are taken during the disinvestment process to protect the interests of the affected employees including encouraging employees' participation in the sale process.
- IX. To monitor the progress of disinvestment process and take necessary measures and report periodically to the Government on such progress.

X. To assist the Government to create public awareness of the Government's disinvestment policies and programmes with a view to developing a commitment by the people.

XI. To give wide publicity to the disinvestment proposals so as to ensure large public participation in the shareholding of the enterprises; and

XII. To advise the Government on possible capital restructuring of the enterprises by marginal investments, if required, so as to ensure enhanced realisation through disinvestment.

4. The Disinvestment Commission will be an advisory body and the Government will take a final decision on the companies to be disinvested and mode of disinvestment on the basis of advice given by the Disinvestment Commission. The PSUs would implement the decision of the Government under the overall supervision of the Disinvestment Commission.

5. The Commission while advising the Government on the above matters will also take into consideration the interests of stakeholders, workers, consumers and others having a stake in the relevant public sector undertakings.

The revised terms of reference of the Commission

The revised terms of reference of the Commission notified on 12th January, 1998 were as under:

No. 11013/3/96-Admn.—In partial modifications of this Ministry's Resolution No. 11013/3/06-Admn. dated 23.8.96 constituting the Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, Paras 3, 4 and 5 thereof are deleted and substituted by the following:-

- 3(i) The Disinvestment Commission shall be an advisory body and its role and function would be to advise the Government on Disinvestment in those public sector units that are referred to it by the Government.
- 3(ii) The Commission shall also advise the Government on any other matter relating to disinvestment as may be specifically referred to it by the Government, and also carry out any other activities relating to disinvestment as may be assigned to it by the Government.

3(iii) In making its recommendations, the Commission will also take into consideration the interests of workers, employees and other stake holders, in the public sector unit(s).

3(iv) The final decision on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission vest with the Government.

Terms of Reference of Disinvestment Commission Reconstituted on 24th July, 2001

F.No. 11012/1/2000-Admn.—The Government hereby re-constitutes the Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, initially for a period of two years.

2. The Commission will be headed by Chairman Dr. R.H. Patil. The other Members of the Commission will be appointed separately.

3. The broad terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:

(i) It shall be an advisory body and its role and function would be to advise the Government disinvestment on in those public sector units that are referred to it by the Government.

(ii) It shall also advise the Government on any other matter relating to disinvestment as may specifically be referred to it by the Government, and also carry out any such other activities relating to disinvestment as may be assigned to it by the Government.

(iii) In making its recommendations, it will also take into consideration the interest of workers, employees and other stakeholders, in the public sector unit(s).

(iv) The final decision on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission will vest with the Government.

F.No. 12012/1/2000-Admn.—In continuation of Resolution No. 11012/1/2000-Admn. Dated the 24th July, 2001 reconstituted the Public Sector Disinvestment Commission, Government hereby appoints the following part-time members of the Commission with immediate effect.

1. Shri N.V. Iyer
2. Shri T.L. Sankar

3. Dr. V.V. Desai

4. Prof. K.S.R. Murthy.

Statement II

Categorywise Recommendations of Disinvestment Commissions in 25 Reports Submitted between February 1997—March 2004

Sl.No.	Name of Company
1	2
Disinvestment through Strategic Sale	
1.	Modern Food Industries India Limited (MFIL)
2.	India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
3.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)
4.	Bongaigaon Refineries and Chemicals Ltd. (BRPL)
5.	HTL Ltd. (HTL)
6.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)
7.	Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL)
8.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL)
9.	Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (RITES)
10.	Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL)
11.	Engineers India Ltd. (EIL)
12.	Engineers Projects (India) Ltd. (EPIL)
13.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd. (HPL)
14.	IBP Ltd. (IBP)
15.	NEPA Ltd.
16.	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation
17.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd.
18.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL)
19.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCIL)
20.	Pyrites Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)

1	2	1	2
21.	Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT)	47.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd. (HDPE)
22.	Hindustan Latex Ltd. (HLL)	48.	Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (RDPL)
23.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	49.	Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL)
24.	National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)	50.	Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC)
25.	Air India Ltd. (AI)	51.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. (SFCIL)
26.	State Trading Corporation (STC)	52.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL)
27.	Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC)	53.	Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Ltd. (HSCC)
28.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)	54.	Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. (WAPCOS)
29.	MSTC Ltd.	55.	Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIC)
30.	MECON Ltd. (MECON)	56.	Projects & Equipment Corporation Limited (PEC)
31.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)	57.	North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEECPO)
32.	Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL)	58.	North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC)
33.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. (HIL)	59.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd. (AYC)
34.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL)		Recommendations other than Strategic Sale
35.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	60.	Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)
36.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCFL)	61.	ITI Ltd. (ITI)
37.	IRCON International Ltd.	62.	Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR)
38.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC)	63.	Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
39.	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)	64.	Oil and Natural Gas Commission Ltd. (ONGC)
40.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)	65.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID)
41.	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCI)	66.	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
42.	National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. (NPCC)	67.	National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC)
43.	Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL)		
44.	Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)		
45.	Indian Medicines Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IMPCL)		
46.	National Buildings Construction Corpn. Ltd. (NBCC)		

1	2	1	2
68.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC)	84.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSCL)
69.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)	85.	National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC)
70.	Central Electronics Ltd. (CEL)	86.	National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)
71.	National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)	87.	Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECI)
72.	Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL)	88.	Ennore Port Ltd. (EPL)
73.	Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI)	89.	Indian Vaccines Corporation Ltd.
74.	Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL)	90.	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHL)
75.	Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC)	91.	Central Warehousing Corporation Ltd. (CWC)
76.	Educational Consultants India Ltd. (ECIL)		Closure Recommended
77.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL)	92.	Electronics Trade and Technology Development (ET&T)
78.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)	93.	Hindustan Vegetables Oils Corporation Ltd. (HVOC)
79.	National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO)	94.	Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd. (RICL)
80.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL)	95.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. (HSCL)
81.	Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC)		
82.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI)		
83.	National Small Scale Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSSIC)		

Statement III*Details of Strategic Sale and Related Transactions from 1999-2000 to 2004-05*

Sl.No.	Name of CPSE disinvested	Type of disinvestment	Name of buyer	Percentage of Government equity sold	Residual equity of Govt.	Amount realised (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1999-00						
1.	Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.	Strategic sale	Hindustan Lever Ltd.	74%	26%	105.45
Sub Total						105.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2000-01						
1.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	Strategic sale	Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.	51%	49%	551.50
2.	Lagan Jute Machinery Company Limited	Strategic sale	Murlidhar Ratanlal Exports Ltd.	74%	26%	2.53
	Sub Total					554.03
2001-02						
1.	HTL Ltd.	Strategic sale	Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd.	74%	26%	55.00
2.	CMC Ltd.	Strategic sale	Tata Sons Ltd.	51%	32.31%	152.00
3.	India Tourism Development Corporation					
	(i) Ashok Bangalore	30 years lease-cum-management contract	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	—	89.87%	39.41 Ⓣ
	(ii) Bodhgaya Ashok	Strategic sale	Lotus Nikko Hotels	89.97%	—	1.81
	(iii) Hassan Ashok	Strategic sale	Mainad Hotels and Resorts (P) Ltd.	89.97%	—	2.27
	(iv) Madurai Ashok	Strategic sale	Sangu Chakra Hotels Private Ltd.	89.97%	—	4.98
	(v) TBABR, Mamallapuram	Strategic sale	G.R. Thanga Maligai (P) Ltd.	89.97%	—	6.13
	(vi) Agra Ashok	Strategic sale	Shri Mohan Singh	89.97%	—	3.61
	(vii) Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur	Strategic sale	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	89.97%	—	6.77
	(viii) Qutub Hotel, New Delhi	Strategic sale	Sushil Gupta and Consortium	89.97%	—	34.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	(ix) Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	Strategic sale	Silverlink Holdings Ltd. & Consortium	89.97%	—	71.93
4.	HCI					
	(i) Centaur Hotel Juhu, Mumbai	Strategic sale	Tulip Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.	100%	—	153.00*
	(ii) Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd. Rajgir	Strategic sale	Inpac Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd.	100%	—	6.51*
5.	IBP Ltd.	Strategic sale	Indian Oil Corpn.	33.58%	26%	1,153.68
6.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Strategic sale	Panatone Finvest Ltd. (a Tata Group Co.)	25%	26%	3,689.00**
7.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Strategic sale	Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt. Ltd.	74%	26%	151.70
8.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Sub Total	ESPS	Employees	1.85%	26.12%	25.19 5,557.44
2002-03						
1.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Strategic sale	Sterlite Opportunities & Ventures Ltd.	26%	49.92%	445.00
2.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	Strategic sale	Reliance Petro Investment Ltd.	26%	33.95%	1,490.84
3.	ITDC					
	(i) Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	Strategic sale	M. Far Hotels Ltd.	89.97%	—	40.38
	(ii) Manali Ashok	Strategic sale	Auto Impex Ltd.	89.97%	—	3.66
	(iii) Khajuraho Ashok	Strategic sale	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	89.97%	—	2.19
	(iv) Varanasi Ashok	Strategic sale	Ramnath Hotels (P) Ltd.	89.97%	—	8.38
	(v) Aurangabad Ashok	Strategic sale	Loksangam Hotels & Resorts Pvt. Ltd.	89.97%	—	16.50
	(vi) Kanishka, New Delhi	Strategic sale	Nehru Place Hotels Ltd.	89.97%	—	92.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	(vii) Indraprashta, New Delhi	Strategic sale	Moral Trading & Investment Ltd.	89.97%	—	43.38
	(viii) Chandigarh Project	Strategic sale	TAJGVK Hotels & Resorts Ltd.	100%	—	17.27
	(ix) Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	Strategic sale	Consortium of Unison Hotels Ltd. & Formax Commercial Pvt. Ltd.	89.97%	—	29.28
	(x) Hotel Airport Kolkata	Strategic sale	Bright Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	89.97%	—	19.39
4.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	Rights renunciation	Suzuki Motors		45.79%	1,000.00 [^]
5.	HCI-Centaur Hotel Airport, Mumbai	Strategic sale	Batra Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.	100%	—	83.00*
6.	Modern Foods (India) Ltd.	Sale of residual shares to SP (Put Option by GoI)	Hindustan Lever Ltd.	25.995%	—	44.07
7.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	ESPS	Employees	1.46%	48.45%	6.19
8.	CMC Ltd.	ESPS	Employees	6.06%	26.25%	6.07
	Sub Total					3,347.98
2003-04						
1.	Jessop & Co. Ltd.	Strategic sale	Ruia Cotex Ltd.	72%	27%	18.18 ^{^^}
2.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Call Option by SP	Sterlite Opportunities & Ventures Ltd.	18.92%	29.53%	323.88
	Sub Total					342.06
2004-05						
1.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	ESPS	Employees	4.58%	0.42%	64.81
	Sub Total					64.81
Grand Total						9,971.77

* Proceeds to go to Air India.

^{^^} Amount received by BBUNL, the holding company.

** Includes dividend of Rs. 1,887 crore and dividend tax of Rs. 363 crore

⊗ Inclusive of Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment (MGAP), Security Deposit and Business Transfer Consideration etc.

[^] Renunciation of rights issue of 12,16,341 shares against Rs. 1,000 crore control premium. Residual equity of Government includes 34,400 shares of Face Value Rs. 100 each held by the MUL Employees Mutual Benefit Fund.

Statement IV**Details of Disinvestment Proceeds from Sale of Small Portion of Government's Equity during 1997-98 to 2005-06**

							(Rs. crore)
Sl.No.	Name of CPSEs	1997-98 Amount	1998-99 Amount	1999-00 Amount	2003-04 Amount	2004-05 Amount	2005-06 Amount
1.	CMC	—	—	—	190.44	—	—
2.	CONCOR	—	221.65	—	—	—	—
3.	DCIL	—	—	—	221.2	—	—
4.	GAIL	—	671.86	945	1627.36	—	—
5.	IBP	—	—	—	350.66	—	—
6.	ICI Ltd.	—	—	—	77.1	—	—
7.	IOC	—	1208.96	162.79	—	—	—
8.	IPCL	—	—	—	1202.85	—	—
9.	MTNL	910	—	—	—	—	—
10.	MUL	—	—	—	993.34	—	1569.67
11.	NTPC	—	—	—	—	2684.07	—
12.	ONGC	—	2484.96	296.48	10542.4	15.99	—
13.	VSNL	—	783.66	75	—	—	—
		910.00	5371.11	1479.27	15205.35	2700.06	1569.67
G. Total							27235.46

Note: There were no receipts from sale of shares in 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03. In addition to the above, there were three instances where Government divested itself of a majority shareholding in a CPSE by selling the shares to another CPSE without going through a process of competitive bidding. The total amount raised through the block sale of shares in one CPSE to another CPSE was REs. 1318 crore.

CMC	CMC Limited
CONCOR	Container Corporation of India Ltd.
DCIL	Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.
GAIL	Gail (India) Limited
IBP	IBP Company Ltd.
ICI Ltd.	ICI Ltd.
IOC	Indian Oil Corporation
IPCL	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.
MTNL	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
MUL	Maruti Udyog Limited
NTPC	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited
VSNL	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

Monitoring of Rural Development Programmes

*88. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up multi-level and multi-tool monitoring system for monitoring the various rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the States are not periodically submitting their utility/achievement reports;

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

(e) the corrective measures proposed by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has already put in place a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of monitoring the implementation and evaluation of impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance of Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/Districts Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, Monthly Progress Reports of Rural Development Programmes through on-line system, the State Governments have also been advised to adopt a four-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's partnership and (iv) accountability—social audit through Gram Sabha. In addition to this, constitution and Village Level Monitoring Committee for each work under SGRY is mandatory which will monitor the progress and quality while work is in progress and final report of the Committee would be attached along with the completion certificate of work for consideration of Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat where work has been executed.

All the programmes of the Ministry are continuously monitored through periodical progress reports received from the all State Governments depicting both the financial and physical progress of the programmes. As per guidelines of various Rural Development schemes, the

State Governments are required to furnish the Monthly Progress Report of each scheme to the Ministry by the 10th day of every succeeding month. However, there is a delay in submission of Monthly Progress Reports in some of the cases as the reports are basically prepared at the Block level and then submitted to the District authorities and in turn submit to the State authorities. The State after compilation of District-wise data submit the reports to the Ministry of Rural Development. The National Level Monitors and Area Officer regularly visit assigned districts and closely monitor implementation of schemes through field visits, checking of works and inspecting of records. Observations/findings are communicated to States for follow up action.

With a view to minimize the time lag in reporting of the Monthly Progress Reports, the Ministry of Rural Development has been emphasizing the State Governments to furnish Monthly Progress Reports of Rural Development Programmes through on-line system.

Sixth Pay Commission

*89. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated steps to appoint Sixth Pay Commission for revising the pay structure of Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference proposed to be included therein;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(d) whether the Government proposes to grant interim relief to Central Government employees/pensioners till the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The Government on 20.7.2006, have decided to constitute a Pay Commission for Central Government employees. The Sixth Pay Commission is likely to be set up shortly.

The proposed terms of reference of the Sixth Pay Commission, which are being finalized would broadly include the principles that should govern the structure of

pay, allowances, bonus and other facilities/benefits and the date of effect thereof; the categories of employees who will be covered by these recommendations; working out a comprehensive pay package that is suitably linked to promoting efficiency, productivity and economy for transforming the Central Government Organizations into modern, professional and citizen friendly entities dedicated to the service of people. examining the principles which should govern the structure of pension/pensionary benefits for the present and former Central Government employees; and examining the desirability, need and quantum of interim relief. It has been proposed that the Sixth Pay Commission will also look into the issue of desirability, need and quantum of interim relief.

Rural Welfare Schemes

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

(a) the schemes launched by the Government for promotion of rural welfare during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the funds released/allocated/utilised under each scheme during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether diversion of funds have been reported from certain States and a number of representations sent by many Members of Parliament have been received by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence;

(f) whether the Government is aware that a large number of rural people are committing suicides particularly in Maharashtra, Kamataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Punjab;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development launched during the last three years (*i.e.* 2003-04 to 2005-06) the schemes namely, (i) National

Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts in the country, as identified by the Planning Commission, (ii) implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 200 most backward districts in the country including 150 districts of the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) as decided by the Planning Commission, (iii) Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) and (iv) National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme (NRWQM & SP). Besides, during 2005-06 a major plan for rebuilding rural India called "Bharat Nirman" was launched to be implemented over a period of four years for building infrastructure in rural India. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three components namely; rural roads, rural drinking water supply and rural housing of the total six components (*viz.* assured irrigation, road connectivity to villages, construction of additional houses for poor, drinking water to remaining uncovered habitations, electricity to villages and telephone connectivity to remaining villages) of Bharat Nirman.

(b) State-wise funds released, allocated and utilised under these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has received some cases of diversion of funds including misappropriation of funds under these schemes and such cases have been immediately taken up with the concerned State Government for remedial measures/appropriate action. In order to check such recurrence, the Ministry has put in place a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee, Area Officer's Scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at the State/District Level with greater involvement of Members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work, adherence to implementation of schemes as per programme guidelines. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a four-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) People's Partnership and (iv) accountability-social audit through Gram Sabha.

(f) to (h) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received reports from the State Governments regarding suicides by large number of rural people. However, the number of cases of suicide by farmers during the last three years has been received by the Ministry of Agriculture, as reported by the State Governments.

According to the information, the broad causes attributed by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers are as follows:

- Crop failure;
- Indebtedness due to high rate interest loans;
- Drought; and
- Social & Economic insecurity

The Government of India has accorded the highest priority to revitalization of rural economy including agriculture sector and bringing improvement in the conditions of farmers. For this purpose a number of

schemes are undertaken in various States and farmers are given assistance under different components. Most of the schemes are being implemented through the State Governments. The policy decisions are (i) doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities (ii) restructure the rate of interest in favour of farmers, (iii) revamping of cooperative credit structure (iv) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), (v) special package of rehabilitation to mitigate the distress of farmers in the districts, registering high incidence of farmers suicide in the identified States namely, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the States	NFFWP*			NREGA**			PURA®	
	2005-06			2005-06	2006-07		2004-05	2005-06
	Allocation	Release	Expenditure	Release	Release	Expenditure	Release	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	27199.63	30074.63	19880.75	16474.81	20000	8334.26	150.00	78.80
Arunachal Pradesh	425.26	658.94	488.45	446.31	272.85			
Assam	37100.61	33650.13	10519.85	33650.13	13970.845	721.00	150.00	130.00
Bihar	58812.89	52854.82	27536.63	30806.30	40503.38	5171.19	150.00	150.00
Chhattisgarh	23181.35	23966.35	24149.14	785.00	17321.72	9834.02		
Gujarat	8895.33	8250.67	4617.72	4241.12	4113.94	819.03		
Haryana	627.62	1187.63	335.05	873.82	913.39	188.95		
Himachal Pradesh	676.75	1236.75	385.43	898.37	683.64	339.27		
Jammu and Kashmir	1100.60	1685.6	794.56	1135.29	966.365	428.43		
Jharkhand	50315.90	53348.03	30468.505	23429.66	37618.59	3371.35		
Karnataka	6514.20	7659.21	2962.277	4402.10	6329.69	909.28		
Kerala	1218.36	1169.18	121.14	1169.18	2179.51			
Madhya Pradesh	35201.76	47623.1	41960.52	21213.82	109384.11	40380.90		
Maharashtra	34504.70	25357.82	0	19743.56	17961.645	4441.42	100.00	147.30
Manipur	889.78	1351.41	718.59	461.63	570.89			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Meghalaya	1212.16	2063.95	298.57	1457.87	2064.88			
Mizoram	212.89	877.36	111.063	770.91	298.9	23.80		
Nagaland	1015.71	1031.28	0	1031.28	490.11	25.00		
Orissa	49621.06	50606.06	29187.63	7384.75	31516.56	8494.48	150.00	200.00
Punjab	1595.09	1620.09	902.3	822.54	755.75	451.97		
Rajasthan	7866.58	12006.69	7370.11	4142.11	64100	30000.00	150.00	130.00
Sikdm	703.70	1074.01	350.39	722.16	451.5			
Tamil Nadu	10803.45	11973.45	6549.711	6571.72	9889.21	429.41		
Tripura	3439.89	4292.92	2624.07	2572.97	1456.66	276.83		
Uttaranchal	2259.88	2160.77	981.84	1269.11	1910.6	154.33		
Uttar Pradesh	58738.53	37515.83	15085.95	33242.07	33496.69	3700.97	150.00	157.90
West Bengal	25496.32	29786.32	11221.82	17038.15	18356.84	1622.08		
Total	449630.00	445065.00	239621.866	236759.74	437542.065	120117.778	1000.00	1000.00

*Scheme initiated during 2005-06 and discontinued during 2006-07 as this scheme is merged with NREGA.

**Scheme initiated from February, 2006 in 200 districts.

● Implemented on pilot basis in Seven States.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the States	NRWQM & SP 2 Funds released	ARWSP 2006-06			ARWSP 2006-07		
		Allocation	Release	Expenditure	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	487.95	21032.00	25080.29	15875.26	20084.08	10042.04	777.32
Arunachal Pradesh	22.44	9060.00	10674.54	10674.54	9843.00	3540.75	0.00
Assam	133.56	15280.00	14800.00	11350.00	15501.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	393.56	15324.00	15324.00	7368.06	16557.00	8276.50	0.00
Chhattisgarh	171.71	5154.00	5020.44	2150.00	5839.00	2919.50	0.00
Goa	7.42	193.00	182.45	96.08	226.00	113.00	0.00
Gujarat	271.84	12339.00	12789.16	12789.16	13151.58	6550.78	798.75
Haryana	127.47	3690.00	4193.80	2211.75	5552.63	2776.32	288.11
Himachal Pradesh	60.53	10805.00	11895.00	11422.24	9706.88	4853.43	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jharkhand	149.28	5529.00	8307.28	4952.20	6474.00	3237.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	67.71	20073.00	23671.5	21152.94	23487.79	1163.00	0.00
Karnataka	206.52	17555.00	21208.99	21653.05	19502.40	9751.20	0.00
Kerala	108.17	5388.00	8170.65	6170.65	6216.00	3106.00	243.56
Madhya Pradesh	421.32	15101.00	15039.88	15439.55	15759.00	8379.50	46.88
Maharashtra	508.24	27591.00	33235.68	14142.11	3232.00	16116.00	0.00
Manipur	11.54	3110.00	2713.67	1825.37	3379.00	1689.50	0.00
Meghalaya	19.30	3588.00	3190.10	3294.20	3893.00	1946.50	0.00
Mizoram	13.30	2569.00	2589.27	1975.94	2791.00	1395.50	0.00
Nagaland	12.08	2637.00	2847.76	1748.00	2885.00	1432.50	0.00
Orissa	209.97	12405.00	13880.94	9314.80	9212.00	4606.00	0.00
Punjab	186.06	3842.00	4134.81	2179.400	3854.00	1827.00	109.22
Rajasthan	273.97	44034.00	49135.34	34838.20	41489.65	20744.84	6106.93
Sikkim	6.06	1083.00	1283.68	1221.56	1175.00	587.50	21.42
Tamil Nadu	295.58	11875.00	12053.68	9994.88	12057.00	8028.50	110.33
Tripura	29.96	3176.00	3199.86	3299.13	3453.00	1728.50	0.00
Uttaranchal	115.82	5725.00	6559.12	5533.12	6707.00	3903.50	220.35
Uttar Pradesh	1149.40	24764.00	28372.10	21428.92	27990.00	13995.00	4030.22
West Bengal	298.95	13308.00	15078.33	14238.09	14892.00	7048.00	110.00
A & N Islands	2.86	9.37	1747.51	0.00	32.73	0.00	0.00
D & N Haveli	2.92	6.25	0	0	5.92	0.00	0.00
Daman and Diu	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.53	0.00	0.00
Delhi	7.94	4.69	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	3.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.64	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	3.01	4.69	0.00	0.00	38.72	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.48	0.00	0.00
Total	5784.17	315750.00	352170.64	268067.22	335100.00	278202.86	13853.11

\$\$Scheme launched in February, 2006.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	IAY 2005-06			IAY 2006-07		
		Central Allocation	Central Release	Utilisation of funds	Central Allocation	Central Release#	Utilisation of funds#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24399.42	24609.65	31791.06	25939.14	12989.57	1624.21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	949.43	711.88	1189.94	1018.68	507.75	44.30
3.	Assam	20994.23	21465.64	23682.96	22525.46	9982.16	2489.64
4.	Bihar	72020.72	62437.06	87769.49	76565.57	36688.78	5866.97
5.	Chhattisgarh	3773.17	4473.57	5043.71	4011.28	2005.64	52.31
6.	Goa	150.28	136.95	179.54	159.77	79.89	2.82
7.	Gujarat	11986.03	11959.28	15840.26	12721.14	5823.82	1121.12
8.	Haryana	1680.04	2008.33	2448.31	1786.06	885.60	271.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	582.56	755.75	812.56	629.95	299.05	7.28
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1840.52	2001.35	1834.88	1956.67	710.62	68.46
11.	Jharkhand	6423.93	8823.34	13023.93	6829.31	2893.45	NR
12.	Karnataka	9400.43	9639.02	12650.18	9993.64	5109.32	1965.86
13.	Kerala	5227.51	5169.28	7421.36	5557.39	2778.70	163.54
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7504.14	9592.17	11438.67	7977.69	3863.74	NR
15.	Maharashtra	14714.56	14960.66	22522.75	15843.12	7187.83	944.29
16.	Manipur	824.15	876.39	1128.85	884.26	291.96	NR
17.	Meghalaya	1435.38	918.84	1561.47	1540.07	464.87	NR
18.	Mizoram	305.89	331.12	482.43	328.20	164.10	NR
19.	Nagaland	949.84	928.20	1188.07	1019.11	497.50	322.55
20.	Orissa	14149.75	15047.54	22344.43	15042.66	7529.94	419.97
21.	Punjab	2077.71	1523.88	1753.49	2208.83	386.64	142.77
22.	Rajasthan	6013.11	6494.31	8563.52	6392.56	3196.28	338.52
23.	Sikkim	181.66	197.04	275.89	194.91	97.46	47.37
24.	Tamil Nadu	9768.97	9999.13	18109.11	10385.44	5192.72	86.02
25.	Tripura	1849.42	2070.92	2808.54	1984.31	992.16	146.81
26.	Uttar Pradesh	32348.75	35470.31	44862.77	34390.12	16830.59	1374.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Uttaranchal	1621.77	1806.85	3563.92	1724.11	733.88	103.14
28.	West Bengal	19518.40	19355.70	20728.16	20750.10	10375.05	1258.89
29.	A & N Islands	309.46	0.00	74.03	328.99	0.00	NR
30.	D & N Haveli	51.56	25.78	9.01	54.82	0.00	2.99
31.	Daman and Diu	23.07	0.00	0.61	24.52	0.00	0.09
32.	Lakshadweep	20.00	32.64	18.55	21.26	0.00	5.83
33.	Pondicherry	154.14	0.00	77.68	163.86	0.00	NR
Total		273240.00	273822.58	365399.93	290753.00	138519.07	18872.07

NR—Not reported.

(Rs.in lakhs)

Si.No.	State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10000.00	18769.00	10000.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5200.00	5381.00	5200.00	0.00
3.	Assam	17600.00	15682.00	27600.00	28806.00
4.	Bihar	33200.00	234239.00	33200.00	15859.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	33000.00	30757.00	43500.00	42852.00
6.	Goa	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	6000.00	7056.00	6000.00	2465.00
8.	Haryana	2500.00	2056.00	2500.00	4511.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13200.00	17127.00	23200.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6000.00	7035.00	6000.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	19500.00	15270.00	24500.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	10500.00	14302.00	10500.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	2500.00	4241.00	2500.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53500.00	37629.00	68500.00	66000.00
15.	Maharashtra	14000.00	14192.00	14000.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	2800.00	633.00	2800.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Meghalaya	4000.00	750.00	4000.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	2700.00	6099.00	2700.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	2500.00	5603.00	2500.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	26800.00	30529.00	36800.00	36548.00
21.	Punjab	3000.00	4890.00	3000.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	28600.00	43482.00	60400.00	59433.00
23.	Sikkim	2500.00	4120.00	2500.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	8500.00	5895.00	8500.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	3500.00	2176.00	3500.00	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	44500.00	64469.00	52000.00	0.00
27.	Uttaranchal	9500.00	1429.00	9500.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	22100.00	35558.00	32100.00	5000.00
Total States		388200.00	418559.00	498000.00	2616.74

Education Loan

*91. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of educational loan out of the total loan disbursed by nationalized banks and private sector banks respectively during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether the quantum of loans provided by private sector banks compares favourably with the nationalised banks;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the percentage of Education loans to total loans (outstanding net bank credit) disbursed by Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks for the years

2003, 2004 and 2005 (latest available) is as under:-

Year	Public Sector Banks (%)	Private Sector Banks (%)
2003	0.59	0.14
2004	0.75	0.19
2005	0.89	0.17

Bank-wise details of percentage of outstanding Education loans to outstanding net bank credit (as available) for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 in respect of Public Sector Banks is given in the Statement enclosed. However, bank-wise details in respect of Private Sector Banks are not available.

(b) to (d) The quantum of loans sanctioned by Private Sector Banks viz-a-viz that of Public Sector Banks is relatively smaller in size due to the former's limited branch network. Specific complaint of non-sanctioning of education loans by banks are looked into and remedial measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India/concerned banks.

*Statement**Percentage of outstanding Education Loans to outstanding net bank credit by Public Sector Banks*

Sl.No.	Name of Banks	2003-04	2004-05
1.	State Bank of India	0.80	0.93
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	0.34	0.41
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1.39	1.53
4.	State Bank of Indore	0.47	0.49
5.	State Bank of Mysore	0.88	0.96
6.	State Bank of Patiala	03.2	0.38
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	0.41	0.54
8.	State Bank of Travancore	2.00	2.42
9.	Allahabad Bank	0.52	0.53
10.	Andhra Bank	3.11	3.06
11.	Bank of Baroda	0.83	0.95
12.	Bank of India	0.62	0.85
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	0.50	0.54
14.	Canara Bank	1.24	1.25
15.	Central Bank of India	0.50	0.64
16.	Corporation Bank	0.51	0.64
17.	Dena Bank	0.33	0.51
18.	Indian Bank	0.68	0.97
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1.37	1.38
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.78	0.85
21.	Punjab National Bank	0.79	0.85
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	0.49	0.71
23.	Syndicate Bank	0.84	1.12
24.	Union Bank of India	0.50	0.61
25.	United Bank of India	0.32	0.68
26.	UCO Bank	0.22	0.37
27.	Vijaya Bank	0.57	0.63

[Translation]

Tapping of Non-Conventional Energy Potential

*92. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide equal opportunities for tapping non-conventional energy potential in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) To facilitate the tapping of non-conventional energy potential in the country, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes, which are applicable in all States/UTs. This apart, the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy 2005 and National Tariff Policy 2006 provide a common framework for the regulation of renewable power in all States/UTs. This Ministry's schemes relating to biogas plants, biomass gasifiers and small hydro power, however, provide for a higher level of central financial assistance for Special Category States. Further, subsidy on solar lanterns is available for unelectrified villages only in Special Category States.

(c) State-wise details of cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes, as on 31.03.2006 are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31.03.2006

A. Grid-Connected Renewable Power

Sl.No.	States/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Bio Power		Solar Power (kWp)	Total Capacity (MW)
				Biomass Power (MW)	Waste to Energy (MW)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.81	121.00	279.25	22.50	0.28	601.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.30
3.	Assam	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.11
4.	Bihar	50.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	11.00	0.00	27.50	0.00	0.00	38.50
6.	Goa	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
7.	Gujarat	7.00	338.10	0.50	0.00	0.00	345.60
8.	Haryana	62.70	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	68.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	132.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132.08
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	109.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.05
12.	Karnataka	329.63	584.80	224.48	1.00	0.03	1139.74
13.	Kerala	84.62	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	86.65
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41.16	40.30	1.00	2.70	0.34	85.50
15.	Maharashtra	207.08	989.60	36.00	1.00	0.19	1233.87
16.	Manipur	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	30.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.71
18.	Mizoram	14.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.76
19.	Nagaland	20.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.67
20.	Orissa	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.30
21.	Punjab	122.55	0.00	28.00	1.00	0.33	151.88
22.	Rajasthan	23.85	339.60	15.30	0.00	0.15	378.90
23.	Sikkim	38.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	77.70	2992.50	174.00	1.75	0.21	3146.16
25.	Tripura	16.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.01
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25.10	0.00	121.50	5.00	0.33	151.93
27.	Uttaranchal	75.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	75.50
28.	West Bengal	98.30	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.05	99.45
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.35
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.65
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
	Others	0.00	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60
	Total (MW)	1826.43	5310.40	913.53	34.95	2.75	8088.06

MW = Megawatt.

B. Off-grid/Decentralized Renewable Energy Systems/Devices:

Sl.No.	States/UT	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	Biomass Gasifiers (MW)	Waste to Energy Plants (MW)	Solar Photovoltaic Systems				SPV Pumps (Nos.)	Water Pumping Wind (Nos.)	Aerogen/ Hybrid Systems (kW)	Solar Cookers (Nos.)	Remote Village Electrification Villages/Hamlets (Nos.)	VESP (Nos.)	Energy Parks (Nos.)
					SLS No.	HLS No.	SL No.	PP kWp							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400857	15.68	1.20	3733	1246	35152	21.66	613	6	16	12867	—	3.00	30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2210	1.58	—	738	1270	4937	7.90	1	—	—	530	106	—	4
3.	Assam	58667	0.12	—	98	2787	541	7.50	45	3	6	80	39	14.00	12
4.	Bihar	124935	0.02	—	690	1069	33765	—	139	46	—	475	—	—	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	16952	0.51	—	1409	6864	3192	—	14	—	—	37136	325	9.00	10
6.	Goa	3732	0.02	—	174	167	443	1.72	15	—	39	1500	—	—	2
7.	Gujarat	378846	15.21	2.95	2004	4952	31603	29.90	85	646	—	114595	2	3.00	14
8.	Haryana	49190	1.19	—	852	13266	32727	24.20	469	—	—	24366	—	—	20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	44866	0.01	—	1794	11948	20697	1.50	6	—	—	28264	1	—	12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2122	0.52	—	389	15317	9202	75.80	39	—	—	368	90	—	8
11.	Jharkhand	2083	0.18	—	383	102	16374	—	—	—	—	280	53	1.00	16
12.	Karnataka	392382	6.23	—	1219	8921	7334	29.41	456	25	10	254	—	—	22
13.	Kerala	108313	0.73	—	1090	18679	41181	44.70	810	79	8	236	558	—	17
14.	Madhya Pradesh	247536	4.73	—	5846	924	8564	22.40	87	—	—	141618	—	15.00	23
15.	Maharashtra	719084	4.67	0.90	3491	825	8683	6.44	228	26	344	58044	—	7.00	40
16.	Manipur	2128	—	—	370	1650	3883	11.00	12	—	—	365	109	—	10
17.	Meghalaya	4226	0.25	—	593	1540	4875	42.00	19	—	—	1165	25	—	7
18.	Mizoram	3470	0.20	—	315	2245	5812	109.00	37	—	—	110	7	—	8
19.	Nagaland	2617	0.28	—	271	143	95	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
20.	Orissa	224373	0.07	0.03	5769	4344	9882	36.52	5	—	—	3437	18	10.00	10
21.	Punjab	80682	0.70	0.75	2137	3180	14995	71.00	1821	—	—	22050	—	—	20
22.	Rajasthan	66944	1.07	—	6573	45330	4616	25.80	283	222	4	36683	—	6.00	10
23.	Sikkim	5574	—	—	152	10215	720	14.70	—	—	10	20	—	—	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	210040	4.03	1.98	2272	471	16818	30.05	829	56	25	1537	—	4.00	45
25.	Tripura	2442	1.10	—	760	2238	20850	24.57	25	—	—	80	31	—	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	407966	5.33	3.00	950	50938	52815	129.20	751	—	—	51664	—	—	39
27.	Uttaranchal	6603	—	—	250	36980	27027	80.03	26	—	—	8047	429	5.00	11
28.	West Bengal	263587	8.05	—	1611	26890	3662	675.00	48	—	18	7959	1038	7.00	9
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	137	0.17	—	358	405	6296	167.00	5	2	—	60	—	—	6
30.	Chandigarh	97	—	—	—	275	1675	—	12	—	—	1529	—	—	4
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	169	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	80	—	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	677	0.07	—	301	—	4753	30.00	89	—	—	27990	—	—	11
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	85.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	573	0.60	—	62	13	1637	—	21	—	5	90	—	—	3
36.	Others	—	0.32	—	8005	5669	28197	50.00	—	—	—	16750	—	—	12
Total		3834080	73.64	10.81	54659	280863	463058	1859.80	6991	1111	485600229	2831	84.00	459	

SLS = Street Lighting System; HLS = Home Lighting System;

SL = Solar Lanterns; SPV = Solar Photovoltaic; MW = Mega Watt; kWp = kilowatt peak;

VESP = Village Energy Security Project.

Vacant Post of Judges

*93. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) the sanctioned strength of Judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in various courts as on date, court-wise;

(c) the reasons for non filling up the vacant posts;

(d) whether a large number of civil, criminal and other cases are pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for pending cases as on date, State-wise and age-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of Judges and for speedy disposal of long pending cases in courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (f) The sanctioned Strength of Judges in Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, the number of post lying vacant in various courts as on 24.07.2006 and the number of cases pending in various High Courts (as per details made available to the Government) are given in statement enclosed.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous, consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Justice of India the Chief Ministers of the States to initiate

proposals for filling up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts.

The pendency of cases in the Courts could be ascribed to various factors, which *inter-alia*, include vacancies of Judges, new legislations, substantial increase in fresh institution of cases, rise in population, heightened awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic

matters, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the life of citizens, lawyers' strikes etc.

Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases which include setting up of fast track courts, amendment to the Civil Procedure Codes, permanent adalats for disputes relating to public utilities, increase in the number of posts of Judges, establishment of special courts/tribunals, improvement in the standard of legal education, adoption of alternative modes of disputes resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies As on 24.7.2006	No. of Cases Pending As on 31.12.2005		
				Civil	Criminal	Total
	Supreme Court	26	04	31203+	6084+	37323+ (including 36 other matters)
HIGH COURTS						
1.	Allahabad	95	13	565500	198922	764422
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	07	141249	18570	159819
3.	Bombay	60	06	315020	36310	351330
4.	Calcutta	50	05	212448*	40270*	252718*
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	—	49521	23382	72903
6.	Delhi	36	02	63655	14724	78379
7.	Gauhati	19	02	54405	7419	61824
8.	Gujarat	42	08	113505*	25962*	139467*
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	05	18011	5760	23771
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	06	39529	2444	41973
11.	Jharkhand	12	02	25085	18785	43870
12.	Karnataka	40	05	73157	12754	85911
13.	Kerala	29	03	109316	24060	133376
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41	02	130259	55759	186018
15.	Madras	42	04	334383	29168	363551
16.	Orissa	20	04	176708^	16854^	193562^
17.	Patna	31	07	66549	25033	91582
18.	Punjab and Haryana	40	01	201151	42320	243471
19.	Rajasthan	40	09	158318	47867	206185
20.	Sikkim	03	—	29	13	42
21.	Uttaranchal	09	01	30437	7163	37600
	Total	678	92	2878235	653539	3531774

+ as on 30.06.2006

* as on 31.12.2004

^ as on 30.06.2005

Reorganization of CAPART

*94. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated or proposes to initiate any changes in the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) if so, whether the youths have been or are to be involved in its new structure;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to train the youths thereunder;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the programmes through which awareness is being created or likely to be created among the rural people by these youths;

(g) whether this scheme has been started in most backward areas; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (h) Fresh policy guidelines relating to schemes of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) have been issued. In addition to this, CAPART has prepared a scheme to train rural youth in life skills and employment generation skills. The scheme will be implemented in the most backward areas of the country. The trained youth will be linked to self/wage employment or will be attached to NGOs/Panchayats for a period of two years after the completion of the training period which will vary between four to six months depending on the nature of the skills to be imparted and will be attached to NGOs/Panchayat for two years after completion of the training, and supported by CAPART. The selected youth should be educated and local inhabitants of the village and should be from below poverty line families. It is expected that these rural youth will act as Resource Persons for the village to facilitate the community to access and demand government schemes and services, bank credit, create awareness about important rural issues so as to holistically improve the socio-economic conditions of rural society. Action for implementation of the scheme has been initiated

and preliminary dialogue with the State Governments and NGOs of Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been completed.

[English]

Urban Heritage

*95. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned at the deterioration of urban heritage in the country;

(b) if so, whether the actual causes for the deterioration of urban heritage has been ascertained;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to preserve the Urban Heritage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rapid urbanization, lack of awareness for heritage value, limited technical conservation expertise, limited capacity with local authorities to implement heritage regulations, lack of partnerships and funds and multiplicity of agencies are factors responsible for the deterioration of urban heritage.

(d) A proposal to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission under the Ministry of Culture is on the anvil to lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

Ministry of Urban Development has recently in December, 2005 launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns. Under both these schemes, preservation of heritage areas is an eligible component for funding.

Some of the State Governments have also enacted regional or city level Urban Heritage Regulations for conserving Urban Heritage.

*[Translation]***Projects with Foreign Assistance**

*96. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects relating to urban infrastructure, poverty alleviation and housing sector are being implemented in various States including Uttar Pradesh with the foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign assistance received by the States during each of the last three years and the details of the projects for which the said assistance was utilised;

(c) whether some more projects are likely to be implemented in the States with the foreign assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***I.T. Raids**

*97. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of raids conducted by the Income Tax Department during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of these raids conducted on companies and Government officials during the above period;

(c) the unaccounted amount unearthed during these raids in terms of tax evasion, State-wise;

(d) whether there are instances wherein information is given to media before these are verified;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The number of searches conducted by the Income Tax Department, the number of warrants issued for searches and the details of seizure made for the last three years, State-wise, is as per Statement-I, Statement-II and Statement-III enclosed.

(b) The searches conducted on companies and Government officials during the last three years and the seizure thereof are as per Statement-IV enclosed.

(c) The unaccounted income unearthed during the search may be considered in terms of the data of seizure given in reply to parts (a) and (b) above. Assessment(s) of different persons for different assessment years of the same group achieve finality at different points of time, in different Financial Years. Tax Evasion in these assessments can be worked out only after completion of these assessments and final decision in appeals.

(d) There are no instances where information was given to media before the findings of search were verified.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

(f) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

Statement I

(Figures of Seizure in Rs. lakh)

DGIT (Inv.)	State	F.Y. 2003-04					
		No. of Groups Searched	No. of warrants executed	Cash	Jewellery	Others	Total Seizure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	18	253	704.00	111.00	569.00	1384.00
Bangalore	Karnataka	21	130	807.06	19.23	232.72	1059.01
	Goa	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	20	83	180.08	78.41	252.71	511.20
	Chhattisgarh	1	10	1.00	3.28	0.00	4.28
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Punjab	8	67	179.00	31.99	923.00	1133.99
	Haryana	4	35	56.00	32.18	188.29	276.47
	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chennai*	Tamil Nadu	45	209	2653.47	1123.59	1435.56	5212.62
Delhi	Delhi	26	462	2670.66	600.29	961.24	4232.19
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	26	141	801.27	92.76	205.57	1099.60
Jaipur	Rajasthan	35	181	413.18	116.48	321.65	851.31
Kochi	Kerala	9	60	110.25	23.60	19.76	153.61
Kolkata	West Bengal	16	164	709.83	390.64	1249.95	2350.42
	Orissa	6	26	91.85	14.50	60.25	166.60
	NER**	4	20	61.11	0.00	114.20	175.31
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	23	97	387.34	60.06	250.11	697.51
	Uttaranchal	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra	20	261	874.89	181.15	908.63	1964.67
Pune	Maharashtra	17	191	381.31	264.42	537.17	1182.90
Patna	Bihar	4	56	72.98	0.00	414.83	487.81
	Jharkhand	5	42	160.72	0.00	33.20	193.92

Note: *The data includes data of Pondicherry.

**The data of NER includes the data of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement II

(Figures of Seizure in Rs. lakh)

DGIT (Inv.)	State	F.Y. 2004-05					
		No. of Groups Searched	No. of warrants executed	Cash	Jewellery	Others	Total Seizure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	20	240	1164.24	207.55	183.03	1554.82
Bangalore	Karnataka	20	123	878.02	10.85	568.41	1457.28
	Goa	1	13	7.73	9.31	10.54	27.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	17	58	344.80	182.72	365.72	893.04
	Chhattisgarh	4	23	47.05	0.00	51.33	98.38
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1	18	31.84	3.31	16.65	51.60
	Punjab	9	100	280.22	138.07	140.80	559.09
	Haryana	5	74	332.58	5.55	26.15	364.28
	Himachal Pradesh	2	4	13.50	0.00	9.51	23.01
	Jammu & Kashmir	1	2	36.70	9.49	3.39	49.58
Chennai*	Tamil Nadu	23	111	1443.66	79.82	25.57	1549.05
Delhi	Delhi	15	208	1206.66	178.05	543.80	1928.51
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	33	197	1045.76	318.00	727.66	2091.42
Jaipur	Rajasthan	41	173	567.88	112.86	594.83	1275.57
Kochi	Kerala	16	85	300.53	22.28	75.86	398.67
Kolkata	West Bengal	15	184	303.18	886.56	76.40	1266.14
	Orissa	5	26	49.60	4.30	12.80	66.70
	NER**	3	20	189.38	0.00	48.49	237.87
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	19	188	1392.28	124.49	528.35	2045.12
	Uttaranchal	1	11	1.35	6.23	0.00	7.58
Mumbai	Maharashtra	11	309	1635.38	286.11	346.14	2267.63
Pune	Maharashtra	29	178	537.08	414.52	791.90	1743.50
Patna	Bihar	3	19	12.00	165.87	75.18	253.05
	Jharkhand	4	13	4.50	0.00	14.21	18.71

Note: *The data includes data of Pondicherry.

**The data of NER includes the data of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement III

(Figures of Seizure in Rs. lakh)

DGIT (Inv.)	State	F.Y. 2005-06					
		No. of Groups Searched	No. of warrants executed	Cash	Jewellery	Others	Total Seizure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	43	380	793.50	411.14	533.63	1738.27
Bangalore	Karnataka	23	120	1478.93	0.00	453.02	1931.95
	Goa	2	21	75.71	0.00	0.92	76.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	8	27	178.27	62.80	285.96	527.03
	Chhattisgarh	2	21	44.60	9.92	20.81	75.33
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	4	13	68.32	9.53	0.00	77.85
	Punjab	15	132	619.16	195.77	399.84	1214.77
	Haryana	7	37	318.47	82.61	0.40	401.48
	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Jammu & Kashmir	2	3	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.50
Chennai*	Tamil Nadu	104	276	4373.12	549.72	95.54	5018.38
Delhi	Delhi	45	480	2507.02	580.48	1407.38	4474.88
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	64	320	1266.73	586.10	1470.27	3323.10
Jaipur	Rajasthan	32	116	927.00	299.00	169.00	1395.00
Kochi	Kerala	20	81	164.44	76.25	14.81	255.50
Kolkata	West Bengal	23	232	914.34	1646.86	156.64	2717.84
	Orissa	8	36	101.45	23.47	27.06	151.98
	NER**	7	34	781.19	0.00	66.17	847.36
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	29	155	482.89	287.08	559.60	1329.57
	Uttaranchal	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra	39	557	1905.31	1038.23	1736.37	4679.91
Pune	Maharashtra	40	287	2056.99	506.43	2164.44	4727.86
Patna	Bihar	5	18	39.00	0.00	110.76	149.76
	Jharkhand	3	17	37.59	0.00	16.14	53.73

Note: *The data includes data of Pondicherry.

**The data of NER includes the data of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement IV

(Figures of seizure in Rs. lakh)

1	2	Companies						Government Officials					
		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		No. of Searches	Seizure	No. of Searches	Seizure	No. of Searches	Seizure	No. of Searches	Seizure	No. of Searches	Seizure	No. of Searches	Seizure
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	18	7.28	22	293.32	25	18.00	0	0	1	58.10	0	0.00
Bengalore	Karnataka	3	56.00	4	147.33	3	91.69	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	38.13	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1	40.00	6	178.69	2	55.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Chhattisgarh	1	4.28	2	7.00	2	75.32	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1	0.00	2	0.00	1	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Punjab	2	807.81	2	62.51	9	245.88	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Haryana	13	32.95	4	80.00	9	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	4	366.33	1	380.01	3	140.20	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Delhi	Delhi	15	1409.54	10	1218.19	18	2907.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	9	654.00	12	1484.00	15	2622.00	0	0	0	0.00	4	66.20
Jaipur	Rajasthan	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Kochi	Kerala	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Kolkata	West Bengal	11	423.34	13	219.80	16	546.90	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Orissa	3	10.00	2	3.00	2	1.30	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	NER	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	100.89	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	5	78.90	8	108.81	5	123.74	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Uttaranchal	0	0.00	1	3.54	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mumbai	Maharashtra	20	1055.06	11	604.17	39	4215.31	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Pune	Maharashtra	0	0.00	6	133.27	4	108.51	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Patna	Bihar	5	43.71	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
	Jharkhand	2	7.30	1	16.61	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00

Note: *The data includes data of Pondicherry.

**The data of NER includes the data of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Slow Pace of PMGSY

*98. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has failed to achieve its targets due to various shortcomings;

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

(c) whether the pace of work has been very slow thereunder since the yojana was to be completed within a span of seven years whereas only 24 per cent of the work could be completed up to March, 2005;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details in regard to initial cost of the yojana, provisions made for it, the funds released for the same so far and the targets achieved thereunder;

(f) whether sizeable funds allocated for PMGSY have been diverted and deposited in unauthorised accounts or have not been utilized for the intended purpose; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this matter alongwith measures taken to achieve the objectives of the yojana and to remove the shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) The targets for coverage of habitations under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are being achieved, although there have been slippages in the timeframe. Out of 1,72,787 habitations targeted for coverage under the programme, the Ministry has cleared (upto June, 2006) road works proposed by the States to provide All-weather road connectivity to 56,638 habitations. States have reported that 27,833 targeted habitations have been provided connectivity till May, 2006.

The PMGSY envisages construction of about 3,73,000 km of road length towards providing new connectivity to unconnected habitations and upgradation of existing rural roads. The Ministry had cleared proposals for construction of 1,18,497 km, out of which 65,922 km was completed, up to March 2005. However, the pace of implementation has since picked up. The Ministry has so far cleared proposals for construction of 1,77,971 km of road length, out of which 93,898 km has been completed up to May 2006.

The Programme has not been able to achieve its objectives within the stipulated time frame due to insufficient allocation of funds for the programme, inadequate implementing capacities available with the States, non-availability of sufficient land, insufficient contracting capacity, difficult geographical terrains and adverse climatic conditions.

The cost of implementing PMGSY was initially estimated at Rs. 60,000 crore. An amount of Rs. 16,528 crore was provided in the Budget during the period 2000-01 to 2005-06 for the programme. For the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 5225.62 crore has been provided in the Budget and an additional amount of Rs. 4000 crore has been committed by NABARD. Total amount of Rs. 18,143.50 crore has been released to the States up to 30th June 2006, against which expenditure of Rs. 14,553 crore has been reported.

In the performance audit report of the CAG on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the period 2000 to 2005 (No. 13 of 2006), it has been stated that a test check of the expenditure in some States revealed that a portion of the funds were diverted, parked in unauthorised

accounts or not utilized for the intended purpose. These observations are mainly on the works of Phase I and II (years 2000-2003). In these two Phases, the States were implementing the scheme on the basis of the guidelines issues in December 2000, which needed fine tuning. However, the Audit observations on these works are with reference to the comprehensive guidelines formulated for adoption in Phase III and onwards, which were not applicable to Phase I and Phase II works. The Ministry has since issued instructions to all States that the comprehensive guidelines issued in November, 2004 should strictly be followed in the implementation of PMGSY. The revised guidelines include an improved system of funds management. All the States have also been advised to take corrective action wherever irregularities have been noticed.

Recovery of Loan

*99. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of customer harassment by commercial banks in matters of loan recovery have been received from various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the action taken in the matter during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Government has formulated any code of conduct to tackle this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) RBI has received about 700 complaints of customer harassment for loan recovery against scheduled commercial banks during the last three years. These complaints were taken up suitably by RBI with the banks concerned for explanation and redressal. Further, 22,273 complaints, including those related to loan recovery, have been redressed by Banking Ombudsmen in the calendar years 2004 & 2005.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India has formulated the "Fair Practices Code for Lenders", the guidelines in respect of which were communicated to banks for implementation in May 2003. The 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.

The Indian Banks Association (IBA) has also formulated a "Model Code for collection of dues and repossession of security" which has been recommended to banks for adoption and implementation.

Expansion of National Power Grid

*100. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation proposes to implement projects to expand the national grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and investment involved therein;

(c) the details of power transmission capacity which has already been established in the country so far; and

(d) the details of the projects started to enhance inter-regional power transfer capacity by 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), which has the mandate for development of inter-State and inter-regional Transmission Systems, has been undertaking implementation of various Transmission Systems throughout the country. A perspective transmission plan has been evolved for strengthening the regional grids as well as to increase the inter-regional power transfer capacity by development of a National Power Grid. A list of the generation linked transmission schemes and grid strengthening schemes which are under implementation/planned by PGCIL during the 10th and 11th Plans, with their estimated cost, is at Statement-I enclosed.

PGCIL envisages an investment of Rs. 17,360 Crore during 10th Plan and Rs. 40,000 Crore during 11th Plan as per the present status of various generation projects.

(c) and (d) The present inter-regional transmission capacity is 9450 MW which is likely to increase to about 37000 MW by 2012. The details indicating the existing inter-regional links and the links planned for completion up to 2012, with their inter-regional power transfer capacity, are at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Name of Project	Status of the Tr. System	Cost (Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3
1. Generation Linked Transmission Schemes (X Plan)		
THERMAL		
NTPC		
Vindhyachal-III (1000 MW)	Under implementation (By 2006-07)	596
Kahalgaon-II, Ph-I (1000 MW)	Under implementation (By 2006-07)	1772
Kahalgaon-II, Ph-II (500 MW)	Under implementation (By 2006-07)	464
Sipat-I (1980 MW) (Gen coming up in IX Plan)	Under implementation (By 2006-07)	1455
Sipat-II (1000 MW)	Under implementation (By 2006-07)	602
HYDRO		
NHPC		
Dulhasti (390 MW)	Evacuation System Completed	465
Teesta-V (510 MW)	Under implementation (By 2007-08)	209

1	2	3
2. Grid Strengthening Schemes (X Plan)		
Northern Region		
Series Capacitors for Kanpur-Ballabgarh-R&D	Under commissioning	4
SS Schemes in Uttaranchal	Under Implementation (by 2007)	76
SS in Singrauli-Vindhyachal (Re-Alignment of Singrauli-Vindhyachal Corridor)	Under Implementation (by 2007)	17
SS in NR-II	Under Implementation (by 2007)	221
Western Region		
Vindhyachal-Korba TS	Under Implementation (by 2007)	184
Southern Region		
System Strengthening in SR-IV	Under Implementation (by 2007)	102
Inter Regional Scheme		
SS Scheme in NR-ER (Formerly Part of Tala Supplementary Scheme)	Under Implementation (by 2007)	391

Name of Project	Year of Benefit of the generation project (as per National Electricity Plan of CEA)	Cost (Rs. Cr.)
1	2	3

1. Generation Linked Transmission Schemes (XI Plan)**THERMAL****NTPC**

Sipat-I (1980 MW)	2007-09	1455
Unchahaar-III (210 MW)	2006-07	73
Barh (1980 MW)	2008-11	3779
Kawas-II (1300 MW)	2007-08	381
Gandhar-II (1300 MW)	2007-08	653
North Karanpura (1980 MW)	2011-12	4104
Kayamkulam-II (1950 MW)	2009-10	600

1	2	3
NLC		
Neyveli-TS-II Expn.	2008-10	692
HYDRO		
NHPC		
Koteshwar (400 MW)	2007-08	280
Sewa-II (120 MW)	2007-08	98
Parbati-II (800 MW)	2007-09	360
L. Subansiri (2000 MW)	2010-11	9484
Uri-II (240 MW)	2009-10	230
Parbati-III (520 MW)	2010-11	557
Chamera-III (231 MW)	2010-11	490
NEEPCO		
Kameng HEP (600 MW)	2009-10	—
NTPC		
Koldam HEP (800 MW)	2008-09	478
THDC		
Tehri PSS (1000 MW)	2009-10	1100
SJVNL		
Rampur (412 MW)	2010-11	250
Nuclear		
RAPP 5 & 6 (440 MW)	2007-09	499
Kaiga-3 & 4 (440 MW)	2007-08	588
Kudankulam (2000 MW)	2007-09	1779
Kalpakkam PFBR (500 MW)	2011-12	100

Name of Project	Commissioning Schedule	Cost (Rs.)
1	2	3

2. Grid Strengthening Schemes (XI Plan)

Northern Region

System Strengthening-VI in NR (Gurgaon S/Str)	2008	170
NR-III, SS	2008	231
SS in NR-I	2008	272

1	2	3
Transformation Capacity in Moga & Amritsar	2008	47
System Strengthening in Rourkee Area	2009	110
System Strengthening V in NR	2010	721
NR System Strengthening-VII and VIII	2009	350
System Strengthening in East-West Corridor in NR	2009	120
Western Region		
WR SS-I	2008	199
WR SS-III	2008	76
Bina-Nagda Transmission system	2008	267
Sipat-II Supplementary scheme	2009	814
WR system Strengthening Scheme-IV	2009	97
WRSS-II	2010	3581
WRSS-V	2009	450
WRSS for end of XI Plan	2012	2000
Eastern Region		
ER System Strengthening-I	2009	815
ER System Strengthening-II	2010	800
ER System Strengthening-III	2011	400
North Eastern Region		
NER System Strengthening-I	2009	59
TS for Misa-Byrnihat Project	2009	150
Southern Region		
System Strengthening in SR-VI	2008	114
System Strengthening in SR-III	2008	285
System Strengthening in SR-V	2008	92
Upgradation of transfer capacity of Talcher —Kolar HVDC bipole	2009	118
System Strengthening-VII	2010	279

1	2	3
2nd spare convertor transformers for Talcher-Kolar	2008	65
Interregional		
North-West Transmission System	2009	483
East-West Transmission System	2009	804
WR-SR HVDC link	2012	1000

Statement II

Inter-Regional Transmission Capacity at 200 kV and above (MW) Existing and under Construction/proposed up to 2011-12

	Existing as on 28.7.2006	Expected addition in 2006-07	Planned addition in 11 Plan	Total by end of 2011-12
	1	2	3	4
EAST-NORTH				
Dehri-Sahupuri 220 kV S/c	100			100
Sasaram HVDC back-to-back	500*			500
Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400 kV D/C quad with series comp & TCSC		2000		2000
Patna—Balial 400 kV D/C quad		1200		1200
Biharsharif-Balia 400 kV D/C quad		1200		1200
Increased loadability of Patna-Balia and Biharsharif-Balia 400 kV D/C quad lines by providing series comp in NR system		800		800
Barh—Balial 400 kV D/C quad with series comp in ER system for higher loadability			1600	1600
Sasaram-Fatehpur 765 kV S/C			2300	2300
Sasaram-Balia 400 kV D/C quad			1600	1600
Sub-total	600	5200	5500	11300
EAST-WEST				
Budhipadar-Korba 220 kV D/C+S/C	400			400
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C with Series comp & TCSC	1400*			1400

	1	2	3	4
Ranchi—Sipat 400 kV D/C			1000	1000
Rourkela-Raipur 400 kV D/C (2nd) with series com/TCSC			1400	1400
N'Karanpura-Sipat 765 kV S/C			2300	2300
Sub-total	1800	0	4700	6500
NORTH-WEST				
Vindhyachal HVDC back-to-back	500			500
Auriya-Malanpur 220 kV D/C	250			250
Kota—Ujjain 220 kV D/C	250			250
Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C 1st ckt. (Charged at 400 kV)		1100		1100
Charging Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C 1st ckt. at 765 kV			1200	1200
Charging Agra-Gwalior 765 kV S/C 2nd ckt. at 765 kV			2300	2300
Kankroli-Zerda 400 kV D/C			1000	1000
RAPP-Nagda 400 kV D/C			1000	1000
Sub-total	1000	1100	5500	7600
EAST-SOUTH				
Gazuwaka HVDC back-to-back Module-1	500			500
Gazuwaka HVDC back-to-back Module-2	500*			500
Balimela-Upper Sileru 220 kV S/C	100			100
Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole	2000*			2000
Upgradation of Talcher-Kolar HVDC			500	500
Sub-total	3100	0	500	3600
WEST SOUTH				
Chandrapur HVDC back-to-back	1000			1000
Barsur-L. Sileru 200 kV HVDC monopole	200			200
Kolhapur-Belgaum 220 kV D/C	250			250
Ponda—Nagajhari 220 kV D/C	250			250
South-West additional link			1000	1000
Sub-total	1700	0	1000	2700

	1	2	3	4
EAST-NORTH EAST				
Birpara-Salakati 220 kV D/C	250			250
Bongaigaon-Siliguri (Malda line) 400 kV D/C	1000			1000
Bongaigaon-Siliguri 400 kV D/C quad			1200	1200
Sub-total	1250	0	1200	2450
NORTH EAST-NORTH-WEST HVDC				
NER-NR/WR±800kV HVDC Bipole with 3000 MW modules at Bishwanath Chariyali and Agra			3000	3000
Sub-total	0	0	3000	3000
Total	9,450	6,300	21,400	37,150

Note: Existing at the end of 9th Plan 5050 MW.

*4400 MW added during 10th Plan till date.

Total 10th Plan expected 4400 MW (2002-06)+6300 (2006-07) = 10700 MW.

Total by the end of 10th Plan 9450+6300 = 15750 MW.

Task Force on ADPRD

602. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formed a Task Force to examine the issues related to the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) including its achievements and shortcomings and offer suggestions for improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Task Force has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Task Force and accepted by the Government; and

(e) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Abraham, Chairman, Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd. in March 23, 2006 for restructuring

of Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) with a view to examine the issues related to APDRP including the achievements, the shortcomings, problems of implementations and to make suggestions for improvement. The terms of reference of the Task Force are as follows:

- (i) To assess the current efforts under APDRP;
- (ii) Analyze the current reforms initiatives that are being pursued by the States with reference to the objectives of APDRP;
- (iii) To assess the need for modifications in the light of independent evaluations and other feed back; and
- (iv) Suggest measures to achieve the objectives of APDRP.

(c) to (e) The Task Force is expected to submit its reports by end of July, 2006.

Redevelopment of Delhi

603. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to constitute a Committee to restructure the urban development in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to be constituted; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) A Committee of experts set up by the Government on 14.2.2006 under the Chairmanship of Shri Tejendra Khanna, former Lt. Governor of Delhi to look into various aspects relating to problem of unauthorised constructions and misuse of premises in Delhi and to suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with it, has submitted its report to Government on 13th May, 2006.

Beautification of Brahmaputra River

604. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for beautification of Brahmaputra River Front in Guwahati has been submitted by Assam Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said projects is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Regularisation of Slums

605. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regularize slums in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any specific period for regularisation of slums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Slum being a State subject, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation does not regularize slums. However, for integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to provide utilities to the urban poor, Central Assistance is provided through the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and a scheme called Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). BSUP is implemented in select 63 cities in the country, which include 2 cities from Karnataka (*i.e.*, Bangalore and Mysore). In the remaining cities/towns in the country, IHSDP is implemented. Both BSUP and IHSDP are demand driven schemes for which States/ULBs are required to submit Detailed Project Reports and sign Memorandum of Agreements committing to implement reforms.

Shortage of Houses

606. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of housing for Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country particularly in West Bengal and Delhi;

(b) if so, the effective measures taken by Government to resolve the housing problem;

(c) the total number of houses required for this category;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Housing Shortage in the

Country is 22.44 million as per 10th Plan document. The shortage for West Bengal is 1.73 million (1.09 million in Rural and 0.64 million in Urban) and for Delhi is 0.55 million (0.02 million in Rural and 0.53 million in Urban) as per the estimates given by National Buildings Organisation (NBO) based on 2001 census.

(b) to (e) The total number of housing requirement in the country is 22.44 million. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a submission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) is implemented in select 63 cities. Under BSUP, houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/urban poor/Economically Weaker Section/Low Income Group categories are provided through demand driven projects submitted by States/Urban Local Bodies. In all other cities/towns, an Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme ((IHSDP) is implemented.

Senior Citizen Scheme

607. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest earned from senior citizen savings scheme is taxable under Tax Deduction at Source (TDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this clause was applicable while launching this scheme;

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

(e) the income tax amount collected on interest earned by senior citizens on deposits under the senior citizen savings scheme during the last two years;

(f) whether the Government proposes financial relief to senior citizens especially in view of rising inflation which has hit them hard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Interest payable under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme 2004 is taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act and tax is deductible at source as per

the provisions of Section 194A of the Income Tax Act. However, senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above, whose estimated tax on total income for a financial year is nil, may furnish a declaration in Form 15H for no deduction of tax at source. Other depositors are eligible for claiming no deduction of tax at source on furnishing a declaration in Form 15G, subject to other prescribed conditions. Moreover, any depositor may obtain a certificate for no deduction or lower deduction of tax at source under Section 197(1) of the Income Tax Act from his assessing officer, provided the specified conditions are fulfilled. The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme Rules, 2004 notified in the Gazette of India on 2nd August, 2004 did not contain any provision regarding tax concessions on deposits under the Scheme. The press communique dated 3rd August, 2004 announcing the launch of the scheme also *inter alia*, mentioned that the interest earned on deposits under the Scheme is taxable.

(e) The scheme wise information for tax deducted at source is not centrally maintained.

(f) and (g) The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme provides a positive real rate of return to senior citizens, which is higher than the market rate on comparable savings instruments. Vide Finance Act 2005, the exemption limit for senior citizens, who are of the age of 65 years or more, was raised to Rs. 1,85,000/-, whereas such exemption limit for other individuals (excluding women residents) remains at Rs. 1,00,000/-. No proposal to provide further financial relief to senior citizens is currently under consideration of the Government.

Shortfall in Hydro Power Generation

608. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a huge shortfall in achieving capacity addition targets of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of power projects of NHPC under construction along with their target date of completion;

(d) the reasons for delay in completion, if any; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for time bound construction of NHPC power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per investment approval by the

Government, the target for capacity addition by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), was 2480 MW including the Indira Sagar Hydroelectric Project (1000 MW) of Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) [A Joint Venture of NHPC and the Government of Madhya Pradesh]. The capacity addition achieved till date is 1580 MW including 1000 MW from the Indira Sagar Hydroelectric Project of NHDC. Details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) NHPC presently has 11 hydro projects under construction with a total capacity of 5623 MW including the 520 MW Omkareshwar HEP of NHDC. Details of the power projects of NHPC under construction along with their target date of completion and reasons for delay are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(e) The steps being taken by the Government to ensure time bound completion of projects by NHPC *inter alia* include:

- Regular review meetings at Project level and Corporate Office level.
- Regular co-ordination meetings at Corporate level by Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC with all Head of Projects/Departments.
- Regular progress review at Board level and in Ministry of Power for resolving major bottlenecks.
- Quarterly Performance Review meetings in the Ministry of Power.
- Monitoring at the highest level by Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Programme Implementation/Planning Commission in respect of mega & major projects for resolving matters related to Government/Inter-ministerial issues.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/State	10th Plan Target (MW)	Capacity added	Target date of commissioning	Expected ate of commissioning	Reasons for delay
1.	Dhauliganga HEP Uttaranchal	280	280	March 2005	Commissioned	—
2.	Chamera-II, Himachal Pradesh	300	300	May 2004	Commissioned	—
3.	Dulhasti, Jammu and Kashmir	390	—	March, 2001	December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law & other problem. • Poor geological strata encountered in upstream of Head Race Tunnel (HRT) • Rock burst leading to burial of Tunnel Boring Machine • Labour problems
4.	Teesta-V, Sikkim	510	—	February 2007	February 2007	—
5.	Indira Sagar HEP*	1000	1000	May, 2005	All units have been commissioned by March 2005	—
Total		1580				

*Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) [Joint Venture of NHPC and Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP)]

Statement II

Sl.No.	Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	State	Commissioning schedule of	Reasons for delay
1.	Dul Hasti	390	Jammu and Kashmir	March 2001	Adverse geological conditions, heavy ingress of water in HRT, law & order and local labour problems etc.
2.	Teesta-V	510	Sikkim	Feb. 07	Under construction
3.	Parbati-II	800	Himachal Pradesh	Sept. 09	Under construction
4.	Sewa-II	120	Jammu and Kashmir	Sept. 07	The project was taken into 10th Plan capacity addition. The project has slipped due to delay in obtaining various approvals/clearances and delay in Head Race Tunnel works due to poor geological conditions.
5.	Teesta Low Dam-III	132	West Bengal	Mar. 08	Due to late receipt of various approvals/clearances.
6.	Subansiri Lower	2000	Arunachal Pradesh	Sept. 10	Under construction
7.	Uri-II	240	Jammu and Kashmir	Nov. 09	Under construction
8.	Chamera-III	231	Himachal Pradesh	Aug. 10	Under construction
9.	Teesta Low Dam-IV	*160	West Bengal	Sept. 09	Under construction
10.	Parbati-III	520	Himachal Pradesh	Nov. 10	Under construction
11.	Omkareshwar**	520	Madhya Pradesh	Feb. 08	Under construction
Total		5623			

*The capacity envisaged earlier was 168 MW.

**Being implemented by NHDC (JV of NHPC with GOMP).

Service Tax Collection

609. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected through Service Tax during the last one year;

(b) the names of services which were further included/ removed in the Service Tax during the year 2006-07;

(c) whether the rate of Service Tax has been increased during the year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the revenue expected to be generated through Service Tax during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The amount of service tax collection during the financial year 2005-06 was Rs. 24,039 crore (provisional), including the service tax pertaining to 2005-06, but actually realized in April, 2006.

(b) Taxable services are specified under section 65 (105) of the Finance Act, 1994. Amendments were made in section 65(105) vide clause 68(A) of the Finance Act, 2006. The names of services which have been specified

as taxable services vide the Finance Act, 2006, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes. The rate of service tax has been increased from 10% to 12% with effect from 18th April, 2006. The budget estimate for revenue from service tax during the financial year 2006-07 is Rs. 34,500 crore.

Statement

Sl.No.	Names of services which have been specified as taxable services under section 65(105) of the Finance Act, 1994, during the year 2006-07
1.	Registrar to an Issue
2.	Share Transfer Agent
3.	Automated Teller Machine operations, maintenance or management
4.	Recovery agent
5.	Sale of space or time for advertisement, other than in print media
6.	Sponsorship services, other than sponsorship of sports events
7.	Transport of passengers embarking in India for international journey by air, by other than economy class
8.	Transport of goods in containers by rail, provided by any person other than Government Railway
9.	Business support service
10.	Auctioneers' service
11.	Public relations service
12.	Ship management service
13.	Internet telephony service
14.	Transport of persons by cruise ship
15.	Credit card, debit card, charge card or other payment card related service

Repeal of Excise Duties

610. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for Repeal of excise duties of 16% and 8% imposed in the current budget on the commodities produced in the Small Scale sector and by hand made cottage industries, without the support of power or heavy machineries, is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that such a levy of Excise duty on products of Tiny Industries will render crores of poor people living upon such professions unemployed;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to withdraw the imposed levy on such products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The Government had received representations seeking restoration of excise duty exemption withdrawn in this year's budget on goods manufactured without the aid of power. Tiny and small-scale units manufacturing such items are eligible for general small-scale industries (SSI) excise duty exemption wherein the first clearances of Rs. 1 crore in a financial year are fully exempt from excise duty and thus their interests are adequately protected. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government for restoring the said exemptions.

Rural Electrification

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

(a) the details of scheme prepared by Government for the implementation of rural electrification in the country on priority basis;

(b) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented at very slow pace particularly in bordering villages;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expedite the programme in these bordering villages; and

(d) the minimum norms prescribed for conferring electrification status to bordering villages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) A scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been introduced in April 2005 with an objective of providing access to electricity to all households over a period of four years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy will be provided for:—

Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB)

Provision of 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-stations of adequate capacity and lines in blocks where these do not exist.

Creation of Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI)

- Electrification of un-electrified villages
- Electrification of un-electrified habitations
- Provision of distribution transformers of appropriate capacity in electrified villages/habitation(s).

Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply

Decentralized generation-cum-distribution from conventional sources for villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective provided it is not covered under the programme of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for providing electricity from non-conventional energy sources under their remote village electrification programme.

Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB), Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) and Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) will also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including

- irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

The scheme *inter-alia* provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme.

(b) The RGGVY scheme has been conceived to accelerate the pace of Rural Electrification in the country to cover all the villages and households including bordering villages. In the year 2005-06 itself, 9819 villages have been electrified and it is targeted to cover 40,000 villages in 2006-07.

As the objective of the scheme is to electrify all un-electrified villages/hamlets and provide accessibility to electricity to all rural households in un-electrified and electrified villages in the entire country over a period of four years, it is expected that all villages, whether bordering or not, will be covered.

(c) RGGVY integrates actions to be taken by Government of India, State Governments and the utilities so as to expedite the creation of electricity infrastructure in rural areas to meet the growing demand for electricity required for agriculture, rural industries, health, education and IT.

- As the existing implementing agencies *i.e.* State Electricity Boards/Utilities were finding it difficult to accelerate the pace of rural electrification, the services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), which have demonstrated their ability in timely project execution with effective project management, have been taken. CPSUs have, on the request of State Governments, taken 131 districts for rural electrification work under the scheme.
- Besides, under RGGVY, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared district-wise for purpose of cohesiveness and better implementation of project and these projects have been taken on turn key basis for effective implementation of the project.
- States have been advised to set up District Committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification work.
- Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC), the nodal agency for the scheme, has entered into

Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with CPSUs like National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation Limited (DVC) to make available their project management expertise and capabilities to states wishing to avail their services.

For effective implementation of the project, REC has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY; and also updation of existing REC's technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.

(d) The minimum standards prescribed for declaring a village as electrified (under revised definition of village electrification which is effective from 1st April 2004) are as under:-

- (i) Basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the dalit basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a distribution transformer may not be necessary).
- (ii) Electricity is provided to public places like schools, Panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centres etc. and
- (iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

It has also been decided that the Gram Panchayat has to certify whether the village is electrified as per the new definition.

NPA of Nationalised Banks

612. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of nationalised banks have touched the new height during the last six months;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to make the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the bank responsible to recover NPA effectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The gross Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of nationalised banks have come down from Rs. 31,708 crore as on 31st March, 2005 to Rs. 27,702 crore as on 31st March, 2006. The details of Gross NPAs of the nationalised banks for the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, the Government has put in place a mechanism to monitor the performance of all Public Sector Banks on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals' submitted by them on various performance parameters including NPAs.

Statement

Gross Non-Performing Assets of Nationalised Banks for the Last Three Years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Bank's Name	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	1418	1284	1184
2.	Andhra Bank	615	441	437

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bank of Baroda	3980	3322	2390
4.	Bank of India	3734	3158	2479
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	954	962	944
6.	Canara Bank	3127	2371	1793
7.	Central Bank of India	3092	2763	2684
8.	Corporation Bank	722	647	626
9.	Dena Bank	1484	1148	949
10.	Indian Bank	1192	748	669
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1576	1388	1228
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1211	2492	2116
13.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1204	1197	942
14.	Punjab National Bank	4670	3741	3138
15.	Syndicate Bank	1590	1433	1506
16.	UCO Bank	1479	1399	1235
17.	Union Bank of India	2347	2058	2098
18.	United Bank of India	764	726	744
19.	Vijaya Bank	390	432	540
Total		35,549	31,708	27,702

Pending Hydro Power Projects

613. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects still pending with the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC);

(b) whether the Government of Uttaranchal has transferred three Hydro Electric Projects to NHPC recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The work on none of the sanctioned projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) is pending except in the case of the Loktak Down Stream Hydroelectric Project (90 MW) in Manipur. The work on the Loktak Down Stream Hydroelectric Project could not be started due to adverse law and order situation prevailing in the State and lack of proper approach road to the project site.

(b) to (d) The details of the projects located in the State of Uttaranchal which have been entrusted/transferred to NHPC for survey, investigation and execution are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Likely Construction period from the date of investment approval (After completion of survey and investigation, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and obtaining all clearances)
1.	Lakhwar Vyasi	420	4 years 6 months
2.	Kotli Bhel-1A	195	4 years 6 months
3.	Kotli Bhel-1B	320	4 years 6 months
4.	Kotli Bhel-II	530	4 years 9 months
5.	Chungar Chal	240	5 years 9 months
6.	Garba Tawaghat	630	5 years 9 months
7.	Kharmoli Lumti Tulli	55	4 years 6 months

Outstanding Foreign Loans

614. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total outstanding foreign loans with interest during the last two years;

(b) the details of the loans distributed for various developmental projects to various States during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the commitment charges paid by various States and Central Government for non-utilisation of such foreign loans within the specified period with the action taken by Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the foreign loans spent for infrastructural projects like roads and drinking water and providing other civic amenities to urban and rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the total outstanding of foreign loans (on Government account) with interest paid during the last two years are as follows:-

(in Rs. Crore)

Year	Debt Outstanding of foreign loans (as on 31st March)	Interest paid
2004-05	191180.30	2643.33
2005-06	193574.90	2994.39

(b) Foreign loans received are released to the States as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. Details of the ACA released for various externally aided projects to various States during the last two years may be seen at Statement-I.

(c) Details of the commitment charges paid by various States and Central Government for non-utilization of such foreign loans during the last two years are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

	2004-05	2005-06
Centre	165.11	143.92
Maharashtra		1.33
Tamil Nadu		2.53
Pondichery		0.13
Multistates		0.25
Grand Total	165.11	148.16

The charge levied by the development partner for committing their fund is called commitment charge. It does not necessarily mean as charge levied for delayed execution of the project. However, steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilization include; ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects in the budgets of the State and Central Government, streamlining

of procurement procedures, disintermediation of the flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings, strengthening of Project Monitoring Units in some States and Central Ministries, appointment of Nodal Officers for the States and regular review of projects, etc.

(d) Details of the foreign loans disbursed during 2005-06 for infrastructural projects like roads and drinking water and providing other civic amenities to urban and rural area are as follows:

(In Rs. Crore)	
Sectors	Disbursements so far
Infrastructure—Road	8730.81
Urban Development	9259.84
Water Resources Management	1998.54
Agriculture & Rural Development	2618.76
Water Supply & Sanitation	29.21

Statement

State-wise release of additional central assistance during last two years

(Figures in Rs. Crore)			
Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1228.32	801.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.94	7.04
3.	Assam	293.51	479.10
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	8.88	31.92
6.	Gujarat	893.85	978.23
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00
8.	Haryana	72.62	29.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38.26	39.45
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	28.6	37.48

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand	1.02	2.05
12.	Karnataka	926.74	912.35
13.	Kerala	733.73	335.83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	450.73	420.31
15.	Maharashtra	394.27	605.65
16.	Manipur	67.38	2.91
17.	Meghalaya	16.05	14.81
18.	Mizoram	76.2	37.28
19.	Nagaland	6.92	5.75
20.	Orissa	1106.42	70.06
21.	Punjab	98.01	31.39
22.	Rajasthan	628.07	524.78
23.	Sikkim	9.21	7.14
24.	Tamil Nadu	185.87	491.13
25.	Tripura	2.47	3.40
26.	Uttar Pradesh	498.05	424.88
27.	Uttaranchal	65.79	34.81
28.	West Bengal	876.78	1009.06
Grand Total		8716.69	7338.09

Inflow of External Assistance

615. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the net inflow of external assistance during January 2002 to March 2002;

(b) the new inflow of external assistance during each of the last three years;

(c) the foreign exchange reserves as on March 30, 2005; and

(d) the breakup of the various constituents of foreign exchange reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The net inflow of external assistance (on Government account) during January 2002 to March, 2002 was Rs. 3652.11 crore.

(b) The net inflow of external assistance during each of the last three years is as follows:-

Year	New inflow (in Rs. Crore)
2003-04	17377.66
2004-05	17166.56
2005-06	18457.56

(c) and (d) The foreign exchange reserves as on March 31, 2005 were placed at US\$ 141514 million. Component wise break up of the various constituents of foreign exchange reserves is as under:

	(in US \$ million)
Foreign Currency Assets	135571
Gold	4500
SDRs	5
RTP (Reserve Tranche Position)	1438
Total	141514

New Pension Scheme

616. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension fund accounts are messed up and Provident Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) consider outsourcing the management of accounts, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 11, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) whether the said fund is being invested;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set matters right at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Bill, 2005, it is proposed to establish the architecture of the New Pension System (NPS) consisting, *inter alia*, of a central recordkeeping agency, pension funds and points of presence, under a statutory regulatory framework. In the interim, the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) under the Controller General of Accounts has been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the pension accounts of Central Government employees under the NPS.

Pension contributions of Central Government recruits under the NPS as well as Government's matching share are being kept in the Public Account of India and Government is paying a fixed return of 8% per annum on it.

According to CPAO, there is no gap in the flow of information from various accounting units and they have been conducting regular review meetings with all Ministries in respect of maintenance of accounts, necessary reconciliation and other steps to improve the quality and accuracy of recordkeeping.

Further, Government has advised the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to comprehensively review and strengthen recordkeeping and accounting arrangements in consultation with the Controller General of Accounts and CPAO.

Outstanding Dues of Ministry of Coal

617. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power owes some outstanding dues to the Ministry of Coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the outstanding dues and since when these have been pending for clearance; and

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

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

(b) Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS), which was owned by Government of India and managed by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) till its transfer to NTPC on 1.6.2006, owes an amount of Rs. 440.45 crores (provisional) to the Coal Companies under the Ministry of Coal as on 31.5.2006.

(c) The dues relating to BTPS, for the period owned by Government of India *i.e.* till 31.5.2006 are largely the award given by the arbitrator which was pronounced on 16.8.2005 and the arbitration period relate to 1980-85 and 1992-95. Based on the guidelines issued by Ahluwalia Committee on settlement of outstanding dues of State Electricity Boards payable to Public Sector Undertakings, BTPS suggested securitization of award amount to the Coal Companies. Though M/s Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) agreed and the dues were settled, M/s. Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) (subsidiaries of CIL), have not agreed to securitization though the interest accrued up to 31.3.2006, based on the securitization principle, have been paid to them.

(d) The issue of securitization of dues relating to CCL to ECL have been taken up by the Ministry of Power with the Ministry of Coal at the Secretary's level for an early resolution of the matter so that the dues could be cleared.

Gas Supply to Dadri Power Plant

618. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) had contracted to supply of gas for its Dadri Power Generation Project at pre-determined prices;

(b) if so, whether the supplier company—Reliance Industries Ltd. has now reneged on its contractual obligations;

(c) whether the NTPC is now examining the possibility of enforcing the contract through Court directives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NTPC had contracted supply of gas for its Dadri power generation project at pre-determined price from M/s. GAIL, M/s. IOCL and M/

s. BPCL. M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. is not contractually obligated to supply gas to Dadri Gas Power Station of NTPC.

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

Priyadarshini Yojana

619. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce a Priyadarshini Yojana to provide employment to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Project Priyadarshini is an initiative taken by Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India, under the existing scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers to develop capacities of women. It is envisaged to train identified women in various trades related to tourism sector including tour guides and taxi operation etc.

[Translation]

Special Courts for Women

620. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of rape, atrocities and offences against women are pending in various courts in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases relating to rape pending in various courts as on date;

(c) the steps taken for the speedy disposal of such cases;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute special courts to deal with such cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 58,310 cases relating to rape were pending trial in various courts of the country as on 31.12.2005.

(c) to (f) Fast Track Courts (FTCs) have been set up in different parts of the country for speedy disposal of cases including such cases. At present 1562 FTCs are in operation. Government has extended the term of these FTCs upto 31.3.2010. Government has also requested the State Governments to initiate Plan of Action in consultation with the respective High Court to designate atleast one FTC in each district to deal exclusively with cases of offences against women including sexual abuse and rape.

[English]

Appointment of Notaries

621. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for appointment of notaries in various States of the country;

(b) the number of notaries allowed to practice in each State;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has recently requested the Union Government to enhance the number of notaries in the State; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The norms for appointing a Notary Public are laid down under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government as well as the State Governments are empowered to appoint Notaries. The Central Government has power to appoint Notaries for the whole or any part of India, whereas a State Government is empowered to appoint

Notaries for whole or any part of the State concerned. Under Rule 3 of the Notaries Rules, a person from amongst legal practitioners may apply for appointment as a notary, if he had been practising at least for 10 years. In case the applicant for notary-ship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes or a woman, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a notary is 7 years of legal practice. A person is also eligible for appointment as a notary if he has been a member of Indian Legal Service under the Central Government or if he has been for ten years, a member of Judicial Service, or held an office under the Central Government or a State Government requiring special knowledge of law after enrolment as an Advocate or held an office in the Department of Judge Advocate General or in the legal department of the Armed Forces.

The eligible persons may apply for appointment as notary on a prescribed form *i.e.* Memorial, which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Nationalized Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. The Competent Authority, appointed by the Central Government, thereafter examines the Memorial and calls for comments/objections from the State Bar Council where the memorialist is enrolled as an advocate. The applicant is also requested to submit an affidavit deposing that he is neither a notary already appointed by any State Government nor his application for appointment as Notary is pending with the concerned State Government and also state the number of courts and the number of notaries in the desired area of practice. After considering the objections and the various facts the Competent Authority submits a report to the appropriate Government under Rule 7. On receipt of the report of the Competent Authority, the Central Government after considering the same takes an appropriate decision.

(b) A statement showing the maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government as well as State Government or Union Territory is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The quota of notaries to be appointed by the State Government of Kerala has been enhanced by 50% *i.e.* from 375 to 563 and same has been notified in the Gazette of India on 19.5.2006.

Statement

The maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government as well as State Government or Union Territory

Name of State/ Union territory	Maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government	Maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the State Government or Union Territory Administration
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	575	863
2. Assam	575	575
3. Bihar	925	925
4. Gujarat	625	625
5. Kerala	375	563
6. Madhya Pradesh	1,125	1,688
7. Tamil nadu	725	1,088
8. Maharashtra	875	1,313
9. Karnataka	675	675
10. Orissa	750	750
11. Punjab	638	425
12. Rajasthan	800	800
13. Uttar Pradesh	1,750	1,750
14. West Bengal	450	450
15. Jammu and Kashmir	350	350
16. Nagaland	200	200
17. Haryana	713	475
18. Himachal Pradesh	300	300
19. Manipur	225	225
20. Tripura	100	100
21. Meghalaya	175	175
22. Sikkim	100	100

	1	2	3
23. Mizoram		200	200
24. Arunachal Pradesh		325	325
25. Goa		50	50
26. Uttaranchal		325	325
27. Chhattisgarh		400	600
28. Jharkhand		450	450
29. Delhi		488	325
30. Andman and Nicobar Islands		50	50
31. Lakshadweep		25	25
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		25	25
33. Daman and Diu		50	50
34. Pondichery		100	100
35. Chandigarh		38	25

Revised Guidelines on Financial Limits

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

(a) whether the Government has revised the guidelines on financial limits to be observed in cases relating to new services or new instruments of service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for revision in guidelines;

(d) whether revision is part of austerity measures of Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the likely impact on Government expenditure?

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

(b) and (c) The revised guidelines on Financial Limits to be observed in determining cases relating to New Service/New Instrument of Service were issued on 25.5.2006 in accordance with the commitment made by

the Government in the Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement (Budget 2005-06) under the mandate of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Legislation and in pursuance of the approval of Public Accounts Committee (2005-06) in its twenty third report (14th Lok Sabha). This has the concurrence of the Comptroller and Auditor General. It specifies the limits upto which expenditure can be met by reappropriation of savings in a grant subject to report to Parliament and limits beyond which prior approval of Parliament is required in respect of various types of expenditures as detailed in the annex to the O.M. No. F. 1(23)-B(AC)/2005 dated 25.5.2006. The revision is a part of the important initiatives taken to streamline Public Expenditure Administration with the objective of giving Ministries/ Departments greater flexibility, delegation and accountability in managing and implementing departmental budgets.

(d) to (f) Does not raise in light of above.

[Translation]

Venture Capital Fund with SBI

623. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make a provision of venture capital worth Rs. five thousand crore with the State Bank of India and to distribute it in the next three years for the development of agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Vanaspati Units

624. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in customs duty from 30 per cent to 80 per cent has negative impact on most of the Vanaspati Manufacturing units in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps the Government has proposed to retrieve the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) In this year's budget, taking into account the representations from domestic manufacturers of vanaspati, customs duty on Vanaspati was increased from 30% to 80% ad valorem so that customs duty on Vanaspati and crude palm oil would be equal.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

State Funding of Election

625. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has given its clearance to the proposals of the Government for setting up of a fund for polls in the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated 10-point proposal on State-funding of election and the Election Commission was asked to finalise its view after consulting all political parties;

(c) if so, whether Election Commission has forwarded its views and submitted any report to the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated 10-point proposal on State funding of election and the Election Commission was asked to finalize its views after consulting all political parties. In the meeting convened by the Election Commission no consensus of opinion emerged. The Commission, however, forwarded its views to the Government on the 29th June, 2006. However, these do not include any proposal for setting up a fund for polls in the country.

(d) The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus

among political parties. Since it is a long drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any time frame.

Inflation Rate

626. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inflation rate has increased during the last few months and the consumer price index has also shown a sharp increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last six months;

(c) the reason for the increase;

(d) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the adverse effect of this increase on the economy;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to curb the inflation rate and to check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The annual point-to-point inflation rates in terms of the wholesale price index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers (CPI-IW) for the period January 2006 to June 2006 are indicated in the following table:

Month/Year	Annual Inflation Rate (%)	
	WPI*	CPI-IW
1	2	3
January 2006	4.08	4.37
February 2006	4.03	4.95
March 2006	3.85	4.95

1	2	3
April 2006	3.86	5.10
May 2006	4.42	6.26
June 2006	5.07	—

*Based on weekly averages.

(c) to (f) In the current year, there has been pressure on prices of some food grains and of petrol and diesel. Increase in prices of food articles has largely been due to shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices. Government has already taken steps to arrest the price increase by augmenting supplies through imports at reduced duty rates, ban on export of pulses and sugar, regular monitoring of prices of essential commodities and regulatory measures for restricting speculative trading in futures market.

Buildings for Government Offices

627. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Union Government Offices are functioning on rented premises in the different cities of the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct the Government complexes for these offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A list indicating offices which are functioning from rented premises leased by the Directorate of Estates is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A list of projects under different stages of planning is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I*Building Leased/hired by the Directorate of Estates in various cities to accommodate Central Government Offices*

Sl.No.	City	Building	Occupant
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	Jeevan Tara Building	Director General, Supply and Disposal
2.	Delhi	Jeevan Deep Building	Ministry of Finance
3.	Delhi	Tropical Insurance Building	PIB
4.	Delhi	Sterling House	Song & Drama Division, M/o I&B
5.	Delhi	Kundan Mansion	O/o the Chief Adviser Factories Employees State Insurance Corporation
6.	Delhi	Jeevan Prakash	M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation
7.	Delhi	Lok Nayak Bhawan	24—Various Government Offices
8.	Delhi	Bikaner House	7—Various Government Offices
9.	Delhi	Faridkot House	National Human Rights Commission
10.	Delhi	Kashmir House	M/o Defence
11.	Delhi	4/14-A, Asaf Ali Road	D/o Income tax
12.	Delhi	4/20, Asaf Ali Road	M/o Rural Development
13.	Delhi	1102, Ansal Bhawan	D/o Coal
14.	Delhi	1101, Ansal Bhawan	Board of Arbitration
15.	Delhi	1103, Ansal Bhawan	M/o Labour
16.	Delhi	1108, Ansal Bhawan	M/o Labour
17.	Mumbai	Botwala Chamber	Executive Engineer (Elect), CPWD
18.	Mumbai	Botwala Chamber	Fishery Survey of India
19.	Mumbai	United India Building	CGHS
20.	Mumbai	Savala Chambers	Census Operation
21.	Mumbai	Savala Chambers	Asstt. Engineer, P&T (Elect) Sub Division
22.	Mumbai	Savala Chambers	MTNL
23.	Mumbai	Commerce House	Post Office
24.	Mumbai	Commerce House	PAO (Printing)
25.	Mumbai	Commerce House	CGHS
26.	Mumbai	Commerce House	Publication Division

1	2	3	4
27.	Mumbai	Commerce House	Minor Port Survey Organisation
28.	Mumbai	Commerce House	Hindi Teaching Scheme
29.	Mumbai	Haroon House	Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)
30.	Mumbai	Kaiser-I-Hind Building	Films Division
31.	Mumbai	Kaiser-I-Hind Building	Custodian of Enemy Property
32.	Mumbai	Mehar House	Pay and Accounts Office, Min. of Shipping and Transport
33.	Mumbai	Kitab Mahal	Food and Nutrition Board
34.	Mumbai	Kitab Mahal	CBI, Economic Office Wing
35.	Mumbai	Royal Insurance Building	Khadi Village Industries Commission (VIC)
36.	Kolkata	5 — C.R. Avenue	Office of Deputy Controller of Accounts (Fys) M/o Defence.

Statement II*Details of General Pool Office Accommodation being built*

Sl.No.	Station
1.	Pune
2.	Calicut
3.	Bareilly
4.	Nasik
5.	INA New Delhi
6.	Kavadiguda Secunderabad

New Proposal for Construction of General Pool Office Accommodation

Sl.No.	Location
1	2
1.	Bangalore
2.	Port Blair, Andaman
3.	Gangtok, Sikkim
4.	Patna

1	2
5.	Chennai
6.	Alahabad
7.	Varanasi
8.	Vadodara, Gujarat
9.	Sitchar
10.	Jalandhar
11.	Mysore
12.	Office building at Pushpa Bhawan, Phase-II, New Delhi
13.	Pocket-9, DDU Marg, New Delhi
14.	CBD, Shadhara, Delhi

Assistance from IFAD

628. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Fund for Agriculture Development has been financing agriculture development projects in developing countries;

(b) if so, the projects with the assistance from IFAD have been implemented upto March 31, 2006 indicating the amount of assistance involved in these projects;

(c) the details of projects going on with the help of IFAD as on date;

(d) the total loan received from IFAD upto date for various projects;

(e) the terms of conditions of repayment of said loans alongwith rate of interest; and

(f) the amount Government has repaid till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The projects implemented with the assistance of IFAD upto March 31, 2006 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Loan amount of US\$ 479.78 million has been received from IFAD for 19 projects.

(e) IFAD assistance to these projects is concessional loan, which carry no interest but a service charge of 0.75%. These are to be repaid in 40 years with an initial grace period of 10 years.

(f) The Government has repaid SDR 6,27,64,267 (US\$ 92.58 million approx.) till March 31, 2006.

Statement

Sl.No.	Project Name	Amount (in US\$ million)	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for The Coastal Communities for Tamil Nadu	14.96	Ongoing
2.	Livelihoods Improvement Project in the Himalayas	39.92	Ongoing
3.	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme	20.00	Ongoing
4.	Livelihood Security Project for Earthquake-Affected Rural Households in Gujarat	14.98	Ongoing
5.	National Microfinance Support Programme	21.96	Ongoing
6.	Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh Tribal Development Programme	23.00	Ongoing
7.	North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas	22.90	Ongoing
8.	Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project	19.21	Closed
9.	Mewat Area Development Project	14.96	Closed

1	2	3	4
10.	Andhra Pradesh Participatory Tribal Development Project	26.72	Closed
11.	Maharashtra Rural Credit Project	29.20	Closed
12.	Andhra Pradesh Tribal Development Project	19.98	Closed
13.	Tamil Nadu Women's Development Project	17.00	Closed
14.	Orissa Tribal Development Project	12.20	Closed
15.	Second Uttar Pradesh Public Tubewells Project	35.30	Closed
16.	Madhya Pradesh Medium Irrigation Project	25.00	Closed
17.	Sundarban Development Project	17.50	Closed
18.	Rajasthan Command Area Development and Settlement Project	55.00	Closed
19.	Bhima Command Area Development Project	50.00	Closed

Hyderabad Metro Rail Project

629. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
 SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
 SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
 SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
 SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
 SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Metro Rail for Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bangalore;

(b) whether Union Cabinet has already approved these schemes;

(c) the time by which the work on these projects are likely to start;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the amount earmarked for these projects during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Only Bangalore Metro Project has been approved by the Government of India (GOI), Mumbai and Hyderabad Metro rail Projects are planned on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis through Viability Gap Funding scheme of Ministry of Finance (MOF). In case of Hyderabad, the State Government is yet to finalize its proposal whereas for Mumbai, State Government has sent a proposal to MOF/GOI asking for Viability Gap Funding of Rs. 650 crore.

(c) Work on Bangalore Metro-Rail Project has already started. Foundation stone for Mumbai Metro has been laid. The date of commencement in respect of the Hyderabad project will be known only after the State Government finalises its proposal and private partner.

(d) The Bangalore and Mumbai Metros are scheduled for completion in five years. The Hyderabad Metro is also expected to take 5 years from the date of commencement.

(e) Rs. 30 crores has been allocated for Bangalore project in the current year budget. For the other two projects, question does not arise at this stage.

One Time Settlement Scheme

630. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases settled under OTS (One time settlement) in the Co-operative banks particularly in the State of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the co-operative/nationalised banks as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The details of relief extended under One Time Settlement (OTS) by the Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks in the country during 2005-06 are as under:

Agency	No. of Accounts	Amount (Rs. Crore)
Commercial Banks	60,609	246.57
Cooperative Bank	98,151	298.94
Regional Rural Banks	62,955	64.04
Total	2,21,715	609.55

1942 cases were settled under OTS in Maharashtra during 2005-06 and the amount involved was Rs. 248.82 lakhs. Out of 30 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), 9 and 3 DCCBs have reported information in respect of OTS facility to farmers during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. The details of OTS are as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the DCCB	No. of cases settled	Amount (Rs. Lakhs)
2004-05			
1.	Akola	1779	182.80
2.	Aurangabad	3	0.57
3.	Bhandara	3	0.04
4.	Chandrapur	1297	89.74
5.	Jalgaon	2918	503.43
6.	Latur	14915	1004.73
7.	Raigad	887	12.01
8.	Sindhudurg	282	5.61
9.	Solapur	1	0.84
Total		22085	1799.77
2005-06			
1.	Akola	1778	182.80
2.	Auranagabad	10	2.18
3.	Sindhudurg	20	42.20
4.	Solapur	134	21.64
Total		1942	248.82

By the mechanism of OTS, Banks have been able to recover large sum of money which was lying unrecovered in the books of the banks.

Habitat Centre at Thiruvananthapuram

631. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work for the building of the Habitat Centre at Thiruvananthapuram started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the aforesaid work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An agreement is yet to be executed. It has been reported by Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited that the Kerala-state agency (Kerala State Housing Board) is in default. Hence, a view has been taken by Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited not to pursue the project of Habitat Centre at Thiruvananthapuram for the time being.

[English]

Modernisation of Thermal Power Plants

632. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to enhance the power generation capacity of Thermal Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also contemplated to take up the renovation work of the Thermal Power Plants besides enhancing their capacity; and

(d) if so, the time fixed for this purpose?

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

(b) As per 10th Plan capacity addition programme, 25417 MW of thermal capacity was envisaged to be added at the beginning of the Plan. During the mid term appraisal and subsequent reviews, it is targeted to add 21230.17 MW during the 10th Plan. The details of the capacity addition are furnished as under:—

1. Projects already commissioned:	8999.25 MW
2. Projects under construction:	12230.92 MW
Total Thermal Capacity Likely to be added during 10th Plan:	21230.17 MW

In addition to above 11930 MW Thermal capacity is under construction and likely to be added during 11th Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government of India in consultation with State Electricity Boards/Utilities identified 106 old thermal units for Life Extension (LE) works and 57 thermal units for Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) works during the Tenth Plan.

(d) The R&M and LE Schemes have been planned to be completed during 10th Plan. But the R&M/LE works on some of the units are likely to slip to 10th plan due to following reasons:

- (i) Procedural delay in placement of orders for R&M/LE works including preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the concerned utilities.
- (ii) Delay/indecision by the State Governments for finalization of placement of orders.
- (iii) Reluctance to take shutdown for R&M/LE works for a longer period due to shortage of power.

[English]

Guidelines for Foreign Banks

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any guidelines to foreign banks functioning in India for monitoring the accounts of certain category of Indian Nationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for issuing such orders;

(c) the action to be taken by the Government against foreign banks which fail to act according to RBI orders;

(d) whether Government has studied extending this orders to the public sector banks as well; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) No order has been issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) specifically to foreign banks for monitoring the accounts of certain category of Indian Nationals. However, RBI in its circular dated November 29, 2004 have issued guidelines to all Commercial Banks. The guidelines contained in the circular are intended to prevent banks

from being used by criminal elements for money laundering activities. Banks were advised to frame their own policies for opening accounts keeping in view the key elements *viz.* Customer Acceptance Policy, Customer Identification Procedures, Monitoring of Transactions, and Risk Management etc. Any contravention of the guidelines by banks may attract penalties under the relevant provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

[Translation]

Illegal Construction

634. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any committee regarding illegal constructions made in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has since presented its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the main recommendation made by the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government on the recommendation of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a Committee of Experts on 14.2.2006 under the Chairmanship of Shri Tejendra Khanna, former Lt. Governor of Delhi to look into various matters relating to unauthorised constructions and misuse of premises in Delhi and suggest a comprehensive strategy to deal with it. The Terms of Reference of the Committee included assessment of the magnitude of the problem, the underlying causes leading to the violations, unauthorised constructions in Lal Dora areas, and to suggest a strategy to deal with the problem and prevent future violations.

(c) The Committee has presented its report to the Government on 13th May, 2006.

(d) The main recommendations contained in the Report include *inter alia* charging compounding fee/penalty in respect of extra floor coverage and additional floor or part thereof, a differentiated approach to the mixed use policy, strengthening of enforcement machinery, creation of institutional arrangements and certain recommendations relating to construction activity in Lal Dora and extended Lal Dora and farm houses.

(e) After considering the recommendations in consultation with the local bodies, the Government has accorded approval for issue of public notice under section 11(A) of Delhi Development Act, 1957 for inviting suggestions and objections from the public for amending the Master Plan of Delhi-2001 in respect of development control norms for residential plotted development and mixed use regulations. The draft public notices were issued by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), accordingly on 21.7.2006. The Government has also called for comments of the agencies concerned in respect of some of the other recommendations made in the Report.

[English]

Financial Assistance for West Bengal

635. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has requested for financial assistance for computerization and interlinking of all the treasuries at all districts and block levels in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial assistance has already been released for this purpose;

(d) if so, by when and the amount has been released so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of West Bengal had requested for financial assistance of Rs. 7189 lakhs for interlinking of all districts, all sub-division and all blocks as well as other Departments under West Bengal State Wide Area Network (WBSWAN). The Government of India released

financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 96.20 lakhs as Additional Central Assistance for capacity building and Rs. 1319.75 lakhs for site preparation of State Wide Area Network under National E-Governance Action Plan in December 2005. Further funds would be released based on progress and utilization.

Overdrawal of Power

636. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States are overdrawing power from the National Power Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued directives to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The details of schedule, actual drawal and under/overdrawal from the grid during April-June, 2006 as given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority from time to time have issued instructions to State Government/Power Utilities to take all possible steps to ensure that there was no overdrawal of power in order to maintain safety and security of the Grid.

Statement

Schedule, Drawal and Over/Drawal/Under Drawal for the period April to June, 2006

(Figures in MU)

States/Stations/ System	Schedule	Drawal	Over Drawal (+)/ Under Drawal (-)
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
Chandigarh	368.12	360.76	-7.36
Delhi	3564.91	3450.18	-114.73
Haryana	3060.61	3271.03	210.42
Himachal Pradesh	665.67	313.93	-351.74
Jammu & Kashmir	1707.41	1586.06	-121.35
Punjab	4473.22	4616.07	142.85
Rajasthan	2882.81	2789.94	-92.87
Uttar Pradesh	5395.41	6100.28	704.87
Uttaranchal	505.93	464.16	-41.77
Western Region			
Chhattisgarh	838.00	998.00	160.00
Gujarat	2877.00	2949.00	72.00
Madhya Pradesh	2944.00	2968.00	24.00

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	5637.00	6082.00	445.00
Goa	474.00	455.00	-19.00
DD	262.00	329.00	67.00
DNH	564.00	671.00	107.00
Southern Region			
Andhra Pradesh	2784.88	3083.89	299.01
Karnataka	2293.10	2388.24	95.14
Kerala	1272.94	1144.46	-128.48
Tamil Nadu	4539.38	4556.01	16.63
Pondicherry	482.38	462.55	-19.83
Eastern Region			
Bihar	1867.20	1712.51	-154.69
Jharkhand	412.95	260.70	-152.25
DVC	-192.33	-204.10	-11.77
Orissa	588.65	562.41	-26.24
West Bengal	896.83	613.89	-282.94
Sikkim	60.55	51.35	-9.20
N.E. Region*			
Assam	.	.	44.58
Meghalaya	.	.	34.58
Nagaland	.	.	4.10

*Details of overdrawing States have only been furnished

Setting up of Special Economic Zone

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

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Special Economic Zone for non-conventional energy sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether during his recent visit to Germany he has invited German Government and industrialists participation in the proposed SEZ;

(d) if so, the response received by him during the said visit; and

(e) the extent to which non-conventional energy sector is likely to be benefited by such visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Government shall extend full support in facilitating the setting up of a Special Economic Zones (SEZ) for non-conventional energy, provided viable proposals in this regard are received.

(c) to (e) The German Industry has evinced interest in the SEZ for non-conventional energy. During discussions with the German wind industry associations and manufacturers, the possibility of stepping up German investment in the country, joint research & development and joint manufacture of sub-systems and components for wind turbine generators were explored.

Gold Loan Scheme

638. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce new Gold Loan Scheme to help the jewellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the quantity of Gold proposed to be imported to meet out this exigency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Closure of Panchmahal District Cooperative Bank

639. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'The Panchmahal District Cooperative Bank' in the State of Gujarat is lying closed;

(b) if so, the date of closure and the steps taken by the Government to revive the said bank;

(c) whether the Government has made any alternative arrangements due to closure of the said bank to provide loan to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Panchmahal District Central Cooperative Bank is not closed. However, in view of highly unsatisfactory state of affairs of the bank, certain directions have been imposed by Reserve Bank of India under Section 35-A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS).

(c) and (d) During the year 2003-04, the Gujarat State Cooperative Bank (GSCB) had arranged for disbursement of Rs. 696.04 lakh for crop loans to eligible farmers of non-defaulting Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in the area. For subsequent years, the Lead Bank, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Commercial Banks were asked in the District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC) to take care of such needs. The Panchmahal DCCB also financed in a limited way in terms of amended RBI directives. An amount of Rs. 38.87 crores in 2003-04, Rs. 68.53 crores in 2004-05 and Rs. 69.35 crores in 2005-06 was disbursed to Agriculture and Allied Sector in the District.

World Bank

640. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has held the Government responsible for lack of finance in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the action taken by the Government to increase the finance and investment in the rural areas; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The World Bank in its analytical work on "Scaling up Access to Finance for India's Rural Poor" has brought into focus the need to promote access to finance in the rural areas. Some of the initiatives taken by the Government to increase availability of finance and investment in the rural areas are as follows:

- (1) In the year 2005-06, the Banks have increased the credit to Agriculture and Allied sectors to Rs. 1,67,775 crores as against the credit of Rs. 1,25,309 crores in 2004-05.
- (2) All crop loans for Kharif and Rabi disbursed to farmers during the financial year 2005-06 will be eligible for the interest relief of two percentage points. However, where each crop loan exceeds Rupees One lakh, the interest relief will be applicable on the principal amount upto Rupees One lakh only.
- (3) A target to credit link 3.85 lakhs Self Help Groups has been fixed for the year 2006-07. A window to access External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) to micro-finance activities has also been opened.

Efforts of the Government to enhance availability of finance and investment will lead to an improved infrastructure and increased economic activity in the rural areas.

[English]

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

641. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided employment during each of the last three years in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi;

(b) whether Delhi is facing an ever increasing unemployment problems and shortage of employment opportunities for its urban areas;

(c) if so, whether the Government is aware that no project under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) have been undertaken in NCT of Delhi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) With a view to ameliorate

the living conditions of urban poor, and to reduce the urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Centrally Sponsored Urban poverty alleviation programme namely Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) on all India basis, including in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi w.e.f. 1.12.1997 through State/UT Governments. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets.

In the NCT of Delhi, under the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) of the SJSRY, the number of urban poor assisted for self employment during last three years as reported by the State Government is as follows:

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
133	181	149

Potable Water for Dwarka

642. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Jal Board/MCD supplies potable water to all the apartments in the Dwarka Sub-city to meet their full water requirements;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of potable water in Dwarka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that the bulk water supply is made by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to DDA in Dwarka where it is further distributed by DDA to the consumers of Dwarka sub-city. Presently DDA receives 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) of water from DJB against the requirement of 8 mgd.

(c) It has further been informed that DJB has been requested to increase the supply of water in Dwarka. Meanwhile, DDA has augmented the availability by supplying 1.5 mgd of water from 44 tubewells. In addition tankers have also been deployed to supply water wherever shortage is reported.

Package for NCR States

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

(a) whether the Government has announced a performance linked incentive package for National Capital Region (NCR) States to boost infrastructure development in region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal for reduction of interest rates on loan for projects on their conformity to the regional plan 2021;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has constituted a high powered groups to identify solution to the problems of NCR and suggest modes to finance them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has been providing a Performance Linked Incentive of 0.50%, in the form of reduction in interest rates on loans sanctioned for infrastructure projects, to the concerned State Governments/Implementing Agencies in the NCR.

In addition in its meeting on 24.5.2006 the Board has decided to provide the following incentives to the State Governments or its Implementing Agencies in the NCR.

CONFORMITY INCENTIVE:

- (i) Interest rebate of 0.25% on the loan for ensuring that the projects implemented in the NCR are in consonance with the Regional Plan-2021 and other functional plans supplementary thereto and also the master Plans of the cities in which the projects are located, are got duly approved by the NCR Planning Board.
- (ii) Incentive of 0.25% on the interest in case the District Plan of the area in which a given project is located has also been duly approved by the NCR Planning Board.

PROJECT COST ADHERENCE INCENTIVE:

An incentive of 0.25% at the completion of the projects to ensure that there is no cost over-run in the project.

QUALITY ASSURANCE INCENTIVE:

A rebate of 0.25% interest rate for promoting high quality execution of projects based on accepted norms.

(e) and (f) The NCR Planning Board has decided to constitute a High Powered group to develop common approaches and solutions to the problems of Water Resources Management, Power, Transportation and Pollution in terms of Solid Waste Management and adoption of Clean Fuels in the NCR as well as modes of financing major projects.

Power Generation through NCES

644. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether nuclear, thermal and hydro energy sector have failed to meet the growing demand of power in the country;

(b) if so, whether a large portion of power demand is being met from non-conventional energy resources in the country;

(c) if so, the total non-conventional energy produced in the country during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government proposes to encourage non-conventional energy sources, particularly in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details plan chalked out by the Government especially in rural areas to encourage to opt for non-conventional energy; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to allocate more budget share for promotion of non-conventional energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The country is facing an energy demand supply gap of 8 per cent with peak shortages of 11-12 per cent.

(b) A renewable power generation capacity of 8088 MW comprising wind power - 5310 MW; small hydro power - 1826 MW; bio power - 949 MW; and solar power -3 MW has been set up in the country, as on 31.03.2006 which corresponds to over 6 per cent of the total installed power generation capacity, with around 2 per cent contribution to the electricity mix.

(c) A renewable power capacity of 4200 MW has been set up during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) comprising wind power - 3343 MW; bio power - 450 MW; and small hydro power - 307 MW. The estimated generation from the same is over 10 billion kWh/annum. This apart, a large number of off-grid non-conventional energy systems/devices such as biogas plants, SPV systems and solar thermal systems have been set up.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has ongoing programmes for the promotion of renewable energy in rural areas, especially (i) Remote Village Electrification Programme that aims to provide electrification/lighting to around 10,000 remote villages apart from an equal number of remote hamlets, which are not likely to receive grid-connectivity under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana; (ii) Village Energy Security Test Projects aimed at meeting the energy requirement of remote villages for cooking, lighting and motive power through locally available renewable sources, particularly biomass; (iii) Biogas Programme aimed at the installation of family-type biogas plants for meeting cooking needs apart from improving sanitation in villages; and (iv) Integrated Rural Energy Programme aimed at energy planning at the state, district and villages levels for provision of energy services of cooking, lighting and motive power through conventional and non-conventional sources, in an integrated manner.

(f) A Gross Budgetary Support of Rs. 600 crore has been provided to this Ministry for various non-conventional

energy programmes during 2006-07, which is considered adequate at this juncture.

Pending Sanitation Proposals

645. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from various states relating to sanitation and development of rural areas during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposals out of them cleared so far, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing all the proposals; and

(e) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Year-wise and state-wise proposals received and sanctioned during the last three years and current year are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) There is no delay in sanctioning projects. The National Scheme Sanctioning Committee (NSSC) meets regularly to consider and sanction proposals received from States. Proposal that are complete in all respects are sanctioned by the NSSC.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		Total	
		Receipt	Sanctioned	Receipt	Sanctioned	Receipt	Sanctioned	Receipt	Sanctioned	Receipt	Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	10	10
3.	Assam	3	3	1	1	5	5	2	0	11	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	22	22	0	0	22	22
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	2	1	1	8	8	1	0	12	11
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
8.	Gujarat	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	0	20	20
9.	Haryana	12	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	5	5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	16	16	0	0	0	0	16	16
13.	Karnataka	0	0	15	15	9	9	0	0	24	24
14.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	30	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
16.	Maharashtra	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
18.	Meghalaya	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	3
19.	Mizoram	1	1	0	0	6	6	0	0	7	7
20.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1
21.	Orissa	0	0	15	15	0	0	0	0	15	15
22.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Punjab	9	9	0	0	2	2	0	0	11	11
24.	Rajasthan	0	0	11	11	11	11	0	0	22	22
25.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	6	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	7
27.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	29
29.	Uttaranchal	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
30.	West Bengal	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3
Total		132	132	80	80	81	81	8	0	301	293

[*Translation*]

Flyover at Dabri

646. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of flyover at Dabri Mode in Delhi has not started;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for not starting the work on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has informed that the construction of flyover at Dabri Mode in Delhi has not been taken up, but a proposal has been prepared for obtaining administrative approval.

Fraud in Financial Institutions

647. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of frauds in Financial Institutions came to light during the last one year;
- (b) the details of all the said cases and the amount involved therein;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check such frauds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no fraud case has been reported by any of the Financial Institutions (FIs) during the last one year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) RBI as a part of its ongoing mechanism to monitor frauds takes necessary measures with a view to arresting their occurrence in the Financial Institutions.

RBI has advised FIs to review their internal vigilance machinery and remove the loopholes, if any and examine staff accountability within the prescribed time limit. RBI also issues caution advices to FIs regarding unscrupulous borrowers and related parties who have perpetrated frauds so that FIs could exercise Caution while dealing with them.

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

648. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study with regard to progress in the implementation of the Integrated Rural Energy Programme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether expected results are being achieved in the States by implementing this programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) since 1994-95. Evaluation studies on the IREP Programme were taken up in the past through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi; Operations Research Group, Vadodara and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The last evaluation study conducted through UNDP during 2001-02 had made an assessment of the programme. Based on its assessment of achievements and shortcomings of the programme, the study had recommended that the programme should be modified for its effective implementation. IREP programme was accordingly modified in 2003-04. The modified IREP is at present being implemented in 21 States/UTs.

Slum Dwellers

649. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether slum dwellers residing at Yamuna Pushta, Laxmi Nagar have been evacuated from DDA land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families displaced from the slums of Yamuna Pushta and Laxmi Nagar;

(d) the place of resettlement of the families displaced from the above land; and

(e) steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate these families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that pursuant to the order of Delhi High Court, 433 jhuggies found on DDA land in Laxmi Nagar (popularly known as Thokar No. 8) were removed during April 2006. Of these, 191 eligible evictees have been offered relocation at Bhawana relocation area.

Increase in Deposits and Assets of PSBs

650. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy increase has been registered in assets of public sector banks during the year 2005-06;

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

(c) whether 12-26 percent increase has been registered in deposits of these banks during this period;

(d) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise;

(e) whether increase in deposits has also been registered in public sector banks in rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The total assets and deposits of public sector banks have registered a growth of 13.58% and 13.00% respectively during the year 2005-06. The bank-wise details of total assets and deposits of public sector banks during the year 2005 and 2006 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The deposits of public sector banks in rural areas have increased from Rs. 1,61,042 crore in the year 2004-05 to Rs. 1,70,649 crore in the year 2005-06.

Statement

Total Assets and Deposits of Public Sector Banks

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Bank Name	Total Assets			Total Deposits		
		FY05	FY06	% Increase	FY05	FY06	% Increase
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	45145	55292	22.48	40762	48500	18.98
2.	Andhra Bank	32729	40669	24.26	27551	33922	23.13
3.	Bank of Baroda	94664	113393	19.78	81333	93662	15.16
4.	Bank of India	94978	112274	18.21	78821	93932	19.17
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	32885	31215	-5.08	28844	26906	-6.72
6.	Canara Bank	110305	132822	20.41	96908	116803	20.53
7.	Central Bank of India	68596	74681	8.87	60752	66483	9.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Corporation Bank	33924	40507	19.40	27233	32677	20.72
9.	Dena Bank	24029	26545	10.47	20096	23623	17.55
10.	IDBI Ltd.	81360	88565	8.86	15103	26001	72.16
11.	Indian Bank	43861	47635	8.61	34808	40806	17.23
12.	Indian Overseas Bank	50815	59358	16.81	44241	50529	14.21
13.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	54069	58937	9.00	47850	50197	4.91
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	15718	19043	21.16	14171	16925	19.43
15.	Punjab National Bank	126241	145267	15.07	103167	119685	16.01
16.	Syndicate Bank	52109	61077	17.21	46295	53624	15.83
17.	UCO Bank	54589	61839	13.28	49470	54544	10.26
18.	Union Bank of India	72413	89126	23.08	61831	74094	19.83
19.	United Bank of India	29098	33248	14.26	25348	29250	15.39
20.	Vijay Bank	29335	31534	7.49	25618	27709	8.16
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	23402	27514	17.57	19038	21694	13.95
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	34922	40630	16.35	28930	34025	17.61
23.	State Bank of India	459883	493870	7.39	367048	380046	3.54
24.	State Bank of Indore	16898	20711	22.56	13807	16661	20.67
25.	State Bank of Mysore	16553	19337	16.82	13585	16369	20.49
26.	State Bank of Patiala	31503	41417	31.47	26496	33776	27.48
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	15040	16530	9.91	12613	13641	9.74
28.	State Bank of Travancore	28875	31862	10.35	24133	25997	7.72
Total (Public Sector Banks)		1773939	2014898	13.58	1435853	1622481	13.00

Date Source : Off-site returns submitted by the banks

Strengthening of Power Transmission System in M.P.

651. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for strengthening the transmission and distribution system of Jhabua,

Badwani, Pithampur, Badwar and Sanawad under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme;

(b) if so, the latest position of the proposals; and

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Detailed Project Reports

(DPRs) for assistance under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) for Jhabua, Badwani, Pithampur and Sanawad towns of Madhya Pradesh were considered by the Steering Committee in its meeting held on 20.09.2004 but were not approved by the Committee due to slow progress in utilization of funds under APDRP. The approval of new schemes would depend upon the satisfactory progress under APDRP. No proposal of Badwar town has been received.

[English]

Setting up of Sub-Offices of RBI

652. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up Sub-offices of the Reserve Bank of India in every State;

(b) if so, the States where the Sub-offices of RBI has been set up;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to set up new Sub-offices of RBI during 2006-07; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No. Sir. Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) RBI has one office each in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Belapur, Bhopal, Bhubneshwar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram, one sub-office each at Lucknow, Kochi, Dehradun and Srinagar, and a Cell of Foreign Exchange Department at Panaji.

(c) and (d) To take care of the specific concerns of RBI in certain areas of work in a state, RBI considers opening its office/sub-office there.

[Translation]

Integrated Rail Bus Transport Service

653. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of the Integrated Rail-Bus Transport Service scheme;

(b) the cities where the said scheme is proposed to be implemented; and

(c) the time by which the Integrated Rail-Bus Transport Service is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The proposal for an Integrated Rail-cum-Bus Transport System had been proposed by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) to connect Delhi with Gurgaon and Ghaziabad. However, there are proposals for extension of the Delhi Metro itself of these cities. In view of this the proposal of the NCRPB was reviewed and it has been decided that fresh proposals would be prepared for improvement of connectivity in the National Capital Region after taking into account the terminal points of the Delhi Metro. Detailed proposals for improving connectivity after taking into account the terminal points of the Delhi Metro are yet to be finalized and a Task Force has been constituted for this purpose. Time frame for implementation of these proposals can be indicated only after the final proposals have been received.

[English]

Mini Hydro Power Project

654. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mini Hydro Power Project has been set up in Gangotri, Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such projects in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A 100 kW Small Hydro Power (SHP) project has been set up at Gangotri by the Uttaranchal Renewable Energy Development Agency with partial financial assistance from the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources.

(c) and (d) So far, 556 SHP projects with an aggregate capacity of 1826 MW have been set up and 203 SHP projects with an aggregate capacity of 468 MW

are under implementation, State-wise details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of Capacity of SHP Projects (upto 25 MW) Set up & Under Implementation

(As on 31.03.2006)

Sl.No.	State	Projects set-up		Projects under Implementation	
		Nos.	Capacity (MW)	Nos.	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	178.81	9	13.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64	44.30	48	41.27
3.	Assam	3	2.11	7	26.00
4.	Bihar	7	50.40	7	9.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	11.00	2	8.0
6.	Goa	1	0.05	—	—
7.	Gujarat	2	7.00	—	—
8.	Haryana	5	62.70	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55	132.08	8	28.75
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30	109.74	7	7.31
11.	Jharkhand	6	4.05	8	34.85
12.	Karnataka	56	329.63	16	67.99
13.	Kerala	14	84.62	7	57.75
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8	41.16	3	24.20
15.	Maharashtra	27	207.08	5	25.75
16.	Manipur	8	5.45	3	2.75
17.	Meghalaya	3	30.71	9	3.28
18.	Mizoram	16	14.76	3	15.50
19.	Nagaland	9	20.67	5	12.20
20.	Orissa	6	7.30	7	40.92
21.	Punjab	29	122.55	1	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Rajasthan	10	23.85	—	—
23.	Sikkim	13	38.60	4	12.20
24.	Tamil Nadu	12	77.70	2	7.90
25.	Tripura	3	16.01	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	9	25.10	—	—
27.	Uttaranchal	76	75.45	37	23.01
28.	West Bengal	22	98.30	5	3.80
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	5.25	—	—
Total		556	1,826.43	203	468.83

Amendment Bill on Land Acquisition Act, 1894

655. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the "Amendment Bill, 2004" in regard to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and intends to introduce before the Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States have proposed certain amendments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such amendments are likely to increase the financial burden on the States' exchequer; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reimburse the additional financial implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, a proposed draft of the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2004 was circulated to State Governments in 2004 for obtaining their views on some proposed amendments of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 to make the acquisition process time-bound and effective. Responses of all State Governments have not been received. Accordingly, these proposals have not been finalized.

Conference of High Courts, Chief Justices and States Chief Ministers

656. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Resolutions adopted in the recently held conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of States;

(b) the details of Resolutions implemented or are in the process of implementation by the Government;

(c) whether the meeting resolved for having Fast Track Courts of Magistrates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action that has been contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A copy of the minutes of the Conference, containing the resolutions and decisions passed therein, is enclosed as a Statement.

(b) The resolutions are in the process of implementation by the Government. Government has forwarded a copy of the minutes to all the States/UTs and also constituted a Centre level Committee to oversee the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference. State Governments have also been requested to constitute Committees for the same purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

Conference of the Chief Minister of States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts

(March 11, 2006)

on

JUSTICE: ACCELERATED AND AFFORDABLE

MINUTES

ITEM NO. 1. Implementation of resolutions passed at previous Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on September 18, 2004.

ITEM NO. 11. Establishment of a permanent mechanism for implementation of resolutions of the Chief Justice Conference.

These items were taken-up together for consideration.

All the states agreed that a permanent mechanism needs to be evolved to ensure implementation of the decisions taken at Chief Justices Conference and at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices, so as to achieve the objective of convening such Conferences. There was consensus in favour of setting-up monitoring Committees at the level of Centre as well as at the level of States. Some participants were of the view that at State level there could be two Committees, one consisting of the Chief Secretary, (Law) and Registrar General of the High Court, whereas the other Committee could consist of Chief Minister, Chief Justice, Law Minister, Finance Minister and one Judge nominated by the Chief Justice. There was agreement that the Monitoring Committee at the level of the Centre should consist of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Union Finance Minister and Union Law Minister, and wherever deemed appropriate, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India be invited to the meeting of the Committee

DECISION

(i) A Committee consisting of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, Union Minister for Finance and

Union Minister for Law & Justice be set-up and national level for ensuring timely implementation of the decisions taken at Chief Justices' Conference and Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. Wherever deemed appropriate, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India be invited to the meeting of the Committee.

(ii) Monitoring Committees at two levels be set-up in each State for timely implementation of the decisions taken at Chief Justices' Conference and Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. The first level Committee should consist of Chief Secretary, Registrar General of the High Court and Law Secretary of the State, whereas the second level Committee should consist of Chief Minister, Chief Justice and Law Minister of the State.

ITEM NO. 2. Reduction of arrears and speedy disposal of cases.

ITEM NO. 4. Enhancing the strength of Judges in High Courts and subordinate Courts.

These items were taken-up together for consideration.

All the participants expressed serious concern at the huge pendency of cases particularly at the level of subordinate Courts and stressed upon an urgent need to find ways and means to reduce backlog and ensure speedy disposal of the cases. No one disputed that the huge backlog of pending cases cannot be wiped out without suitably enhancing the strength of Judges in High Courts as well as subordinate Courts. Some States, however, pleaded lack of resources for funding the increase in strength of Judges. There was no opposition to the suggestion for transfer of cases involving petty offences to the courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates.

DECISION

Adequate steps aimed at reduction of arrears and speedy disposal of cases including increase in the strength of Judges, simplification of procedures, use of various IT tools and use of modern Court Management systems be taken by all concerned so as to achieve the desired results. Cases involving petty offences including traffic & municipal challans be transferred to the courts of Special metropolitan Magistrates/Special Judicial Magistrates.

ITEM NO. 3. Modernisation and Computerisation of Courts and augmenting of infrastructure for them.

All the States were unanimous in advocating the need for modernization and rapid computerisation of Courts. None of the speakers denied that the infrastructure, particularly, at the level of District Courts needs substantial augmentation by upgradation and expansion of the existing Court buildings and addition of new Court complexes. However, some of the States expressed financial constraints in releasing adequate funds for augmenting the infrastructure.

DECISION

The knowledge and expertise in use of computers and various IT tools, available in our country, be used for modernization and computerisation of Justice Delivery System at all levels. States will make efforts to provide more funds for computerisation of Courts and augmenting infrastructure for them.

ITEM NO. 5. Training for Judges and Court staff.

All the participants agreed that there was need to give induction as well as in service training, to Judges at all levels. No one disputed the need for training the Court staff, particularly, in Court Administration and Management.

DECISION

Adequate training be imparted by National Judicial Academy and State Judicial Academies to Judges as well as the Court staff.

ITEM NO. 6. Setting-up of Fast Track Courts of Magistrates.

Taking into consideration the pendency of criminal cases at the level of Magistrates and the success achieved by Fast Track Courts of Session Judges, all the participants supported the proposal for setting-up of Fast Track Courts Magistrates so as to reduce the workload on regular Courts.

DECISION

Fast Track Courts of Magistrates be set-up at the earliest, by evolving a suitable scheme, on the lines of the existing scheme for Fast Track Courts of Session Judges.

ITEM NO. 7. Granting Financial Autonomy to High Courts.

Some States expressed financial constraints in meeting all the budgetary demands of the High Court and increasing the budget allocation for the judiciary. However, there was no opposition as such to grant of full power of appropriation and reappropriation to the Chief Justices, within the budget allocated for judiciary.

DECISION

- (i) Chief Justice of the High Court be delegated full power to appropriate and reappropriate the funds within the budget allocated by the State Government for the judiciary in the State;
- (ii) Consistent with their financial resources, State Governments shall provide adequate budgetary allocation for judiciary.

ITEM NO. 8. Establishment of E-Courts and video conferencing facilities.

All the participants agreed that the facility of video conferencing would be of immense use particularly for remand of accused persons, recording of evidence in appropriate cases and training of Judicial Officers and Court staff. It was also felt that E-Courts and E-filing should be introduced in select Courts. Chief Minister of Gujarat proposed setting-up of a model E-Court in Gujarat from the funds of the State Government.

DECISION

Facility of Video Conferencing be made available in all the States and model E-Courts be set-up in select places.

ITEM NO. 9. Facility of Research Assistants and Law Clerks to High Court Judges.

There was an agreement that the Judges of the High Court need assistance in research work on legal issues coming up for adjudication. It was also felt that talented law graduates from reputed law schools should be engaged for the purpose.

DECISION

Assistance of Law Clerk-cum-Research Assistants be provided to all the Judges of High Courts, who may be engaged on adequate remuneration, which as far as possible should not be less than Rs. 10,000/ p.m.

ITEM NO. 10. Entrustment of selection of subordinate Judicial Officers to High Courts, wherever already not entrusted.

In some of the States selection of subordinate judicial officers at the level of civil judges is already being made by the High Courts. Some States where selection is still being made by the Public Service Commissions, were agreeable to entrust the selection to the High Court whereas Chief Ministers/Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala were of the view that the present system may continue.

DECISION

In States of Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala, setting up of question papers and evaluation of answer sheets be entrusted to the High Court. In other States, where selection of subordinate Judicial Officers is not being made by the High Court, such selection be entrusted to the High Court, by amending the relevant rules.

[Translation]

Wholesale Price Index

657. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of items included to determine the wholesale price index;
- (b) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of these items;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the above modifications are likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The number of items included in the current Wholesale Price Index Series with base year 1993-94 is 435.

(b) to (d) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen Member, Planning Commission has been constituted to advise the Government on various technical issues relating to the change of the base year

from the existing base year of 1993-94. The Working Group is currently engaged in deliberating the modalities for collection of weekly prices required for construction of the revised series of the WPI. The commodity basket of the current series of the WPI would be restructured based on the recommendations of the Working Group.

NCR Scheme

658. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for slow progress in the implementation of the National Capital Region Scheme;
- (b) the current status of the implemented Scheme;
- (c) the target set for the completion of its implementation; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for early implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has been constituted under the NCRPB Act, 1985 inter alia, for preparation of a plan for the development of the National Capital Region. The Board prepared the Regional Plan-2001 which was notified in January, 1989 and Regional Plan-2021 notified on 17.9.2005. The policies and principles outlined in the Regional Plan are implemented by the State Governments of the constituent states. With a view to accelerate the development of infrastructure in the NCR, the Board also provides interest bearing loan assistance to the constituent State Governments and their implementing agencies upto 75% of the cost of infrastructure project. Till date the Board has provided financial assistance for 215 such projects in the NCR with a total estimated cost of Rs. 8614.70 crore.

The positive impact of the implementation of the policies and planning for the National Capital Region is indicated by the fall in the decadal growth rate of NCT of Delhi from 51.45% in 1981-91 to 47.02% in 1991-2001.

(c) Regional Planning is a continuous process. The Regional Plan-2021 has already been notified on 17.9.2005. Functional Plans and Sub-regional Plans are also drawn up for different sectors and sub regions respectively from time to time.

(d) The NCR Planning Board has recently decided to provide various incentives in the form of rebate on interest on the loan provided to the State Governments/Implementing Agencies in the NCR, for taking up infrastructure projects. The Board has also decided to support studies to examine the feasibility of setting up of new townships in the Region. Studies on the power and water resource sectors are also expected to help in identifying large regional projects.

Agreement for Gas Supply

659. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Reliance company for the supply of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rules have been violated by the Department of Power to accept this agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) NTPC invited bids under International Competitive Bidding for procurement of natural gas adopting the transparent and fair bidding process. Many leading national and international bidders had participated in the bidding. After the qualification of bidders as per bidding process, the Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to all the qualified bidders in April, 2003. The Agreement to be signed by the bidders were prepared and issued to the bidders as a part of RFP documents. The techno-commercial bids were opened in Sept., 2003. Based on discussions held with participating bidders on the conditionality/deviations taken by them in the bid, the final draft of Agreements to be signed was issued to all the bidders. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) accepted the final draft of Agreement as a part of bidding process.

Based on above bidding process, RIL was evaluated to be the lowest bidder and, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was placed on 16.06.2004 on RIL, resulting into a binding contract.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are as follows:-

- (i) Planned Capacity Addition: 1300 MW each at Kawas & Gandhar.
- (ii) Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ): The ACQ under the agreement is 132 Trillion British Thermal Unit (Btu) (about 3 Million Tons Per Annum of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) equivalent). This quantity of gas was estimated to be sufficient to sustain about 80% PLF for the expansion units at Kawas and Gandhar.
- (iii) Period of Contract: Considering that for the purpose of tariff, the economic life of the gas based project is considered as 15 years, accordingly the period of contract was kept as 17 years considering the initial ramp-up/built up period.
- (iv) Quantity variation: For operation flexibility, a variation of $\pm 5\%$ of ACQ on annualized basis had been provided.
- (v) Take or Pay (TOP) level: In case of any short lifting of gas by the Buyer during any contract year, it is required to pay for 100% of ACQ, whether taken or not in that year.
- (vi) Non-Supply of Gas/LNG: In case of short supply of gas by the Seller, it is required to pay the Price differential between landed cost of alternate fuel and Natural Gas.
- (vii) Pricing Terms: Out of the quoted price, 85% price was kept as fixed, whereas 15% is Variable which is linked to United States Consumer Price Index (USCPI) for dollar price and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Rupee price.
- (viii) Conditions Precedent (CP): Provision for having appropriate CP's to enable the parties to attain their financial closures were kept. A 12 months period was allowed for parties to satisfy their respective CP's.
- (ix) First Gas Delivery: As per Gas Sales & Purchase Agreement (GSPA), bidder is required

to commence gas supplies within a sliding window of 28-40 months from the date of CP Satisfaction.

- (x) Price: Price for Natural Gas by RIL (US \$ per Million Btu): The price at power plant boundary is US \$ 3.27 at Net Calorific Value (NCV) basis and US \$ 2.97 at Gross Calorific Value (GCV) basis (both including taxes).

(c) and (d) As brought out at Para (a) above, the bidding for procurement of Natural Gas was done on International Competitive Bidding basis adopting the transparent and fair bidding process. The Agreements were prepared based on International Gas Supply Contracts prevalent at that time and keeping in mind NTPC's interest. The bidders were also given a chance to withdraw their bid from the bidding without forfeiting their bid security, in case they don't accept the conditions specified by NTPC. Further, the bidding process followed in this procurement was based on internationally acceptable Two-State tendering process. Thus no rules have been violated in preparation as well as finalization of the agreement, accepted by RIL. However, the matter is now sub-judice.

[English]

FDI Inflow

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

- (a) the share of FDI in total capital inflows in India; and
(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) During the year 2005-06, Foreign Direct Investment including ADR/GDR was US \$ 10303 million out of the total capital flow of US\$ 27755 million constituting 37.12 percent.

(b) Government have undertaken a comprehensive review of Foreign Direct Investment Policy and associated procedures in February, 2006. As a result, a number of rationalisation measures have been undertaken which inter-alia include dispensing with the need of multiple approvals from Government and/or regulatory agencies that exist in certain sectors, extending the automatic route to more sectors and allowing FDI in new sectors.

Computerisation of Delhi Metro Booking System

661. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to computerise booking system of Delhi Metro Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The booking system for issuing various types of tickets at Delhi Metro Railway Stations is already computerized.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Performance of Public Sector Insurance Companies

662. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Public Insurance Companies is not at par with that of private sector insurance companies, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector insurance companies have prepared any plan to provide the same facilities to their customers as are provided by private sector companies or to face the challenges posed by the competitive environment that has been created as a result of the facilities being provided by the private insurance companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

As the growth recorded by private insurers is to be seen in relation to the lower bases due to their recent entry into this business, it may not be appropriate to compare the performance of insurance companies in public and private sector. However, the growth in business of insurance companies in public and private sector from the year 2002-03 to 2004-05 is as under:

(Annual Growth in percentage)			
Insurance Companies	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Public Sector (Non-Life)	4.77	6.22	14.36
Private Sector (Non-Life)	55.36	67.14	289.29
LIC of India	18	18	10
Private Sector (Life)	148	179	310

(c) and (d) Public Sector insurance companies are upgrading the Information Technology, interlinking offices for online services, introducing innovative products and tying up with Banks/Financial Institutions/Motor Vehicle manufacturers to provide better services to customers.

[English]

Kayamkulam Power Project

663. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation a Naphtha based Power Project Kayamkulam, in Kerala with a capacity of 359.58 MW is severely under utilized due to huge rise in Price of Naphtha;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reintroduce the exemption of Excise duty on Naphtha;

(c) whether any remedial measures taken by the Government to make the Plant viable and profitable; and

(d) if so, arrangements if any made for the introduction of LNG instead of Naphtha and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Naphtha based Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project of NTPC has not been fully utilized in the recent years as beneficiaries were not giving any generation schedule since July, 2004 mainly due to

substantial increase in the naphtha prices. The price of Naphtha was Rs. 6200/Metric Tonnes (MT) and variable (Fuel) charges of 114.14 Paisa/Kilowatt-hour (KWh) during 1995 when this project was conceived and has since shown an upward trend. The present Naphtha price is around Rs. 38744/MT and variable (Fuel) charges of 704 P/KWh. The plant remained completely shut down from July, 2004 till December, 2004 for want of schedule from Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) who have been allocated 50% capacity each. The station was restarted w.e.f. 6th January, 2005 on getting a schedule of 160 MW from TNEB and thereafter station have been scheduled by TNEB intermittently for meeting its short term peaking requirements.

The operational performance of Kayamkulam station for the last three years is as given below:

Parameter	2006-07 (April, 06 to June, 06)	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Machine Availability (%)	99.72	99.73	90.23	91.60
PLF (%)	40.46	11.38	19.74	67.06

(b) The matter has been taken up with Ministry of Finance for exemption of applicability of Excise Duty/Countervailing Duty on Naphtha supplies to Rajiv Gandhi Combine Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP), Kayamkulam.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to earmark 2.1 million metric tones per annum (MMTPA) out of the 2.5 MMTPA of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) expected to be sourced by Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) from Australia for their proposed re-gasification terminal at Kochi for meeting fuel requirement of existing Kayamkulam CAPP and expansion of Kayamkulam (3x850 MW *i.e.* 1950 MW). Fuel Supply Agreement in this regard is yet to be signed.

Meeting of Power Secretaries on Power Situation

664. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted meeting with Power/Energy Secretaries of various States/UTs in the recent past;

(b) if so, the issues on which deliberations have been made; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve overall power situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Energy/Power Secretaries of States and Chiefs of Power Utilities was held on 30th May, 2006 where the following issues were deliberated:

- (i) Review of Xth Plan Capacity Addition and Xith Plan preparedness; and
- (ii) Power supply position and demand side management.

(c) National Electricity Policy, inter-alia, envisages that demand of power be fully met by 2012 and that energy and peaking shortages be overcome with 5% spinning reserve being available. States have been accordingly advised to create adequate generation capacity to fully meet the growing demand of the electricity. Central Government on its part has geared up its Central Sector Undertakings to enhance their generating capacity. Currently, projects aggregating over 39,000 MW are under construction. Apart from this, following measures have been taken to improve the availability of power in the country, include:-

- Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.
- Maximization of generation through better performance in Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations.
- Power stations with low PLF have been identified and are linked with better performing stations under the scheme "Partnership for Excellence" for adopting better operational practices.
- Enhancement of Inter-State and Inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.
- Promoting energy efficiency and conservations measures.

National Energy Labelling Programme

665. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch "National Energy Labeling Programme";

(b) if so, its salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the programme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) The Government of India has already launched the "National Energy Labeling Programme" on 18.05.2006 at New Delhi. This has been introduced on a voluntary basis for the Frost-Free (No-Frost) Refrigerators and Tubular Fluorescent Lamp. The manufacturers/importers/persons in-trade of these equipment can participate in the scheme by registering with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (a statutory body set up under Ministry of Power). Energy Label rating plan has been developed based on energy efficiency of the equipment. Based on test results, conducted in an independent (NABL accredited) laboratory registered with the Bureau, the manufacturers/importers/persons-in-trade will be authorized to use energy star rating labels that will be indicative of comparative energy efficiency of the equipment.

Guidelines for Money Transfer

666. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the guidelines regarding the money transfer scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to check unhindered transfer of money into and outside the country especially through hawala transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to streamline the procedure for Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS), Government has, inter-alia, approved that Scheduled Commercial Banks, Post Offices, Full Fledged Money Changers (FFMCs), being regulated entities, authorized to deal in money transfer business, will be cleared as Principal Agents directly by RBI under intimation to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Other existing & proposed entities will be permitted for being appointed as principal agents by RBI, with prior approval of MHA in accordance with

its security requirements, electronic and physical preservation of records including identification documents, verification of background and antecedents of overseas principals by RBI etc.

(c) Government of India has set up Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU IND) as the Central National Agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspicious financial transactions to the Enforcement Agencies and foreign FIUs.

Restructuring of State Electricity Boards

667. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed various State Governments to restructure their electricity boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the State Governments for compliance of the direction of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Before enactment of the Electricity Act, 2003, various States had enacted State Electricity Reforms Acts which provided for reorganization of their State Electricity Boards (SEB).

Section 172(a) of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the SEB shall be deemed to be the State Transmission Utility (STU) and a licensee under the provisions of the Act for a period of one year from the appointed date, *i.e.* 10th June, 2003. This section further provides that the State Government may, by notification, authorise the State Electricity Board (SEB) to continue to function as the State Transmission Utility or licensee for such further period beyond the period of one year of the provisions of the Act coming into force, as may be mutually decided by the Central Government and the State Government.

So far, 12 states have reorganized their SEBs. Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have done so under their State Electricity Reforms Acts. Assam and Maharashtra have reorganized their SEBs under the provisions of the Electricity Act,

2003. The SEB of Assam presently continues to discharge the licensee function only for trading of electricity.

Nine States are yet to reorganize their SEBs. These States have, from time to time, sent proposals to the Central Government for extension of time for the reorganization of their respective SEB. The Central Government has agreed to extension of time under section 172(a) of the Act.

Financial Assistance for NCES Programme

668. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for providing energy from Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government accorded sanction for the project; and

(d) if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be extended therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Proposals from State Governments, including Karnataka, for the grant of central financial assistance under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes/programmes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provision, which is a continuous process.

Action Under FERA and FEMA

669. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the foreign companies involved in Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and Foreign Exchange Management Act during the last two years *i.e.*, from 2004-05 to 2005-06 located across the country;

(b) whether the Government has initiated actions against such companies under the foreign exchange laws and rules and regulations during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any of these foreign companies are closed due to actions taken against such companies during the above period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) M/s Greenfield Investment Limited Mauritius, Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) and its Directors and others and M/s J. Henry Schroder Bank AG, Switzerland (FII) were found involved in violations of provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, during the last two years *i.e.* 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Show Cause Notices were issued under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 to (i) M/s Greenfield Investment Ltd., Mauritius and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) and its Directors and others and (ii) M/s J. Henry Schroder Bank AG, Switzerland (FII) and others. Adjudicating proceedings have been completed against M/s Greenfield Investment Limited and its Directors and others imposing penalties totalling Rs. 327 Crores.

(d) and (e) Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) including M/s Greenfield Investment Limited, Mauritius have been debarred from carrying out transactions in securities by the RBI.

Incentives on Small Savings

670. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new small savings schemes introduced during last three years;

(b) the details of incentives provided by Government on Post Office Small Savings in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the small savings scheme more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) A new savings scheme, viz., Senior Citizen Savings Scheme 2004 was introduced with effect from 2nd August 2004. Persons of age 60 years and above and those retired

persons who are of age 55 years and above but less than 60 years are eligible to invest under the scheme. The deposits under the scheme carry interest rate of 9 per annum payable on quarterly basis.

(b) Post office small savings schemes constitute a risk free investment as they carry an implicit sovereign guarantee. The schemes are designed keeping in view the needs of different segments of investors. The schemes enjoy a number of incentives like zero risk, regular income, tax concessions, easy accessibility, liquidity, etc.

(c) The small savings schemes, carrying different tenor and rate of interest are administered by the Government of India and are designed to provide safe and attractive investment option to the different sections of small investors. The Central and State Governments take various steps to promote and popularize these schemes including use of print and electronic media, arranging seminars and meetings and providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing the collections. Recently a website of National Savings Institute under the Ministry of Finance has been launched to facilitate the interface of citizens with the Government on issues concerning Small Savings Schemes. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

Additional Funds for Drinking Water Supply

671. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State has prepared a plan for implementation of drinking water supply to cover all villages under Swajaldhara as per the schedule of "Bharat Nirman" programme of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is aware that an additional fund of Rs. 150 crores is required by the State Government for implementation of the programme;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to extend the required assistance;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and

(b) Rural drinking water is a state subject and Government of India renders financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts in providing drinking water supply to rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply is undertaken from the funds provided under ARWSP (Normal), Swajaldhara and State schemes. Government of Gujarat has submitted its Action Plan for Bharat Nirman which reflects the requirement of central funds to the tune of Rs. 3.60 crores for coverage of uncovered habitations of Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 and Rs. 828.08 crores for coverage of slipped back and newly emerged habitations.

(c) to (e) Every year funds under various components of ARWSP (including Swajaldhara) are allocated to the States as per a laid down criteria. Subject to the availability of funds and performance of the States, request of State Governments for additional funds is considered towards the end of the financial year.

CSIR-Deemed University

672. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has applied to the UGC for treating itself as the deemed University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other Universities have objected to this move;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the requirements of UGC, an autonomous society named as CSIR-Advanced Institute of Science Training (CSIR-AIST) has been registered, for grant of a Deemed University status, to encourage trans-disciplinary research leading to a Ph.D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Total Sanitation Campaign

673. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the proposes so far made in carrying out the objectives of the Total Sanitation Campaign, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the estimated population for whom sanitation are still beyond reach;

(c) the State/Union Territory-wise allocation of Central Funds under the campaign this year and during the preceding three years;

(d) the population covered under the campaign during the above period;

(e) the criteria adopted for allocation of Central Funds for the scheme (campaign); and

(f) the steps taken for preventing any leakage or misuse of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Outsourcing of Banking Activities

674. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to outsource certain activities in the banking sector including opening of accounts, issuing drafts, clearing operations etc. to private sector agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is a possibility to increase the fraud activities in the public sector banks in case the banking activities are outsourced;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision to outsource the banking activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Banks are outsourcing for rationalizing operational costs and accessing specialist expertise not available internally. In this regard, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft guidelines on outsourcing financial services by banks on 6.12.2005 for feedback. The guidelines on Outsourcing are intended to provide direction and guidance to banks to adopt sound and responsive risk management practices for effective oversight, due diligence and management of risks, which may arise from such outsourcing activities.

(c) To guard against any anticipated fraudulent activities on account of outsourcing, the said draft guidelines provide that banks cannot outsource core management functions like, corporate planning, organization, management and control, and decision making functions like determining compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms for opening deposit account, according sanction for loan and management of investment portfolio.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Delay In Sanctioning Loan Under Welfare Schemes

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

(a) whether the rejection rate of loan applications pending with nationalized banks under various welfare schemes is very high and there is inordinate delay in loan disbursements;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during 2005-06, bank-wise;

(c) the reasons for such rejection; and

(d) the steps taken to simplify and avoid inordinate delay in loan sanctioning process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), bank-wise rate of rejection of loan applications in respect of Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Swam Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the year 2005-06 (upto December, 2005) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The reasons for rejection of loan applications under various Government Sponsored Schemes are commonly stated as saturation of viable activities, non-fulfillment of terms of sanction and non-viability of projects etc.

(d) The following steps have been taken to simplify and avoid delay in sanctioning the loan applications under Government Sponsored Schemes:-

- (i) Banks have been instructed to dispose applications for loan upto Rs. 25,000/- within two weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within four weeks (8 to 9 weeks in case of SJSRY).
- (ii) Banks have been advised to issue 'No Dues Certificate' whenever required within 15 days, other-wise it is deemed to have been issued.
- (iii) RBI monitors performance of domestic scheduled commercial banks under SGSY, SJSRY through the receipt of monthly/quarterly progress report.
- (iv) Progress under these schemes form part of the agenda for discussion at various fora from grass root level to high level monitoring committee formed under the scheme.
- (v) RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks that loans sanctioned under SGSY, SJSRY should be treated as advances under priority sector.
- (vi) Banks have been advised by RBI that Branch Managers should be vested with adequate discretionary powers to sanction loan proposals under the SGSY and SJSRY.
- (vii) Loan applications under SGSY should be disposed of within the prescribed time limit of 5 days and at any rate not later than one month.

Statement

Rate of rejection of loan applications by public sector banks under SGSRY and SGSY during 2005-06 (upto December, 2005)

Sl.No.	Name of Bank	SJSRY			SGSY		
		Number of applications received	Number of applications rejected	Rate of rejection	Number of total applications received	Number of applications rejected	Rate of rejection
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of India	18561	4784	25.77	64638	3139	4.86
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4669	272	5.83	5595	229	4.09
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	1946	0	0.00	4235	0	0.00
4.	State Bank of Indore	783	497	63.47	1523	173	11.36
5.	State Bank of Mysore	887	331	37.32	244	0	0.00
6.	State Bank of Patiala	867	165	19.03	410	16	3.90
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1162	367	31.58	3455	927	26.83
8.	State Bank of Travancore	1099	0	0.00	637	86	13.50
9.	Allahabad Bank	2082	341	16.38	9186	664	7.23
10.	Andhra Bank	1899	7	0.37	2138	8	0.37
11.	Bank of Baroda	5788	1361	23.51	19151	3153	16.46
12.	Ban of India	3678	739	20.09	18650	3344	17.93
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	924	6	0.65	2187	28	1.28
14.	Canara Bank	2726	392	14.38	6857	971	14.16
15.	Central Bank of India	4266	876	20.53	18399	1952	10.61
16.	Corporation Bank	282	53	18.79	346	23	6.65
17.	Dena Bank	2302	562	24.41	6019	1381	22.94
18.	Indian Bank	1536	246	16.02	6603	227	3.44
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1293	250	19.33	3830	51	1.33
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1819	295	16.22	1328	164	12.35
21.	Punjab National Bank	5562	969	17.42	24544	1969	8.02
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	380	70	18.42	999	83	8.31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Syndicate Bank	1672	306	18.30	3218	112	3.48
24.	Union Bank of India	2930	714	24.37	6275	560	8.92
25.	United Bank of India	1233	81	6.57	3080	120	3.90
26.	Uco Bank	2380	699	29.37	4917	497	10.11
27.	Vijaya Bank	669	7	1.05	745	39	5.23
Total		73395	14390	19.61	219209	19916	9.09

[Translation]

New IT Form

676. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
 SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
 SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
 SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
 SHRI EKANTH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
 MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
 SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
 SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
 SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
 SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
 DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decide to introduce a new form for filling Income Tax returns;

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

(c) whether Government has studied the complexity of the new form and its resultant hardship to be faced by the assesseees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Government notified a new income-tax return Form No. 2F for resident individuals/Hindu undivided families (HUFs) not having income from business, capital gains and

agriculture, and not owning more than one house property. In some quarters, a view have been expressed that the new Form 2F is not so Saral. In this regard, the Government has clarified at different fora that the new Form 2F is essentially an expanded version of the existing Naya Saral so as to provide more space to fill out the details. Further, the cash flow statement in Form 2F is intended to protect the salaried taxpayers from any intrusive investigation. In any case, a salaried taxpayer has the option of filing Form 2F or the Naya Saral. This option is available upto 31st July, 2006 which is the due for filing the tax return. Further, even where a person chooses to file Form 2F, he has the option of not filling out the cash flow statement.

[English]

Migration of Rural Population

677. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
 SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
 SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the massive migration of rural population to the urban areas in every State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such migration?

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

(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) While rural to urban migration is characteristic of developing economy, the available estimates show that during the period 1983-2000 the percentage of male migrants to total population remained almost constant at about 7% for rural areas. In the case of rural females it has increased from 35% in 1983 to about 43% in 1999-2000.

The Ministry of Rural Development implements, through the State Governments, major schemes like the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)—wage employment programme and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide self employment to the members of the rural poor families of the country. These schemes are primarily designed to provide employment to the rural poor in their villages or nearby villages so that migration of such people from rural to urban areas could be reduced. Other schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the Watershed Development Programmes are also designed to improve the living conditions in the rural areas as well as indirectly provide employment. Government has also recently launched areas as well as indirectly provide employment. Government has also recently launched a National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 200 most backward districts of the country with the objective of providing guaranteed employment of 100 days in a year to a member of the rural household who is willing to take up manual work.

Supply of Stationery

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

(a) whether the Ministry has received proposal from DOPT to authorize Kendriya Bhandar to supply stationery and other general items to the Government offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken to concur the same;

(c) whether the Central Vigilance Commissioner had stated that tenders are generally a major source of corruption; and

(d) if so, the reasons for thrusting purchase of stationery and other items through tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from DOPT for preferential treatment to Kendriya Bhandar and the same is under consideration of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) There is no advice from CVC that the tendering should be banned. Tendering should be done with due diligence. Lack of due diligence may result in irregularities. However, this is not enough to proscribe tendering altogether.

[Translation]

Master Plan for Development of Rural Areas

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare plans and master plan at district level for developing rural areas in a planned way;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the districts where the said proposal is likely to be implemented initially, State-wise;

(d) the present status of the said proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Import of Readymade Garments Investigated by DRI

680. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is investigating a major racket involving import of large quantities of readymade garments from China through

Karipur Airport as reported in *The Hindi* dated May 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of the racket;

(c) whether the Government propose to check such rackets which are directly affecting the economy of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The officers of DRI, Calicut are investigating into the import of readymade garments from Hong Kong (PR of China) and Thailand through Karipur Airport, Calicut.

(b) The *modus operandi* involved is to misclassify/ misdeclare the composition of goods to wrongfully avail lower rate of duty.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All consignments of readymade garments are being sent for testing to ascertain the nature and composition of the import goods for correct classification.

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

Cut in Excise Duty on Petrol & Diesel

681. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan has submitted its report on pricing and taxation of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Dr. Rangarajan Committee report on pricing and taxation of petroleum products was submitted to the Government

on 17.2.2006. The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows:

1. On pricing of Petrol and diesel:

(i) Shift to a trade-parity pricing formula for determining refinery gate as well as retail prices, (ii) Government to keep at arm's length from price determination and to allow flexibility to all companies to fix the retail price under the proposed formula; and (iii) reduce effective protection by lowering the customs duty on petrol and diesel to 7.5%.

2. On pricing of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene:

(i) restrict subsidized kerosene to BPL families only, (ii) rise the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 75/- cylinder, (iii) discontinue the practice of asking upstream companies to provide upstream assistance, but instead collect their contribution by raising the OI DB cess from the present level of Rs. 1,800/MT to Rs. 4,800/MT; and (iv) Meet the balance cost of subsidy from the budget of the Government.

3. On restructuring of excise duties:

Shift from the present mix of specific and ad-valorem to a purely specific levy and calibrating the levies at Rs. 5.00/litre of diesel and Rs. 14.75/litre of petrol.

The Committee has recommended that each of the first two sets of recommendations should be implemented as integrated packages.

The Government has accepted the following recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report:

(i) Implementation of principle of trade-parity with reduction in customs duty on petrol and diesel from 10% to 7.5%; (ii) Permitting autonomous adjustment in prices of sensitive petroleum products by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) without prior consultation with the Government once every month, (iii) Restricting 'In principle' subsidy on PDS Kerosene to BPL families only.

Recommendations of Investment Commission on FDI

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high profile Investment Commission has recommended large scale increase in foreign investment caps for sectors like banking and insurance and allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail as reported in the Times of India dated July 14, 2006;

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

(c) whether before recommending, the panel has considered all the aspects to ensure the future of domestic retails;

(d) if so, whether the Government has accepted the recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Investment Commission in its report of February 2006 titled "Investment Strategy for India" has observed that for sustaining growth at over 8% per annum will require an increase in investment levels in the economy from approximately 28% of GDP to about 32% of GDP. Over the next 5 years, this translates to a cumulative investment of about \$ 1.5 trillion. The Commission has set itself the goal to increase the level of FDI from the existing level of about \$ 5 billion to \$ 15 billion by 2007-08. The Commission studied 25 key sectors spanning Infrastructure, Manufacturing Services, Natural Resources and the Knowledge Economy.

(c) The Commission has observed that an efficient and competitive retail sector can increase private consumption leading to growth in manufacturing and agriculture, and will create jobs. With the right policy enablers, organized retail has the potential to grow over five-fold in the next 5 years from the present level of 3 per cent, requiring an investment of about \$5-\$6 billion. The Commission has recommended for permitting FDI in retail up to 49 per cent under automatic route, in the first instance.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has undertaken a comprehensive review of the FDI policy and associated procedures in February 2006. As a result, a number of rationalisation measures have been undertaken which,

inter-alia include allowing FDI up to 51% with prior Government approval for retail trade of 'Single Brand' products.

Public Transport in Urban Areas

683. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a scheme other than the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), for financing projects on public transport improvement in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the States under the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Apart from the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), urban transport projects proposed as public-private partnerships can be considered for funding under the scheme of Support to Public-Private Partnerships in Infrastructure announced by the Ministry of Finance in July, 2005. Under the scheme, projects proposed as public-private partnerships can receive viability gap funding to the extent of 20% of the total project cost.

(c) Funds are not earmarked State-wise.

[Translation]

Kota Thermal Power Project

684. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifth unit of the Kota Thermal Power Plant which has been closed since December, 2005 has restarted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the expenditure involved for restarting this unit;

(e) whether the Union Government has provided any financial assistance for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Debt Write-Off Relief to States

685. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended conditional debt write-off of loans for different States of the Union;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme recommended thereof;

(c) the names of the States which now qualify for such a write-off; and

(d) whether the State of Orissa is one of such States qualify for write-off and details of the write-off loans made till date?

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

(b) Under the scheme of Debt Consolidation and Waiver Facility recommended by Twelfth Finance Commission, the Central loans to the States contracted till 31.3.2004 and outstanding as on 31.3.2005 are to be consolidated and rescheduled for repayment in 20 equal annual installments at a reduced interest rate of 7.5% per annum, subject to States enacting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts with suggested core provisions. In addition, the debt write-off is also available to the States, on repayments due from States during 2005-06 to 2009-10 Central loans recommended for

consolidation. Quantum of write-off linked to the absolute amount by which revenue deficit is reduced in each successive year during the award period.

(c) So far, nine States that have qualified for debt waiver in 2005-06 have been awarded the same. The States are: Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Yes, Sir. Debt waiver for an amount of Rs. 381.90 crore for the year 2005-06 has been provided to the State.

Non Functional ICD

686. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Container Depot (ICD) set up at Ankleshwar in Gujarat is non-functional for want of staff members; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Three posts have been sanctioned i.e. one post each of Superintendent, Examiner/Preventive Officer and Appraiser on 02.06.2006 to man the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Ankleshwar. The ICD at Ankleshwar is expected to start functioning shortly.

Dabhol Power Project

687. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dabhol Power Project is facing the prospects of closure due to running out of Naphtha stock as reported in the Times of India, dated the June 19, 2006;

(b) if so, whether there was no timely assessment of the stock and measures were taken;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the ways and means of tackling this problem?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Fresh stocks of Naphtha have not been procured by RGPPL in absence of any further demand by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) of electricity generated on Naphtha due to its high cost. As a result the revived Power Block-II is presently being maintained in the reserve shut down mode.

(b) No, Sir. Based on the peak summer requirements of MSEDCL, Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. (RGPPL) had worked out a one-time arrangement with MSEDCL to supply 346 Million Units of infirm power on liquid fuels from the revived Power Block-II during the months of May and June 2006. Accordingly, the quantity of fuel required to augment the existing stock of Naphtha was arranged by RGPPL. RGPPL's commitment to supply this power was fulfilled on 3rd July, 2006.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since prevalent Naphtha prices are very high, the Government of India have given exemption from payment of customs duty for the import of Naphtha for use by this plant in the interim period till gas supplies become available, so as to reduce its cost of generation on Naphtha and make it acceptable to MSEDCL.

Water Scarcity in Metro Cities

688. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is water scarcity in the country particularly in metro cities;

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

(c) whether any study has been conducted to identify the factors leading to water scarcity;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure availability of sufficient water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources has furnished data regarding water demand and water availability for present and future in respect of 35 metro cities. Details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) This Ministry had sponsored a study on status of water supply, sanitation and solid waste management by National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). Details regarding per capita availability of drinking water in metro cities based on NIUA report for 22 metros and information furnished by the State Governments are given in Statement-II enclosed. Due to consecutive failure of monsoon, availability of water during summer period is reduced in some cities/towns.

(e) This Ministry has recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with a view to ensuring the development of 63 identified cities/towns with focused attention to integrated development on infrastructural services and adequate investment of funds on major infrastructure projects including water supply projects. The cities/towns not covered by JNNURM are eligible for assistance under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

In order to promote rain water harvesting measures, Model Building Bye-laws for sanction of building plans incorporating mandatory provision for rain water harvesting in all new buildings on plots of 100 sqm and above have been circulated to the State Governments.

Statement I

Statement showing Water demand, Water availability, present and future source of Water extracted from the Status reports in Water Resources Requirements and its availability in Urban Areas prepared by the Regional Committees

(Based on data furnished by the Department concerned of the Respective State Government)

Sl.No.	Urban Agglomeration	Water Demand		Water Availability/Supply		Present source of water supply	Resources to meet future demand
		2001	2021	2001	2021		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ludhiana (Punjab)	242 (MLD) (Domestic) + 125 (MLD) (Industrial)	580 (MLD) (Domestic) + 160 (MLD) (Industrial)	375 MLD	There will be no shortfall in future	Under Ground Water through tube wells. Industry is making its own arrangement	50% through canals (Sidhwan canal) and 50% by tube wells. Assumed that industry will make its own arrangement
2.	Amritsar (Punjab)	175 (MLD) (Domestic) + 42.11 (MLD) (Industrial)	267 (MLD) (Domestic) + 52.64 (MLD) (Industrial)	232.56 MLD	There will be no shortfall in future	Under Ground Water through tube wells. Industry is making its own arrangement	50% through canals (UBDC system) and 50% by tube wells. Assumed that industry will make its own arrangement
3.	Faridabad (Haryana)	89.5 (MGD) (406 MLD) including 29.5 MGD (133 MLD) for Industrial the balance for other uses	160.77 MGD (730 MLD) including 41.8 MGD (189 MLD) for Industrial and the balance for other uses	40 MGD (182 MLD) Present shortfall is 49.5 MGD (225 MLD)	Project water supply demand will be met by canal system. Tube wells and Ranney wells.	Through tube wells	By canal water (Mewat canal) and ground water.
4.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	255 (MLD) (Domestic) + 80 (MLD) (Industrial)	482 (MLD) (Domestic) + 80 (MLD) (Industrial)	Total supply is 265 MLD Shortage is 70 MLD	From identified sources is 630 MLD	Kolar river, Upper Lake, Tube wells and Dug wells	Kolar river, Upper Lake, Ground water Narmada river
5.	Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	318.20 (MLD) (Domestic) No Major Industry	671 (MLD) (Domestic) No mention of Industry	Total supply is 183.5 MLD Shortage is 134.70 MLD	Extra requirement works out to 487.5 MLD, which has to be met by constructing project on Narmada river	Narmada river Yashwant sagar reservoir and Ground water	Additional water supply project on Narmada river. A major project on Narmada river is also required

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	214.312 (MLD) (Domestic) + 25 (MLD) (Industrial)	327 (MLD) (Domestic) + 25 (MLD) (Industrial) which is only the present demand	Total supply is 145 MLD. Shortage is 94.51 MLD.	The assessed requirements for 2021 will be met from identified sources.	Khandari Dam and Gour river. Pariat Dem and Phaguwa Ghat Narmada river & Ground Water	A location for intake on Narmada river near Tilwara Ghat has been identified to meet additional requirement of water and Ground water.
7.	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	956 (MLD) (201 MGD)	1817 (MLD) (400 MGD)	Total supply is 770 MLD (170 MGD). Deficit is 186 MLD (40 MGD).	From identified sources is 2000 MLD (440 MGD).	Omansagar, Himayatsagar, Manjira Phase-I & II and Manjira Phase-III & IV. Ground water through bore wells.	To meet the future water demand, the proposal prepared by HMWSSB envisages drawing raw water from foreshore of Nagarjunasagar in three phases
8.	Visakha- patnam (Andhra Pradesh)	314 (MLD) (89 MGD) + 264 MLD (58 MGD) industrial requirement	521 (MLD) (115 MGD) + 592 MLD (130 MGD) industrial requirement	For VMC area total supply is 168 MLD (37 MGD). Deficit is 148 MLD (32 MGD).	For VMC area total supply is of the order of 168 MLD (37 MGD). Deficit will be 353 MLD (78 MGD).	Mudasaralova, Yeleru, Raiwada, Meghadrigedda, Thatipudi Reservoir Scheme and Gosthani river	To increase the present draws from Yeleru Left main canal and Thatipudi Reservoir. Drawing water from Jhanjavathi reservoir and additional Water from Godavari river.
9.	Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)	150 (MLD) (33 MGD)	270 (MLD) (80 MGD)	Total supply is 155 MLD (34 MGD).	From identified sources is 270 MLD (80 MGD).	From Krishna River (Surface source) and Ground Water (including infiltration galleries in Krishna River Basin)	From Krishna River (Surface source) and Ground Water (including infiltration galleries in Krishna River Basin)
10.	Bangalore (Karnataka)	1176 MLD LDR) 1680 MLD HDR)	2232 MLD (HGR& LDR) 1910 MLD (LGR&LDR) 3189 MLD (HGR&HDR) 2729 MLD (LGR&HDR)	705.5 MLD	2575 MLD	1. Arkavathy 2. Cauvery (i) Stage-I (ii) Stage-II (iii) Stage-III	Cauvery Stage-IV (i) Phase-I (ii) Phase-II Cauvery Stage-V Sufficient to meet water demands up to 2025. To meet demands beyond 2025, BWSSB has to go for new resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Nagpur (Maharashtra)	361 MLD	600 MLD (for consumption rate of 155.25 lpcd) 670 MLD (for consumption rate of 172.50 lpcd)	430 MLD	2670 MLD	Gorewada Tank, Kanhan river and Pench Irrigation Project	Raheri Barrage on Kanhan river (350 MLD). Jamghat HE Project (1827 MLD). Additional Ground Water of 450 MLD.
12.	Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra)	3878 MLD to requirements per GMMC norms 2056 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	5081 MLD (total requirements per GMMC norms) 2741 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	2908 MLD (surface water) 60 MLD (ground water)	5293 MLD (surface water) 288 MLD (ground water)	Tulsi lake, Vehar Lake, Tansa da, Vaitama dam, Upper Vaitama dam, Bhatsa dam and ground water	Middle Vaitama, Gargai, Pinjal, Kalu project and ground water
13.	Nashik (Maharashtra)	199 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms) 179 MLD (12 per NMC with 135 lpcd)	345 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms)	Total water supply is 185 MLD including 7 MLD non domestic demand	325 MLD from surface sources and 16 MLD from ground water sources	Gangapur dam and Dama dam	Gangapur dam and Dama dam and also with construction of Gautami and Kashyai dams.
14.	Pune (Maharashtra)	635 MLD (total requirement as per PMC) 468 MLD (domestic requirement as per CPHEEO norms)	777 MLD (as per CPHEEO norms)	At present 750 MLD water is supplied to the PMC area.	692.20 MLD from Khadakwasla project and an additional 29.64 mld from ground water.	Khadakwasla Project and Temghar dam	PMC required to identify new sources since sanction to draw water from Khadakwasla project is valid up to 2002.
15.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	2258.4 MLD	3124 MLD	3207.7 MLD	Future requirement can be met from surface and ground water sources.	River Hoogly is the only source of surface water for KUA. Water Treatment Plants are functioning for water supply. ground water is also used through deep tube wells and hand tube wells.	Future demand has been proposed to be met by installation of new plants as well as increasing the capacity of the existing treatment Plants e.g. Garden Reach Water Works and Palta Water Works.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Asansol (West Bengal)	136.35 MLD	206 MLD	165 MLD	Shortfall in future supply is projected as 14 MLD	Damodar, Ajay and Barakar river.	Completion of RCFA Part III water supply Scheme. Tapping of ground water resources etc.
17.	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	588.50 MLD	1226.50 MLD	310 MLD	1600 MLD	Ganga river, canal and tube wells.	Ganga Barrage, Kanpur
18.	Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	270.97	425.79 MLD	Figure not indicated report	345 cusecs from Gokul barrage and Agra barrage.	Yamuna river and tube wells.	Gokul barrage and proposed Agra barrage.
19.	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	431 MLD	776 MLD	410 MLD	Future requirement will be met from Sharda Sahayak Canal System.	Gomti river and tube wells.	3rd and 4th water works of Sharda Sahayak Canal System.
20.	Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)	210 MLD	330 MLD	235 MLD	Future requirement will be met from construction of second water works.	Ganga river and tube wells.	
21.	Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	180 MLD	300 MLD	140 MLD	Future requirement will be met from construction of second water works.	Yamuna river and tube wells	Second water works have been proposed to meet future requirement.
22.	Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)	267.37 MLD	400.20 MLD	267.37 MLD	Figure not indicated in report	Tube wells	
23.	Patna (Bihar)	Figure not indicated in report	628 MLD (6.28 lakh K litres/day)	135 MLD (1.35 lakh K litres/day) and 60000-80000 KL/day.	The future needs for year 2021 and beyond can be met from Ground water	72 Nos. of high yielding tube wells.	Ground water is available in abundance and the future needs for year 2021 and beyond can be met.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)	Figure not indicated in report	601 MLD (8.01 lakh K litree/day)	Present requirement is met from surface water source.	Future availability from surface water sources only.	Dimna Lake, Sitarampur lake and by pumping from ponding across Subemarekha created by low height weir near mango bridge.	Chandil dam across Subemarekha and Icha dam across Kharkai river.
25.	Dhanbad (Jharkhand)	Figure not indicated in report	653 MLD (8.53 lakh K litree/day)	Present requirement is met from surface water source.	Future availability from surface water resources only.	Small ponding at Jamadaba on river Damodar	Bokaro Barrage and Konar dam.
26.	Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	809 MLD	1230 MLD	299 MLD	Future availability from surface water, ground water and seawater sources.	Poondi, Cholavaram and Red Hills reservoirs system and ground water.	Gap may be bridged through Krishna Water Supply Project. Balance need to be met from other sources.
27.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	249.441 MLD	437.858 MLD	153.284 MLD Gap of 96.157 MLD	276.254 MLD Gap of 181.604 MLD	Siruvani River Source Pittur Water Supply Scheme	Pittur River Scheme-II, Koundampalayam and Vadavalli Town panchayat from Bhavani river near Nellithurai and Aiyar river scheme.
28.	Madurai (Tamil Nadu)	215.04 MLD	264.53 MLD	115 MLD present gap of 99.96 MLD	Future availability expected to increase from proposed water supply schemes.	Surface water through Vaigai water supply scheme. Sub- surface water from 6 pickup wells. Melakkal, Thaicampathu, Kochadai Collector well Kochadai Manaloor and Thirupuvanam.	Kallar River Supply Scheme. Cauvery River Rejuvenation of Tanks and supply Channel in and around Madurai Corporation and proposal for bringing additional water directly from Vaigai dam instead of drawing from riverbeds.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Kochi (Kerala)	274.2 MLD	358.7 MLD	250 MLD	By implementing various schemes the availability will be nearly equal to demand	Kochi water supply schemes and seven other water supply schemes	Apart from the present sources, two augmentation schemes and four new water supply schemes.
30.	Rajkot (Gujarat)	135 (Domestic demand) 162 MLD (Total demand)	315 MLD	94 MLD Short Fall is 69 MLD	94 MLD Short Fall is 221 MLD	Aji-I Water Supply Scheme, Nyari-I Water Supply Scheme, Bhadar Water Supply Scheme, Nyari-II Water Supply Scheme, Drinking water from Mahi canal	It is proposed to raise the capacity of Nyari-I Dam by rising earthen dam and widening of water weir. Extension of distribution network is also proposed.
31.	Surat (Gujarat)	573 MLD	1440 MLD	Installed capacity (Surface+ Ground) is 673 MLD Average water supplied is 540 MLD	24x7 supply is envisaged in the year 2021 in Water Supply Master Plan.	River Tapi is the major source of water. The Water Works are Varachha, Sarthana, Katargam and Rander.	Rain water recharging and harvesting plan, modernization of existing infrastructure, private sector participation etc.
32.	Vadodara (Gujarat)	275.90 MLD	460 MLD	275.85 MLD At present there is no shortfall	275.85 MLD Future shortfall of 184 MLD has been projected	Shri Sayaji Sarovar. French wells in Mahi river Fazalpur, Poicha, Raik, Doka. Tube Wells	Vadodara Municipal Corporation two prepared two master plan. Source Augmentation on Narmada River basis and Upgradation of distribution system.
33.	Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Figure not indicated in report	279 MGD (1266 MLD)	Average daily water supply is 529.786 MLD	Future supply estimated to be 334 MGD (1516 MLD)	Filter plant at DDW, French well, Raska project, Intake well-I, Bore wells.	Filter plant at DDW, French well, Raska project, Intake well-I, Intake well-II and Bore wells.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Delhi (Delhi)	(a) 893 MCM* (2445 MLD) (b) 1326.56 MCM** (3832 MLD)	(a) 1574 MCM (4310 MLD) (b) 2288 MCM (6265 MLD)	1231.04 MCM/year (3369 MLD)	4017.28 MCM/Year (11000 MLD)	River Yamuna, River Ganga, Bhakra Storage and ground water	Apart from the present sources water is also proposed to be made available from the proposed Tehri Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar-Vyasi dams
35.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)	361.1 MLD (BIS norms) 349 MLD (CPHEEO norms)	796.5 MLD 885 MLD	Present water supply is not the order of 313 MLD.	Availability is expected to increase from proposed surface water sources	Tube wells, Ramgarh Lake & TW outside urban areas, Hand pumps, Cavity wells.	From existing Bisalpur dam and from proposed Isardah dam.

(a) * As per CPHEEO norms @ 172 LPCD

(b) ** As per DJB proposal @ 274 lpcd

Note: This statement is based on the data/information furnished by the concerned Department of the State Governments to the Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India.

Statement II

**Metropolitan Cities/Urban Agglomerations
(As per 2001 Census)**

Sl.No.	Metropolitan cities/ Urban Agglomeration	Per capita Water Supply (lpcd) as of Nov. 2003/NIUA 1999 (Pub. 2005)	1	2	3
10.	Kanpur	124*			
11.	Jaipur	170*			
12.	Lucknow	164*			
13.	Nagapur	176*			
14.	Patna	107			
15.	Indore	149*			
16.	Vadodara	169*			
17.	Bhopal	180*			
18.	Coimbatore	108*			
19.	Ludhiana	117*			
20.	Kochi	124*			
21.	Visakhapatnam	131*			
22.	Agra	134*			
23.	Varanasi	191*			
24.	Madurai	88*			
1.	Greater Mumbai	268*			
2.	Kolkata	173*			
3.	Delhi	218*			
4.	Chennai	106*			
5.	Bangalore	141*			
6.	Hyderabad	164*			
7.	Ahmedabad	139*			
8.	Pune	283*			
9.	Surat	139*			

1	2	3
25.	Meerut	185
26.	Nashik	140
27.	Jabalpur	95
28.	Jamshedpur	90
29.	Asansol	120
30.	Dhanbad	70
31.	Faridabad	120
32.	Allahabad	111
33.	Amritsar	135
34.	Vijayawada	137
35.	Rajkot	88

*As per NIUA Report 1999 (published 2005)

Implementation of Mega Power Projects

689. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mega Power Projects being set up in different States with generation capacity of each;

(b) the financing mechanism to fund each of the Mega Power Projects;

(c) the nature of problem and hurdles coming in the way of speedy implementation of each of the projects and steps taken to remove the bottlenecks;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate implementation authority with powers to execute these projects in a time bound manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Details of power projects have been certified as 'mega power projects' are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Mega power projects are normally financed with a debt equity ratio of 70:30. While the equity component is met by the developer, the debt component is funded from the financial institutions.

(c) Environmental clearance and/or fuel linkages are the major bottlenecks that have come in the way of speedy implementation of the mega power projects and the same have been facilitated through Inter-Ministerial co-ordination meetings.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Statement

List of Mega Projects

Name of the project	Capacity	State
1	2	3
Details of projects of NTPC		
Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project	3 x 500 = 1500 MW	Bihar
Talcher Super Thermal Power Project	4 x 500 = 2000 MW	Orissa
Rihand Super Thermal Power Project*	2 x 500 = 1000 MW	Uttar Pradesh
Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project	2 x 500 = 1000 MW	Madhya Pradesh
Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-I)	3 x 660 = 1980 MW	Chhattisgarh

1	2	3
Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (Stage-II)	2 x 500 = 1000 MW	Chhattisgarh
Barh Super Thermal Power Project	3 x 660 = 1980 MW	Bihar
Koldam Hydro Power Project	4 x 200 = 800 MW	Himachal Pradesh
Loharinaga Pala HEP	4 x 150 = 600 MW	Uttaranchal
Jhanor Gandhar CCPP-II	1300	Distt. Bharuch, Gujarat
Kawas CCPP-II	1300	Dist. Surat, Gujarat
North Karanpura STPP	2000	Jharkhand
Details of projects of NHPC		
Teesta-V	3 x 170 = 510 MW	Sikkim
Parbati-II	4 x 200 = 800 MW	Himachal Pradesh
Parbati-III	520 MW	Himachal Pradesh
Subansiri lower	8 x 250 = 2000 MW	Arunachal Pradesh
Details of NEEPCO projects		
Kameng HEP	4 x 150 = 600 MW	Arunachal Pradesh
Details of project of DVC (Joint Venture)		
Maithon TPP	1000 MW	Jharkhand
Details of State Sector Projects		
Purulia Pump Storage Hydel Project	900 MW	West Bengal
Details of Private Sector Power Projects		
Raigarh TPP	4 x 250 = 1000 MW	Chhattisgarh
Akhakhhol GBPP	3 x 376 = 1128 MW	Gujarat

*Completed

[Translation]

Achievement in Science and Technology

690. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to publicise their achievements in the field of science and technology through television and films;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Geographic International has been entrusted with the aforesaid responsibility by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not entrusting the said responsibility to the domestic channels and the film producers?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Accredited science film makers have been selected to produce short films to publicise achievements in the field of science and technology. These are being telecast through television on domestic channels.

(c) and (d) The National Geographical channel has been selected for one campaign to highlight accomplishments of Indian Science and Technology. 15 short films and one long film of 45 minutes duration will be telecast as part of this campaign. The channel is run by the National Geographic Society which is the world's largest non-profit science and educational organization with a mission to disseminate scientific knowledge. This platform will position India's strengths in Science and Technology on the world stage. Several other campaigns by the Ministry are telecast on Doordarshan and its network of regional stations.

[English]

Schemes for Cities

691. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make Indian Cities more livable and people friendly under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

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

(c) the criteria laid down for selection of the cities under the said scheme; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the said scheme, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has, launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 to provide reforms linked central assistance for development of infrastructure like water supply sewerage, transport, roads and storm water drainage in select cities to make Indian Cities more livable and people friendly. List of 63 cities covered under JNNURM is enclosed as a Statement. Besides, this Ministry has also launched another scheme, namely, urban infrastructure development scheme for small & medium towns (UIDSSMT) for providing better infrastructural amenities in cities not covered by JNNURM. Both the schemes together are expected to improve the living conditions in Indian cities.

(c) Criteria laid down for selection of cities are mentioned below:

A	Cities/Urban Agglomerations with 4 million plus population as per 2001 census.	—	07
B	Cities/urban Agglomerations with 1 million plus but less than 4 million population as per 2001 Census.	—	28
C	Selected Cities/Urban Agglomerations (State Capitals and other cities/Urban Agglomerations with less than One million population of religious/historic and tourist importance.	—	26

(d) Central assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore has been earmarked for JNNURM for the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06. Funds have not been earmarked city-wise under JNNURM.

Statement

List of Identified Cities

(in lakh)

S.No.	City	Name of the State	Population
1	2	3	4
(a) Mega Cities			
1.	Delhi	Delhi	128.77
2.	Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra	164.34

1	2	3	4
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)	Million-plus Cities		
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
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

1	2	3	4
26.	Rajkot	Gujarat	10.03
27.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	10.65
28.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	16.40
(c)	Identified cities 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
10.	Shillong	Meghalaya	2.68
11.	Aizawal	Mizoram	2.28
12.	Kohima	Nagaland	0.77
13.	Bhubaneswar	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.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	3.23
27.	Hardwar	Uttaranchal	2.21
28.	Nanded	Maharashtra	4.31

Tsunami Relief

692. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tsunami hit States have received relief assistance by way of loan from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Agricultural Development Wing of International Monetary Fund;

(b) if so, the details with the terms and conditions thereof, State-wise and agencies-wise;

(c) the details of the State Governments that have submitted accounts to the Union Government for the Tsunami relief they received;

(d) whether Tamil Nadu has submitted its accounts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Tsunami hit states have received assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank. However, no assistance from International Monetary Fund has been received for this purpose.

(b) The details with terms and conditions, state-wise and agency-wise is annexed.

(c) to (e) Accounts are submitted to the Union Government by the State Governments including Tamil Nadu regularly for reimbursement of claims. The utilization of assistance is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement***Tsunami Relief—Loan Assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank***

Sl.No.	Agency	Project Name	State	Commitment Amount (in US \$ million)	Terms and Conditions	Utilization upto March 2006 (in US\$ Million)
1.	World Bank	Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	Tamil Nadu	423	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDA credit with 35 yrs repayment period, including 10 yrs. grace period • No interest, only service charge of 0.75% is levied • Commitment charge of 0.30% is levied 	47.63
			Pondicherry	42		4.00
2.	Asian Development Bank	Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project	Tamil Nadu	67.55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary Capital Resources loan with 32 year repayment period, including grace period of 8 years • Interest rate is LIBOR based+60 basis point • Commitment charge of 0.75% is levied 	0.45
			Kerala	32.45		

*[Translation]***Pending Proposals under Swajaldhara**

693. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from various States particularly Gujarat under Swajaldhara Yojana during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations for which they are meant, State-wise;

(c) the proposals out of them sanctioned so far indicating those still waiting clearance, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for pendency of such proposals; and

(e) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) As per the Swajaldhara guidelines, State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, execute and implement Swajaldhara projects. Such proposals are not approved by the Centre. Funds under Swajaldhara and allocated to the States every year as per the inter-state Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States then make district-wise allocations and consider specific proposals at District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines. Details of proposals sanctioned under the scheme by DWSC/SWSM are not maintained at the Central level.

The details of funds allocated and released by Government of India for Gujarat State under Swajaldhara during last three years and current year so far are as under:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Central Allocation	Release
2003-04	765.56	765.56
2004-05	826.42	826.42
2004-05 (Additional)	1173.67	880.25
2005-06	1629.73	1222.30
2005-06 (Additional)	543.21	407.41
2006-07	1838.00	1378.50

*[English]***ATF Under Declared Goods Category**

694. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shift Aviation Turbine Fuel to the 'declared goods' category;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also received any suggestion from the Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) sold to turbo-prop aircrafts was included in the list of Declared Goods under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 during the year 2001 with the objective of improving the financial viability of operation of such small aircrafts in the North Eastern and other remote areas of the country. Barring this, there is no proposal, at present, to include ATF in the list of Declared Goods. Further, it is added here that a proposal was earlier received from the Ministry of Civil Aviation to include the entire category of ATF in the list of Declared Goods. The proposal was examined and was not accepted in view of opposition from the States, since it would have resulted in substantial revenue losses to them.

*[Translation]***Illegal Bank Loan**

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

(a) whether fresh amount of loan has been sanctioned to the farmers and other customers by the various banks of the country, especially State Bank of India and its ancilliary Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank inspite of the fact that previous loans (Non-Performing Assets) are already outstanding against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the officers of Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank for sanctioning illegal loans against whom NPA is already pending;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per prudent banking practices, fresh loans are not generally sanctioned to the borrowers whose loan accounts are classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). However, fresh loans have been granted by banks in accordance with the guidelines issued by NABARD for "Debt Relief to Farmers" and Reserve Bank of India guidelines for "Relief Measures by banks in areas affected by Natural Calamities".

(c) No action has been taken against any officer of Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank for sanctioning of fresh loans against NPA, as these loans were sanctioned as per RBI/NABARD guidelines.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Allotment of Shops

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

(a) whether large number of shops/commercial flats of Directorate of Estates/NDMC/DDA are lying unallotted/vacant for long period;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to allot these shops/commercial flats immediately?

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.

Power Generation through Urban Waste

697. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new technology for generation of electricity from rotten fruits, vegetables and urban waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any financial assistance for the same;

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

(e) the steps taken by the government to utilise the technology successfully in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Projects based on the technologies of biomethanation and combustion of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) have been set up for energy recovery from different urban wastes. Projects based on RDF route have been set up at Hyderabad and Vijayawada. Projects based on biomethanation have been successfully set up at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh for vegetable market wastes; at Ludhiana, Punjab for cattle dung; and, at Medak, Andhra Pradesh for slaughterhouse waste.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing an Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban Wastes. The Programme provides for financial assistance in the form of capital subsidy ranging from Rs. 1.50 crore to Rs. 3.00 crore per Mega Watt with an upper limit of Rs. 8.00 crore per project. The amount of subsidy depends upon the type of waste and the technology deployed and is subject to eligibility and other terms and conditions. The Programme is open to all States and Union Territories.

(e) All the Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies and State Nodal Agencies have been requested to develop proposals for setting up projects for energy recovery from urban wastes. Besides, a number of workshops and seminars are being organized for creation of awareness and dissemination of information.

[Translation]

Master Plan for Delhi

698. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy for farm houses in the Master Plan of Delhi, 2021 in view of the expansion of urban areas in the ensuing years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is being considered to bring a major part of the green belts of Delhi and the farm houses constructed therein under the purview of urbanisation till 2021; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that keeping in view land constraints in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD), Draft Master Plan for Delhi, 2021 proposes urban extension in certain areas that are earmarked in MPD-2001 for rural/agricultural purposes, but are under development pressure or have development potential such as areas along the major transport corridors and fringes of already urbanized areas.

(c) Draft MPD-2021 stipulates that land upto the depth of one peripheral revenue village boundary along the border of NCTD would be maintained as green belt. New farm houses and motels shall not be permitted in NCTD but the existing sanctioned ones may be continued till the area is declared for urbanisation.

(d) The objections/suggestions received in response to the Draft MPD 2021, published in newspapers on 8.4.2005 have been placed before a Board of Enquiry & Hearing constituted for the purpose for recommending of further necessary action as per the provisions of the Delhi Development Act.

Revenue Earned by States

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

(a) the State-wise details of the revenue earned directly and indirectly as on date during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise funds allocated by the Union Government during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The break-up of the revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the States during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed as Statement-I.

The information in respect of revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the States during the year 2005-06 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, State-wise figures are not maintained separately.

(b) The release of share to States during the last three years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is annexed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Revenue Collected on Account of Direct Taxes from the States and Union Territories during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	States	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3846.36	4830.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.58	8.40
3.	Assam	1205.64	1390.18
4.	Bihar	340.16	429.69
5.	Jharkhand	602.28	1124.77
6.	Goa	355.74	793.09
7.	Gujarat	3779.11	4969.89
8.	Haryana	1128.02	1651.32
9.	Himachal Pradesh	196.21	251.70
10.	Jammu Kashmir	345.50	208.60
11.	Karnataka	7334.73	10466.92
12.	Kerala	1739.48	1739.73
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1822.63	1844.73
14.	Chhattisgarh	898.69	1444.91
15.	Maharashtra	40582.59	48900.40
16.	Manipur	8.45	5.18
17.	Meghalaya	18.44	59.88
18.	Mizoram	0.22	0.4
19.	Nagaland	11.42	6.67
20.	Delhi	16171.95	20232.15

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
21.	Orissa	1399.38	2199.63		Union Territories		
22.	Punjab	1483.25	1700.24	1.	Andaman & Nicobar	6.96	6.04
23.	Rajasthan	1398.39	1652.81	2.	Chandigarh	401.04	518.91
24.	Sikkim	7.09	6.89	3.	Daman	12.63	10.30
25.	Tamil Nadu	6333.54	8296.77	4.	Diu	0.15	0.05
26.	Tripura	27.86	40.33	5.	Dadar Nagar & Haveli	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2186.21	2839.71	6.	Pondicherry	42.46	64.07
28.	Uttaranchal	5583.97	7725.40	7.	Lakshadweep	0.02	0.08
29.	West Bengal	4729.32	5716.34	8.	Silvassa	9.13	0.31

Statement II

Statement showing the releases of States' Share of Union Taxes and Duties made to the State Governments during the last three years 2003-04 to 2005-06

(In crore of Rupees)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5068.52	6058.42	6950.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	160.80	191.95	272.15
3.	Assam	2162.07	2584.33	3056.78
4.	Bihar	7627.47	9117.13	10420.59
5.	Chhattisgarh	1569.72	1676.28	2507.82
6.	Goa	135.59	162.07	244.70
7.	Gujarat	1856.69	2219.30	3372.43
8.	Haryana	621.31	742.62	1015.77
9.	Himachal Pradesh	449.54	537.32	493.26
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	817.05	961.00	1135.26
11.	Jharkhand	1979.73	2366.40	3175.89
12.	Karnataka	3244.73	3678.44	4213.42
13.	Kerala	2012.00	2404.95	2518.20

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4247.14	5076.63	6341.35
15.	Maharashtra	3048.64	3644.02	4721.81
16.	Manipur	240.80	287.96	342.09
17.	Meghalaya	225.08	269.04	350.57
18.	Mizoram	130.33	155.78	225.83
19.	Nagaland	144.80	173.08	248.50
20.	Orissa	3327.68	3977.56	4876.75
21.	Punjab	754.91	902.35	1227.45
22.	Rajasthan	3602.14	4305.61	5300.08
23.	Sikkim	121.08	144.73	214.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	3544.20	4236.39	5012.75
25.	Tripura	320.52	383.10	404.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12595.30	15055.20	18202.93
27.	Uttaranchal	435.03	519.97	887.32
28.	West Bengal	5341.65	6384.89	6668.33
	Total	65784.41	78616.52	94401.77

Performance of Oriental Insurance Company

700. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in collections of premium of Oriental Insurance Company Limited during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a decrease in gross growth rate and net growth rate of the company during the said period;

(d) if not, the details of the gross growth rate and net growth rate;

(e) whether the company incurred losses in health and vehicle insurance sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gross direct premium of the Company (Indian and foreign) has gone up from Rs. 3090.55 crores in the year 2004-05 to Rs. 3609.77 crore in the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The gross direct premium and net premium of the company for the year 2005-06 has increased by 16.80% and 12.73% respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The details of underwriting losses in Health Insurance and Vehicle (Motor) Insurance are given below:

Year	Health Insurance	Vehicle (Motor) Insurance
2004-05	125.36 crore	571.32 crore
2005-06	196.08 crore	396.63 crore

Policy for Bungalows in Lutyens Zone

701. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to formulate a policy for bungalows situated in Lutyens Zone of Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the same will be taken into action;

(c) whether large scale illegal constructions have taken place in the bungalows situated in Lutyens Zone; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Guidelines in respect of Lutyens Bungalow Zone, including bungalows situated therein were issued by Government on 8.2.1988. Further guidelines were issued on 18th April, 2006 for fixing the norms for Type-VII and Type-VIII bungalows in respect of permissible area for main bungalow, office space, staff quarters, garages and security requirements.

(c) and (d) Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has conducted a survey of 514 bungalows (of Type-VI and above). The construction made by occupants in 49 bungalows has been found to be in excess of plinth area norms prescribed in guidelines of 18.4.2006.

CPWD has also undertaken an exercise to identify construction that does not meet the requirement of structural safety and aesthetics. It has been decided that before re-allotment of a bungalow or house after it falls vacant, CPWD shall remove unauthorised construction.

[English]

Modernization of Vijayawada Thermal Power Project

702. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijayawada Thermal Units 1 and 2 in Andhra Pradesh have been identified for modernization during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the estimated cost, present power generation capacity, expected addition in power after modernization of these units;

(c) whether the Government proposes to complete it at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of the estimated cost, present power generation capacity, expected addition in power after modernization of these units are as under:

Estimated cost of R&M of Unit No. 1&2	Rs. 234.63 Crore.
Present power generation capacity	Rated capacity is 210 MW each, which was restricted to 180 MW before R&M
Expected addition in power after modernization of Units	Restoration of rated capacity of each of these units to 210 MW.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Major R&M works on Unit-I have been completed during 2004-05, balance R&M works on Unit-I and major R&M works on Unit-II are expected to be completed by 31.03.2007 i.e. by the end of 10th Plan period.

[Translation]

Sonia Vihar Water Project

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

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sonia Vihar Water Project is functioning as per its installed capacity;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total capacity being utilised at present; and

(d) the original installed capacity of the above mentioned plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Delhi Jal Board has informed that flushing of Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant and testing of equipments have been taken up.

(d) Installed capacity of the plant is 140 million gallons per day (mgd).

Houses for Weaker Sections

704. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether the Government has issued any directions to State Governments to reserve 20-25 per cent of land in metro cities for accommodation of people belonging to economically weaker sections so that houses may be constructed on this reserved land for them;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, under the sub-mission 'Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP)' under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission launched on 3.12.2005, it has been provided under the optional reforms, to be carried out by the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies, that at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both Public and Private Agencies) be earmarked for Economically Weaker Section/Low Income Group category with a system of cross subsidization.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans to Agricultural Labourers

705. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural labourers are being provided bank loans;

(b) if so, the amount of bank loan provided to agricultural labourers during the year 2005; and

(c) the number of agricultural labourers benefited by the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Agricultural Labourers are being provided loans by banks for allied activities such as dairy, poultry, sheep/goat rearing and non farm sector activities. It is estimated that 3.3 crore poor families (majority of them are agricultural labourers/landless families) have directly availed the benefits of formal banking system including credit facilities through Self Help Groups (SHGs) Bank Linkage Programme. Banks have extended credit amounting to about Rs. 11,397 crore to about 22.38 lakh SHGs cumulatively as on 31st March, 2006. During the financial year 2005-06, 620069 new SHGs and 344502 existing SHGs had availed bank loans to the tune of Rs. 4499 crore from the banking system.

Besides, Swarozgar Credit Card is extended to agricultural labourers to enable them to take up economic activities under rural non farm sector. Further, bank credit amounting to Rs. 190.84 crore was provided by banks to share croppers and tenant farmers for purchase of land for agricultural purposes during 2005-06.

The lending to weaker sections (within the priority sector) show figures of loans granted to small and marginal farmers including agricultural labourers. No separate data is captured in respect of loans to agricultural labourers.

(English)

Rural Electrification

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate an energy policy to boost rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan proposed to speed up rural electrification in the country, particularly in Bihar and U.P.; and

(d) the time frame within which all the villages in these States are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of sections 4 and 5 of the Electricity Act 2003, Central Government is required to formulate national policies for stand alone systems for rural areas, rural electrification and for bulk purchase of power and management of local distribution in rural areas through local institutions.

Draft rural Electrification Policy aims at:

- Provision of access to electricity to households by year 2009.
- Quality and reliable power supply at reasonable rates.
- Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit per household per day as a merit good by year 2012.

(c) and (d) To speed up Rural Electrification in the country, the Government of India has introduced in April, 2005 a scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) for creation of Rural Electricity Infrastructure. It aims at providing access to electricity to all villages/habitations by 2009 except for remote settlements where grid connectivity is not feasible or cost effective. Under RGGVY 90% grant is provided for creation of rural electricity infrastructure. All the earlier rural electrification schemes have been merged with RGGVY. Main features of the scheme are as below:

- (i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone Component has been included in the rural electrification programme for the first time.
- (ii) Village electrification has been taken on a project mode basis. Projects have been taken on turnkey basis for effective implementation.
- (iii) To ensure revenue sustainability of the rural electricity distribution, franchisee installation for management of distribution has been mandatory under the scheme.
- (iv) States have been advised to set up District Committees to monitor the progress of rural electrification work.
- (v) Services of Central Public Sector Utilities viz. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

(NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation Limited (DVC) have been made available for implementing the scheme in those states which wish to avail their services.

- (vi) Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. (REC) is the nodal agency for implementation of RGGVY. It has developed a framework covering guidelines for formulation of projects, bidding procedures for procurement of goods and services for projects to be executed on turn key basis, franchising under RGGVY. REC has also updated its existing technical specifications for equipment/material and construction standards for adoption in project implementation/execution.
- (vii) A Monitoring Committee for RGGVY has been constituted under Chairmanship of Secretary (Power) to periodically review the implementation of RGGVY.

[Translation]

Corruption in New India Insurance Company

707. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption is rampant in the branches of the New India Insurance Company Limited operating in Northern Bihar, particularly in the Samastipur district branch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) There is no report of rampant corruption in branches of the company. A complaint was received in the year 1991 from Shri Ramsakal Rai, S/o Shiv Nandan Rai, Village Dadhpur, Chakanoor, Samastipur against the Officers of the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. alleging appointment of an impersonator as sub staff in the company. Charge sheets for major penalty have been issued to the involved officers.

(c) There is an established procedure with regard to disciplinary action against the erring officials and the company has taken appropriate action as per procedure. Further the Company has a well structured vigilance set up headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer in the rank of GM who ensures that the company follows Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines in word and spirit. Vigilance Officers of the Insurance Company undertake surprise inspection of the Division Offices/Branch offices for taking corrective/preventive actions.

[English]

Banks Under Moratorium

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

(a) whether the Union Government has placed some of the banks in the recent past under moratorium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of the depositors against misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of Reserve Bank of India, Government of India has issued an order of Moratorium on 8th July, 2006 in respect of The Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd. (GBKL) under Section 45 (2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for a period of three months w.e.f. 7th July, 2006 to 6th October, 2006.

(c) In order to protect the interests of the depositors against misuse of funds, RBI has taken various regulatory and supervisory steps such as prohibition of loan and advances to directors and their relatives, prohibition on loan to stock brokers against security of shares, imposition of direction under Banking Regulation Act, 1949 placing restrictions on payment of deposits to pre-empt preferential payments in case of liquidity crunch etc. Besides, an order of moratorium may prohibit bank from grant of loan and advances, incur any liability make any investment or agree to or disburse any amount, enter into any compromise or arrangement except as otherwise provided in that order.

Revival of Cauvery Hydro Power Project

709. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for the revival of Cauvery Hydro Power Project (CHPP);

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which the revival work is likely to be taken up and the expected time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) On the request of Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during January 2001, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) had been entrusted with the work of preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 4 Hydroelectric Projects (HEP) in the Cauvery Basin, viz. the Hogonekkal HEP (120 MW) and Rasimanal HEP (360 MW) in Tamil Nadu and Shivasamudram HEP (270 MW) and Mekadatu HEP (400 MW) in Karnataka.

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

Unauthorized Construction in States

710. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Government to form a Committee of Experts to examine the issue of unauthorised constructions in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have complied with the directions of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the unauthorized constructions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Urban Development constituted a Committee of Experts to look into various

aspects of unauthorized construction and misuse of premises in Delhi.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) Construction of buildings is regulated by Building bye-laws of cities/towns concerned and it is the responsibility of the Urban Local Bodies and Development authority as the case may be to monitor construction activities.

Service Tax

711. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has plans to impose service tax on postal services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the possible merits and demerits once service tax is imposed on postal services;

(d) whether any safeguards are contemplated against the possible demerits of such move;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision and revoke the order in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Basic mail services provided by the Department of Posts to meet the universal postal service obligation, also known as postal services, are not liable to service tax. Such services are provided exclusively by the Department of posts as per the Indian post office Act, 1898. Services in the nature of banking and other financial services defined under section 65 (12) of the Finance Act, 1994, such as money order services, provided by the Department of Posts, are also not liable to service tax. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to levy service tax on the above mentioned services.

(b) to (g) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Current Account Deficit

712. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economy has witnessed current account deficit or surplus during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such development; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to maintain growth and stability of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) During 2005-06, the economy witnessed a current account deficit.

(b) The current account deficit for 2005-06 is placed at U.S. Dollar 10,612 million.

(c) The current account deficit widened mainly due to the worsening of trade balance on Balance of Payments (BOP) basis. On BOP basis, in US dollar terms, while exports grew by 27.5 per cent, imports grew by 31.6 per cent, particularly on account of the impact of rise in international oil prices on oil imports. The growth in net invisibles could not fully offset the worsening trade balance.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to maintain growth of the economy include: emphasis on enhanced public investment, diversifying agriculture, promotion of public-private partnership for infrastructure development, liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), facilitating growth in industries and services sector through an enabling policy environment and achieving fiscal consolidation mandated by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalisation of excise and import duties of essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening of the public distribution system.

Standards for Tax Deduction

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

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to collect full tax from the employees of private sector who camouflage major portion of their salaries as various allowances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) With a view to prevent the widespread practice of providing perquisites camouflaged as reimbursements or other miscellaneous expenses to enable the employees to escape/reduce their tax liability, Fringe Benefit Tax has been introduced by Finance Act, 2005 as a surrogate tax on the employer. It is to be levied in respect of fringe benefits provided or deemed to have been provided by an employer to his employees during the previous year @ 30% on the value of such fringe benefits.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Lending of Shares

714. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India has a proposal to allow lending of shares without owning them as reported in the *Times of India*, dated July 8, 2006;

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

(c) the impact of this move on the stock market; and

(d) the benefits and defects likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has a proposal is to put in place a regulatory framework for short selling by institutional investors in cash market to provide a level playing field amongst retail and institutional investors and a full-fledged securities lending and borrowing (SLB) scheme to enable all classes of investors

to lend and borrow securities with adequate safeguards and disclosures.

(c) and (d) Short selling is expected to enhance the liquidity in the market and ensure fair valuation for securities in a rising market. Further, it is also believed to bridge the arbitrage between the cash and the derivatives market. A full-fledged and active securities lending and borrowing scheme is considered necessary to ensure a vibrant market for lending and borrowing of securities and also to enable all classes of investors who have sold short to borrow securities and fulfil their settlement obligations.

Private Participation In Power Generation

715. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the private participants in power generation have to commit long term power pricing for selling power whereas the prices of major inputs of gas and liquid fuel are unpredictable;

(b) the steps taken to promote private participation in augmenting the power generation capacity in the country;

(c) whether the new tariff policy has been found in discriminatory in nature by independent private power producers discouraging them to enter in the sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees on 19th, January, 2005. These guidelines provide that the energy charges payable during the operation of the contract shall be related on the base energy charges specified in the bid with suitable provision for escalation. In case the bidder provides firm energy charge rates for each of the years of the contract term, the same shall be permitted in the tariffs.

(b) Following steps have been taken in this regard:

- The Electricity Act, 2003 has delicensed generation. Captive power plants including group captive have been freely permitted.

- The Act provides for open access in transmission from the very beginning. It provides for phased introduction of open access in distribution by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). This has created an all India market for electricity.
- Initiative has been taken for facilitating development of ultra mega power projects of about 4000 MW each capacity under tariff based competitive bidding route. In order to enhance investor's confidence, reduce risk perception and get good response to competitive bidding, the initiative envisages creation of project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) which would tie up the necessary inputs and clearance such as provision of site, fuel through captive mining blocks and water.
- Guidelines for development of transmission projects through tariff based competitive bidding have been notified.
- Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 allows any person to generate and distribute electricity in any notified rural area without the requirement of a license.

(c) and (d) Inviting private participation through a transparent competitive bidding process has been a long standing policy of the Government. This step was taken in the interest of transparency as well as to encourage competition.

The Tariff Policy provides that all future requirement of power should be procured competitively by distribution licensees except in cases of expansion of existing projects or where there is a State controlled/owned company as an identified developer. The Policy further provides that even for the Public Sector projects, tariff of all new generation and transmission projects should be decided on the basis of competitive bidding after a period of five years.

Delivery of Credit

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to encourage flow of credit to medium industries and facilitate coordination between branches of commercial

banks and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the delivery of credit to small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial for the Small Scale Industries Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2005-06 has formulated a scheme to encourage banks to establish mechanisms for better co-ordination between their branches and branches of SIDBI which are located in clusters identified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for co-financing of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector (including tiny and services sector) on mutually agreeable operational modalities. As per latest information, 16 banks have signed MOUs with SIDBI. Further, as on 30th June 2006, 34 business proposals involving financial assistance of Rs. 123.16 crores by alliance banks have been approved under the scheme.

(d) These initiatives will help in improving credit flow to the Small Scale Industries Sector immensely.

[Translation]

Strengthening of Power Transmission System

717. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Rs. 722 crore to introduce a scheme to strengthen power transmission system in north India has been sanctioned recently and two projects of 89 Megawatt have also been sanctioned for Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of transmission system, Power Generation Capacity and power supply in the country State-wise, specially in Jharkhand; and

(d) the details of demand and supply of power along with the Power Generation Capacity in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme-V" has been approved by the Government on 9.6.2006. The scheme will be implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) at an estimated cost of Rs. 721.25 crore.

Government has also approved setting up of the Chutak Hydroelectric Project (44 MW) and the Nimoo Bazgo Hydroelectric Project (45 MW) in the Central Sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The estimated cost of the projects will be Rs. 621.26 crores and Rs. 611.01 crores, respectively. The schemes will be implemented by

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC).

(c) and (d) The details of transmission system capacity are given at in Statement-I enclosed. PGCIL is operating about 800 circuit kilometers of transmission lines and one sub-station at Jamshedpur with transformation capacity of 630 MVA in Jharkhand state.

The state-wise (including Jharkhand) details of power generation capacity are given in Statement-II enclosed. The state-wise (including Jharkhand) details of power supply position and peak demand met as on April, 2006 and June, 2006 are given at en Statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

Statement indicating details of transmission system capacity (ckm./MVA/MW) as on March, 2006

Transmission System Type/Voltage Class	Unit	As at the end of IX Plan i.e. March, 2002	Added during 2002-06 (four years)	Achieved as at the end of 2005-06 i.e. March, 2006
1	2	3	4	5
Transmission Lines				
(a) 765 KV	ckm	971	186	1157
(b) HVDC + 500 KV	cKm	3138	2738	5876
(c) 400 KV	ckm	49378	13773	63151
(d) 230/220 KV	cKm	96994	10593	107587
(e) HVDC 200 KV	cKm	162	0	162
Total of (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e)	cKm	150643	27290	177933
Substations				
(a) 765 KV	MVA	0	0	0
(b) 400 KV	MVA	60380	20540	80920
(c) 230/220 KV	MVA	116363	28758	145121
Total of (a) (b) & (c)		176743	49298	226041
HVDC				
(a) Bi-pole link capacity	MW	3000	2000	5000
(b) Back-to-back capacity	MW	2000	1000	3000
(c) Mono-polelink capacity	MW	200	0	200
Total of (a), (b) & (c)	MW	5200	3000	8200

Statement II**All India Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Stations Located in the Regions of Main Land and Islands as on 30.06.06**

State	Ownership Sector	Modewise breakup				Total Thermal	Nuclear	RES	Grand Total
		Hydro	Thermal						
			Coal	Gas	Diesel				
Northern Region	State	6583.88	10752.50	901.20	14.99	11868.89	0.00	452.88	18685.06
	Private	590.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	241.91	832.11
	Central	4108.00	6840.00	2311.99	0.00	9151.99	1180.00	0.00	14439.99
	Sub Total	11261.88	17592.50	3213.19	14.99	20820.68	1180.00	694.59	33957.15
Western Region	State	5420.83	14291.50	1390.72	17.28	15699.50	0.00	195.05	21315.38
	Private	480.50	2290.00	3138.00	0.20	5428.20	0.00	803.78	6792.48
	Central	1000.00	4360.00	1292.00	0.00	5652.00	1840.00	0.00	8492.00
	Sub Total	6881.33	20941.50	5820.72	17.48	26779.70	1840.00	1098.83	36599.86
Southern Region	State [§]	10912.28	7362.50	735.80	382.52	8480.82	0.00	1764.74	21137.82
	Private	55.45	510.00	2500.50	576.80	3587.30	0.00	2468.75	6111.50
	Central	0.00	8090.00	350.00	0.00	8440.00	880.00	0.00	9320.00
	Sub Total	10967.71	15962.50	3586.30	939.32	20488.12	880.00	4233.49	36569.32
Eastern Region	State	2292.53	5538.50	100.00	17.06	5655.58	0.00	104.55	8052.65
	Private	0.00	1441.38	0.00	0.14	1441.52	0.00	7.12	1448.64
	Central	204.00	6682.50	90.00	0.00	6772.50	0.00	0.00	6976.50
	Sub Total	2496.53	13862.38	190.00	17.20	13869.58	0.00	111.67	16477.78
North Eastern Region	State	253.07	330.00	372.00	142.74	844.74	0.00	45.26	1143.07
	Private	0.00	0.00	24.50	0.00	24.50	0.00	1.60	26.10
	Central	860.00	0.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	0.00	0.00	1235.00
	Sub Total	1113.07	330.00	771.50	142.74	1244.24	0.00	46.86	2404.17
Islands	State	5.25	0.00	0.00	50.02	50.02	0.00	5.25	60.52
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.17	20.17
	Central	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub Total	5.25	0.00	0.00	70.02	70.02	0.00	5.42	80.69
All India	State	25447.62	38275.00	3499.72	604.61	42379.33	0.00	2567.53	70394.48
	Private	1106.15	4241.38	5663.00	597.14	10501.52	0.00	3623.33	15231.00
	Central	6172.00	25972.50	4418.99	0.00	30391.49	3900.00	0.00	40463.49
	Total	32725.77	68488.88	13581.71	1201.75	83272.34	3900.00	6190.86	126088.97

Renewable Energy Source (RES) includes SHP, BG, BP, U&I, and Wind Energy

Abbreviation:—SHP=Small Hydro Project, BG=Biomass Gasifier, BP=Biomass Power, U&I=Urban & Industrial Water Power, RES=Renewable Energy Sources

Note: (i) The capacity of Renewable Energy Sources including Small hydro projects (SHP below 25 MW) is 7239.81 MW comprising of 1826.43 MW of SHP Capacity. The Hydro capacity has been reconciled with MNES list of SHP Capacity. The common capacity of 1048.95 MW has been considered under Hydro capacity thus capacity of SHP is shown 777.48 MW

(ii) Figures at second place of decimal may not tally due to rounding off by computer.

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the States/UTs Located in Northern Region Including Allocated Shares in Joint & Central Sector Utilities as on 30.06.2006

State	Ownership Sector	Modewise breakup					Total Thermal	Nuclear	RES	Grand Total
		Hydro	Thermal			Total Thermal				
			Coal	Gas	Diesel					
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Delhi	State	0.00	320.00	612.40	0.00	932.40	0.00	0.00	932.40	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07	
	Central	432.03	1898.98	204.30	0.00	2101.28	47.08	0.00	2580.39	
	Sub-Total	432.03	2216.98	816.70	0.00	3033.68	47.08	0.07	3512.86	
Haryana	State	946.84	1602.50	0.00	3.92	1806.42	0.00	0.30	2553.38	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.06	7.06	
	Central	382.80	364.02	532.04	0.00	896.06	76.16	7.36	1355.02	
	Sub-Total	1329.44	1966.52	532.04	3.92	2502.48	76.16	7.36	3915.44	
Himachal Pradesh	State	323.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00	49.08	372.21	
	Private	386.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	386.01	
	Central	733.24	89.32	60.89	0.00	150.21	14.08	0.00	857.53	
	Sub-Total	1442.24	89.32	60.89	0.13	150.34	14.08	49.09	1655.75	
Jammu & Kashmir	State	309.15	0.00	175.00	8.94	183.94	0.00	10.59	503.68	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.52	
	Central	571.76	183.68	127.09	0.00	310.77	68.00	0.00	950.53	
	Sub-total	880.91	183.68	302.09	7.94	494.71	68.00	11.11	1454.73	
Punjab	State	2470.52	2130.00	0.00	0.00	2130.00	0.00	115.25	4715.77	
	Private	4.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.70	33.90	
	Central	589.72	516.18	259.72	0.00	775.90	151.04	0.00	1516.66	
	Sub-Total	3064.44	2646.18	295.72	0.00	2905.90	151.04	144.95	6266.33	
Rajasthan	State	1006.84	2420.00	113.80	0.00	2533.80	0.00	233.29	3775.93	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.18	90.18	
	Central	351.56	548.38	217.74	0.00	766.12	469.00	0.00	1586.68	
	Sub-Total	1360.40	2968.38	331.54	0.00	3299.92	469.00	323.47	5452.79	
Uttar Pradesh	State	518.60	4280.00	0.00	0.00	4280.00	0.00	1140	4810.00	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114.37	114.37	
	Central	619.04	2308.84	541.16	0.00	2850.00	203.72	0.00	3672.76	
	Sub-Total	1137.64	6588.84	541.16	0.00	7130.00	203.72	125.77	8597.13	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttaranchal	State	986.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.77	1019.70
	Private	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
	Central	144.48	225.24	68.25	0.00	293.49	16.28	0.00	454.25
	Sub-Total	1331.41	225.24	68.25	0.00	293.49	16.28	32.77	1673.95
Chandigarh	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Central	39.19	25.04	15.07	0.00	40.11	4.84	0.00	84.14
	Sub-Total	39.19	25.04	15.07	2.00	42.11	4.84	0.00	86.14
	Central-Unallocated	244.18	682.32	285.73	0.00	968.05	129.80	0.00	1342.03
Total Northern Region	State	6563.68	10752.50	901.20	14.99	11668.69	0.00	452.68	18685.05
	Private	590.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	241.91	832.11
	Central	4108.00	6840.00	2311.99	0.00	9151.99	1180.00	0.00	14439.99
	Grand Total	11261.88	17592.50	3213.19	14.99	20820.68	1180.00	694.59	33957.15

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the States/UTs Located in Western Region Including Allocated Shares in Joint & Central Sector Utilities as on 30.06.2006

1	2	3	Modewise breakup			7	8	9	10		
			Hydro	Thermal						Total Thermal	Nuclear
				Coal	Gas						
State	Ownership Sector						RES	Grand Total			
Goa	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05		
	Private	0.00	0.00	48.00	0.00	48.00	0.00	0.02	48.02		
	Central	0.00	257.03	0.00	0.00	257.03	0.00	0.00	275.03		
	Sub-total	0.00	257.03	48.00	0.00	305.03	0.00	0.07	305.10		
Daman & Diu	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
	Central	0.00	8.04	4.13	0.00	12.17	1.98	0.00	14.15		
	Sub-Total	0.00	8.04	4.13	0.00	12.17	1.98	0.00	14.15		
Gujarat	State*	777.00	4429.00	478.72	17.28	4925.00	0.00	99.73	5801.73		
	Private	0.00	640.00	1430.00	0.20	2070.20	0.00	207.15	2277.35		
	Central	0.00	828.80	417.40	0.00	1246.29	825.00	0.00	2071.29		
	Sub-Total	777.00	5897.89	2326.12	17.48	8241.49	825.00	306.88	10150.37		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Madhya Pradesh	State	1687.17	2157.50	0.00	0.00	2157.50	0.00	14.51	3859.18
	Private	13.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.68	50.18
	Central	1000.00	1057.80	252.91	0.00	1310.51	92.88	0.00	2403.39
	Sub-Total	2700.67	3215.10	252.91	0.00	3468.01	92.88	51.19	6312.75
Chhattisgarh	State	125.00	1280.00	0.00	0.00	1280.00	0.00	6.00	1411.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.01	28.01
	Central	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
	Sub-Total	125.00	1490.00	0.00	0.00	1490.00	0.00	34.01	1649.01
Maharashtra	State	2831.66	6425.00	912.00	0.00	737.00	0.00	74.76	10243.42
	Private	447.00	1650.00	1660.00	0.00	3310.00	0.00	631.92	4388.92
	Central	0.00	1339.05	397.28	0.00	1736.33	852.06	0.00	2588.39
	Sub-Total	3278.66	9414.05	2969.28	0.00	12383.33	852.06	706.68	17220.73
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Central	0.00	9.04	28.61	0.00	35.65	1.98	0.00	37.63
	Sub-total	0.00	9.04	28.61	0.00	35.65	1.98	0.00	37.63
	Central-Unallocated	0.00	650.36	193.67	0.00	844.02	66.10	0.00	910.12
Total Western Region	State	5420.83	14291.50	1390.72	17.28	15699.50	0.00	195.05	21315.38
	Private	460.50	2290.00	3138.00	0.20	5428.20	0.00	903.78	6792.48
	Central	1000.00	4360.00	1292.00	0.00	5652.00	1840.00	0.00	8492.00
	Grand Total	6881.33	20941.50	5820.72	17.48	26779.70	1840.00	1098.83	36599.86

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the States/UTs located in Southern Region Including Allocated Shares in Joint & Central Sector Utilities as on 30.06.2006

State	Ownership Sector	Hydro	Modewise breakup			Total Thermal	Nuclear	RES	Grand Total
			Coal	Gas	Diesel				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	State	3582.61	2922.50	272.30	0.00	3194.80	0.00	131.46	6908.67
	Private	3.75	0.00	1603.40	36.80	1640.20	0.00	413.83	2057.78
	Central	0.00	2428.38	0.00	0.00	2428.38	37.41	0.00	2465.79
	Sub-Total	3586.36	5350.88	1875.70	36.80	7263.38	37.41	545.29	11432.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Karnataka	State	3376.20	1470.00	0.00	127.92	1597.92	0.00	515.31	5489.43
	Private	51.70	260.00	220.00	106.50	586.50	0.00	401.61	1039.81
	Central	0.00	1118.67	0.00	0.00	1118.67	136.78	0.00	12555.45
	Sub-Total	3427.90	2848.67	220.00	234.42	3303.09	136.78	916.92	7784.69
Kerala	State	1807.60	0.00	0.00	234.60	234.60	0.00	48.12	2090.32
	Private	0.00	0.00	174.00	21.84	195.84	0.00	0.73	196.57
	Central	0.00	798.38	350.00	0.00	1148.38	61.17	0.00	1209.55
	Sub-Total	1807.60	798.38	524.00	256.44	1578.82	61.17	48.85	3496.44
Tamil Nadu	State	2145.85	2970.00	431.00	0.00	3401.00	0.00	1069.85	6616.70
	Private	0.00	250.00	503.10	411.66	1164.76	0.00	1651.98	2816.74
	Central	0.00	2364.81	0.00	0.00	2364.81	547.39	0.00	2912.20
	Sub-Total	2145.85	5584.81	934.10	411.66	6930.57	547.39	2721.83	12345.64
NLC	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Central	0.00	100.17	0.00	0.00	100.17	0.00	0.00	100.17
	Sub-Total	0.00	100.17	0.00	0.00	100.17	0.00	0.00	100.17
Pondicherry	State	0.00	0.00	32.50	0.00	32.50	0.00	0.00	32.50
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.60
	Central	0.00	214.01	0.00	0.00	214.01	13.13	0.00	227.14
	Sub-Total	0.00	214.01	32.50	0.00	246.51	13.13	0.60	260.24
	Central-Unallocated	0.00	1065.58	0.00	0.00	1065.58	84.12	0.00	1149.70
Total Southern Region	State	10912.26	7362.50	735.80	362.52	8460.82	0.00	1764.74	21137.82
	Private	55.45	510.00	2500.50	576.80	3587.30	0.00	2468.75	6111.50
	Central	0.00	8090.00	350.00	0.00	8440.00	880.00	0.00	9320.00
	Grand Total	10967.71	15962.50	3586.30	939.32	20488.12	880.00	4233.49	36569.32

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the States/UTs Located in Eastern Region Including Allocated Shares in Joint & Central Sector Utilities as on 30.06.2006

State	Ownership Sector	Modewise breakup					Total Thermal	RES	Nuclear	Grand Total
		Hydro	Thermal							
			Coal	Gas	Diesel					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Bihar	State	44.90	553.50	0.00	0.00	553.50	0.00	30.40	628.80	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Central	21.00	978.79	0.00	0.00	978.79	0.00	0.00	999.79
	Sub-Total	65.90	1532.29	0.00	0.00	1532.29	0.00	30.42	1628.61
Jharkhand	State	130.00	1260.00	0.00	0.00	1260.00	0.00	4.05	1394.05
	Private	0.00	360.00	0.00	0.00	360.00	0.00	0.06	360.06
	Central	8.00	254.92	0.00	0.00	254.92	0.00	0.00	262.92
	Sub-total	138.00	1874.92	0.00	0.00	1874.92	0.00	4.13	2017.05
West Bengal	State	161.70	3305.00	100.00	12.06	3417.06	0.00	59.70	3638.46
	Private	0.00	1081.38	0.00	0.14	1081.52	0.00	6.95	1088.47
	Central	17.00	667.06	0.00	0.00	667.06	0.00	0.00	684.06
	Sub-Total	178.70	5053.44	100.00	12.20	5165.64	0.00	66.65	5410.99
DVC	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Central	150.00	2772.50	90.00	0.00	2962.50	0.00	0.00	3012.50
	Sub-Total	150.00	2772.50	90.00	0.00	2962.50	0.00	0.00	3012.50
Orissa	State	1923.93	420.00	0.00	0.00	420.00	0.00	1.30	2345.23
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.07
	Central	0.00	1130.93	0.00	0.00	1130.93	0.00	0.00	1130.93
	Sub-Total	1923.93	1560.93	0.00	0.00	1560.93	0.00	1.37	3476.23
Sikkim	State	32.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	9.10	46.10
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Central	8.00	60.08	0.00	0.00	60.08	0.00	0.00	68.08
	Sub-total	40.00	60.08	0.00	5.00	65.08	0.00	9.10	114.18
	Central-Unallocated	0.00	818.22	0.00	0.00	818.22	0.00	0.00	818.22
Total Eastern Region	State	2292.53	5538.50	100.00	17.06	5655.56	0.00	104.55	6052.64
	Private	0.00	1441.38	0.00	0.14	1441.52	0.00	7.12	1448.64
	Central	204.00	6682.50	90.00	0.00	6772.50	0.00	0.00	6976.50
	Grand Total	2496.53	13662.38	190.00	17.20	13669.56	0.00	111.67	16477.78

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the States/UTs located in North-Eastern Region Including Allocated Shares in Joint & Central Sector Utilities as on 30.06.2006

State	Ownership Sector	Modewise breakup					Total Thermal	Nuclear	RES	Grand Total
		Hydro	Thermal			Total Thermal				
			Coal	Gas	Diesel					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Assam	State	2.00	330.00	244.50	20.89	595.19	0.00	0.11	597.30	
	Private	0.00	0.00	24.50	0.00	24.50	0.00	0.12	24.62	
	Central	331.00	0.00	178.00	0.00	178.00	0.00	0.00	509.00	
	Sub-Total	333.00	330.00	447.00	20.89	797.69	0.00	0.23	1130.92	
Arunachal Pradesh	State	18.50	0.00	0.00	15.88	15.88	0.00	25.80	60.18	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.18	
	Central	98.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	21.00	0.00	0.00	119.00	
	Sub-Total	116.50	0.00	21.00	15.88	36.88	0.00	25.98	179.36	
Meghalaya	State	185.52	0.00	0.00	2.05	2.05	0.00	1.51	189.08	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Central	73.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	99.00	
	Sub-Total	258.52	0.00	26.00	2.05	28.05	0.00	1.51	288.08	
Tripura	State	16.00	0.00	127.50	4.85	132.35	0.00	0.01	148.36	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.10	1.10	
	Central	62.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	95.00	
	Sub -Total	78.00	0.00	160.50	4.85	165.35	0.00	1.11	244.46	
Manipur.	State	1.50	0.00	0.00	45.41	45.41	0.00	3.95	50.86	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Central	81.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	107.00	
	Sub-Total	82.50	0.00	26.00	45.41	71.41	0.00	3.95	157.86	
Nagaland	State	25.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	3.17	30.67	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Central	53.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	72.00	
	Sub-Total	78.50	0.00	19.00	2.00	21.00	0.00	3.17	102.67	
Mizoram	State	4.05	0.00	0.00	51.86	51.86	0.00	10.71	66.62	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.20	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Central	34.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
	Sub-Total	38.05	0.00	16.00	51.86	67.86	0.00	10.91	116.82
	Central-Unallocated	128.00	0.00	56.00	0.00	56.00	0.00	0.00	184.00
Total North-Eastern Region	State	253.07	330.00	372.00	142.74	844.74	0.00	45.26	1143.07
	Private	0.00	0.00	24.50	0.00	24.50	0.00	1.60	26.10
	Central	860.00	0.00	375.00	0.00	375.00	0.00	0.00	1235.00
	Grand Total	1113.07	330.00	771.50	142.74	1244.24	0.00	46.86	2404.17

Installed Capacity (in MW) of Power Utilities in the Islands as on 30.06.2006

State	Ownership Sector	Modewise breakup					Total Thermal	Nuclear	RES	Grand Total
		Hydro	Thermal			Total Thermal				
			Coal	Gas	Diesel					
Andaman & Nicobar	State	5.25	0.00	0.00	40.05	40.05	0.00	5.25	50.55	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.17	20.17	
	Central	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Sub-Total	5.25	0.00	0.00	60.05	60.05	0.00	5.42	70.72	
Lakshadweep	State	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.97	9.97	0.00	0.00	9.97	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Central	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Sub-Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.97	9.97	0.00	0.00	9.97	
Total Islands	State	5.25	0.00	0.00	50.02	50.02	0.00	5.25	60.52	
	Private	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.17	20.17	
	Central	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Grand Total	5.25	0.00	0.00	70.02	70.02	0.00	5.42	80.69	

Statement III

Power Supply Position (Provisional)

State/System/ Region	Energy (MU)							
	June, 2006				April, 2006-June, 2006			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
			(MU)	(%)			(MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	129	128	-1	-0.8	359	356	-3	-0.8
Delhi	2,147	2,123	-24	-1.1	6,208	6,091	-117	-1.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haryana	2,390	2,204	-186	-7.8	6,473	5,898	-575	-8.9
Himachal Pradesh	393	393	0	0.0	1,142	1,139	-3	-0.3
Jammu & Kashmir	728	627	-101	-13.9	2,568	1,909	-659	-25.7
Punjab	3,813	3,857	-157	-4.1	9,454	8,808	-648	-6.9
Rajasthan	2,645	2,468	-177	-6.7	7,909	7,535	-374	-4.7
Uttar Pradesh	4,846	3,876	-970	-20.0	14,200	11,183	-3,017	-21.2
Uttaranchal	466	459	-7	-1.5	1,373	1,318	-55	-4.0
Northern Region	17,557	15,934	-1,623	-9.2	49,686	44,235	-5,451	-11.0
Chhattisgarh	1,064	1,038	-46	-4.2	3,522	3,274	-248	-7.0
Gujarat	4,651	4,362	-289	-6.2	15,128	13,835	-1,293	-8.5
Madhya Pradesh	2,809	2,212	-597	-15.2	8,921	6,972	-1,949	-19.1
Maharashtra	7,982	7,044	-938	-11.8	27,520	22,395	-5,125	-18.6
Daman & Diu	129	111	-18	-14.0	376	330	-46	-12.2
Dadar Nagar Haveli	234	234	0	0.0	700	671	-29	-4.1
Goa	193	193	0	0.0	691	619	0	0.0
Western Region	16,882	15,194	-1,688	-10.0	56,486	48,096	-8,390	-14.9
Andhra Pradesh	4,385	4,323	-62	-1.4	14,254	13,748	-506	-3.5
Karnataka	2,655	2,620	-35	-1.3	9,582	9,379	-203	-2.1
Kerala	1,148	1,132	-16	-1.4	3,685	3,604	-81	-2.2
Tamil Nadu	5,261	5,208	-53	-1.0	15,339	15,029	-310	-2.0
Pondicherry	146	146	0	0.0	458	458	0	0.0
Lakshadweep#	2	2	0	0	6	6	0	0
Southern Region	13,595	13,429	-166	-1.2	43,318	42,218	-1,100	-2.5
Bihar	642	591	-51	-7.9	1,952	1,786	-166	-8.5
DVC	682	678	-4	-0.5	2,708	2,655	-53	-2.0
Jharkhand	321	312	-9	-2.8	1,011	948	-63	-6.2
Orissa	1,339	1,325	-14	-1.0	4,096	4,028	-70	-1.7
West Bengal	2,293	2,269	-24	-1.0	6,974	6,841	-133	-1.9
Sikkim	17	17	0	0.0	52	51	-1	-1.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman-Nicobar#	20	15	-5	-25	60	45	-15	-25.0
Eastern Region	5,494	5,392	-102	-1.9	16,795	16,309	-486	-2.9
Arunachal Pradesh	19	18	-1	-5.3	56	54	-2	-3.6
Assam	379	366	-23	-6.1	1,037	941	-96	-9.3
Manipur	43	42	-1	-2.3	108	102	-6	-5.6
Meghalaya	127	106	-21	-16.5	333	255	-78	-23.4
Mizoram	19	18	-1	-5.3	57	53	-4	-7.0
Nagaland	33	31	-2	-6.1	86	81	-5	-5.8
Tripura	65	59	-6	-9.2	190	170	-20	-10.5
North-Eastern Region	685	630	-55	-8.0	1,867	1,656	-211	-11.3
All India	54,213	50,579	-3,634	-6.7	168,152	152,514	-15,638	-9.3

#Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not form part of regional requirement and availability.

Peak Demand/Peak Met (Provisional)

State System Region	June, 2006				April, 2006-June, 2006			
	Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Peak Demand (MW)	Peak Met (MW)	Surplus/Deficit	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	244	234	-10	-4.1	264	234	-30	-11.4
Delhi	3,863	3,845	-18	-0.5	3,843	3,736	-107	-2.8
Haryana	4,550	4,235	-315	-6.9	4,550	4,235	-315	-6.9
Himachal Pradesh	715	715	0	0.0	715	715	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1,400	1,100	-300	-21.4	1,400	1,175	-225	016.1
Punjab	7,700	6,080	-1,620	-21.0	7,700	6,080	-1,620	-21.0
Rajasthan	4,640	4,291	-349	-7.5	4,763	4,291	-472	-9.9
Uttar Pradesh	8,114	6,365	-1,749	-21.6	8,114	6,399	-1,715	-21.1
Uttaranchal	909	889	-20	-2.2	939	897	-42	-4.5
Northern Region	29,648	26,283	-3,365	-11.3	29,648	26,283	-3,365	-11.3
Chhattisgarh	1,892	1,638	-254	-13.4	2,157	1,817	-340	-15.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gujarat	8,220	7,611	-609	-7.4	8,993	7,611	-1,382	-15.4
Madhya Pradesh	4,878	4,025	-853	-17.5	5,581	4,077	-1,504	-26.9
Maharashtra	4,501	11,638	-2,863	-19.7	15,854	11,956	-3,898	-24.6
Daman & Diu	203	178	-25	-12.3	203	182	-21	-10.3
Dadar Nagar Haveli	399	359	-40	-10.0	399	359	-40	-10.0
Goa	326	326	0	0.0	367	367	0	0.0
Western Region	29,233	23,663	-4,570	-16.2	31,049	24,535	-6,514	-21.0
Andhra Pradesh	7,551	7,372	-179	-2.4	8,599	8,140	-459	-5.3
Karnataka	5,071	4,952	-119	-2.3	6,130	5,611	-519	-8.5
Kerala	2,566	2,536	-30	-1.2	2,672	2,602	-70	-2.6
Tamil Nadu	8,535	8,386	-149	-1.7	8,609	8,449	-160	-1.9
Pondicherry	227	227	0	0.0	256	256	0	0.0
Lakshadweep#	5	5	0	0	5	5	0	0
Southern Region	22,734	22,346	-388	-1.7	25,165	23,520	-1,645	-6.5
Bihar	1,279	959	-320	-25.0	1,399	1,068	-331	-23.7
DVC	1,586	1,548	-38	-2.4	1,650	1,594	-56	-3.4
Jharkhand	631	616	-15	-2.4	631	616	-15	-2.4
Orissa	2,404	2,362	-42	-1.7	2,547	2,487	-60	-2.4
West Bengal	4,323	4,308	-15	-0.3	4,703	4,806	-97	-2.1
Sikkim	40	40	0	0.0	40	40	0	0.0
Andaman-Nicobar#	5	5	0	0	40	32	-8	-20
Eastern Region	9,774	9,384	-410	-4.2	10,491	9,980	-511	-4.9
Arunachal Pradesh	72	71	-1	-1.4	72	71	-1	-1.4
Assam	752	677	-75	-10.0	752	677	-75	-10.0
Manipur	98	97	-1	-1.0	98	97	-1	-1.0
Meghalaya	282	164	-118	-41.8	291	181	-110	-37.8
Mizoram	7	61	-6	-9.0	69	64	-5	-7.2
Nagaland	77	74	-3	-3.9	77	74	-3	-3.9
Tripura	169	136	-33	-19.5	169	136	-33	-19.5
North-Eastern	1,369	1,152	-217	-15.9	1,369	1,152	-217	-15.9
All India	91,758	82,808	-8,950	-9.8	95,583	83,309	-12,274	-12.8

#Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not form part of regional peak demand/peak met.

[English]

Failure of DPAP and DDP

718. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of Drought Prone Areas programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP);

(b) whether the Government is aware that these two programmes have failed to achieve their objectives/targets;

(c) if so, whether the drought prone areas had increased from 55.3 million hectare in 1973-74 to 74.6 million hectare in April 1995 despite incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2195 crore;

(d) if so, the reasons for the failure of these programmes;

(e) the present status of the programmes as on date, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation and monitoring of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The objectives of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are drought proofing and combating desertification respectively by rejuvenating the natural resource base. With a view to identify the infirmities in the programme to meet its objective and also for considering inclusion of additional areas based on scientific parameters under the programme, the Ministry of Rural Development set up a High Level Technical Committee in the year 1994. The Technical Committee recommended implementation of the programme on watershed approach with community participation and empowerment, as against the sectoral approach with community participation and empowerment, as against the sectoral approach followed from 1973 to 1994, and reidentification of DPAP Areas on scientific basis. The Committee identified 74,59 million hectare area

under DPAP adopting scientific criteria viz. moisture index, precipitation, extent of irrigation etc. The implementation of revamped DPAP started in 1995-96 in an integrated manner on watershed approach and innovative technology interventions with peoples' participation and community empowerment as guiding principles.

The Ministry of Rural Development commissioned impact assessment studies by different expert agencies to know the impact of the projects taken up under DPAP and DDP in the programme states. These studies completed in 2002 revealed that with the implementation of watershed projects the overall productivity of land and water table had increased and there had been a positive and significant impact on overall economic development in the project areas. The studies also revealed that green vegetative cover had also improved in watershed areas that would have a positive impact in checking soil erosion by water and wind. The availability of fuel wood and fodder had also increased. The impact assessment studies reveal positive outcome of these programmes and potential in achieving the objectives.

Under a project of the Ministry, National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space, Government of India completed mapping of all the wastelands in the country in 1998 and estimated 63.85 million hectares of wasteland in the country. Ministry sponsored another project to NRSA for mapping of wastelands across the country which was carried out over a period of two years during 2003-05. As per the estimates arrived through this exercise, the total extent of wastelands in the country has come down by 8.58 million hectare during this period.

(e) During the period 1995-96 to 2005-06, 24363 projects under DPAP and 13476 projects under DDP have been sanctioned to treat an area of about 12.18 million hectares and 6.74 million hectares respectively under these programmes.

The state-wise status of number of projects and area for treatment sanctioned under DPAP and DDP is given in Statements I & II enclosed.

(f) Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) and Mid Term Evaluation Reports (MTERs) periodically furnished by the

DRDAe/ZPs, DPAP and DDP are monitored through a three tier monitoring system: at the Central level through (a) Area Officers Scheme (b) through Performance Review Committee, and (c) through Independent National Level Monitors (NLMs) and District Level Monitors (DLMs). The State Vigilance and Monitoring Committee periodically review the status and monitor progress of the programme at the State level. At the District level, the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee monitors the programmes. Social auditing at village level by local stakeholders also play a vital role in monitoring.

Statement-I**Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Projects sanctioned	Area sanctioned for treatment (in lakh hectares)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3882	19.410
2.	Bihar	453	2.265
3.	Chhattisgarh	1020	5.100
4.	Gujarat	2149	10.745
5.	Himachal Pradesh	365	1.825
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	483	2.415
7.	Jharkhand	1453	7.265
8.	Karnataka	2105	10.525
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2934	14.670
10.	Maharashtra	3180	15.900
11.	Orissa	1146	5.730
12.	Rajasthan	987	4.935
13.	Tamil Nadu	1414	7.070
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1576	7.880
15.	Uttaranchal	737	3.685
16.	West Bengal	479	2.395
Total:		24363	121.815

Statement II**Desert Development Programme (DDP)**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Projects sanctioned	Area sanctioned for treatment (in lakh hectares)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	906	4.530
2.	Gujarat	2642	13.210
3.	Haryana	1030	5.150
4.	Himachal Pradesh	504	2.520
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	667	3.335
6.	Karnataka	1362	6.810
7.	Rajasthan	6365	31.825
Total:		13476	67.380

Development of Hydro Power Projects by Private Sector

719. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is finalizing new set of guidelines for development of hydro power projects over 100 MW by the private sector through competitive tariff based bidding;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to offer a series of run-of-the-river project for the development by the private sector; and

(d) if so, extent to which it is likely to help in further improving the development of power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power had issued guidelines in July 2002 to the State Governments that projects above 100 MW be awarded through the process of competitive bidding. No new set of guidelines have been announced. However, recently in July, 2006, the Ministry of Power has reiterated that the projects above 100 MW be awarded through process of tariff based competitive bidding. It has also been clarified that

competitive bidding has to be on the basis of tariff in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Act (2003), the Electricity Policy (2005) and the Electricity Tariff Policy (2006).

(c) and (d) It is expected that the Hydro Electric projects, including run-of-the river projects, would be offered to the private developers by the respective State Governments for expeditious development of hydel power potential in the country.

[Translation]

Facilities for Villages in Delhi

720. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to provide the urbanized villages of Delhi with modern facilities under Delhi Master Plan, 2021 for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof including names of the villages covered under survey; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for development of such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which looks after the work of planning and development of villages has reported that it has not conducted any survey of the urbanized villages. However, the Engineering Department of MCD has initiated a process of getting the Development Plan prepared for urban villages through consultant.

In areas like Rohini, Narela and Dwarka, which are part of sub-city projects developed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), integrated development in respect of selected villages through preparation of Development plans, has been initiated by DDA.

[English]

Electoral Reforms

721. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group set up by the National Integration Council has in its report submitted to the Government made proposals for Electoral Reforms for an effective democratic functioning of the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the working group; and

(c) the decisions taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Regulatory Body for Delhi

722. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish the Central Regulatory Body to maintain the beauty of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal. Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) set up in 1974 under the DUAC Act, 1973 has the general duty of advising the Central Government in the matter of preserving, developing and maintaining the aesthetic quality of urban and environmental design within Delhi.

[Translation]

Insurance Scheme with Credit Card

723. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some banks introduce several schemes from time to time including insurance schemes in order to lure Credit Card Customers as reported in 'Nav Bharat Times' dated July 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these banks clandestinely withdraw these schemes when any calamity occurs and thereby dupe the credit card holders; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against these banks for duping their customers in this manner?

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

[English]

Modernisation of IMD

724. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to modernize the Indian Meteorological Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the modernization plan is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. A comprehensive plan has been prepared by the India Meteorological Department for modernization of its observational systems, forecasting systems, airport meteorological services and seismological network. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3667 crores. The plan is, however, under review by an expert committee. The plan would be finalized within a few months and would be submitted to the planning commission for allocation of funds.

(c) The modernization will be taken up in two phases. The first phase will be completed in two years and the second phase would be completed by the end of 11th five year plan.

Unauthorised Construction Inside School Premises

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

(a) whether some schools of Delhi have violated MCD's building bye-laws and made unauthorised constructions inside schools premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove unauthorised constructions from these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that some schools have made unauthorised constructions inside their premises. A list of schools booked for violation of building bye-laws is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) MCD has further reported that as and when any violation of building bye-laws is detected action is initiated as per provisions contained in the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

Statement

1. Vidya Niketan School, D Block, Saket.
2. Gyan Bharti School, Saket
3. Amity International School Saket
4. Tagore International School, East of Kailash
5. Fr. Angel School Gautam Nagar
6. Step by Step, N-1 & N-2, Panchsheel Park
7. Salwan Public School, Rajindra Nagar
8. Bapu Adarsh Vidyalaya, Rajinder Nagar
9. Bal Bharti School, Ring Road
10. Springe Dale School, Ridge Road
11. Manavsthal School, Ridge Road
12. Salwan Educational Trust, Rajinder Nagar
13. Gyan Mandir Public School, Naraina
14. Ramjas School, Pusa Road
15. Satbharwan School, Arya Samaj Road
16. Khalsa College, Dev Nagar
17. P.G. DAV School, East Patel Nagar
18. Dayanand Model School, West Patel Nagar Block No. 10

- | | |
|--|---|
| 19. DAV Public School, West Patel Nagar | 51. V.T. Public School, Kabir Nagar |
| 20. Senior Secondary School, Parshad Nagar | 52. Lovely Public School, Yamuna Vihar |
| 21. Rukmani Devi Public School, Pitampura | 53. Little Flower International Public School |
| 22. Maharaja Agrasen Public School, Pitampura | 54. Ramphal Memorial Public School |
| 23. Sachdeva Public School, Sector-3, Rohini | 55. Smt. Shishumandir School, Tagore Garden |
| 24. Hansraj Model School, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar | 56. Gurunanak Institute of Management, West Punjabi Bagh |
| 25. Arya Samaj Mandir, DAV School, Rani Bagh | 57. Gyan Bharti Public School, Mohan Garden |
| 26. DAV Public School, Rani Bagh | 58. Sant Haridas Public School, Najafgarh Road, Baprola |
| 27. Rock Field Public School, Sector-3, Rohini | 59. Gagan Bharti Public School, Mohan Garden |
| 28. Remal Public School, Sector-3, Rohini | 60. Ganga International School, Hiran Kudna Village |
| 29. Yuva Shakti Model School, Budh Vihar | 61. South Delhi Public School, Defence Colony |
| 30. Bal Bharti Public School, Sector-4, Rohini | 62. Lady Irwin School, D-Block, Defence Colony |
| 31. Shemrock Paradise School, C-3, Vasant Kunj | 63. Dr. Radha Krishnan International School |
| 32. Ryan International School, C-8, Vasant Kunj | 64. George Stocker Satoshik Sarodha Kanya Vidyalaya, Defence Colony |
| 33. Vasant Valley School, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj | 65. Modern Public School, A-279, Defence Colony |
| 34. Tender Feet Nursery, C-8, Vasant Kunj | 66. St. George School, E-Block, Defence Colony |
| 35. Book Public School, C-8, Vasant Kunj | 67. Baiwant Rai Mehta Vidhya Bhawan Senior Secondary School, Lajpat Nagar |
| 36. G.D. Goenka Sr. Public School, B-Block | 68. S.S. Khalsa Sr. Sec. School, A-Block, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar |
| 37. DAV School, Pocket B-1, Vasant Kunj | 69. Sanatan Dharam School, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar |
| 38. Dimple Education Society, C-8 | 70. Happy International, Main Mathura Road, Bhogal |
| 39. Kangaroo Kids, C-8 & 7, Vasant Kunj | 71. St. Paul's Diocesan School, Hospital Road, Jangpura |
| 40. G.D. Goenka Jr. Public School, B-Block | 72. Adarsh Vidya Niketan, Siddharth Basti, Hari Nagar Ashram |
| 41. Bal Bhawan Public School, Laxmi Nagar | 73. Hill Queen Convent School, Kilokri Village |
| 42. DAV Public School, Shreshtha Vihar | 74. Shiv Nanda Public School, Sidharth Basti, Hari Nagar, Ashram |
| 43. Lovely Public School, South Anarkali | 75. Cambridge School |
| 44. R.S. Public School, Kotla Village, Mayur Vihar Phase-I | 76. Kalka Public School |
| 45. DAV Public School, Dayanand Vihar | 77. Raisina Bengali School |
| 46. Vidhya Niketan Public School | |
| 47. Sandhya Senior Secondary School, Chauhan Banger, Delhi | |
| 48. Navjeevan Public School, Gautam Puri | |
| 49. International Public School, Jawahar Nagar, Loni Road | |
| 50. National Victor Public School | |

78. New Green Field Public School
 79. S.K. Convent School, Kalkaji
 80. Guru Harkishan School, Sangam Vihar
 81. K.S.K. Public School, Sangam Vihar
 82. Sant Giri Public School, Sarita Vihar
 83. Glory Public School, Sarita Vihar

**Reduction in Foodgrains Component under
 Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana**

726. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
 SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution regarding cutting/reducing the foodgrains component in all employment generation schemes such as Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana;

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

(c) the reaction of the Ministry of Rural Development thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The proposal of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in this regard is under active consideration of the Government.

**Issuance of Equity and Bonds by Indian
 Companies**

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

(a) whether the Government has amended norms for the issuance of equity and convertible bonds by Indian companies in the international markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which domestic shareholders are likely to be benefited by such norms?

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

(b) The Government, vide Press Note of 31st August 2005, inter-alia brought pricing guidelines for American Depository Receipts/Global Depository Receipt/Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (ADR/GDR/FCCBs) on par with SEBI guidelines for domestic issues. Unlisted companies, which have not yet accessed the GDR/FCCB route for raising capital in the international market now require prior or simultaneous listing in the domestic market for such issue. It also stipulated that the unlisted companies, which had issued GDRs/FCCBs in the international market, would require to list in the domestic market on making profit beginning financial year 2005-06 or within three years of such issue of GDRs/FCCBs, whichever is earlier.

The Government, vide Press Note of 31st March 2006, permitted Unlisted companies which had accessed FCCBs, ADR/GDRs in terms of guidelines of 22nd May 1998 and are not making profit, to comply with listing condition on the domestic stock exchanges within three years of having started making profit. However, no fresh issues of FCCBs, ADR/GDRs by such companies will be permitted without listing first in the domestic exchanges.

Government, vide Press Note dated 28th June, 2006, permitted unlisted Indian companies to sponsor an issues of ADRs/GDRs subject to condition that Unlisted companies which have not issued FCCBs, ADRs/GDRs prior to 31st August, 2005 would require prior or simultaneous listing in the domestic stock exchanges for issuing FCCBs, ADRs/GDRs or sponsor such issues against existing shares under the scheme.

(c) The amendments will benefit the domestic investors also as they would be able to participate in ADR/GDR issuing companies' domestic listing as well as participate in sponsoring ADR/GDR issues.

Misuse on PAN Card

728. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has plans to curb misuse of PAN Cards as reported in the "Times of India" dated July 5, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey about the growing number of PAN Card holders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income Tax Department is examining the possibility of using biometric features in the PAN system to ensure security of PAN and its uniqueness in relation to a person.

(c) to (e) The Government has not carried out any survey into the growing number of PAN card holders. The growth in the number of PAN card holders is due to various factors, including compulsory quoting of PAN in all statements and returns filed by all income tax return filers, in all challans for payment of direct taxes, in specified high value transactions and its use as a Common Business Number (CBN) by other government departments such as Customs and Central Excise, Service Tax, Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Recently, SEBI has also mandated use of PAN for demat accounts.

Bio-Technology Park

729. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

(a) whether State Governments including Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh have submitted any proposals for setting up Bio-Technology Parks in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Sir, several State Governments are in the process of setting up of Biotech Parks/Biotech Incubation Centres in active consultation with the Department of Biotechnology (BDT). So far, states like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil

Nadu and Himachal Pradesh have sent their proposals for financial assistance for setting up of Bio-Technology Parks/Incubation Centres in their States. The DBT have not received any proposals for setting up Bio-Technology Parks from the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) DBT has funded one Biotechnology Park at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and funded five Biotechnology Incubation Centres one each at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh; Bangalore, Karnataka, Trivendrum, Kerala, Chandigarh, Punjab and Solan, Himachal Pradesh. At present there are no actual proposals from any of the States on biotechnology parks/incubation centres for consideration for financial assistance by the DBT.

Difficulties in Opening of Accounts in Banks

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

(a) the number of new savings/current and demat accounts opened by various banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the bankers are hesitant to open fresh accounts and the public are facing lot of hardship due to implementation of Reserve Bank of India's KYC (Know-Your-Customers);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the genuine grievances faced by the customers in opening their accounts particularly savings banks accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Bank-wise data on number of outstanding Current Accounts and Savings Accounts of all Public Sector Banks for the last 3 years as on 31st March of 2003, 2004 and 2005 is given in the Statement enclosed. Data on demat accounts is not available with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) to (d) Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines have been issued by RBI to prevent banks from being used by criminal elements for money laundering activities. However, these guidelines were relaxed vide Circular dated August 23, 2005 and banks have been permitted to open accounts of the persons belonging to low income

group both in rural and urban areas with the condition that balances should not exceed rupees fifty thousand (Rs. 50,000/-) in all their accounts taken together and the total credit in all these accounts taken together should not exceed rupees one lakh (Rs. 1,00,000/-) in a year.

With a view to achieving the objective of greater financial inclusion, all banks were advised by RBI vide their Circular dated November 11, 2005 to make available a basic banking 'no-frills' account either with 'nil' or very low minimum balances as well as charges that would make such accounts accessible to vast sections of

population. The nature and number of transactions in such accounts could be restricted but made known to the customer in advance in a transparent manner.

Further, in order to ensure that banking facilities percolate to the vast sections of the population, banks have been advised vide RBI Circular dated December 28, 2005 to make available all printed material used by retail Customers including account opening forms, pay-in-slip, passbooks etc in trilingual form i.e. English, Hindi and the concerned Regional Language.

Statement

Bank-wise Number of Current and Savings Accounts: March 2003, March 2004, March 2005

Sl.No.	Bank	2003		2004		2005	
		No. of Current Accounts	No. of Savings Accounts	No. of Current Accounts	No. of Savings Accounts	No. of Current Accounts	No. of Savings Accounts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	203335	3664154	210997	3813950	189225	4009255
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	197595	3108202	208162	3428409	212618	3693538
3.	State Bank of India	1429085	47106397	1252992	45822023	1346845	49288246
4.	State Bank of Indore	104176	1429131	104356	1496164	112369	1681554
5.	State Bank of Mysore	97326	1804862	95799	1849452	101426	1901321
6.	State Bank of Patiala	167917	2931978	169880	3166291	173097	3316093
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	97578	1567832	111650	1680634	108840	1885613
8.	State Bank of Travancore	78431	3435088	107836	4749985	133595	5778237
9.	Allahabad Bank	259360	8915938	252992	9167998	289397	9669759
10.	Andhra Bank	321533	6111221	424420	6894727	418676	7531316
11.	Bank of Baroda	695973	15098923	698145	15718180	662269	15948642
12.	Bank of India	366486	11630599	367875	13951850	359735	14402510
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	278432	5569696	288059	5942981	297993	6280516
14.	Canara Bank	1017121	15190137	960710	15457916	922974	15849568
15.	Central Bank of India	475712	13504554	448432	13252219	438937	13480368
16.	Corporation Bank	418768	3023539	373778	3458521	417167	4067308
17.	Dena Bank	287395	4273022	288427	4406707	295410	4605906
18.	Indian Bank	458513	8681160	475317	8888717	492014	9012325

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	332835	6709188	337880	6940707	341439	7142545
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	419916	3909837	430495	4159788	452236	4712469
21.	Punjab and Sind Bank	216406	3317237	227654	3349230	218112	3454064
22.	Punjab National Bank	2217721	20833510	2713082	20847956	3150080	20688709
23.	Syndicate Bank	518669	8839947	518151	9311277	563210	9828027
24.	UCO Bank	468562	6894230	464045	7032303	456177	7234589
25.	Union Bank of India	573922	9251621	577881	9609595	594463	9657415
26.	United Bank of India	190545	6195256	195099	6109760	205409	6128895
27.	Vijaya Bank	354925	3276629	372905	3514827	399365	3741523

Promotion of Renewable Energy

731. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of awareness amongst the public about the utility of renewable energy technologies;

(b) if so, the steps taken for the popularization of renewable energy amongst the rural masses;

(c) measures taken for effective development and promotion of renewable energy programmes; and

(d) the quantum of funds allocated and spent for the same during the last three years and achievement made thereon State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has been creating awareness through newspapers, booklets, leaflets, brochures, newsletters, exhibitions, fairs on various renewable energy

technologies in Hindi, English and regional languages all over the country including rural areas. MNES is organizing Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas in districts, metros and state capitals of the country on 20th August for wide publicity and awareness since 2004. District Advisory Committees on renewable energy have also been constituted in 540 districts for coordination and awareness creation of renewable energy systems/programmes at district level. Renewable Energy Clubs have been established in Engineering Colleges for raising awareness among engineering students.

(c) Research and development projects have been supported at National Laboratories, Universities and other R&D establishments for design and development of renewable energy systems and devices. To promote renewable energy systems, financial and fiscal incentives are provided by MNES.

(d) MNES allocated the funds on project basis. The total expenditure of Rs. 603.62 crore was incurred under various programmes on renewable energy during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. State-wise details are given in Statement-I. The achievements made under various programmes, State-wise during the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise Expenditure Incurred on Programmes of MNES during 2003-2004, 2004-05 & 2005-06

Sl.No.	States/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12.67	0.00	12.19	24.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.77	11.91	5.43	25.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	3.38	0.44	2.02	5.84
4.	Bihar	0.16	0.06	0.41	0.63
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.29	1.39	5.50	13.18
6.	Goa	0.76	0.08	0.21	1.05
7.	Gujarat	4.55	2.22	3.47	10.23
8.	Haryana	6.75	1.58	1.48	9.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.33	12.82	2.57	19.71
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.13	5.74	10.13	26.00
11.	Jharkhand	11.11	0.05	12.65	23.81
12.	Karnataka	20.06	5.38	4.05	29.49
13.	Kerala	2.73	5.33	1.37	9.44
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.70	4.99	5.78	13.47
15.	Maharashtra	6.89	6.61	10.14	23.64
16.	Manipur	2.62	1.06	3.99	7.68
17.	Meghalaya	2.40	5.30	3.17	10.87
18.	Mizoram	4.02	3.46	14.35	21.82
19.	Nagaland	2.46	1.63	1.57	5.66
20.	Orissa	4.76	2.16	3.31	10.24
21.	Punjab	14.32	1.45	1.65	17.43
22.	Rajasthan	5.99	3.02	5.23	14.24
23.	Sikkim	8.87	0.88	3.07	12.82
24.	Tamil Nadu	9.45	6.11	3.37	18.93
25.	Tripura	10.47	10.75	0.24	21.46
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20.75	10.10	4.27	35.11
27.	Uttaranchal	13.52	1.52	10.58	25.61
28.	West Bengal	35.49	5.61	16.89	57.99
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.50
30.	Chandigarh	0.17	0.00	0.45	0.62
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Delhi	3.41	0.65	0.02	4.08
34.	Lakshadweep	1.52	0.00	0.00	1.52
35.	Pondicherry	0.36	0.08	0.63	1.07
36.	Others	27.24	36.19	35.30	98.73
Total		269.58	148.55	185.49	603.62

Statement II

*Physical Achievements under major programmes of MNES during last three years,
i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Biogas (Nos.)	SHP (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	biomass Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	Solar Lights (No.)	IREP (Nos.)	Village Electrification (Nos)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43312	23.2	28.50	119.2	0.32	170	13	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	407	11.9	0.00	0.0	1.40	653	5	221
3.	Assam	248	0.1	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	33
4.	Bihar	283	5.5	0.00	0.0	0.00	1190	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	10525	10.0	0.00	16.5	10.00	3394	16	152
6.	Goa	254	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	221	0	0
7.	Gujarat	18889	0.0	165.06	0.0	2800.95	2640	0	36
8.	Haryana	3758	14.4	0.00	2.0	300.13	3840	19	45
9.	Himachal Pradesh	635	38.8	0.00	0.0	0.00	1300	12	21
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	7.5	0.00	0.0	400.00	0	0	50
11.	Jharkhand	159	0.0	0.00	0.0	80.10	248	7	337
12.	Karnataka	21138	140.8	460.18	115.1	108.62	2996	27	20
13.	Kerala	7045	12.6	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	14	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28207	2.2	17.65	1.0	200.00	897	31	98
15.	Maharashtra	23108	0.0	588.50	11.5	0.85	207	0	177
16.	Manipur	102	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	1000	9	70
17.	Meghalaya	655	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.25	1000	7	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Mizoram	455	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	600	6	20
19.	Nagaland	700	0.2	0.00	0.0	0.28	0	6	0
20.	Orissa	25681	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	1511	0	0
21.	Punjab	5359	15.2	0.00	6.0	0.00	681	17	0
22.	Rajasthan	195	0.0	278.84	15.3	0.85	10566	0	254
23.	Sikkim	549	3.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	9770	0	13
24.	Tamil Nadu	4656	1.3	1904.28	67.0	2376.22	0	0	152
25.	Tripura	200	0.0	0.00	0.0	100.00	0	0	523
26.	Uttar Pradesh	20551	3.6	0.00	75.0	2140.46	400	50	250
27.	Uttaranchal	1284	10.9	0.00	0.0	0.00	4776	13	400
28.	West Bengal	38418	6.0	0.00	0.0	3986.10	150	0	510
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	600.00	0	1	0
36.	Others	53106	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.00	2374	0	0
Total		309879	307.2	3443.00	428.6	13106.52	50584	253	3391

MW=Mega Watt; kW=Kilowatt

Tapping of Bio-Mass Energy Potential

732. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed in tapping the huge Bio-mass potential available in the country;

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

(c) the measures taken to bring Bio-Energy into mainstream for meeting the energy demands in urban and rural areas at an affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Government have been implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as biomass Gasifiers Programme, Biomass Power/Co-generation Programme, Biogas based Distributed/Grid Power Generation Programme, Village Energy Security Test Projects, etc. to promote energy generation from biomass through efficient biomass energy technologies. A total biomass power capacity of 1024 MW has been installed in the country so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central financial Assistance is provided for setting up biomass energy projects and for organizing business/interaction meets and training programmes. Fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation; concessional customs duty on import of machineries and components; excise duty exemption; loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, National Cooperative Development Corporation and other financial institutions are available for setting up biomass based power projects. Various State Governments have announced policies for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from such projects. Besides, biomass resource potential in the country is being assessed in a scientific manner.

Metro Feeder Bus Service

733. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of Metro Feeder Bus is irregular, poor quality and uncomfortable resulting low ridership of Delhi Metro in some of the stretches;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of feeder service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that on the recommendation of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), it has (i) created 65 dedicated Metro Feeder Routes and (ii) issued 356 permits for operation of Rural Transport Vehicles (RTVs) on these routes. Besides this, a large number of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and State Transport Authority (STA) buses operating on bus routes, passing by or close to various Metro Stations of three Metro lines, also serve the feeder purpose.

Grant of Nidhi Companies Status

734. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare certain special type of non-banking financial companies as Nidhi companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria for declaring Nidhi companies;

(c) the names of the companies declared as Nidhi company during 2005-06;

(d) the number of applications received during the year;

(e) the number of applications pending for disposal as on date; and

(f) the time by which pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Government has been granting Nidhi status to certain types of non-banking financial companies under Section 620 A of the Companies Act, 1956. As on date, 257 companies have been granted Nidhi status. Non-Banking Financial Companies that fulfil the criteria laid down in Notifications No. G.S.R. 241, dated 28.4.1995, 555(E) dated 26.7.2001, 308(E) & 309(E) dated 30.4.2002, 202 (E) & 203 (E) dated 31.3.2006 of this Ministry are considered for grant of Nidhi status. The applicable criteria are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) This information is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) 16 applications have been received during the year 2005-06.

(e) and (f) As on dated, 150 applications are pending with the Ministry. In most of these cases, the applications are not complete. The applicant companies have been advised to remove those deficiencies. The applicant companies take their own time in removing the deficiencies, and till then the application is treated as pending. Once the application is complete, they are disposed within the time laid down in the Citizen Charter.

Statement I

Criteria for declaring Non-Banking Financial Companies as Nidhi Companies

(a) The net owned fund should not be less than Rs. 10 lakhs;

(b) The companies should have earned reasonable profit after wiping of all preliminary expenses and brought forward losses;

(c) The number of members should not be less than 500;

(d) Borrowing and lending is restricted to the members only;

(e) Companies can accept deposits up to twenty times of their respective net owned funds;

(f) Companies can grant property loans up to 50% of the total loans granted and 50% of the value of the immovable property offered as security;

(g) Companies should have invested 10% of its deposits in fixed deposit with a scheduled bank;

(h) Have to be regular in filing returns etc. and no complaints should be pending against the company and its directors;

(i) Should furnish compliance certificate from its auditors regarding compliance of notifications issued by the Ministry of Company Affairs from time to time.

Statement II

Names of the Companies declared as Nidhis during 2005-06

(vide Notification No. G.S.R. 450 (E) dated 01.07.2005)

1. M/s Kasi Viswanathar (Chennai) Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai.
2. M/s Raj Benefit Fund Ltd., Tamilnadu.
3. M/s Trisea Benefit Fund Ltd., Tamilnadu.
4. M/s. Vilavancode Selfreliance Credit Services Ltd., Tamilnadu.
5. M/s Muthoot M. George Permanent Fund Ltd., Kerala.
6. M/s North West Madras Benefit Society Ltd., Chennai.
7. M/s. Purasai Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai.
8. M/s. Dhana Chakra Permanent Fund (India) Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.
9. M/s. Vijaya Krishna Permanent Fund Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.
10. M/s. Rani Mangammal Benefit Fund Ltd., Tamilnadu.

11. M/s. Sree Vardaraja Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai
12. M/s. Sri Kaalihambal Benefit Fund Ltd., Chennai.
13. M/s. Coastal Permanent Fund Ltd., Andhra Pradesh.

Sale of DDA Flats

735. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to revert to the earlier system of 'Draw of Lots' while allotting HIG, MIG, and LIG flats by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of HIG, MIG, and LIG flats lying vacant for allotment, place-wise;

(d) the estimated cost and selling price of each flats fixed by the Government; and

(e) the time by which these flats are likely to be sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has informed Delhi Development Authority (DDA) that earlier system of allotment of HIG, MIG and LIG flats by draw of lots, would continue.

(c) DDA has informed that approximately, 1400 HIG, 1700 MIG and 632 LIG category flats are available mainly in Rohini, Narela, Dwarka, Shalimar Bagh, Kalyan Vihar, etc. for allotment.

(d) The cost of the flats is fixed by DDA and varies on the basis of plinth area, locality and category, etc. and is charged as applicable on the date of issue of demand-cum-allotment letter.

(e) DDA has reported that next draw for LIG flats is likely to be held in September, 2006 and HIG and MIG flats are likely to be allotted by the end of January, 2007.

National Power Policy

736. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to carry out major changes in the National Power Policy, particularly by way of switching off reforms in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for bringing about such modifications?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No such decision has been taken to make changes in the National Electricity Policy.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

The Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 848 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:-

(i) S.O. 847 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the Jeevan Akshay III Plan of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as the annuity plans for the purposes of clause (xii) of sub-section (2) of section 80-C of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(ii) The Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 848 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) S.O. 963 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the bonds for an amount of Rupees one thousand five hundred crores (redeemable after three years) to be issued by the National Highways Authority of India constituted under section 3 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

(iv) S.O. 964 (E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the bonds for an amount of Rupees Four thousand five hundred crores (redeemable after three years) to be issued by the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.

(v) The Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 704 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4510/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Central Council) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 311 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2006 under sub-section (1) of section 33 of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4511/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Electricity Industry) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 387 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2006, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4512/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R. 313 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2006-C.E. dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R. 344 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/2006-C.E. dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iii) G.S.R. 375 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-C.E. dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iv) G.S.R. 292 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/2003-C.E. dated the 31st March, 2003.
- (v) G.S.R. 318 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2006-C.E. (N.T.) dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (vi) G.S.R. 369 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum providing that no excise duty would be leviable on food preparations and waters falling under tariff item mentioned therein during the period 1.3.2006 to 3.5.2006.
- (vii) G.S.R. 415 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2006-C.E. (N.T.) dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (viii) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 333 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st

June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4513/2006]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) S.O. 721 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (ii) S.O. 817 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vis-à-vis* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (iii) S.O. 818 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vis-à-vis* for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (iv) S.O. 830 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August 2001.
- (v) S.O. 912 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August 2001.
- (vi) S.O. 952 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian

- currency or *visè-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (vii) S.O. 953 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th, June 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *visè-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (viii) S.O. 982 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August 2001.
- (ix) G.S.R. 257 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two notifications mentioned therein.
- (x) G.S.R. 310 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xi) G.S.R. 330 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xii) G.S.R. 343 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 364 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 367 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xv) G.S.R. 380 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 393(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting goods mentioned therein from so much of the duty of Customs leviable thereon when imported into the Republic of India from the countries mentioned therein.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 394 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting goods mentioned therein from so much of the duty of Customs leviable thereon when imported into the Republic of India from the countries mentioned therein.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 395(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xix) G.S.R. 407 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus. dated the 1st July, 1996.
- (xx) G.S.R. 291 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in three Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxi) The Baggage (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 392 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2006. together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing applied rates of Customs duty on certain specified woollen fabrics.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 316 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (xxiv) G.S.R. 353 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 370 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 379 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 386 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxviii) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Amendment Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 378 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—4514/2006]

(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. 308 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on specified viscose filament yarn or spinning in or exported from the People's Republic of China and Ukraine.
- (ii) G.S.R. 309 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 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. 320 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty

up to the 13th day of June, 2007, on imports of White Cement originating in, or exported from, United Arab Emirates and Iran.

- (iv) G.S.R. 321 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of final anti-dumping duty on Zinc Oxide, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China up to and inclusive of 8th day of April, 2007.
- (v) G.S.R. 329 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on specified silk fabrics originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China for a period of six months.
- (vi) G.S.R. 342 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Saccharin, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China.
- (vii) G.S.R. 351 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt primary products, as specified therein, of the protocol to the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade from whole of the additional duty of Customs leviable thereon.
- (viii) G.S.R. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Aniline, originating in or exported from Japan and United States of America, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (ix) G.S.R. 368 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Metronidazole, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (x) G.S.R. 384 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on Hexamine, originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia and Russia, upto and inclusive of 27th day of June, 2007.
- (xi) G.S.R. 409 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 168/2003-Cus., dated 14th November, 2003.
- (xii) G.S.R. 426 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on 2-MNI originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, up to and inclusive of 17th day of July, 2007.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4515/2006]

- (4) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 177 (E) in Gazette of India dated 24th March, 2006, under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4516/2006]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:

- (i) The Coinage of the Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined in the honour of "MAHATMA BASAVESHWARA" Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 22 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2006.
- (ii) The Coinage of the Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coined to commemorate "STATE BANK OF INDIA BICENTENNIAL YEAR" Rule, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 55 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4517/2006]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

- (i) G.S.R. 300 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2006-Service Tax dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R. 328 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the levy of service tax, all taxable services on which the Reserve Bank of India is liable to pay service tax.
- (iii) G.S.R. 339 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2006-Service Tax dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iv) The Service Tax Determination of Value (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 418 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable services falling under clause (105) of section 65 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4518/2006]

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 319 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint 1st day of June, 2006 as the date on which the provisions of clause (b) of section 66 of the Finance Act, 2006 shall come into force, issued under section 66 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4519/2006]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23A of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:

- (i) S.O. 794 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Cauvery Grameena Bank and Kalpatharu Grameena Bank.
- (ii) S.O. 842 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Aligarh Gramina Bank, Jamuna Gramina Bank and Etah Gramina Bank.
- (iii) S.O. 843 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Hoshangabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla-Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (iv) S.O. 844 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of the Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Rayalaseema Grameena Bank and Pinakini Grameena Bank.
- (v) S.O. 877 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Marwar Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (vi) S.O. 878 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (vii) S.O. 986 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Gwalior-Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (viii) S.O. 977 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Alaknanda Gramin Bank,

Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank and Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank.

- (ix) S.O. 978 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (x) S.O. 979 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Palamu Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Santhal Praganas Gramin Bank.
- (xi) S.O. 980 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank and Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank.
- (xii) S.O. 981 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2006, regarding amalgamation of Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank and Kanakdurga Grameena Bank.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—4520/2006]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 130 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2006.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 222 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 223 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—4521/2006]

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th July, 2006 considered and passed again the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 as passed by the Houses of Parliament and returned by the President under the proviso to article 111 of the Constitution of India. A copy of the Bill passed again by the Rajya Sabha is enclosed."

Sir, I lay on the table the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, as passed again by Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2006.

Sir, I also lay on the Table the following Message received from the hon. President under the proviso to article 111 of the Constitution for reconsideration of the (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 by the Houses of Parliament.

12.02½ hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[English]

I received on 25 May, 2006, the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, duly passed by both Houses of Parliament for my assent under article 111 of the Constitution of India.

While having the highest regard for the sagacity and mature wisdom of my fellow Parliamentarians and with due deference to the Parliament, I would like the Parliament to reconsider the proposed Bill.

- a. in the context of the settled interpretation of the expression 'Office of Profit' in Article 102 of the Constitution, and
- b. the underlying Constitutional principles therein.

While reconsidering, among other things, the following may be specifically addressed:

- (i) evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union Territories in a clear and transparent manner,
- (ii) the implication of including for exemption the names of offices the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a member and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the competent authority, and
- (iii) soundness and propriety of law in making the applicability of the amendment retrospectively.

As provided under Article 111 of the Constitution, I, therefore, hereby return the Bill to the Houses for reconsideration with this message."

12.03 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Cancellation of sittings of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received request from several Members for the curtailment of the Session for 3 days.

In my meeting with Leaders of Parties held today it has been agreed unanimously that the sittings fixed for Monday the 28th, Tuesday the 29th and Wednesday the 30th August, 2006 may be cancelled.

In order to compensate the loss of time due to the cancellation of the above sittings. I have proposed, which has kindly been accepted by all hon. leaders that the House will sit upto 8 P.M. daily from 1st August to 18th August, 2006.

I hope the House agrees.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Statement

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendation contained in Chapter-V of the 12th Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Railway—2005-06 (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Rail Network in Northeast Region—Expansion and Investment'.

12.04¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(I) Eighteenth Report

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacy Bill, 2005.

(II) Evidence

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Evidence tendered before the Committee on the Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacy Bill, 2005.

12.04²/₄ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (2005-06) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development, pertaining to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): I am making this statement on the status of implementation of

*Placed in Library, See No. LT-4522/2006].

recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Rural Development) (2005-06) (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September, 2004.

The Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2005. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2005-2006. Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee was sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development on 31.10.2005.

There are 51 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues concerning the schemes for generation of self-employment and wage employment, provision housing to rural poor, rural roads and other quality inputs such as assistance for strengthening District Rural Development Agency Administration, training and research, human resource development, development of voluntary action, etc. for proper implementation of the programmes.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statements, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 31st July, 2006, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

2. Consideration and passing of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha again.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (a) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2006;
 - (b) The Produce Cess Laws (Abolition) Bill, 2006;
 - (c) The Government Securities Bill, 2004; and
 - (d) The Drugs (Control) Repeal Bill, 2006
4. Consideration and passing of the Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control (Repeal) Bill, 2006 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Assam Rifles Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:
 - (a) The Cantonments Bill, 2003;
 - (b) The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
 - (c) The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. The foodgrain production, the support price of agriculture produce and the payment in Indian Currency for the imported foodgrains and the status of distribution from foodgrain reserves and Public Distribution System under the agriculture policy of Government of India.
2. The Indo U.S. Nuclear Agreement and protection of natural interests and the sovereignty of India as a nuclear power.

[English]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's List of Business:

1. To expedite the construction of Renuka Dam, which will herald an era of prosperity to the people of District Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh besides providing much needed pure water to the residents of Delhi.
2. To discuss and deliberate in the Parliament on the issues of keeping the country clean, green and tidy with a view to promote tourism so as to attract domestic and foreign tourists to this unique and diverse land.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. To set up a crop price authority for ensuring remunerative price to the farmers for their crop so as to rejuvenate the interests of the farmers in agriculture.
2. To supply electricity to farmers of Saurashtra in accordance with their demand as Saurashtra of Gujarat is getting neither electricity as per its demand nor water from the canals.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need to begin the construction work of sanctioned school buildings of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar, Uttaranchal.
2. Need to give approval for running a school from this academic session after completing all the formalities of the proposed Central School, Deghat District Almora, Uttaranchal.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to evaluate the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.
2. Need to establish a Welfare Board for Petrol Pump Workers.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to increase rail and road connectivity to Alwar District which is a part of the National Capital Region.
2. The need to open a Central Research Institute on mustard crop in Alwar.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need to make payment in cash to lakhs of workers engaged in recent famine relief works in Rajasthan, as they are not prepared to accept maize and millet in place of wheat for payment of wages, whereas the Central Government is unable to allot wheat as per the demand of the State Government owing to its shortage.
2. Need to check and reduce the increasing prices of Consumer and edible products to enable immediately in order to enable the common man to lead a proper life.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Flood situation in West Bengal particularly in Murshidabad district where large parts are under threat:
2. Setting up of food processing industries in the Eastern and North-Eastern region.

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of RBI decision to allow outsourcing of certain vital banking activities including opening of accounts, issuing drafts and clearing operations and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following

matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of the RBI decision of allow outsourcing of certain vital banking activities including opening of accounts, issuing drafts and clearing operations and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, RBI have proposed a set of draft guidelines to regulate outsourcing some non-core activities in order to ensure that any outsourcing activity is only for the activity in which banks do not have the requisite expertise and from which they would derive cost benefit advantage.

In terms of the said draft guidelines, banks cannot outsource core management functions like corporate planning, organisation, management control and decision making functions like determining compliance with KYC norms of opening deposit account, according sanction for loan and management of investment portfolio, etc.

Financial services which could be considered for outsourcing by the banks may include applications processing (loan origination, credit card, etc.), marketing and research, data processing and back office related activities, etc. Outsourcing of these non-core financial services is expected to benefit customers also by enabling the banks to extend quicker and efficient service. Banks would not require prior approval from RBI for outsourcing services except when the service provider is located outside India or when the outsourcing is in relation to doorstep banking. The underlying principles behind these guidelines are that outsourcing arrangements should neither diminish the banks' obligation to customers and to RBI nor impede supervision by RBI.

As regards clearing operations, clearing of cheques are currently undertaken at clearing houses, which are voluntary associations of the participating institutions. Presently there are 1030 clearing houses in the country. At sixteen of these centres the clearing house is managed by Reserve Bank of India and at the remaining centres, they are managed by commercial banks. The operations at 55 of these centres are mechanised and are carried out through MICR cheque.

A proposal that is being examined is to consolidate all the clearing houses under an umbrella organisation which will be a section 25 company, that is not for profit organisation. The proposed company would be owned by the participant institutions i.e. banks and would have a diversified ownership. The initiative for formation of the company is being taken by Indian Bank's Association. The proposal does not involve outsourcing of any of the clearing related work currently being undertaken by clearing houses. The proposed company is expected to bring greater efficiency and standardisation at the service level and would also introduce new technologically advanced payment systems in the country, which would benefit the bank customer.

This emphasized that the draft guidelines have been issued by Reserve Bank of India to elicit feedback from the banks and other agencies. They have not yet been finalised.

Hence, it would be clear that while proposing to allow banks to outsource certain non-core activities, RBI is exercising utmost care and caution to ensure that any possible risks of outsourcing are addressed. The parent bank will be fully accountable for the conduct of its outsourced agent and shall undertake outsourcing only under a well-defined policy of the respective Boards of the banks.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the first stanza of the statement. The hon. Minister says that it is only a draft guidelines.

Secondly, he says that non-core activities will be outsourced. I have with me a copy of the circular dated 25th January, 2005 issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the Chairmen of the Banks. It has been issued by the DBOD with a specific number. If you kindly go through the circular, you will find that there is nothing which is reported as draft. This circular is a decision or a suggestion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please carry on. The mike is working. You are throwing sufficient light.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we are put in bad light. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It happens sometime. Let us not magnify it. Let us proceed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We also do not always serve to the best of our ability. Do we?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The question is that it is not a draft, it is a final circular.

Sir, with your kind permission, if you permit me, I can authenticate it and lay it on the Table of the House. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, the question is that it is not a draft. Secondly, he says non-core activities and thirdly he says that clearance is being undertaken to infuse new technology, greater efficiency and standardisation.

Sir, I begin my question in this way. Why can the greater efficiency, which you would like to infuse in the banking system not be done by the RBI? For that, why a private company has to be floated and why the banks cannot do it?

My third question is: what is core and what is non-core? Sir, please allow me to look into the activities that are being outsourced. According to the circular of the Reserve Bank of India, they are outsourcing identification of borrowers, collection of loan applications, processing of loan applications, verification of primary information, post-sanction monitoring, follow-up recovery loan, disbursement of small value loan and recovery of principal interest. This constitutes, in my opinion, 60 per cent of the banking business.

May I submit that the Government is enforcing vital changes in the banking functioning of the country, undermining the character of the system, handing over 60 per cent of the banking business to private agencies, intermediaries on payment of commission? This is nothing short of a backdoor device to bring about partial privatisation of the banking system. So, 60 per cent is being out-sourced. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I know Shri P. Chidambaram has many friends on this side also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is he your enemy?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, I am not his enemy. I am his critic. ...(*Interruptions*)

My point is that in 1996, Shri P. Chidambaram had sought to introduce a similar privatisation in the banking system in the name of setting up of local area private

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

banks. At that point of time, the political equation was different. And that move was abandoned because there was some uproar. The same abandoned principle is sought to be introduced today.

Who are the intermediaries? In the opinion of the hon. Minister, in the opinion of the Reserve Bank, who are those who will be the intermediaries who will act as the agents and to whom the banks would be outsourcing their functions? They are the corporate entities. It means big corporate houses will open outlets in the rural areas to do the retail banking, insurance agents and the Non-Banking Financial Corporations will be there. Therefore, the job that could be done and is being done by the banks is being outsourced by the banking organisation at the instance of the Reserve Bank of India, maybe on the advice of the Finance Minister. I have no idea of it.

What is the slogan? The circular that has been issued raises two slogans, two objectives: one, greater financial inclusion and two, increasing the outstretching. The hon. Minister would like to outstretch the banking system throughout the country with the help of the private corporates. We know what the private lenders are doing to the 70 per cent of the peasants in the country. Is it required? To outsource the banking activities, we have to appoint corporate entities. Is it necessary? According to my information, there are 70,000 bank branches in the country which include the public sector banks, the Regional Rural Banks and the Cooperative Banks. If you want to outstretch the banking activity, why has the Government not increased the number of bank branches? My point is very simple. It is possible. Why? The profit of the banking system in the country—you should know and definitely credit goes to the hon. Minister—is like this. Last year, the banking system had earned a profit of Rs. 40,000 crore. This year, the banking system has earned Rs. 41,000 crore. If the profit is so high, what stands in the way of opening new rural branches instead of handing over 60 per cent of the banking business to the private corporates? That is the first point.

My next point is this. What is the result of it?

[Translation]

What would be the outcome if the proposed outsourcing banking, the entire country should ponder over it. Its first outcome would be that

[English]

banking business will be conducted outside the bank premises and that will be considered to be a part of the normal banking business.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, please give me a few more minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You may take two minutes more.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Secondly, there will be commission agents. It means that crores of rupees will be paid on commission. It means banking will become costlier which means that the profit of the banks would be reduced.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Thirdly, banks will be responsible for the private agents. Sir, just imagine it. The private agents would be doing wrong things but the responsibility lies with the banks. Is it a normal rule of justice in the country? What will it lead to? It will lead to outsourcing of all the regular and normal banking services applicable to the common people. The common people will lose the services of the banks. The common people will be served by the private agents. What does it mean? It means that social banking will be abandoned.

Here, I do not speak of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. That name must have been forgotten! The banks were nationalised just to promote social banking. If 60 per cent of the banking is outsourced, then social banking will be left to the mercy of the private traders. What will the banks do? The Banks will be doing high profile, rich-men banking. That is what he calls the core banking. It means that the nationalised character of the banks will be diluted severely by the backdoor policy of the present Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Put your questions.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Some of the foreign banks have done the outsourcing.

Let us refer to the experience of the country. HSBC has done outsourcing. What is the result? The result is that there have been increasing instances of fraud being committed. This outsourcing has led to fraud in a number of foreign banks which have undertaken this. Who will be the victims? The victims will be the unemployed youth who will be employed by these agents on underpayment to do the job. It is they who will be the victims. I do not

accuse, but I must say that the unemployed youth is sought to be misused by the Government in the name of outsourcing.

The next question is very important and that is about clearing. Why should be clearing be handed over to private agencies? Has he lost faith in the RBI? Does he believe that the RBI is so overburdened? Why should it be done? Moreover, this is being handed over to a private limited company and its name is National Payment Corporation. Why is this being done? May I ask this question to the Government which we are supporting? It is painful for me to ask the question because it may be a reflection on the credibility of the Government. It is painful for me to ask this question to the Government because they live on our support.

My question is, if 60 per cent of the banking activities is outsourced, if 40 per cent of the deposit that is there in the rural areas is allowed to be handed by private agents, if 50 per cent of the lending business is handed over to corporate agencies, then what remains with the public sector banks? This will lead to weakening and undermining of the present banking system, diluting its character and the common people in the rural areas will be at the mercy of the private entities who will be appointed. About Rs. 16 lakh crore is in the banks and Rs. 9 lakh crore is the advance.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta. this is not a proper debate. You are a very senior and experienced Member. You understand the rules.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the implication of this is, the hon. Minister, knowingly or unknowingly, is undermining the banking system. This is an open backdoor policy.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you have made your point.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We shall oppose this policy. Today there is a banking strike in the country. If the Government does not change, there will be more strikes in the country, there will be uproar in the Parliament and do not blame if the stability of the political system is affected because of the policy that you are pursuing.

MR. SPEAKER: You could have said this in the form of a question.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have one question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry Mr. Chandrappan. You have conceded your right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes suddenly some hon. Members lose balance. I do not know why.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow only a question to be put by Shri Francis George. Then I will immediately call the hon. Minister to reply. You should know the rules of Calling Attention. If they are being violated everyday, I will not allow it.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Iddukki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, over six lakh bank employees are on strike today precisely because of this RBI circular which enables outsourcing of special clearing operations of the banking sector. The hon. Finance Minister has said that the RBI has decided to outsource operations for which the banking sector does not have the requisite expertise. I am sorry that the hon. Finance Minister made such a statement. In fact, it is very unfortunate and it reflects very badly on the bank employees of this nation.

I am a bank employee myself. We have been carrying out operations like clearing and all other operations that have been mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister. All these operations and works have been carried out by the employees successfully.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not have any question to ask?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister would direct the RBI to reconsider this particular proposal to take away these very vital operations in the banking sector.

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, outsourcing of Reserve Bank of India's job has taken a tremendous dimension in recent years. The agency commissions have been increasing leaps and bounds.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot convert it into a debate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Bank is relentlessly and desperately trying to shift jobs to outside agencies with a defined move to trim the premier institution in order to define a role of Central Bank.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question kindly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his statement that the banks do not have the requisite expertise and form from which they can derive cost benefit advantage. A Bill has been introduced and we oppose the introduction of the Bill to form a separate organisation.

Sir, so long as clearing of cheques, etc. by the Reserve Bank of India is concerned, they were being done efficiently. The customer satisfaction is 97 per cent. Recently, investment has also been done to upgrade its technology. The circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India to outsource not only in, what he has stated, the non-core activities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not put a question, I cannot help you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know whether the accounts operations, deposit mobilisation, loan disbursement and all these activities come under non-core activities.

Sir, today, lakhs of banks employees are on strike.

MR. SPEAKER: That we have come to know, you please put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would reconsider the decision to outsource some of the activities which are the core activities. By outsourcing the core activities of nationalised banks, it is nothing but a step towards privatisation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have said that. Let him reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is like lowering the Government share, from 74 per cent to 51 per cent, as the Government has proposed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would review the decision and reverse the decision. Otherwise, it will harm the interests of the people of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to ask a question on Calling Attention Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I allow those who seek my permission.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Through you I would like to say to the hon'ble Minister that the banks were nationalized in the country with the objective of providing facilities to the common man. While the Government propose to increase the participation of private sector banks to 60 percent through Reserve Bank of India. I feel it would create a monopoly of private sector causing inconvenience to the common man. It would particularly benefit the bigwigs. I would like to know if we are not moving away from what we had envisaged while nationalizing the banks. The private sector would thus have a monopoly and it would further jeopardize the work of streamlining the banking system and make it more irregular. That is why the Government should pay particular attention and the Hon'ble Minister should make a statement to this effect in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Mahtab; seek only a clarification.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I come to the question right away. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that the Reserve Bank of India's decision to merge the Cuttack Clearing House—presently managed by the State Bank of India (SBI) at its Main Branch—with Bhubaneswar Clearing House has agitated the public at large, and precious banking hours were disrupted for a number of days which has forced RBI to keep the merger in abeyance. When RBI has not spent a single pie for the MICR machine at Bhubaneswar, which is put up by SBI, then why is there is move to close down the Clearing House in Cuttack which is managed by SBI? There are 36 Banks with at least 120 branches in Cuttack city alone.

I would like to know whether the Government would refrain from closing down the Clearing House at Cuttack and instruct RBI to instal a new cheque processing centre with MICR technology at Cuttack.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that my statement was quite clear and the statement made a distinction between what are core functions of a bank and what are non-core functions. Let me reiterate that core banking functions are not being outsourced, and there is nothing in the draft guidelines of the RBI which either permits or requires banks to outsource core banking functions.

There are a number of functions which are clearly non-core functions. I have mentioned this in my statement. Let me take one for example, namely, marketing and research. Who is best placed to do marketing and research? Marketing and research is better done or best done by organisations which have specialised in marketing and research. Therefore, if a Bank's Board under a well-defined policy decides to outsource a marketing and research activity. I think that is a move in the right direction. It will add value; it will bring greater efficiency; and it will have a cost advantage to the bank. So, I think one should not be carried away by what is said or written based on misinformation or half information. ...(*Interruptions*) If you do the running commentary, then how do I reply?

The Statement very clearly says that these are draft guidelines. They are indeed draft guidelines. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: How he justifies a draft? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow. This is very unfortunate. You have made all the allegations. The Minister is replying. After that, if necessary, seek permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These are the draft guidelines. The hon. member read another circular issued by RBI which deals with banking correspondent and banking facilitator. How. Members would recall that in the Budget Speech of 2005-06, I had said in Paragraph 48, it reads:

"48. Government intends to continue with its effort to turn the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs) and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to rural households and farm households. Particularly in agricultural credit, innovations are possible. I propose to request the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the issue of allowing banks to adopt the agency model, by using the infrastructure of civil society organizations, rural kiosks and village knowledge centres, to provide credit support to rural and farm sectors."

The idea is to reach credit to a large number of people. Only an hour ago, Members were saying that credit is not reached to a large number of people. We had identified civil society organisations, rural kiosks which are being set up, and village knowledge centres which are being set up by the Department of Telecommunications and M.S. Swaminathan Foundation.

Acting on this suggestion, the RBI has issued a Circular on how to outreach banking services through the banking correspondent and banking facilitator model, and one of the models that is being looked at is even the Post Office, which belongs to the Government of India. So, the 25th of January 2006 Circular has nothing to do with the guidelines that we are talking about. They are entirely two different things. Today, in order to expand the reach of financial services, we have requested Dr. Rangarajan to chair a Committee on Financial Inclusion and that Committee will tell us how to bring more and more people into the institutional credit mechanism. So, the 25th January, 2006 Circular has nothing to do, if I may say with great respect, with the draft guidelines that we are now debating. The guidelines are draft guidelines, feedback is being sought from banks and from other stakeholders, and RBI will finalize which are the services which may be outsourced, which do not fall under core banking activities. I just explained one such non-core banking activity which could be outsourced to the advantage of the banks. Therefore, Sir, it is premature to come to any conclusion like "this is back door privatisation, financial inclusion is bad or outreach is bad or that this is a substitute for opening new branches." I think, these conclusions are completely premature, and if I say with great respect, misplaced.

As far as bank branches are concerned, we are opening new bank branches. Bank branch does not depend upon the profitability of the bank alone. The

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

profitability of the bank will mean—my Chairman, the Standing Committee on Finance is nodding his head. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Alone. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I said 'alone'. I am very careful especially when you are sitting there.

Profitability of banks. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That shows the effectiveness of the Standing Committees. I am very happy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He is quite a taskmaster, Sir. Only he has not summoned me, summoned everybody else, but I am happy about him being there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I am just doing the job given by the Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I complimented all the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, leader from that side and leader from this side are exchanging their pleasantries. That makes us happier more. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I would be happy if you are made the Chairman. I have no problem with that. I did not make him a Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You make him a Minister. Then, he will realise.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a large number of bank branches are being opened every year. A bank branch depends upon the ability of that branch to mobilise deposits from that area. There must be a credit deposit ratio, which is viable. Bank branches are opened in many places. A large number of bank branches are opened every year. These numbers are available. They are available on the website of the RBI. So, opening bank branches is one part of banking. Reaching out to more people who do not get institutional credit is another activity

of banks. In doing so, we must make a distinction between core banking functions which are identified and non-core functions which may be outsourced if there is a cost benefit advantage to the bank under a well laid down policy of the Board of the bank and within the guidelines of the RBI, which will be finalised in due course.

Sir, I did not make RBI the regulator of the banks. Parliament made RBI the regulator of the banks. Parliament gave RBI the authority both under the Banking Regulation Act and under the Nationalisation of Banks Act. In some other countries, there are regulators other than the monetary authority. Here, for good reasons, from the very beginning, the monetary authority of India is also the regulator of all banks—public, private and every other bank. Therefore, one must have faith in that regulator. Surely the regulator knows exactly what is happening in the banking system and what needs to be done. Government is very committed to financial inclusion, financial outreach, innovative models, and we are even experimenting, in one district, using the Post Office as the outreach mechanism to reach out to people. Matters cannot be frozen at a point of time.

As the economy grows, as new instruments are available, and as new knowledge is available, we must be innovative, we must be forward-looking, and we must be progressive.

So, let me assure the House that there is no privatisation; there is no backdoor or front door privatisation; and there is no attempt to dilute the core banking functions of the Bank.

On the clearing, Sir, let me say that this Clearing Corporation which is proposed to be set up is a Section 25 Company. I would urge the hon. Members to please read Section 25 of the Companies Act. This is a non-profit organisation. Out of 1,030 clearing houses, only 16 are run by the RBI. The rest are run by different banks. Now, the banks have get together and said: "Instead of one bank running 50, another bank running 30, and another bank running 100, let us form a corporation: we are the owners." The banks will be the owners of that Corporation. It is not that some private citizen who is going to the owner. I have made it clear. I have said so in my statement that the banks are the owners of the Clearing Corporation; that Clearing Corporation will be a Section 25 Company and non-profit company; and that Company will do the clearing operations. There is no

proposal to outsource any part of the clearing operation. To assume that a banks' owned Section 25 Company amounts to outsourcing, with great respect, Sir, I am not able to accept that criticism.

Finally, Sir, one hon. Member asked me about the merger of the Cuttack and Bhubaneswar branches. In the year 2004-05 alone, 1,026 new branches were opened. For 2005-06, I would get the figures. In one year, we opened 1,026 branches. So, a large number of branches have been opened. About Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, it is a problem. You know, Sir, Bhubaneswar is the Capital, Cuttack is the seat of the High Court; Bhubaneswar has to be built, Cuttack is an old city where business thrives. There are two clearing houses. Cuttack people have told me and said: "You must not move it to Bhubaneswar." Bhubaneswar people have said: "No, no; you must combine with Bhubaneswar." ...(*Interruptions*) Just a minute.

Therefore, as you have yourself admitted, the matter is now being considered by the RBI.

Finally, Sir, let me say, once you choose the regulator—you change the regulator, let Parliament change the regulator—Once you choose the regulator, and that regulator has done a good job in this country. Let me conclude by saying that India's banking system is one of the strongest in the world today. As I have repeatedly said, the total outstanding is Rs. 14,05,146 crore. The gross NPAs have come down sharply. The net NPAs have come down sharply. I gave out these figures when I met with the Chairmen. The RBI is doing a good job of regulating. We must put our faith on the RBI. If there is something extraordinary happening, we can certainly look into it. But surely, the RBI will keep in mind all the upsides and downsides. The Draft Circular will be finalised after taking note of all points of concern.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have a question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There would be no more questions. He has already given an elaborate answer.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to any of our demands. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry; therefore, there cannot be a running debate now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Would he reconsider the decision taken by the Government? ...(*Interruptions*) Unless he withdraw this decision, we are walking out. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am taking up one urgent matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharabela Swain, you please sit down. Why are you upset?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): We have many genuine doubts. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying, I cannot hear.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the submission of Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(*Interruptions*)*

12.49 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the evening yesterday when the meeting of Cabinet Ministers was taking place at 7, Race Course Road, the residence of the Prime Minister, surprisingly a car reached there in which a boy and two girls were sitting. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, not a single Minister is present here, who will give the reply? ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[English]

The Home Minister should have made a suo motu statement.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the way.

[English]

Prof. Malhotra, I would also allow you to speak on this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But there is a Cabinet Minister here, and other ministers are also present here. You know the functioning of the Government. It is a Cabinet System of Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Speaker Sir, they said only this much that they were to meet the Prime Minister. They were allowed to enter the premises without bothering to verify whether they had taken the appointment to meet Prime Minister or not, and whether their names figured in the list of the appointment to the Prime Minister, and whether the number of their car was noted down.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the question as to from where they had come and what was the number of the car. The most remarkable thing here is that concern has been expressed on the matter of internal security of the country inside and outside the House. The country as a whole is concerned and at a time when the meeting of Cabinet Security Committee was going on at Prime Minister's residence, the gravity of this lapse can be imagined if any terrorist attack had happened to take place there. In such a situation Prime minister's residence is not safe. Any person can enter the Prime Minister's residence by claiming that he is to meet the PM and he is allowed by the security personnel and when car returned from there then only they grew alert and the car was caught at the INA market, 3 or 4 kms away from the Prime Minister's residence. But it has been justified by the Prime Minister's office that there was no any lapse on the part of the security personnel.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have raised it. You have very pertinently raised it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. I would like to know from here that on the one side, the whole country is concerned regarding security arrangements, on the other side who had come in that car and how the car could pass through two security points. If some terrorists had managed to enter in this way then what could happened there. It should be thought over. The more important point is that statement has been issued from Prime Minister's office without going into the facts that there was no mistake from security side. Through you, I request the Government that the Prime Minister or Home Minister should make a statement regarding this incident and tell the whole country the real facts thereof.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is serious because meeting of Cabinet Security Committee was going on at Prime Minister's residence, therefore media people were present there. So, this news spread across the country immediately through media. Had there been no media persons, perhaps efforts could have been made to sweep this news under the carpet. Therefore my request is that the hon'ble Prime Minister should make a statement on this matter and apprise the country of the facts.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member Shri Ramji Lal Suman has expressed his opinion in detail. I want to point out that terrorist incidents have taken place in Mumbai and Delhi in the country and other parts of the country are also experiencing this plight. The whole country is concerned in this regard. There are three security check points at Prime Minister's residence. That car had crossed two of the three barricades and reached the Prime Minister's residence. At that time a meeting of Cabinet Security Committee was going on at Prime Minister's residence and about 12 hon'ble Ministers were present there. The three persons sitting in the car reached there. I want to know as to who they were. Why security personnel permitted them to enter there and why it has been said by Prime Minister office that nothing has happened there.

Sir, it is a very serious matter. I request you to give directions from Chair to the Government to make clear the whole issue in the House. I thank media persons also that they have disseminated this news through various TV news channels. It is a very surprising that the moment this news was broadcast in the country through TV channels, it was stated by the Prime Minister's office that no such incident had taken place. It is a very serious matter. My request is that the hon'ble Home Minister make a statement in the House regarding this.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to point out that the Prime Minister's office has said that there was no security lapse and no such incident had taken place. Then why have they been arrested and sent to jail? This action has been taken after news was disseminated by the media, otherwise probably no action could have been taken.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our two Prime Minister's have been the victim of terrorism and shortcomings of this type in Prime Minister's residence is very serious. I was expecting that the hon'ble Home Minister himself will come and make suo motu statement and take the whole country into confidence but it has not been done so. Through you, I request the Government that at least the truth be revealed to the country explaining as to how this incidence took place; who were the people to enter PM's residence in the car?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chidambaramji is present here. He is a Cabinet Minister. Let him speak whether there were any shortcomings in security arrangements at Prime Minister's residence, if not then why have they arrested apprehended and jailed? How could it be said from PMO that there was no security lapse without verifying the facts. If this is the situation of security at Prime Minister's residence, then you yourself can guess how will be the situation of other places.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Rest of the matter will be taken up at 6 PM.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the house has come. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be on record. I called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You will speak at 6 pm.

12.54 hrs.

**DALMIA DADRI CEMENT LIMITED
(ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF
UNDERTAKINGS) AMENDMENT BILL,
2006****

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Dalmia Dadri Cement Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Dalmia Dadri Cement Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.55 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Rise in prices of essential commodities

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance will now reply to the debate on price rise.

*Not recorded.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the very useful and constructive debate that took place yesterday. The debate was initiated by Dr. Chinta Mohan and then from the Opposition Benches was led by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

12.56 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, we discussed price rise in the last Session. This is not the first time price rise is discussed in Parliament. Price rise is discussed from time to time. In fact, the issue of price rise has been discussed in virtually every Session of Parliament for many years. For example, this was discussed in the Lok Sabha on the 9th of July, 1998, between the 3rd and 8th of December, 1998, 27th of April, 2000 and I sincerely hope that Prof. Malhotra and his friends will recall what was said during those discussions also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): And the same thing will be repeated today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It will not be there. I will tell you why.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are talking about both inflation measures, the WPI, CPI, and other indices as well as the prices of essential commodities actually in the market. The first is a phenomenon that we find in virtually every developing country, and we find today even in developed countries. The second is a phenomenon that we find from time to time and I will explain why that happens. Prof. Ramadass is not here. I think he made a very significant contribution. Perhaps, Prof. Malhotra and others were not present at that time. I think he made a very significant contribution explaining the difference between these two. In my own way I will try to explain.

Let us first look at the WPI. Today, for example, the Department will report—not my Department but the Department that is responsible for collecting this data—that the WPI has again declined from last week's 4.68 to about 4.52 or so. If you look at WPI, in 1998-99 for four weeks between 1st of July and 22nd of July WPI was 7 per cent and more. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It is not right to enforce WPI for essential commodities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It was only 15 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am coming to that. I have tried to make a distinction. ...*(Interruptions)* If you want to reply on my behalf, I will sit down. I have made a distinction. Malhotraji, I made a distinction between WPI and prices in the market and I said I will deal with both. I said so. Kindly listen to me. You do not need the earphone. I am speaking in English only. You do not need that. Maybe the translation is saying something else. ...*(Interruptions)* Let us look at the WPI. I will tell you why that happens and what is the impact.

Again, from 21st October to 2nd December, 1998 the WPI was over 7 per cent. It touched 7.3 per cent.

13.00 hrs.

For the most part of 2000-01, the WPI was well over six per cent. It touched a high of 8.8 per cent on 13.1.01. In fact, when the change over from the NDA Government to UPA Government took place, the WPI was on the rise. It rose from a low of 1.6 per cent on 24.3.04 to 5.6 per cent when the new Government came. The point I am making is that WPI rises and falls for a variety of reasons. The two main reasons are cost-push inflation and demand-pull inflation. World over, fuel prices have increased and metal prices have hardened. Take, for example, fuel prices. The NDA Government, if I may say this, was extraordinarily lucky regarding fuel prices. Fuel prices were about \$ 23 a barrel in 2003-04. Today, as you know, it is \$ 70 a barrel. It is three times. Metal prices have hardened throughout the world. When these prices harden—these are inputs like fuel—there is a cost-push inflation and the cost-push inflation is reflected in the WPI.

The second reason for WPI to increase is demand-pull inflation. There is no much more demand, and supply does not catch up with demand. Take, for example, cement and steel. Now, we complain about cement prices being high and steel prices being high. Why? The demand for steel and cement is so high today but even at these prices, people are willing to borrow money to build their own homes or buy their own homes. Home loans are growing at 44 per cent. People are willing to leverage

their current income and their future income in order to borrow and build their home or buy a home. When the cement capacity and steel capacity does not match the demand for cement and steel, naturally prices rise. This is demand-pull inflation. We find it in every developing country. You take credit for the growth that you recorded in 2003-04 and we take credit for the high growth that we have recorded in 2004-05 and 2005-06. If the economy is growing at eight per cent or more, inevitably, there will be some demand-pull inflation. Capacity has to match up with the demand for these items and commodities.

When the WPI increases, with a lag, the CPI will also increase because wholesale prices will get reflected in the retail prices and that is what has happened since the month of March-April. We are taking steps to moderate cost-push inflation and demand-pull inflation. On cost-push inflation, we are taking steps on the fiscal side. We have cut customs duties and we have cut excise duties. If necessary, we will take further steps. On the demand-pull inflation side, monetary steps are being taken. The Reserve Bank of India has taken a tighter monetary stance and the monetary steps that the Reserve Bank of India takes will moderate inflation.

But that does not satisfy the common man because these are numbers. These numbers are relevant. These numbers are something which Members of Parliament should be aware of. These numbers will indeed have an impact upon retail prices of essential commodities for the common man. This discussion is about essential commodities. Now, why are prices of essential commodities going up? One of the reasons is that general inflation is going up because of cost-push factors and demand-pull factors.

The other and the more important reason, with which we are directly concerned today, is supply shocks. What has happened is that three commodities which are essential have driven this price rise. These commodities are wheat, pulses and sugar. Now, we can go into each one of these. Take, for example, wheat.

The advanced estimates for the production of wheat in 2004-2005—contrary to what was said here—placed it at 74 million tonnes. Finally, the estimates placed the final wheat production only at 68 million tonnes. In the year 2005-2006, the advanced estimate placed it at as high as 73 million tonnes, but the final wheat production was only 69.48 million tonnes.

There has been a decline in wheat production, and it was less than what was anticipated or projected. As a result of this, the public stocks dwindled. This was because the off-take of wheat takes place through the PDS, open market sales, etc. The projections for the current year are good, but we will have to wait and see how the monsoon behaves, and what eventually the crop turns out to be. Let me give you the figures of procurement for 2005-2006 compared to the previous year 2004-2005. In 2004-2005, as I said, the production was about 68.6 million tonnes. Nearly 15.9 million tonnes came to the market, out of which 14.77 million tonnes were actually procured, that is, about 147 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured. This represents 92.84 per cent of arrivals in the market. In 2005-2006, only 13.64 million tonnes arrived in the market, which was slightly less than the arrivals of the previous year, but only 9.22 million tonnes were procured, that is, 92 lakh tonnes were procured. This means that 67.6 per cent of the arrivals was procured in the market.

I am not trying to fix blame, but virtually every State that was given a target including Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh all failed to meet their target on procurement. Since procurement declined and the overall production was not as anticipated or projected, there was a psychology of scarcity. Therefore, the wheat prices started to rise. This is essentially a supply-side shock and a supply-side deficit. In order to meet this supply shock, the Government decided to import wheat. Now, this decision has been taken, and wheat is arriving in the Indian ports and prices have shown a declining trend in the futures or forward markets as well as in the spot markets. This will get reflected in the actual retail market with a time lag. If the total availability of wheat in the country—public stocks and private stocks—is less, then you can augment the total stock of the country only by import. If there are adequate private stocks, then you can find ways to convert private stocks to public stocks, but if the total availability of public stocks and private stocks taken together is not adequate, then this can only be augmented in the short run by import. In the long-term, of course, we must increase production and productivity, but in the short-term this can only be increased by imports. This is precisely what the Government is doing, and it will get reflected in the retail prices as it was in previous years with a time lag.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

The next point about which I would like to talk is pulses. This country is chronically deficit in pulses, and this deficit is not there from this year or last year, but this deficit has been there for many years. We have always imported pulses, which is why pulses are an OGL. In 2003-2004, the total production of pulses was 149 lakh tonnes, and we imported 17 lakh tonnes; in 2004-2005, the total production of pulses was 131 lakh tonnes, and we imported 13 lakh tonnes; in 2005-2006, the total production of pulses was 139 lakh tonnes, and we imported 16 lakh tonnes. This problem has been accentuated this year because the pulses that we consume are largely available only in Myanmar.

In Myanmar also, there has been a decline in production. Pulses are not available in Myanmar in the quantities that we want, but we have allowed import of pulses. These pulses will come, whatever quantities are available will come, but as long as there is an overall shortage between demand and supply, I am afraid, prices of pulses will not moderate immediately. When new supplies arrive, when the new crops come, then alone prices of pulses will moderate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Next year!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In the current year, whenever the next crop comes. ...*(Interruptions)* I think, the hon. Member wants to speak. If you permit him, let him speak.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister conclude his speech, you can speak offer the conclusion of his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me first; you keep on asking questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the Minister. This is not the proper way. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You had a debate in May when the Minister of Agriculture answered all your

questions. I am duty bound to answer on behalf of the Government, but we are answering issues which were answered in May. If a further discussion is required, I am sure, the Minister of Agriculture will come and answer. However, I am answering on behalf of the Government as to why we are short of pulses, and why the demand and supply gap in pulses has increased.

Thirdly, in 2002-03, the total sugar production was 201 lakh tonnes, in 2003-04, it fell to 139 lakh tonnes, and in 2004-05, it fell to 130 lakh tonnes. I will tell you why.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the farmers are receiving the same price. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In 2003-04, it was your Government, and from 2004-05, our Government is there. If the policy that we pursued is wrong. Then the policy that you pursued is also wrong.

I will tell you why. If you ask me a question, you must wait for a while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and not the individual Members. There should be no running commentary please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: One was the deficiency in rains, and the other was that farmers switched from sugarcane to other crops, which were more remunerative. Prices of sugar fell to Rs. 15 to Rs. 16; it pleased the consumer, but it did not please the farmer. So, he switched over from sugarcane to another crop. This is a double edged sword. If prices for the consumer have to be maintained, one has to keep in mind the prices for the farmer also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): It is a dangerous argument.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What is dangerous?

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): It is not based on reality.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister conclude, after that you can present your views.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If you have to increase sugarcane prices for the farmer, then, inevitably, we have to increase the price that is fixed under the Sugarcane Control Order and consequently sugar prices will increase. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Give them subsidy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We will come to that question. If you increase the prices of sugarcane, the price of sugar will also rise. When prices of sugar fell sharply in these two years, the sugarcane farmers switched over from sugarcane to another crop. This issue was raised and this was answered in May. I am telling you that you need to find a balance between prices for farmers and prices for consumers. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a fallacious argument.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This argument may be fallacious for you, but this argument is logical from my point of view. In 2005-06, the production was 191 lakh tonnes. In 2006-07, the crop that is starting from 1st of October promises to be a good crop. Once this crop starts coming, once this sugarcane is crushed and sugar is produced, prices will decline.

Now, Sir, let us look at the price situation.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whatever the hon'ble Minister is speaking is not correct. The crores of people of this country are reeling under the burden of inflation. If the nature of the reply is like this, there is no use in hearing it. ...(*Interruptions*) He has not told whether the prices would decline or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first hear the reply of the Minister.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You are exhorting me to listen to him, but if the hon'ble Minister goes on giving such reply, there is no point in listening to him therefore we are staging a walkout from the House.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Anyway you have decided to do that, what is the point?

13.15 hrs.

(At this stage, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon'ble Members left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have neither any concrete programmes nor any sound logic. This reply is against the interests of the common man, therefore we are staging a walkout from the House.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Anyway, it is Friday afternoon. You will have to go early. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

13.15¹/₂ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' and some other hon. Members left the House.)

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If you sit down and listen, you will get an answer. If you go out, I will still answer. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, the only way to bring down the prices of these key essential commodities is. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, he is going out. He should go quietly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The only way in which prices for the housewife, for the common man will come down in the retail market of essential commodities is to

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

augment supply of these commodities. As long as there is a supply side shortage, supply deficit. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You should tackle blackmarketing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will deal with that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What about the assurance you have, given two months back that all the essential commodities will be made available at reasonable prices.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You have asked the question. Now wait for an answer. I am answering in a responsible manner. What is the point in raising your voice against me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Achariaji, this is not the way.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That this is an unprecedented phenomenon, that these prices will never come down, these are wrong assumptions. Take Toor Dal for example. In 199 its price was Rs. 34 per kg; it came down to Rs. 26 per kg when supply was augmented. Take onions. Its price was Rs. 11 per kg in 1999; it came down to Rs. 8 in 2000. Today its price is Rs. 4. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What is the reason for suicides by farmers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Listen to me. I am answering. It can only be done by augmenting supply. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not listening. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Farmers are not getting the right price.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can I allow you to interrupt the hon. Minister?

[Translation]

PROF. RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Sambhal): When it is available with the farmers, then it is cheap, when it is not, then it becomes costly, this is not valid argument. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him give the reply at first, then raise your questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is this not a relevant figure? I am giving you only relevant figures.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM KRIPAL YADAV: When it is available with the farmers, then it is cheap, when it is not with them, then it becomes costly. Those who are into hoarding, raise its prices. By resorting to the jugglery of figures, the hon'ble Minister do not want to present the real picture that's why we are staging the walkout from the House.

13.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Prof. Ram Kripal Yadav and some other hon'ble members left the House)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think they do not wish to get an answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That price was wrong price.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That is what I am saying, that price is wrong.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But you are taking satisfaction.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not taking satisfaction. I am saying that price is wrong. Therefore, when prices rise in the retail market, prices will come down once you augment the supply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not permit the hon'ble Minister to be interrupted like this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You asked a question and you must wait for the answer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have spoken for 20 minutes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You have spoken for fifty minutes. Please wait for the answer.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given time after he completes his speech, but whosoever interrupts in the middle, nothing will go on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whatever is spoken in between should also be recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then he would not be able to finish his reply. I am bearing in my mind this also, that the Members have to take leave for the lunch also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can one have his meals when the poor are not getting meals? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I point out that interruptions are a part of Parliamentary proceedings?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I accept that. But it looks like I am interrupting you.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given time after he completes his speech, but please do not interrupt.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Radhakrishnan ji, your words are not being recorded.

[*English*]

I feel sorry. This will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You listen to him. Your words are not being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue, Shri Chidambaram.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, the only way to bring down the moderate prices. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you are not willing to listen. I will ask the hon'ble Minister to take his seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him to continue his speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): The Government should take some positive steps ...(*Interruptions*). Traders create artificial scarcity of the commodities. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shri Chidambaram's speech will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Yesterday the hon'ble Minister was listening to the speeches of the hon'ble Members for more than six hours. Allow him to speak for half-an-hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has heard you for six hours, now you listen to him to atleast half-an-hour.

13.23 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon'ble Members left the House)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

13.24 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu deb Acharia and some other hon'ble Members left the House.)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is most unfortunate.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The prices are rising due to hoarding. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that. I agree with you.

[Translation]

You seek clarification after his speech.

[English]

I will allow you. Before that, let him to complete his speech first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, artificial scarcity is being created. Big hoarders are creating this artificial scarcity. The hon'ble Minister has not given a reply to this moot question. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record and nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We are completely dissatisfied with the reply given by the Minister, so we are staging a walkout from the House.

13.25 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and some other hon'ble Members left the House.)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): The people have voted for us. What answer will be given to the public? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said—I repeats it—the prices of these commodities—wheat, pulses and sugar—will come down once the supply is augmented. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the hon'ble Minister, he is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the hon'ble Minister complete his statement. Later on you will be given time to raise clarification if you desire so.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The prices of wheat, sugar and pulses which are the primary drivers in the primary articles group, will come down once the supply is augmented.

I will read out the measures taken on the wheat side, on the sugar side and on the pulses side. Once these supplies are augmented, the prices will come down.

*Not recorded.

But why I refer to the figures of 1999 is that it is wrong to assume that merely because seasonally or because of shortage on the supply side, the prices have risen to a level and that they will never come down; it is a wrong assumption.

Toor Dal for example was selling at Rs. 34 a kg. in 1999. It moderated down to Rs. 26; it was in fact, Rs. 33 in 2004 and today it is at Rs. 33 or Rs. 34 and it will moderate. Similarly, for wheat, there was a high point when the prices were high, but once supplies are augmented, they will come down. In the case of sugar, in fact, in 2002 and 2003, the sugar prices crashed to Rs. 15 and Rs. 14.50 and the consumers were happy, but what do the farmers do? They switched over from sugarcane to some other crop. Then the prices rose to Rs. 17 and then, they went back to grow sugarcane. Today the prices are between Rs. 19.50 in some places to Rs. 21. When the new crop comes, it will moderate.

There is no magic-wand; the only way to moderate prices is to augment the supply of these commodities. The Minister of Agriculture was here in May to reply to a debate. He narrated the steps that we are taking to augment the supplies. Today, he answered a question in Parliament in the Rajya Sabha on the steps taken by his Ministry to augment supplies. Let me simply, if necessary, read out the steps that he is taking in wheat, in sugar and in pulses. These steps, in course of time, will augment supplies and the prices will come down.

There are other issues which need to be addressed and that is what, I think, is concerning the people. One is how far do we use the Essential Commodities Act and how can that be an instrument to moderate prices. It is true that on the 15th of February 2002, the NDA repealed all control orders. That was pursuant to a Conference of Chief Ministers; the repealing order did provide that the State Governments could obtain prior permission of the Central Government and pass control orders.

We have advised the Chief Ministers that if they wish to pass Control Orders, they can obtain prior permission of the Central Government and make their own Control Orders. The Ministry of Food and Consumers Affairs is examining whether the Control Order, which was made on the 15th of February 2002, should be revisited and whether the State Government should be authorised to pass Control Orders even without prior permission. Obviously, I cannot answer for the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs. The concerned Minister

should answer that but the matter is under examination. Even as the law stands today, I said this in the Rajya Sabha, the Chief Ministers have the powers to pass Control Orders with the prior permission of the Central Government. Let me assure this House if any State Government wants to pass the Control Order, the Central Government will grant permission promptly and they can pass the Control Orders. These Control Orders can be passed for fixing stock limits, for enabling de-hoarding, for stopping price manipulation and for stopping black-marketing. These Control Orders can be passed. The EC Act contains powers and I would appeal to the State Governments, having regard to the local situation, if they wish to pass the Control Orders, they can be granted permission by the Central Government to pass the Control Orders. They can pass the Control Orders.

The second issue is about the future trading. I wish Shri Yadav was here. He is the Chairman of the Standing Committee. The Bill is before his Committee. My colleagues and I have requested him to place the Report of the Committee on the Bill quickly before the House. Yesterday, I had a talk with him, that the Bill must come back to the House. Today, the regulator of the forward market has very skeletal powers. In order to arm him with greater power, a Bill has been introduced and the Bill is pending in Parliament. I would urge the Chairman of the Standing Committee, I can only request him, to place the report concerning the Bill before the Parliament so that in this Session both the Houses can pass the Bill, and we can arm the regulator with more powers.

The larger question, whether future trading in key essential commodities should be totally banned, is a question that is being examined by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs. And I am confident that at an appropriate time the Minister will make a Statement in that behalf. But even to take measures which are strong and efficient measures, I think it is necessary to arm the regulator with greater powers. I think it is absolutely important that that Bill is passed, with or without the amendments that the House may agree. I once again urge the Standing Committee to place the report concerning the Bill quickly so that those powers can be given to the regulator.

Pending that, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs has taken a number of steps. Let me read them for the record so that the hon. Members will know what steps are being taken.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

On wheat, a decision to import 5 lakh tonnes, was taken on the 2nd February, 2006.

Another decision to import 30 lakh tonne was taken on 22nd April, 2006.

Wheat has been brought under OGL at the concessional Duty of five per cent.

Regulatory measures taken by the Forward Markets Commission are: initial margin of all the futures contracts in wheat has been increased from 5 to 5.3 per cent to 10 per cent with effect from 24th June. On 28th of June, an additional special margin of 10 per cent on all 'net' long position was imposed. The limit in open position was reduced by 50 per cent on 27th of June. Aggregate limits on all on-going contracts was reduced from 80,000 tonnes to 40,000 tonnes for the Members and from 20,000 tones to 10,000 tonnes for clients. The limits for near month contract was restricted to 8000 tonnes for Members and 2000 tonnes for clients.

FMC has increased the cooling off period to 30 minutes are against 15 minutes.

Steps have been taken and when the law is passed more powers will be available to the regulator and he will take more steps.

On the question of pulses, let me read out the measures taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs.

On 8th of June, 2006 a decision was taken to allow import of pulses at zero import duty. Ban on export of pulses was notified. NAFED has placed orders for *Urud* and *Moong* and they are expected to arrive in August, 2006.

The Government of Delhi has taken steps for providing *urad dal* and *moong dal* at the rate of Rs. 38 per kilogram and their procurement cost is Rs. 31 per kilogram. It was agreed that they would supply these varieties of pulses to the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation at Rs. 37 per kilogram. We have asked the State Chief Secretaries to undertake similar initiatives in their respective States.

The State Governments can play a pro-active role, procure commodities and distribute them through whatever outlets they have to moderate prices. As regards sugar,

I have no doubt in my mind that having regard to the prices of sugarcane that we given to the farmers, a reasonable price has to be paid for the sugar, otherwise, the farmers will not get reasonable price for the sugarcane. The prices today are ranging between Rs. 19.50 per kilo to Rs. 21. But when the new sugar season starts, they will moderate further by perhaps a rupee or a rupee and a half and prices of sugar will also moderate.

We are looking at the supply side. It is really an issue that falls within the domain of the Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. But I am very happy to answer on the measures taken on the supply side. I have already told you the measures taken by my Ministry on the fiscal side and the measures taken by the RBI in consultation with my Ministry on the monetary side. As WPI and CPI moderates and supply side augments, the prices will come down. There is no reason to assume that there would be a relentless increase in prices or that once the price goes up, it will never come down.

On PDS, there was some question. I think again there are misconceptions. We have not reduced the allocation of PDS. Let me give the figures. In 2003-04, rice and wheat put together, the allocation was 71.59 million tonnes; in 2004-05, the allocation was 72.05 million tonnes; in 2005-06, the allocation was 72 million tonnes. There has been no reduction in the allocation of rice and wheat taken together under PDS. In fact, in 2003-04 and 2004-05, the same quantity of rice and wheat was allocated. In 2005-06, because of shortage of wheat, we reduced the allocation of wheat by six million tonnes but increased the allocation of rice by six million tonnes.

The Members are not here. What is the position of the offtake? We allocated nearly 72 million tonnes. The offtake in 2003-04 was only 50 million tonnes. The offtake in 2004-05 was 41.47 million tonnes. The offtake in 2005-06 is only 42 million tonnes. The State Governments should answer. There is an allocation but there is no off take. The quantities must be lifted and pushed through the PDS. Where the Public Distribution System is efficient and functioning, the quantities are pushed through but where the PDS is not functioning, as is the case in some States—I do not wish to name the States—there is no offtake and then people blame that you are reducing the allocation. We are not reducing the allocation. Therefore, the Members must really take their State Governments to task, how much was allocated to the State Governments, how much was lifted and how much was actually distributed through the PDS. If they stayed

back to listen to this answer, maybe some of these answers would be inconvenient to some Members. But I have to give the truth. We are not reducing the offtake. We are not reducing the allocation. There is no intention to reduce the allocation to the PDS. If further information is required, I would request you to address the Ministry of Food and I am sure he will be very happy to furnish the information in writing.

Sir, this year when the procurement season starts, we intend to ensure that the targets are met. Last year, the target of 162 lakh tonnes was fixed for procurement of wheat but we only procured 92 lakh tonnes. This year, I hope the State Governments will cooperate with the Central Government and achieve the target for wheat. The procurement of rice has been very good. In fact, it has been slightly more than the target. Rice stocks are ample and rice prices are stable. Once the procurement of wheat takes place effectively this year, you will find that also helps in removing the psychology of scarcity and moderating prices.

Sir, there were some questions about the issue price of wheat. I do not know from where the hon. Members have got the impression that this Government has increased the issue price. The last time the issue price of wheat or rice was increased was in July, 2002. That was the last time Government increased prices. We have not increased the issue prices either of wheat or of rice for BPL or for APL families, which means that the subsidy burden is still being borne by the Government. There is no reduction in subsidy. The issue price of BPL for wheat was Rs. 450 per quintal and Rs. 565 a quintal for rice. It was Rs. 610 a quintal for wheat and Rs. 830 a quintal for rice for APL. There has been no change since July 2002.

Sir, there were questions as to why we are importing wheat. I thought this was answered by the Minister for Agriculture in the month of May. I was here when he answered; it appeared in the newspapers. We are importing wheat in order to augment the total stock of wheat in the country—both public stock and private stock taken together. In order to augment the total stock of wheat we are importing wheat. Now, the landed cost of wheat is between, between the first tender and the third tender about Rs. 8000 a tonne and Rs. 9000 a tonne. The economic cost of procurement of wheat, including procurement cost, storage cost, holding and distribution cost is between Rs. 10,300 and Rs. 10,700 a tonne. We should procure wheat from our farmers. At the same time, when there is a total shortage in the stocks in the

country—public stock and private stock taken together—we must import wheat and we are importing wheat at an economic cost from whatever sources are available in order to augment to stock. There is no contradiction between procuring wheat at a reasonable price from the farmers and importing wheat at an economic cost. Both can co-exist, both have co-existed in the past and both will co-exist in the future also.

Sir, there was one last question about petroleum. There is again a misconception that the petroleum price rise really does not hurt the Government, it gives the Government a bonanza. I have already read out the petroleum prices. The average petroleum prices were 28 dollars in 2003-04. Today the average price in the last three months has been 68 dollars. The price has, in fact, gone up to as high as 74 dollars. The bulk of the burden is borne by the Government and the oil companies. Now, look at the revenue from the petroleum sector. Last year, in 2005-06, we budgeted for a certain amount of revenue in the petroleum sector. We ended with Rs. 1864 crore less than the budget amount. There was no bonanza to the revenue. In fact, in 2005-06, we budgeted for Rs. 64,738 crore and we actually collected only Rs. 62,874 crore. I will tell you, why. There was a surplus in the customs head but there was a shortage in the excise head. Because of high prices, import of petroleum products declined and that affected customs duty collection and the volume growth of diesel was only 1.5 per cent as against the projected four per cent. No bonanza came to the exchequer. In fact, this Government has reduced customs and excise duties for petroleum products. For example, customs duty on crude has been reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. Customs duty on petroleum products has been reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. We have followed Dr. Rangarajan's report and switched over to substantially specific duty rate for excise and small part of *ad-valorem* duty. It is this Government which has reduced customs and excise duties on petroleum products. Can we reduce it further? If it is the question of the power to reduce it further, then obviously, the answer is yes, we have the power to reduce it further. But if I reduce customs duties and excise duties, I will have to take a hit on the revenues. I am willing to take a hit on the revenues provided we can control some expenditure, provided we can impose some new taxes. Now it is all right to suggest to reduce customs duties and excise duties on petroleum but do not impose any new taxes and do not cut down any expenditure. How do we balance the budget today? The budget is not balanced. The budget has a 3.8 per cent fiscal deficit.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Therefore, one has to balance the interest on revenue and expenditure sides. If I get a bonanza on the customs and excise, then surely, I should reduce it. But, as I have said, there was no bonanza. In fact, last year, we took a hit on the BE figure of Rs. 1864 crore and the collection upto May this year also does not show that there is a bonanza because the price of crude oil is going up. With the price of crude oil going up, you might get a little more on the customs side but it will immediately have an impact on the excise side.

Anyway, these are matters under consideration. As and when fiscal steps are necessary, we will take fiscal steps. RBI is taking monetary steps and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs are taking steps on the supply side. These three measures, namely, fiscal measures, monetary measures and supply side measures will moderate prices. We will have to add, these measures by regulatory measures. As regards the regulatory measures under the Essential Commodities Act, as I have said, the State Governments are free to take them and on the regulatory measures which we have taken under the Forward Markets Act, we are awaiting the Report of the Standing Committee and the passing of the Bill in this Parliament Session so that some more measures can be taken.

Let me assure that the Government is acutely conscious of the responsibility that prices must be moderated. In 2004, the WPI index was 8.5. I came to this House and said that we will moderate the prices and the prices did moderate. Again, let me assure the House that we will take whatever steps are required to be taken to moderate the prices. We should not spread a sense of scarcity or a sense of alarm. Prices will moderate in future.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister on one point. He has given very detailed measures to see that prices of some commodities will come down. In spite of these measures, when the prices will not come down, then what should be done? You are going to subsidise some essential commodities and the Public Distribution System is already in practice in some States. Through the PDS, you are going to subsidize some essential commodities like two or three pulses so that every common man can purchase them through the PDS. How long will you take to initiate this process? You have to instruct the State Governments that this is the channel that they should take and to give

essential commodities at subsidised rates through the PDS in panchayats, cooperative societies and Fair Price Shops so that people can get immediate relief.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the hon. Minister has said that off-take of PDS goods has not been commensurate with the allotment that has been made to the States. That is not true as far as Kerala is concerned. In the case of Kerala, allocation of wheat by PDS has been reduced from 46,190 metric tonnes to 19,113 metric tonnes from June, 2006 to March, 2007. In 2005-06, our average off-take of wheat has been 30,841.80 metric tonnes. It has now been reduced to 19,113 metric tones. As per the Minister's assurance here, I would request the Government to restore the allotment of wheat to Kerala which is very much proper in its off-take by PDS specially in the case of wheat. I would request him to restore that quota as far as Kerala is concerned.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): The hon. Member from the Congress bench has just now put the question. There should be proper supply of essential commodities in the market which are required by the common man, the lower middle class, the middle class and the poorest of the poor. We have the PDS now. In this situation, will the Government consider strengthening the PDS so that 14 items are guaranteed secured supply and see that hoarding will not take place?

It is because people know that they are going to get things at a reasonable price and at a fixed price throughout the country. That would check this thing. That would correct the ills and the distortions which happened during the NDA regime under the Essential Commodities Act.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the duty of the elected Government is to provide all the essential commodities at affordable prices to the common men. At present we have a Public Distribution System. The Government of India should immediately convene the Chief Ministers' Conference on this issue. This is a national issue and not a party issue. Even the hon. Prime Minister and Madam Sonia Gandhi convened a Chief Ministers' Conference of only the Congress ruled States, not of all the States. That is why there are no control orders. When NDA was in power, they scrapped all these things. But there is a clause and even now there is a scope. If State Governments want it, then we are ready to give permission. Hoarding takes

place everywhere. To prevent all these things, the Finance Minister should convene a Chief Ministers' Conference to discuss as to why the prices are increasing. We are discussing about PDS and other things. But the ground reality is that people are suffering. This is not my statement alone. Even Madam Sonia Gandhi asked the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister to look into the situation. In this scenario, will the Finance Minister convene a Chief Ministers' Conference on this issue or not?

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that we are procuring crude oil at the rate of \$70 per barrel as on date as he himself has mentioned. I am a member of the Consultative Committee also and I had put forth my view points in its meeting I am not fully aware but I have come to know that per barrel refinery charges to refine the crude oil, cost of transportation of oil, diesel, kerosene and petrol to depots, and the service tax comes to around Rs. 23-24. The present price of petrol is Rs. 50-52 per liter, Diesel Rs. 45-48 and kerosene Rs 25-26 on controlled rates. For BPL holders it is Rs. 9 thought it involves the cost of Rs. 25-26.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will consider to reduce the charges like customs duty, excise duty, service tax, VAT and other taxes which are around 40-45% and make petro-products available to the customers at reduced prices. Members of other parties have also recommended it. Today the price of an LPG cylinder is Rs. 310-315. The hon'ble Minister has mentioned several points. He should have given assurance to reduce the rates of these products in the coming 3-4 or 6 months. The Government should give a reply in this regard also.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, in my State of Kerala there was statutory rationing which existed for over half a century. It was a very successful system of distribution. The prices could be controlled during this period. Now, as we all know, our State is deficit in production of many essential commodities. We are deficit in rice production, we are deficit in wheat production and many other essential commodities. Previously there was a supply from other States without

interruption. The States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have supplied foodstuffs to our State. This supply prevented in rise in prices of essential commodities. Now, the supply is put an end to. The Central Government is not coming to the rescue of maintaining this effective Public Distribution System. Public Distribution System is the only remedy for controlling the price rise of essential commodities.

Now, take for example, the food supplies. Even if wheat is not useful for human consumption, we take the delivery of that wheat. We take delivery of unused wheat; we take delivery of spoiled rice which is unfit for human consumption. It is because of the acute scarcity and price rise. So, I would request the Central Government to make supply easier so that an effective Public Distribution System can be maintained.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, in our State, West Bengal, M/s. Reliance has set up a lot of petrol pumps. They are charging more on petrol and diesel, more than the Government rates. How have they got such a right to charge more prices in petrol and diesel is not clear to us. It should be cleared.

Secondly, about the Public Distribution System, I would request the Government to introduce the universal Public Distribution System so that each and every person can get food grains.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are only three broad issues on which clarification are sought and I thought I had explained them. But I would be quite happy to explain once again. Rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are supplied through the PDS. All of them are subsidised today. There is no question of reducing the subsidy there. As I said, we have not increased the issue prices of rice and wheat. Therefore, the subsidy level increases as the procurement price goes up. We are not reducing the subsidy and effectively the subsidy has gone up. The issue price remains constant and the procurement price is high and the subsidy goes up. We are not reducing the food subsidy.

Secondly, whether more commodities should be added to the PDS is a larger question which cannot be answered by the Minister of Finance in the course of a debate on price rise of essential commodities. We should raise that as a policy issue. It should be addressed by the Minister concerned. So, I would urge you to raise the question. This is Parliament and you are entitled to debate on all policy issues.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Again, on taxes, I thought I had explained it, but the Hon. Members want me to explain it again. This Government has kept customs duties, excise duties on crude and petroleum products under control. Let me once again give the figures. In May, 2004 when we took over on crude oil the customs duty was 10 per cent, today it is five per cent; on petrol, the customs duty was 20 per cent, today it is 7.5 per cent; on diesel it was 20 per cent, today it is 7.5 per cent; on LPG it was ten per cent; today it is zero per cent; on kerosene it was 10 per cent, today it is zero per cent. I am talking of customs duty. Have I cut customs duty or have I increased customs duty? We have cut customs duty. Look at excise duty. On LPG, the excise duty was 16 per cent in their Government, today it is zero per cent; on PDS kerosene it was 16 per cent, today it is zero per cent. I have abolished the excise duty on LPG and kerosene. I cannot go below zero. One crude oil, petrol and diesel, pursuant to Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report, we have switched over substantially to a specific duty system and a very small portion *ad valorem*.

14.00 hrs.

In May 2004, on petrol, it was 30 per cent plus Rs. 7.5 per litre. Today, it is eight per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 13 a litre. On diesel, it was 14 per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 1.5 per litre. Today it is eight per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 3.2 per litre.

We have gone by Dr. Rangarajan Committee. We have not increased the tax rates on the petroleum products, on the contrary we have cut Customs Duty and Excise Duty. As I have said, if you want me to cut more, that is a question which can be considered, but I have to find corresponding savings on expenditure side or I have to impose new taxes to raise more revenue. These are not questions which can be answered saying 'will you cut duties?' If you say 'No', you are a bad chap and if you say 'Yes', you are a good chap. It is not so easy to answer these questions. These questions will be balanced with the larger question of making a budget. Therefore, we have cut Customs Duty to the extent possible and as I said, our minds are open, if necessary, we will take further fiscal measures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

- (ii) **Reported New-Item captioned "Dhaka Grabs 2 Square Km of India's Land" appeared in 'The Pioneer', dated the 27th July, 2006**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Defence Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee is prepared to make a statement now on the issue raised by the hon. Member, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Please allow him to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Defence Minister.

*THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday my colleague and hon. Member, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra raised the issue of India's land being in possession forcibly by Bangladesh and I told him that I would collect the information and keep the House informed. Sir, I have collected the information and I am making a statement now.

Sir, I rise to make a Statement in connection with the news-item "Dhaka grabs 2 sq. km. of India's land" appearing in '*The Pioneer*' dated the 27th July, 2006.

The report regarding Bangladesh nationals, backed by their Army, uprooting boundary pillars along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Districts of Dhubri and Karimganj of Assam and forcibly grabbing 500 acres (2.02 sq. km.) of Indian territory is incorrect. BSF deployed on Indo-Bangladesh border is on high alert and, no fresh adverse possession or illegal occupation of Indian land has been reported on any section of the international border.

No Indian population or border outpost has been shifted away from the International Border.

In Assam, there are three areas in adverse possession of Bangladesh. These are (i) Boraibari, Dhubri

district—189.06 acres (BP No. 1066/4S to BP No. 1067/5S); (ii) Pallatal Tea Garden, Karimganj district—299.04 acres (BP No. 10369/3S to BP No. 10373/3S); (iii) Pamodnagar Tea Garden, Karimganj district—11.73 acres (BP No. 1375/2S to BP No. 1375/3S, 5S, 6S). Thus, the total area in adverse possession of Bangladesh is 499.83 acres.

No intrusion by BDR or Bangladesh nationals has recently been reported from area of Mankachar in district Dhubri of Assam. 189.06 acre of Indian land in Boraibari area of Mankachar Revenue Circle from BP No. 1066/3 S to BP No. 1067/5-S is under adverse possession of Bangladesh since before 1971. The Survey of India and Survey of Bangladesh are aware of these details.

The matter has been under discussion with Bangladesh. Recently, the Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) meeting was held on 16th & 17th July, 2006 between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka. The issue of adverse possession was also discussed in the meeting. It was decided that joint visits by the two sides to the territories under adverse possession would take place without prejudice to their respective positions.

Both countries have adverse possession in certain pockets, but the exact details of such adverse possession are yet to be reconciled between India and Bangladesh. Efforts to do so continue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 14.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I have just a small clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At this time, there is no clarification to be sought.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, one of the Ministers of the Assam Government has told that 2 square kilometre of Indian land is occupied by Bangladesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am clarifying their position. It is exactly the proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly and exactly the same figures. But the Minister of Assam Government did never say that it

has happened recently. Those areas are in possession of Bangladesh even before Bangladesh was created. That is why I have mentioned the year 1971.

Hon. Members are aware of the fact ...(*Interruptions*)

Please listen to me. Hon. Members are aware of the fact that both sides are in adverse possession of land. These are called enclaves. These have not yet been sorted out since Independence. We are in possession of almost about 2,000 acres of land, which Bangladesh claims that belongs to them; and Bangladesh is in possession of almost equal amount of land which we claim as it belongs to us. That is why this Joint Survey is being organised. That is why the meeting took place in Dhaka between 16th and 17th July to identify and to sort out these issues.

15.11 hrs.

ACTUARIES BILL, 2005

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 14—Actuaries Bill, 2005: Shri Bansal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating and developing the profession of Actuaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a new Bill, which intends to regulate the profession of Actuaries in the country, a profession, which concomitantly with the expansion of the economic activity in general and insurance business, in particular, has assumed added significance over the years. In simple terms, as you would appreciate, an Actuary is a person skilled in determining the present effect of future contingent events. If that sound difficult at times, it may be because it is a new subject.

The conventional responsibilities of Actuaries in life and general insurance business include designing of pricing policies, monitoring the adequacies of the funds

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

to provide the promised benefits, recommend fair trade rate of bonus wherever applicable, valuation of the insurance business, ensuring solvency margins and other insurance risks like legal liability, loss of profit etc.

Sir, they also define risk factors, advise on the premium to be charged and reinsurance to be purchased. They also calculate reserve for outstanding claims and carry out financial modelling.

Sir, an Actuary works as a consultant either individually or in partnership with other Actuaries. Besides hosts of other functions, his functions include that ensures that the premium rates of the insurance products are fair. Therefore, he serves both the insurer as also the general public going for insurance.

Sir, so far, it has been the Actuarial Society of India, which was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, which is managing the affairs of the Actuarial professions in our country. As I said, with the expansion in the insurance sector, there is almost certainty that in the coming years, the demands for qualified Actuaries would go up tremendously and therefore, there is a need for establishing a statutory professional body like the one we have for the Chartered Accountants, Costs and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries.

Sir, presently as per the Actuarial Society of India, the number of fellow members, the Actuaries who are entitled to practice is just 203. Of these, 137 are resident in India and 66 are outside the country. Looking at the future demand, about 4000, that is, to be precise 3958 students have registered themselves for pursuing the course of Actuarial Science. Including them and a few others like associates and affiliates, the total number of members as on date comes to 4,326.

It is felt that by the year 2010, because of the fast changing economic scenario, the number that would be expected would be at least 10,000 members and 15,000 by the year 2015.

To really equip ourselves with that emerging situation and to regulate this important profession, which, as I said, has to play a very important role in the insurance business, this Bill is brought before the House. It defines and Actuary besides setting up a statutory professional body, that is, the Institute of Actuaries of India, to streamline, regulate and develop the profession of Actuaries on the line of Chartered Accountants, etc.

I must thank the Standing Committee as well for the important definition. They made certain recommendations about the change in the definition of the Actuary itself. That has been incorporated. After the introduction of the Bill in this House, it was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee considered the Bill at length, deliberated thereupon and came forth with certain very important suggestions which the Government did consider. I am happy to state here that on the basis of the recommendations of the Standing Committee, I would be moving certain amendments towards the end of the discussion of this Bill. But I must again place on record my sense of gratitude for the Members of the Standing Committee, who participated in the discussion.

As I was saying, besides defining the Actuaries as such, the Bill intends to lay down the functions of the Council. The Council as such would function with 9 to 12 elected and four nominated members. One-third of the elected members of the Council would retire every second year by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election for not more than two consecutive years.

There is a mechanism for redressal of and adjudication of the disputes by a Tribunal established by the Government. Also, there is a provision for appeal. With some modifications, the Appellate Authority in case of the Chartered Accountants would be the Appellate Authority for this purpose as well. There is a provision for financing the activities from the fees, donations, grants, etc.

The important thing in all the professions is to regulate the conduct of the members whether it be the legal profession, whether it be the Chartered Accountants or the Company Secretaries. Likewise, there is a provision to provide for dealing with the question of misconduct of members. It has to be inquired by a separate Disciplinary Committee. Complaints against the members would be inquired by a Prosecution Director.

One important point in the Bill is that the companies are not allowed to practice as Actuaries. When this piece of legislation is passed by this august House and finally enacted as a statute, the Government can notify a Quality Review Board for setting standards and review the quality of services. This is a very important provision because a lot now depends upon the Actuaries as such. It was precisely for that purpose that the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India in the year 2000 promulgated the Insurance Regulatory and Development

Authority (Appointed Actuary) Regulations 2000 which *inter alia* provides:

"That an insurer registered to carry on insurance business in India shall appoint an actuary who shall be known as the Appointed Actuary for the purposes of this Act."

This is subject to the provisions which are made in the following sub-regulation (2). There is also the power given to the Government to dissolve the Council and to make rules and to issue directions for making or amending regulations. The Council has the power to make regulations. The regulations, like the provision in all the enactments, those regulations have also to be laid on the Table of the two Houses.

As I said, this is a new Act dealing with a subject which, of course, has been in existence for some time, a profession which has existed for many years, but now which assumes added significance and for that there is the need to have that governed by a statute and that is how we are before this House. I would urge this House to consider this Bill and thereafter pass it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for regulating and developing the profession of Actuaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This Bill, the Actuaries Bill, 2005, was brought before the Lok Sabha and the same was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. The Standing Committee presented its report to the House and again this Bill has been brought now by the hon. Minister of Finance.

As we know, after the enactment of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999 and the consequent establishment of IRDA on 19th April, 2000, the insurance sector stood opened up for competition. In addition to the six nationalised insurance companies, which were transacting the business of insurance, twenty-one private sector companies are presently in the business in the country.

The actuarial science is considered to be the backbone of insurance operations, particularly so in the area of life insurance. However, with the passage of time, the scope of the actuarial profession has extended to

other sectors, particularly those where long long-term contracts/liabilities are involved. The demand for qualified actuaries is expected to increase in the mixed scenario where private and Government insurance companies are operating.

The conventional responsibilities of actuaries in the Life and General Life insurance business include designing and pricing of policies, monitoring the adequacy of the funds to provide the promised benefits, recommending fair rate of bonus where applicable, valuation of the insurance business, ensuring solvency margins and other insurance risks like legal liability, loss of profit etc.

What are the functions of the Actuaries? They advise on the premia to be charged and re-insurance to be purchased, calculate reserve for outstanding claims and carry out financial modelling.

An actuary works as a consultant either individually or in partnership with other actuaries in multi-disciplines like insurance, information technology, taxation, employees' benefits, risk management, investment etc. Evidently, the scope of the functions and duties of an actuary has increased considerably under the changed conditions.

As per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Appointed Actuary) Regulations, 2000 every insurance company shall have an 'Appointed Actuary'.

The Actuarial Society of India (ASI), which was established in 1944 and registered in 1982 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 presently manages the affairs of the actuarial profession in India. The ASI has been conducting examinations in line with the international pattern. The Society works closely with the Institute of Actuaries, London and the International Actuarial Association.

The professions of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accounts and Company Secretaries are governed through the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949; Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959; and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 respectively. Similarly, it was the demand of the day for a law dealing with actuaries.

Unlike in the case of other professions, there continued to be lack of a legislation with regard to actuarial profession in India. As per the Ministry of Finance, this was perhaps not felt necessary so far due to the organization set up under which the insurance

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

sector functioned and the consequent limited scope for qualified actuaries in these organizations. In the absence of legislation as applicable to the professions of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries, actuarial consultancy on private or individual basis continued to be restricted.

In order to streamline, regulate and develop the profession of actuaries on healthy lines, the Government has proposed to establish a professional body having a statutory character similar to the enactments relating to the professions of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries. Therefore, this Bill was brought by the regime of the NDA Government. It is good that this Bill has been brought again and I support this Bill.

The Actuaries Bill, 2005 proposes to dissolve the Actuarial Society of India and establish a professional body, namely, the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) and transfer the assets and liabilities of the said Society to the proposed IAI. The Institute to be constituted under the proposed Bill will have the responsibility of conducting examinations for the profession of actuaries, regulating the profession including aspects relating to professional misconduct and creating necessary facilities for the growth and training of the members of the Institute. It is expected to function as a self-financing and self-supporting body without any budgetary support from the Government.

Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the provisions of this Bill. It is stated in the Bill that the Council would elect a President, Vice-President and an Honorary Secretary, One-third of the members of the Council shall retire at every Annual General Meeting by rotation and will be eligible for re-election.

I would also like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the provisions of clause 12(5) which states that any person nominated by the Central Government to serve on the Council under clause (b) of sub-section (2) 'shall hold office during the pleasure of the President'. Though the intended reference in the clause is to the President of India, it could be construed to refer to the President of the Council. It is so mainly because the expression 'President' is intending to refer to the President of the Council occurs in several provisions of clause 12 (5) by withdrawing reference to the President and instead stipulate that a nominated member of the Council 'shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of his

nomination unless removed earlier by the Central Government'. It will ensure that it is not misconstrued. Hon. Minister may take note of my suggestion.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is 3.30 p.m. I am going to take the Private Members' Business. We shall take up item no. 15.

15.29 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY (Adilabad): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th July, 2006."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 26th July, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

15.30 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*Introduced*

(I) **Compulsory Registration of Marriages Bill, 2005***

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Sector-2 dated 28.7.2006.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.30 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(ii) **Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005***
(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

(iii) **Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2005***
(Amendment of section 5B)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Sector-2 dated 28.7.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.31 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(iv) **Indian Medicines Development Corporation Bill, 2005***

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish an Indian Medicines Development Corporation to promote the development of Indian system of medicine and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish an Indian Medicines Development Corporation to promote the development of Indian system of medicine and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, introduce** the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(v) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2005***
(Insertion of new article 335A)

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.32 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(vi) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2005***
(Amendment of articles 341 and 342)

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

(vii) Tailoring Workers (Welfare) Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for tailoring workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for tailoring workers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKRAN: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul—not present

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat.

15.34 hrs.

(viii) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Insertion of new Section 382A)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I beg to move to leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.34½ hrs.

(ix) Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of Section 9)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I beg to move to leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(x) Prevention of Female Infanticide Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent female infanticide."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(xi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of Articles 75 and 164)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.

15.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(xii) **National Commission for Horticulture Development Bill, 2006***

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to providing for the setting up of a National Commission for Horticulture Development and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Commission for Horticulture Development and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(xiii) **Environmental Clearance (Self-Certification) Bill, 2006***

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for environmental clearance required for important infrastructural projects on the basis of self-certification and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for environmental clearance required for important infrastructural projects on the basis of self-certification and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

(xiv) **Infrastructure Development Board Bill, 2006***

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill to provide for the setting up of an Infrastructure Development Board for providing infrastructural facilities in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill to provide for the setting up of an Infrastructure Development Board for providing infrastructural facilities in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(xv) **Price Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006***

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of an Authority to regulate prices of various commodities and services in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of an Authority to regulate prices of various commodities and services in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

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**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire—
not present. Next, Adv. Tukaram Renge Patil.

15.39 hrs.

(xvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of article 217)

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL
(Parbhani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a
Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Sir,
I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj Gangaramji
Ahir—Not present.

Shri Mohan Singh.

15.40 hrs.

**(xvii) House of the People (Administration) Bill,
2006***

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move
for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment
of a Commission to oversee the administration of the
secretarial staff of the House of the People and for
matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide
for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the
administration of the secretarial staff of the House of
the People and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II,
Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.41 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take
up item 40, further consideration of the Bill. Shri Sudhakar
Reddy.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill to
provide for insurance of crops and matters connected
therewith, proposed by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi.

This is a very important Bill for India as agriculture
is still the biggest profession in our country pursued by
the largest section of the people. Seventy per cent of
our population is living in rural areas. There are about
11 crore households which are directly involved in the
profession of agriculture. About 22 crore agricultural
labourers are also earning their livelihood through
agriculture.

Unfortunately, our agriculture is in a very deep crisis.
According to the Census, in the last one decade about
71 lakh peasants disappeared from the profession. This
is a very serious matter. They are thrown out due to the
debates taken because of agriculture. They are
pauperised. We are hearing the news of tens of thousands
of peasants committing suicide every year. Of course,
there are different figures of this and the State
Government do not agree that all suicides are because
of agricultural debt traps, but it is a fact that a large
number of peasant are committing suicide. This alone
shows how deep is the crisis in agriculture.

The Indian peasant, it is said, is born in debt, brought
up in debt and dies in debt. This was the situation during
the British period and earlier. In the last fifty years several
new developments have taken place in our country like
new irrigation projects, land reforms, Green Revolution.
In spite of all this, unfortunately the situation is going
back to square one.

The debt trap is the most serious trap in the
agriculture sector and particularly for the peasants.
Whether it is rain, drought, flood, quality seeds, fertiliser,
pesticide, or price, anything can become a problem for
the peasant. He can be a victim of any one of these
problems.

In the last 25 years, to help the peasants from these troubles, agricultural insurance was introduced. I think about five to six schemes were introduced in the country. I am sure this Lok Sabha discussed more than half a dozen times even during the term of 14th Lok Sabha about the problems of the peasants and even the insurance. But all the schemes in the last two and half decades failed. I am sorry to say that they have miserably failed.

The reason is that insurance is considered as a business by the insurance companies. Naturally, in agriculture, they have to pay more than what the premiums they get. Sometimes, the National Agricultural Insurance Company is to pay two to three times more than the premiums they are collecting. But in India, it is necessary that a proper and good insurance scheme has to be brought.

In the last few years, new schemes were introduced and a very large number of persons were brought under agricultural insurance network. But at many places, it did not specify the peasants. I come from Andhra Pradesh. I read in the newspaper today that a very large number of peasants did not enrol themselves for the agricultural insurance this year. July 31st is the last date to apply for this year's crop. There are several problems. Firstly, people do not have the idea about the insurance scheme in many places. Secondly, those who have got some idea are not happy and satisfied. As a matter of fact, I should say the peasantry in our country is pessimistic about the insurance scheme in this country. It is very unfortunate. The reason is, the conditionalities to pay the insurance claims are very hard. It is outdated. In most of the places, the method of agricultural insurance is in such a way not to help the peasants but it is intended to help the societies than those who have given the loans to peasants. This is not a proper method. Evaluation for giving claims is also outdated.

In India, if there is rain in one village, there will be no rain in the neighbouring village. But the *mandals* or *tehsils* are taken as unit. If a peasant in one village receives rain, totally all the villages will become bankrupt. There will be no rain. But insurance companies will not agree because *mandal* or *tehsil* is considered as a unit, they will not agree for any claim. There will be less rainfall in the whole area. Then only, they will agree.

There will be less rainfall in the whole area. Then only, they will agree. There is a method of calculating the loss, which is also very unscientific. They say that whatever the crop of last year—60 per cent or 50 per cent of the last years crops if it is less than that, only then the insurance company will give the claim. If there is continuous crop loss, then, what is the meaning of putting this kind of conditionalities. If this year there is a loss, next year, loss should be less or worse, only then, they get the claim.

In Andhra Pradesh, several districts in Rayalaseema, Telangana and southern parts of the coastal districts are continuously drought-prone. In Anantpur, out of every four years, three years will be under drought. In such district, this type of insurance is giving no result. Most of the peasants feel that even what they are paying as premium is also considered as loss. I was told that due to the pressure from various State Governments, the National Agricultural Industrial Insurance Company and the Agriculture Minister has appointed an Expert Committee last year and the Committee has made some recommendations. These recommendations were sent to several States for seeking their opinions.

Several States have already given their opinions; it is not just that; it is published in the Press that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has made some recommendations that the village should be taken as a unit. Several other recommendations are also there. Unfortunately these recommendations are not accepted yet. The recommendations should be accepted.

I suggest that even the present scheme is also not very viable. Hence there is a necessity to study the agricultural insurance in different countries as to how it is getting implemented there, so that a better agricultural insurance could be introduced.

Then, the State Governments and the Central Government should pay most of the premium. The present premium, for example for the crop year 2006-07—because of the heavy losses in cotton—is 7.5 per cent. This is a very fantastic amount. It is very difficult for a peasant who has to get loan even to purchase quality seed and fertilizer, to have it at 7.5 per cent. It is something which the middle class peasant cannot afford it, even though 50 per cent is paid by the State Governments and the Central Government farmers.

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

I propose that the village should be taken as a unit instead of *mandal*, indemnity level should be restored to 80 per cent for all the crops including groundnut and cotton; crop yield of a normal year should be taken as a threshold yield; separate units of General Insurance Company should be arranged for estimation of the crop yields at the district level; all crops should be covered under crop insurance: every year, some specific crops are only being covered; crop insurance should cover farmers who are not loanees of the banks also. This year, of course, in some areas, this has been introduced, but in many other places, it has not been done. The largest number of peasants should be covered. Subsidy should be given as premium by the Central and the State Governments; the Life Insurance Corporation and other insurance companies should be made a part of it. They are earning a lot of money; they are getting from general insurance and so, they have a social obligation; it should not be left only for the national agricultural insurance companies.

So, I request the Minister concerned to take into consideration all these things and a better, foolproof, pro-peasant agricultural insurance scheme should be introduced in the country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you. On behalf of my Party, I had gone to Andhra Pradesh, to examine why farmers commit suicide. I had found that it is basically the cash crop growers who commit suicide. It is not the grain crop growers like paddy growers who commit suicide. So, it is basically the cash crop growers who borrow very heavily from the private moneylenders who commit suicide. When the cash crop fails, they are unable to bear it and they commit suicide.

As a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, what I found is that in the priority sector lending, the banks are compulsorily to give 18 per cent loans to agricultural sector. Previously hardly there was any bank which was lending 18 per cent. Only during the last two years, after it has been forced by the Government to double the rural credit within three years, 50 per cent of them—17 banks out of 32—have now been able to meet the stipulation of rural credit for 18 per cent; it is a mandatory provision of 18 per cent and they have adhered to it.

One of the good signs is, the banks are no longer treating the agricultural credit as compulsion. They no longer think that the Government of India has thrust it upon them. All of a sudden the agricultural credit has become a profitable proposition for the banks because we have found that the recovery for the agricultural credit is more than 70 per cent. It is much more than the recovery from the corporate sectors. So, the banks are now coming forward to lend more and more to the farmers. It is a fact.

As far as crop insurance is concern, I would say that it is a misnomer. There is nothing called insurance. It is only the Government subsidy distributed among the farmers by the banks or the insurance companies do not pay a single paisa from their fund. It is only the Government subsidy. Whatever provision the Government makes through the Budget is actually being distributed. As Shri Reddy has also mentioned, the entire block is taken as a unit. If the crop in the entire block is destroyed only then they will get the insurance benefit. Is it at all possible that the crop in the entire 50 kms block is destroyed? I fully agree with Shri Reddy that if at all the Government really want to provide insurance benefit then the Gram Panchayat or even a village should be taken as a unit. If the crop is lost in a Gram Panchayat or in a village, they should be able to get the insurance.

Hon. Minister, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad is sitting here, listening intently to the debate. I would appeal him to provide more insurance cover. I am a strong proponent of economic reforms. I never say that subsidy should be increased. I am totally against it. I would say that in the initial phase if the Government comes forward with more money and the farmers see benefit in it, after some time they will agree to pay some premium. The Life Insurance Corporation has a scheme called Janashri Bima Yojana. This Yojana has a corpus of Rs. 100 crore. If a person applies for his health insurance of life insurance and deposits Rs. 100, the insurance company puts another Rs. 100 from that Rs. 100 crore corpus. So, for one person it has Rs. 200 as the premium. If that person dies, he gets Rs. 20,000. If the person dies out of accident he gets Rs. 50,000. If the person suffers from some serious injury, he gets Rs. 25,000. Through this Janashri Bima Yojana, the Life Insurance Corporation is giving this much benefit. So, I would appeal to the government also to have a corpus of Rs. 1000 crore for them. There is buoyancy in tax collection. Every year the tax collection is increasing by 20 per cent. We have the GDP growth of 8 per cent every year. The Government

has got the money. So, the corpus for crop insurance should be increased. I would appeal to the Minister to follow it for at least two to three years. The farmers will definitely come forward to pay the premium.

16.00 hrs.

Lastly, the hon. Minister is very happy about his National Employment Guarantee Scheme. After all what is this National Employment Guarantee Scheme? You are only giving some money to the poor people. You are not concerned about the assets being created. So, if you can disburse money in that way, why could you not give money to the farmer who is really doing some very hard work? He is feeding the entire people of the nation. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that in the initial stage, the corpus for this insurance cover should be increased. You can take it to Rs. 1000 crore or something like that so that gradually when the farmer sees the benefit in it, he himself comes forward to pay the premium.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, "All men who live on the earth are needed to be fed", sang poet Bharathi. In order to meet the food requirements of 108 crores of people and to stabilise the balance of availability and distribution we are required to import about 35 lakhs tonnes of wheat.

We have an enormous duty to step up the production and double the production level by the year 2050. When many countries of the world on an aggregate use only 11% of their land for cultivation, we have 51% of our land as cultivable lands when crop cultivation goes on. With increased irrigation from 24% to 135%, our crop intensity has increased. We have not made much headway in food production in the last 5 to 6 years. But the incident of farmers' suicidal deaths are on the increase. We have to study the pattern. We find that suicidal deaths are more common among those who cultivate cash crops and especially cotton growers.

In order to ensure food security and to meet the need for food grains in proportion to the increasing population, farmers' needs must be attended to. Farmers must get protection both social security and crop insurance cover. Farmers must be helped to become self-sufficient.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Government are expected to help the agriculturists to that extent. Farmers are not protected merely by restricting loans and reducing interest rates or waivers and special packages to people of hard hit areas. Increasing agricultural credit fund allocation by 35% may not help much. Farmers need irrigation facilities. Our Leaders Shri Vaiko always stressed the need to go in for inter-linking of rivers. Farmers must have total crop insurance. For the past 6 years, we have National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. About 25 States and Union Territories are implementing the same for the past 6 years. Punjab has not accepted Crop Insurance Scheme as yet. Farmers get three times the premium amount they pay.

There are about 15 crores of agriculturists' households all over the country. But only about 1.8 crores of them have been covered by Crop Insurance Scheme. That is a mere 14% to 15% of the total agricultural community.

For the purposes of insurance coverage and claims, the jurisdictional area is a Panchayat Union area. This must be brought down to village level. The lowest unit must be a village area. Every village must be taken as a single unit.

At the pre-cultivation stage, if the ready lands or seedlings are damaged due to monsoon failure, 20% to 25% of sum assured must be paid. Crop Insurance cover should be available to farmers even ten days after harvests. This is necessary because flood havoc affects farmers even at threshing stage.

I wish to impress upon the Government to extend insurance cover to horticulture, vegetables and fruits also. The current yardstick of providing compensation to farmers only when the crop loss is 60% must be enhanced to 80%. Not only agricultural produce but agricultural implements and even live-stock including farmers must get a single window comprehensive insurance cover.

We must ensure that farmers booked for insurance cover on their own after being properly apprised and convinced instead of being lured through compulsory methods. Some financial institutions that extend agricultural loans are insisting on the farmers to go in for crop insurance and they deduct the premium amount on their own thereby making it compulsory. Insurance cover should be there to save farmers from crop damage due to natural calamities, pests and insects. Only then agricultural production and thereby food grain production can be stabilized to meet the requirements of the country. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The idea of the Bill is to make provision for a more peasant-friendly insurance scheme. Actually, this is the need of the hour. It is because, in our country, as we know, the agrarian economy is in crisis compelling our farmers to even commit suicide. In this backdrop, the peasants who are undergoing deep frustration, such provision for a peasant-friendly insurance would bring to them a ray of hope.

Sir, regarding crop insurance and its related problems have been mentioned by the previous speakers and I agree with the views expressed by them. More crops should be brought under the purview of Crop Insurance Scheme. It should also be made area-based, which means the farmers whose cultivable land area has been lost should also be brought under the cover of this scheme. Presently, it is village or *taluka* based. It should be based on the crop lost by a village or a *Gram Panchayat*. The loss amount should be assessed and the peasants should be given due compensation for that.

16.07 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to certain other aspects of the problems being faced by the peasantry. This country, during the tenure of this Government has faced unfamiliar natural calamities, like the Tsunami. Tsunami had hit the entire range of Bay of Bengal and also certain parts of the Arabian sea. Now, the Government is aware of the fact that owing to this, the island territory of Andaman and Nicobar has got titled in such a way that one end of the islands has got submerged into the sea and the other parts of the islands has gone up. Large tracts of cultivable land have been lost by the peasants. They have no hope of recovery of their lost land. They have virtually nothing to do. their cultivable land has got submerged into the seabed.

There is a similar kind of a problem that is faced by peasants owing to certain rivers changing their course of flow. In the process of their changing their course the rivers submerge large tracts of cultivable lands. The same thing happens in the event of an earthquake.

Sir, as far as my State is concerned, and similar is the case with other coastal areas, we are faced with the

problem of sea erosion. In the event of sea erosion taking place, the peasants tend to lose their cultivable land. For such cases there should be some insurance cover meant for the peasants who lose their land owing to such natural calamities.

So, when there is Tsunami, when there is change of the course of the river, an earthquake, sea erosion, landslide, cloud burst, thunder and lightning, crops and land are destroyed. These are some of the natural calamities which destroy crops and land. So, in an insurance scheme, there should be a provision to protect the land and the peasant who is losing his land due to natural calamities. This is one area in which we should do something so that the peasant will get a little more relief out of it.

Then, insurance should not be an optional thing. Many people may not join the insurance scheme. It should be made compulsory. Then the question will come as to who will pay the premium. I think, there should be an approach on that also by the Government. The premium of the small, marginal and poor peasants should be given by the State Governments. The rich peasants can afford to pay their premium. So, compulsory insurance should be there and premium of the poor peasantry should be paid by the Government.

Another thing is that insurance is a general thing. If you examine the existing schemes, you will find that the peasants will get the benefit if there is a natural calamity, excepting the calamities which I have mentioned. But if there is a pest attack or if the crop is not growing because of certain disease, probably, most of the insurance schemes will not give protection to the peasantry.

Now, take the case of coconut. Sir, I think your State is also having a lot of coconut trees. They are badly afflicted by root wilt disease which is considered to be one of the most dangerous diseases by which the whole tree becomes useless and there will be no yield from such trees. Such a situation is there in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka also. In more than half of Kerala cultivation is very badly affected. It looks as a healthy tree but once it gets affected by this kind of a disease, it would look like somebody which has got leprosy. And it would not yield anything and the peasant will not get any return out of it. The Coconut Board has a programme to cut those trees and replant them. The peasant would like to get rid of such trees and cultivate them again. But

then the problem of saplings is there. You may not get disease resistant saplings. In such a situation, what is the scheme of the Government by which the peasant can be helped? So, my suggestion is, the peasants suffering from the disease affected and the pest infested trees resulting in crop loss should also be given the benefit of insurance. If these things are done, then probably, the peasants who are today getting frustrated would find a little ray of hope.

Then, there are certain other areas also which should be thought of. One of the emerging areas of agrarian economy is the cattle wealth of our country like poultry, dairy farming, etc. In that area also insurance cover should be provided so that cattle wealth will really sustain especially the small and marginal farmers and they will get additional income from this wealth. There should be a proper insurance scheme for them.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one more thing. For example, in Kerala, there is a scheme by which all the cattle in the State are insured.

If there is any loss by way of, say a death of the cow, he gets compensation. Not only that. The man who rears the cattle also gets insurance cover under that particular scheme. I would request the Government to adopt similar scheme so that the cattle wealth is well protected all over India. My idea is that you have to look at agriculture in a new context. It is not the question of just a few cash crops or production of rice and wheat. Today agrarian economy is very comprehensive. It includes many varieties of crops, cattle wealth, poultry, sericulture, pisciculture, etc. I am not going into the details of all that. A very comprehensive agriculture insurance policy should be worked out so that anybody in the agrarian field, who is contributing wealth to the country by way of doing agriculture of any kind, is given the protection of insurance. It would be difficult. But only when such a scheme is introduced, the peasant will find that there is some hope and he will find insurance useful in the times of difficulty. If such an insurance scheme is attempted, I think, we will go a long way in the service of the peasantry.

I would like to mention one thing about the cash crop and that would be my last point. Take for example, tobacco. My friends from Andhra Pradesh know about the importance of tobacco because it is one of the most important things in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the House that the time for the discussion on this Bill is over. I have a list of nine more Members who want to speak on this Bill. If the House agrees, the time for the discussion on the Bill may be extended by another one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: A number of cess and taxes, like excise duty, are collected by the Government on cash crops like tobacco, and even on cotton and coconut. A portion of that can be diverted to help the peasantry.

I do not say the whole sum should go towards that. A portion of that should be earmarked to protect the peasants by way of providing better insurance cover. Similarly, we can find money for all the cash crops on which various cess is collected for various purposes. If we earmark a portion of that for insurance, the cash crop cultivators can be protect. I hope the Government will consider all these things.

With these words I support the Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I congratulate Shri Saradgi for bringing such an important Bill on crop insurance. In fact, this Bill should be brought by the Government itself. I am sure every Member of the House will agree that this Bill has to be legislated very soon, without any delay. ...(*Interruptions*)

But the only thing is that when they are in the Opposition they fight, in the Ruling Party also everyone of us want it, but the Governments, in power, will not go ahead with that irrespective of what the Party it is. It is very unfortunate. Possibly, when we discuss this matter, even the Governments in power agree that it should be brought. Only one happy event is, the fate of the farmer, when we call him, everywhere in lectures or in our public speeches, as the backbone of the country. He is the one who is suffering all the time for no crime he has committed.

Even this thinking of providing crop insurance has come during Rajiv Gandhi's time in 1986 on 1987. But it was on the basis of Mandals. They thought, over a period seeing the experience, they will make it on a village basis and later on an individual basis. But decades have passed and it has not improved.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

I just want to bring one point to your notice as well as to the notice of this House. The farmer is suffering in every aspect. He is not getting the right price for the farm produce. It is unremunerative. The cost of the inputs is going substantially high day in and day out. The wages are going up. Even if his wife, children and everybody also work, he will not get that. Sometimes, what happens is that when the crop is very good and when he feel very proud that this year his crop is excellent and he will get so much income, suddenly a cyclone comes or suddenly some mishap happens and the entire crop is lost, but there is no way to compensate that.

The more miserable thing is that the existing theme which is crop insurance loan, the moment he takes a loan from a cooperative bank, they automatically deduct the premium. Once they deduct the premium, is it not ethical, moral, legal to pay him compensation when he lost the crop? But nobody takes the responsibility and they say it is only for insuring his crop alone and not the farmer. So, it is not a crop insurance at all.

Sir, if an industrialist or a trader were to lose money by virtue of vagaries of the nature and even if it is to the tune of hundreds of crores, it is being paid. When hundreds and thousands of crores are being paid to a trader, to a manufacture, to an industrialist, who has got enough money even if he loses in that and still he can survive, why not it be given to a farmer? He cannot survive without that. That is the reason why he is committing suicide. So, is it not rational on the part of the legislatures to bring this legislation and come to his rescue?

Sir, when we go in person and discuss. The Governments in power or the Minister says that they are worried about the possible claim amount as to how many thousands of crores they will have to pay. But, anticipating the huge claim amount, should we keep quiet? If that is so, then, we must keep quiet even for the industrialist also, for the traders also.

Sir, I wish to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that it is not so bothering. The only thing is that we must have a will, we must have an idea, we must have a concept.

Sir, at the moment, the insurance sector is open. It is given to private sector also. The IRDA is there, the regulating authority for insurance. Even as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, when we were

dealing with the IRDA, I told them that it must be statutory for those companies that 30 per cent of the premium must be from crop insurance.

Now, the life insurance companies are making tonnes of money. The longevity of the individual has gone up from 50 years to 70 years. So, he lives longer and the profits of these companies are abnormal. So, why not share this profit with crop insurance? If all of us were to think, we can find a way.

Let us think of universal insurance. Every agriculturist has to insure his land for the crop. All that we are worried is that the man who suffered the loss for no fault of his must be covered.

The insurance premium also will not be substantial. Under the law of probability all the lands will not be subjected to natural calamities. The man who gets good crop can definitely share one per cent or two per cent of his earnings. By distributing it like that the man who suffered for no fault of his can be saved. The Government and the institutions need not worry that they have to pay thousands of crores of rupees as claims to the agricultural farmers. The only thing is that we must have a determination to go to their rescue. It is very unfortunate. There is a need of political will and political commitment. If an agriculturist loses his crop he does not get anything, and there is no other source of income. House sites will be allotted to the Members of Parliament, to the legislators, to the bureaucrats and to the journalists costing one crore rupees but not to the farmers.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Land will be sold to the big corporates at a low price.

SHRI K.S. RAO: They acquire it at very low price from them and sell it to the corporates at a higher price. If these things were to go on, what right do we have in this seat when we cannot protect the farmers about whom we are talking left and right?

Another point is this. Even the daughter of a farmer who has got 15 acres of cultivable land, assured cultivation, wants to marry a boy who is working as attendant in a bank and not the son of a farmer owning 15 acres of land. This is the pathetic condition. This is a social problem also. What about the respect of the farmer? The lineman does not care for him! The Secretary, does not care for him; he does not have any respect at all! The Secretary of a village is a leader; he is a big

man, but the farmer is nobody. Not only money, even respect also he does not get. This is the pathetic condition of the farmer. Everyone of us must resolve—no matter which party is there in the Government—that primarily we must find a way to save the farmer, and we must protect the farmer who is in distress. Every time and every year the pathetic condition of the farmer is being discussed; suicides committed by farmers are being discussed; days and hours and being spent in the legislatures. We do not want to go into the reasons why it is so. We do not try to find out the remedies. We discuss and leave it like that; we do not find a solution. If lakhs or crores of money is required from the Government, then I can understand. It is not required; it only requires a will. We can find a way without much burden on the Government. I am happy that the hon. Minister of Agriculture at great insistence said a month or two months back in the last Session that from this year, with this crop, he will provide crop insurance to the farmers. But I do not know as to what has happened. We all went to our constituencies and said that our hon. Minister of Agriculture has assured that the Crop Insurance Scheme on the village basis will be implemented from this crop year onwards. But, I do not know whether any orders are issued or whether any legislation is to be made. But, my humble request to the hon. Minister is this. Please convey to Shri Sharad Pawar that he had promised that he would bring this legislation or order for farmers from this crop year only before they start ploughing or before they start sowing the crop. I am of the definite opinion that it is not a difficult proposition. The Government need not fear that it has to spend thousands of crores of rupees. I would like to request the hon. Members from all the Parties, particularly the Leaders of all the Parties that they must hold a meeting and take a decision. We have to take this decision and protect the farmers.

With these few words, I humbly request all the Members who are present here, and I humbly request the Minister and the Leader of the Opposition who has just gone, to take a determined position to see that this is implemented from this year and from this crop itself.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Chairman Sir, More than 70% of our people are depending upon agriculture. Agriculture is the back bone of our economy. Perhaps, because of this reason the former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said "JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN".

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Our farmers provide food for all of us. But unfortunately, the farmers are not getting good seeds. Even the fertilizers and pesticides are adulterated. What can the hapless farmer do? He is not getting electricity throughout the day. He has to pay heavily for electricity. The Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has waived the loans of farmers. He is also giving free electricity to the farmers. Why don't all other states follow this magnanimous approach?

Many crops are destroyed due to diseases. Coconut trees are attacked by NUSI disease in Karnataka, Kerala and other states in the country. The central coconut board has announced an amount of Rs. 250/- for cutting a coconut tree and to plant a new tree. Is this amount sufficient Sir? No, not at all. It is a very meagre amount. The coconut board should give at least five hundred rupees for cutting each tree (affected) and to plant a new tree. Farmers also do not have cold storage facility, food processing facility and godown facility. In addition to this they face financial crises. The farmers are charged about 6% interest on agricultural loan. Car loan is also available at 6% interest. House loan is also available at this rate of interest. What an irony? Farmers who feed all of us is not given any concession. In China the interest on agriculture loan is zero percent. Why don't we follow them such that our farmers can also prosper like them.

I would like to give my own example. Last year I had taken a loan of Rs. 50,000/- per acre to cultivate paddy. But I got only Rs. 15,000/- from the paddy I produced in one acre. Therefore the loss for me per acre is Rs. 35,000/- per acre. If this trend continues, then it encourages the farmers, weavers and other rural people to commit suicide.

A foot ball player will get several lakhs of rupees if he severely damages his toe or any other part of his body. Houses are insured, vehicles are insured. All kinds of things are insured except farmers crops. Why is this double standard in our society? Farmer has to face drought, Flood and other calamities. Therefore it is very-very essential for farmers to get their crops insured. The Union Government along with State Government should come forward to help the farmers to insure all their crops. Infact, the Centre and State Governments should pay the premium amount for medium and small farmers. Land lords and rich farmers can pay their premium amount with out any financial assistance from the Government.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

I heartily congratulate and thank my learned colleague Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi for bringing this very vital bill for the welfare of our farmers.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really gratifying on my part to participate in the debate on such an important issue. This is the second Friday on which we are discussing on the Crop Insurance Bill.

Very rightly, our colleague Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi has brought this Bill. Initially, I would say that the intention on which this Bill has been brought is really worth-deliberating because loss of crops of farmers is a problem, which affects the humankind not only in the country but also throughout the world. It actually ruins the families for generations. Because of natural calamity, the loss of crops ruins the families for generations, and it becomes very difficult on their part to stand erect again.

The nature of calamity that has been propounded in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, of course, is not exhaustive. If it was mentioned 'all natural calamities' there, I think, it would have been sufficient to cover everything. But I would say that flood, cyclone or pest attack on crop would be having a seasonal impact on the crops or on the farmers' economic status.

But continuous drought in a particular area will totally ruin not only that family but that locality of that district on the State. It has been experienced by a large tract of our country where people migrate and it works like a slow poison and weakens the society to a great extent. I would like to mention here that for enacting a legislation to support the farmers, who suffer because of natural calamity, the idea that has been put forth in this Bill is to have crop insurance.

Here the onus is totally on the Central Government. In different Sections, the hon. Member has mentioned in this Bill that the Central Government shall formulate a scheme providing for insurance of crops. The Central Government should provide the premium in respect of insurance and the State Government's proportion as may be prescribed. Similarly, the Central Government should pay the insurance amount to the farmers for the loss of crop suffered by them due to any natural calamity or excess of crop where the return is less.

When you give the total responsibility to the Central Government, it will be interesting to find out what is the response of the Central Government relating to this Bill. A number of Members, who support this Bill. But, there is certain inherent problem relating to crop insurance policy in our country.

I would like to draw the attention of this House and also of the Minister, through you, Sir, that for the last two-and-a-half decades, crop insurance scheme is in force in our country. I think more than eight crop insurance schemes have been in force in the tenure of different Governments.

Last March, the Minister of Agriculture had announced in this House the formulation of a new Agricultural Insurance Scheme. I am sure it is not the last of its kind. Many more will come. More than half a dozen farm insurance schemes have been tried out in the past two-and-a-half decades but not one has worked. Successive insurance models proved unsustainable because they were neither economically viable nor suited to cover the varied risks that beset crop farming.

When we talk about crop insurance, it is not only the interests of the farmers that has to be discussed but also the insurers, the companies who are going to insure or engage themselves because insurance is a business. The manner in which this Bill has come, perhaps, the Member wants to impress upon the Government or this House that it is not a business. If the Government agree that it is not a business, then the Government can dole out fund as has been suggested by very many Members to support this scheme.

If you treat it as a business, then you have to take both the parties and their interests in view. To my mind, insurance is a business. Accordingly, not only one nationalised insurance company, which is doing crop insurance today, but a number of private companies have also come in. When you treat it as a business, it has to be remunerative.

That is why the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme which is today in vogue, had to cope up with claims—this is just a figure which I am giving—worth Rs. 5,730 crore. This was the claim which is more than three times the premium income of Rs. 1,700 crore. The premium acquired by this scheme was Rs. 1,700 crore and the claims were of Rs. 5,730 crore. How would the insurance company function in such a situation? Do

you expect the Government to provide the funds? Is it feasible? Is it possible?

We want to incorporate all farmers into this scheme and that should be the intention. But how much can the Government cope with that? Can they provide that fund? One should realise that the agricultural insurance is an inherently complicated business because of the many risks involved in farming. A new Joint Group has been appointed by the Government which has suggested to have village panchayats as the unit area for its operation and the guaranteed yield level based on the best five of the last seven years' actual yield for calculating the compensation to be paid. These are the two major factors to determine how much premium has to be paid, how much compensation has to be paid in times of calamity in relation to insurance.

Twenty years back the Block or the Panchayat Samiti was that unit area. Now a suggestion is there and that note has been circulated to different State Governments for their views that the Gram Panchayat should be the unit. But here lies the problem. I would expect the hon. Minister to clarify on that, if he can, or the mover of this bill also should ponder over it. To calculate the yield of a particular area, the Agriculture Department has certain reports relating to the Talukas or the Mandals or the Panchayat Samitis or the Blocks. Do you have them for a Gram Panchayat? That is the essence on which an insurance is to be made. If you do not have those reports for Gram Panchayat, how is this insurance going to be feasible? When you are going to have for seven years, and out of them, the five years of the best of produce of that area, that will also lead to a number of problems. This is bound to create problems in the absence of a reliable data. I am using this word 'reliable' because many times different State Governments can also manufacture panchayat level unit data. So, one has to be honest to rely on the past many years.

Now, I come to the major issue of this National Agricultural Insurance Scheme which has started since 1999-2000 and a Joint Group has studied the unit area about which I have already mentioned. I am constrained to say that the Government is still considering a Report which was submitted on 20th December, 2004 and they are yet to come out with a concrete proposal. How long will it take?

The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is operating on the basis of area approach, that is defined

area for each notified crops, for widespread calamities and on individual basis for localised calamities such as hailstorm landslide, cyclone and flood. But this individual based assessment which is a case of localised calamity, is being implemented in a limited area on experimental basis, the whole country is not covered though the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme says all farmers are covered—both for loanee and non-loanee.

At the same time, we come to know that it is in a limited area, it is in respect of localised calamities and it is on an experimental basis. Everything seems to be on an *ad hoc* basis. How do you expect, Shri Saradgi, that this scheme is going to fructify and give results to farmers? It is expected that under this scheme, each participatory State and Union Territory is required to reach the level of Gram Panchayat as a unit of insurance in a minimum period of three years. At present, the scheme is being implemented only by 23 States and 2 Union Territories. That leaves out a large number of States. Under NAIS, during the last 11 crop season—from 1999 to *khariif* 2004—only 6.24 lakh farmers have been covered over an area of 10.12 crore hectares. This is a big country with large number of farmers and this is the number of farmers who have been covered! This clearly demonstrates where we have reached and how far we have to go. My suggestion here would be that the Agricultural Insurance Company of India is preparing for a gradual shift to the actuarial assessment of premium for crop insurance from the current flat rate system. Today itself, the Actuaries Bill has been piloted by the Minister of Finance and only one hon. Member has participated. That Bill deals with insurance also. The major component of that Bill is regarding insurance. It is really heartening to note that we are also discussing insurance during Private Members' Business.

Here, I am referring to the actuarial assessment of premium for crop insurance. At present whatever schemes we have, we have a flat rate system of insurance. Unless we migrate to actuarial system of insurance, to my mind, the farmers will not benefit. Once we do that, it would imply that cultivator of a steadier crop would pay less premium while those engaged in riskier crop would pay higher premium. From the insurer's point of view, it would mean that while premium will be subsidised, claim payouts will not be subsidised by the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the process of shifting to the actuarial system has already been underway.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

In major crop insurance markets such as USA, Canada and Spain, the support of the Government is in terms of upfront subsidy in premium while the claims are left to the insurers. The insurance company is additionally supported by the Government on reinsurance and payment of administrative expenses. Shri Suparas Bhandari, the Chairman and Managing Director of AIC is of the opinion that a flat rate system is financially unviable in India, but the actuarial premium rates would have to be supported by adequate level of upfront subsidy in premium, keeping in mind the affordability of the farmer.

One can understand from the figure given below about the half-hearted manner in which crop insurance business is being done. The crop insurance market for 2004 raked in the premium of about Rs. 550 crore at administrated rates, which, on actuarial rates, could be approximately Rs. 2,200 crore. Therefore, there is a need for further capital infusion.

I would like to conclude with these words. The agriculture in our country is non-remunerative, if not a losing proposition, and it is too well known to merit repetition. Nearly, 3/4th of the Indian farmers take home less than Rs. 3,000 a month, that is, roughly 60 per cent of the starting salary of a Government Attendant. There is more to be done by the Government, and more to be done by all of us in concerted way. Let us migrate from flat-rate insurance to the actuarial basis. This would be the best way of helping the farmers.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Crop Insurance Bill, 2005 piloted by Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi. I think that it is high time that the Government started thinking of bringing a comprehensive Bill on crop insurance. I am saying this because it deals with the life of 70 per cent of the population whose livelihood is in the agriculture sector. Most of the rural populace and the farm labourers—who are allied with agriculture activities—depend on agriculture.

Today, the Indian farmer is the most unsecured person in the country. He is subject to floods, natural calamities, distress sale, and many other vagaries of nature. Whenever we provide relief from such vagaries of nature by bringing an amendment, a new type of natural calamity crops up. The farmers are facing this sort of situation due to climate change, and new environmental conditions developing every year. There has been a big climate change everywhere. Therefore, the

farmer is subject to face all these conditions including erratic rainfall, distress sale, etc. He also does not get a right price for his crop. This Bill would give him some type of protection for the same.

I would also like to mention about the Insurance Regulatory Authority, which was created a couple of years back, where up to 26 per cent FDI was allowed in the insurance sector. At the time of piloting this bill, it was assured by the Government at that time—whosoever was in the Treasury Benches at that time—that the private companies and the foreign companies that are coming in the insurance sector would go to the rural India. I was going through the Chartered Accountant Report about four months back, and it is mentioned there that nearly 90 per cent of the rural population is not covered by insurance. Only the urban areas are covered by the insurance sector. I am sorry to state that this shows the seriousness of the Government in implementing crop insurance in this country.

We have entered the WTO stage where we have become global players where we have to compete with other developed countries that are giving subsidies to their farmers at all, and giving insurance to their farmers at will to protect them. Therefore, it is the duty of any Government to make the largest occupation in the country, that is, agriculture, a secured sector. A security shield should be given to them. For example, the Government has come up with the NREGP, but there is no insurance cover in it. There is just a disability allowance or some such type of allowance provided in it. At that time we had deliberated that insurance cover should also be given to the rural people as it has become very important considering these facts.

I was hearing other hon. Members who took part in this discussion, and everybody was demanding that the unit for insurance should be a village, and not a block or a mandal. The change in climate has reached such a scale today that in one part of a district you might get rain whereas in another part of the same district there will be no rain or there will be hailstorm.

17.00 hrs.

Unless you make village a unit, you cannot pinpoint the damage that the natural calamity has caused to the farmer. It will be difficult to assess and the farmer will never get any benefit. For example, there is drought in a State, in a district, or in a KBK area of Orissa. You

will see that the rainfall is so erratic that if there is drought in a certain portion of the district, it affects the whole district, and those *Panchayats* which have been affected are really subjected to all types of disadvantages. Therefore, the Insurance Bill is a good Bill, and the Government should not delay it. In the next Session, they should come up with a comprehensive Bill so that the farmers can get their due.

When 20 per cent FDI is allowed in the insurance sector, you must tell the foreign investors in the insurance sector that they should go to the rural areas because a majority of the Indian population lives in rural areas. They are only functioning in the urban areas as of now. If these people go to rural areas, it will create employment. We are reading in newspapers and also in various reports, including on television, that with the FDI coming into the insurance sector, nearly two lakh additional jobs will be created in the county. However, we have not been able to see that till date.

There should be uniform crop insurance scheme. Suicides by farmers are becoming very common everyday under the UPA Government. It is becoming very common in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and other States. This is due to bad money lending: it is due to the local moneylenders that this type of situation is arising. This is relevant to cash crops like sugarcane where the farmers in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are very advanced as they want to get maximum output from the agricultural land. They put all their money and when the crop fails, they are broken financially and economically, which is leading to suicides. This is one of the main reasons. It is the duty of the Government to give them protective shield so that they can fall back on something, otherwise there will be distress sales.

Today. The farmers are not getting the right prices. There have been instances in rice-growing areas where farmers have sold all their goods to private traders, whereas last year, the FCI could not procure enough. A few hours back, I was hearing the Finance Minister replying to the debate on the issue of price rise. He has rightly said that a balance should be maintained between prices for the farmers and the prices for the consumers. Unless the insurance schemes are applicable to the farmers, you cannot be assured of the returns that you expect from the landholding. Therefore, it becomes very important to secure the farmers through the insurance shield.

The innovative insurance scheme was started by the NDA Government, and nobody can object or deny it. But it has to be operated and implemented in true spirit. Then only it could be beneficial for the farmers.

I was going through LIC scheme giving social security to agricultural labourers. In this regard, I would like to say that the produce stored in the FDI and State Warehousing godowns should also be insured and, against that, the farmer should be able to get some remuneration so that he can plan his next crop.

The insurance cover should be such that it should cover all crops be it horticultural crop, be it cereals, be it pulses. Pest attacks should specifically be covered by crop insurance immediately. The gestation period in the case of horticultural crops is long. If you plant a coconut tree or a mango tree now, it will take years before they yield fruit. After the crop comes, diseases start afflicting the fruits. Hon. Member from Kerala Shri Chandrapan just described how some disease affected the coconut plantation in Kerala and completely destroyed the economy of the State. Where can the farmer go in such situations?

This is a very healthy Bill but it has to be looked into in depth by experts. The Actuaries Bill which is going to be discussed proposes to create a body of people like Chartered Accountants. I hope it will further assess the future prospects of crop insurance. Therefore, I congratulate Shri Saradgi for piloting this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am thankful to the hon'ble Member for introducing this Bill. This issue is being debated for quite sometime now and several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on it. Agriculture is the major occupation in our country. A country moves on two wheels (i) agriculture (ii) industry. The development and progress of a country depends upon these two sectors.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, agriculture sector has not been given facilities as have been given to industrial sector in our country. That is why a demand has been raised several times to give agriculture the status of industry. I mean to say that the facilities given to industrialists and businessmen should be given to agriculture also so that it could also become a profit earning industry. Different

[Shri Mitrasen Yadav]

crops are grown in different parts of our country. At some places, fruits like banana, papaya and gauva etc. and at others vegetables and flowers are grown. A large population of our country depends on agriculture. However, the natural calamities like hail storm, heavy rainfall, drought and storm damage the crops heavily. Sometimes the entire crop gets destroyed due to vagaries of nature and the farmer comes on the verge of ruination. And what is worse, if he is reeling under a debt burden, he is left with no choice but to commit suicide. In our country, people involved in agriculture sector have no other alternate occupation. But in an agrarian country like ours where more than half of the population is engaged in farming and where farmers comparatively have more representation in Parliament, farmers are living in a pathetic condition and are facing many problems. A post of statement are made in the House whenever a Bill is introduced be it on crop disasters, water or on electricity. However, the problem is the more we try to address the problem of agriculture sector, the more it aggravates.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today farmers are committing suicide because of debt burden and damage of their crops. I think the situation was not same 20-25 years ago. Today the situation is such that with the progress in agriculture sector, the condition of the farmer is becoming worse. Do we not have any mechanism to address this issue?

Is not cultivation done in other parts of the world, are not farmers there in other parts of the world? There are also Governments, agricultural farm, our Government is also involved in agricultural activities and there are Government's Agricultural Universities. Is not our Government aware as to what are the remunerative prices of the agricultural produce of farmers and how can we give remunerative prices to our farmers?

Sir, a Commission has been constituted in our country to assess the remunerative prices of agricultural produce of our farmers. There are such members and officials in the Commission who do not know about the agricultural activities and agricultural produce and the hardship faced by the farmers in agricultural activities. Such people decide support price and remunerative prices of agricultural produce in our country. Is a peculiar country inhabited by peculiar people ruled by peculiar parliament which get the remunerative prices of agricultural produce of the farmers fixed by the people who know nothing about such things.

Sir, the problem of crop insurance in our country is a big problem. The insurance of crops of the farmers should be made mandatory in the country and the premium should be paid by the Government so that the farmers may get relief. The Government should pay the premium in respect of small and unprofitable holdings. Much earlier several leaders of our country had staged movement for waiving off the land rent (lagan) of unprofitable holdings. Pandit Nehru had led a movement much earlier. The land holding of three and quarter acre of land will be treated as unprofitable. So, even at present the rent of the land holding of three and quarter acre of land is waived off. I would like to submit to the Government that we should follow the ideals laid down by our former Prime Minister who was the maker of our country and keeping in view the plight of the farmers the relief should be provided to them. In fact our country is the country of farmers. If our Government cannot provide relief to our farmers then there cannot be anything more unfortunate than this.

Sir, mandatory agricultural insurance scheme should be enforced in our country and the premium should be fixed on the basis of the remunerative prices of the agricultural produce. Sometimes crops get damaged only in a village or a panchayat and not in the entire district or Tehsil. So the farmers remain deprived of the full benefit of crop insurance. I would like to submit that smaller unit should be fixed for providing benefit of crop insurance to the farmers, so that farmers may get benefit of insurance in the event of damage to their crops. Presently it so happens that if the crops in all the villages under the entire Tehsil or the Gram Panchayat are not damaged the farmers do not get the benefit of crop insurance scheme. So, I would like to submit that small unit should be adopted so that in case crops of half area of a district, Tehsil or Panchayat or only some villages get destroyed, the farmers may get the benefit of crop insurance scheme.

Sir, many hon'ble speakers have given figures, however, without going into those figures I would like to submit that the Government have launched many welfare schemes to provide employment to the people in the villages and raising the standard of living of the people. Animal husbandry, Piggery, goat-rearing, poultry farming etc are some such schemes. Through these schemes assistance has been provided to the farmers to enhance their income. Sometimes farmers suffer loss in these activities. Sometimes it so happens that their cattles and hens die due to some diseases. In that case there is

provision of assistance to them as well. There are some people who are engaged in only one type of activity. Some farmers cultivate single variety of crop. I know that in some places farmers cultivate only sugarcane crop and somewhere they cultivate only paddy or wheat. Thus if we take South India, mainly coconut is cultivated there. Different types of crops are cultivated in various States of India and the farmers of those States cultivate different types of crops for raising of their standard of living. The Government should move a well-formulated and comprehensive Bill to protect such farmers. The Government should take measures to provide relief to the farmers of the country. Merely showing sympathy and holding discussion in the House will not be of any use. Unless we formulate proper programmes and schemes, make efforts to provide them benefit and make efforts to provide relief to the farmers, our country will not develop. The Government should ensure that the farmers of this agricultural country are not forced to commit suicide due to starvation. We will have to formulate long-term policy to protect them.

With these words, I conclude. I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Thank you. At the outset, I would like to compliment Shri Iqbal Ahmed Sardgi, for introducing such a Bill, though it is a Private Member's Bill. I also agree with Shri K.S. Rao who is not present here now, who said that this Bill should have been brought by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just wait. The extended-time that is allotted for discussing this Bill is over. If the House agrees, we could extend the time for discussing this Bill for another one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for discussion of this Bill is extended for one more hour.

Shri Acharya may continue now.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, as I was saying, this Bill should have been brought by the Government indeed. The Government has failed to come out with such a Bill and this shows the seriousness of the Government towards the problems and the plight of the

farmers. Shri Saradgi has incorporated in his Bill, clause 3, which says:

"The Central Government shall formulate a scheme providing for insurance of crops and excess of crops throughout the country."

I would like to hint upon this point 'excess of crops throughout the country'. This is the most important problem which has been ignored so far. We know that sometimes there is loss of crop due to natural calamities like floods, droughts, etc. When there is loss of crop, the farmer is suffering. But at other times, whatever crop the farmer is growing, he is not able to sell it, at least, at the minimum support price fixed by the Government. Particularly this problem is with the poor small farmers, who cannot hold his produces, which may be paddy or wheat or oilseeds. So, the poor small farmer is not able to hold his produces for a pretty long time. When he does not get minimum support price at the market, he has to sell it to the trader or the businessman and sustaining loss on that account. So, a poor farmer is suffering a lot because of this.

There is the problem of distress sale throughout the country or at least in most parts of the country. The FCI has failed to contain it; the Government has miserably failed to contain it. So, the distress sale of farmers' product is one of the major problems in this country for the farmers.

This is one aspect, which very correctly the mover of the Bill has mentioned. I support this clause. This should also be taken into consideration while discussing the crop insurance. If the Government is not able to timely procure the farmers' produce at a minimum support price, the loss incurred to the farmers on this account should be compensated by Crop Insurance. This is one major point which has very correctly found place in this Bill moved by Shri Iqbal.

Under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, so far as I know, the system is that whatever distress money is to be disbursed to the farmers, 50 per cent of it is borne by the Central Government and fifty per cent is borne by the concerned State Government. But because of poor financial conditions, many of the States are not able to deposit their share of money at an appropriate time and, therefore, the disbursement of compensation to the farmers is being delayed. As a result the farmers are suffering. My contention is that it should be made time-

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

bound. In the Bill itself, it has been proposed that within two months of the loss assessment, the insurance amount should be given to the farmers. My proposal is that if the general insurance company or for that matter either the Central Government or the State Government fails to deposit the amount to be compensated to the farmers, the interest for the delay made should be paid to the farmers. If a farmer is taking credit from some bank or cooperative society and if he is not able to repay the loan in time, he has to pay interest. Similarly, interest has to be paid to the farmers for the delay made in payment of the compensation. This provision should be made in the scheme itself. If the Government proposes to come out with a Bill, then this provision should find a place in the Bill also.

I would like to say that the whole amount should be borne by the Central Government. It has been mentioned by Shri Mahtab. I do not know whether the Central Government is going to agree to this. The financial condition of most of the States is not very good. So, the entire compensation amount should be borne by the Central Government.

Almost all the Members have talked about the unit for crop insurance. So far the block is taken as a unit. In this House, on several occasions Members from all sides have been demanding that village should be made a unit and if it is not possible then at least Gram Panchayat should be made a unit. I remember, while replying to the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture, the hon. Minister of Agriculture had committed to the nation, to the farmers of the nation through this House that in the next kharif season, the Gram Panchayat will be made a unit for the purpose of paying compensation. I hope the Government will fulfil its commitment to the House and as soon as possible make Gram Panchayat as a unit.

Another point I would like to make has been referred to by many Members. So far the compensation amount is borne by the State Government and the Central Government. I would like to know the role of insurance companies in this. My friend from Kalahandi, Shri Deo was talking about this. A number of multinational companies have entered into the insurance sector of our country. Do they not have a role to play? Our main motto is that they should move to the rural pockets but so far most of the multinational companies are confined

to big houses big cities and big towns. They are yet to move to the rural pockets. So why should these insurance companies not be allowed in the crop insurance sector? If I am correct, a few months back one or two companies like ICICI Lombard and the agricultural Insurance Company of India were gearing up to sell their products in the crop insurance sector. But I do not know how far they have progressed. Why do the Government not make it compulsory on the part of the multinational companies which are already in the insurance sector in our country to at least enter into the crop insurance so that there is competition? With the result, better terms and conditions would be available to the farmers so far as crop insurance is concerned. Therefore, the Government should also take this into consideration.

As you know, the crop insurance was introduced during Rajiv Gandhi's time in 1985. But during the tenure of NDA Government, a comprehensive scheme was introduced and better provisions were made. But still it is incomplete and insufficient and it is not hundred per cent farmer friendly. Not even 15 per cent of the farmers of the country have been covered so far under the crop insurance scheme. One more important point is that sometimes the farmers are hesitant to deposit their premium and be part of the scheme. It is because year after year they are depositing the premium but they are deprived of insurance money because of the clumsy system of assessment of the crop loss. As has been mentioned by many Members, the present system of assessing the loss of crop is so clumsy, so unscientific and so anti-farmer that in most parts of the country the farmers are not getting any benefit in the case of natural calamity and crop loss. Therefore, this clumsy assessment system has to be very effectively changed.

Sir, it is a question of habit. Unless we create a habit amongst the farmers to go for the crop insurance, nothing can help them. Therefore, to create a habit and awareness amongst the farmers, this scheme has to be made more farmer friendly, more easy and more lenient. As I said, there should be competition in this and naturally the State Governments and the Central Government should be parties to this. Let the crop insurance sector be opened to other companies also. With the result, there would be competition and when there is competition, the terms and conditions of the insurance will be more pro-farmer.

With these words, I would again urge upon the Government to come out with a Bill as soon as possible

for a comprehensive insurance policy. Let it be there by an Act of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, let me have the privilege to speak in Tamil on this subject. At the outset, I would like to thank my colleague Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradagi for introducing this Bill to legislate for providing insurance cover to the farming community and it is very important a need felt by farmers across the country. Agriculture forms the basis of an economy and it is vital to our country. My Periakulam Constituency is a valley region near hilly terrains and, hence, remains a fertile area with much of agricultural activity. Cardamom estates, tea plantations coconut and mango cultivators. cotton growers are there. Small farmers are cultivating garlic and potatoes there. Those farmers have not got adequate protection through Crop Insurance Cover and Social Security Cover. Many Hon'ble Members pointed out to the prevalence of suicidal deaths of farmers in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the farmers heave a sigh of relief and there are no starvation deaths. The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, takes care to improve the lot of farmers. He has extended several incentives to promote agricultural production. Recently the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister who is heading the DMK Government there has extended farmers a benefit to the tune of about Rs. 6500 crores to help ease the credit burden of agriculturists and farmers. This has been extended to service to debts and to wipe out the heavy interest burden. The Government there has waived the loan of the farmers earmarking funds to the tune of about Rs. 6500 crores. Two weeks back at a function in my constituency I myself had given back to farmers their deposited documents, the pledged documents. So if you want to improve the plight of the farmers every Government has to follow Tamil Nadu Government's policy and the Government at the Centre must chalk out social security measures for the farmers and insurance cover for their entire agricultural activities.

Australia, Canada and Israel give more importance to agriculture. In our country every half-an-acre and one acre of land are cultivated separately. The patterns of land holding and cultivation must improve. A vast stretch of land must come under cultivation so that better care for a single crop in a scientific way with modern

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

agricultural methods can be taken up. So the minimum unit for a cultivation must be 5 acres of land. Drip irrigation and spray irrigation methods adapted in those countries can help the farmers to save water. More crop cultivation with effective water management spending less water could become a reality here.

Crop management with water conservation to the fore shall help as to increase our production ensuring optimum utilisation of land under cultivation. Our progress and prosperity is dependent on agriculture because 80 to 85% of our population have taken up agriculture as their occupation.

When Mrs. Indira Gandhi was at the helm of affairs a programme called PL 480 was there. Import of rice and wheat was taken up under the programme. After Shri Rajiv Gandhi assumed power at the Centre we attained self-sufficiency in food grain production by way of extending green revolution methods all over the country. Rice, maize, wheat, other cereals and pulses were grown in our country. Even sugarcane production was augmented. Now, our Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and led by the UPA Chairperson Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has recently imported about 30 lakh tonnes of wheat. This step has been taken only to ensure adequate storage is on hand Enough stock is in place to a satisfactory level.

Our farmers do not get remunerative price. That is why we have to adopt integrated marketing system. Schemes like Uzhavar santhai (farmers market) must be introduced. Farmers can take their agricultural produce themselves directly to the market and sell them at remunerative price. This will help the farmers to overcome debt burden. This may help us to remove the problem faced by the farmers that lead them to think of suicide at least in some cases as it happens in some parts of the country. In Tamil Nadu the Uzhavar Santhai scheme has been re-introduced by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar. I urge upon the Union Government and the Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji to take up this scheme to help benefit the farmers enabling them to get remunerative price for their produce. Though the Chair I would like to request the Government to consider this.

As far as cardamom is concerned, in whole of India, it is grown more in Theni District which is in my Periakulam constituency. Cardamom that used to fetch Rs. 650 per kg can get only Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 now. Bodi is the only Auction Centre for cardamom in India. In

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

Bodi for the past ten days even auctioning of cardamom has been stopped. This is due to fall in prices. Cardamom from neighbouring country Sri Lanka and distant Guatemala enters India through Nepal. This contraband produce affect the price of India grown cardamom. The cardamom that clandestinely enter Indian market affects the price of cardamom grown by Indian agriculturists. Many of them find it difficult to go ahead with cultivation. They are swayed by fall in prices on the one side and increase in price of inputs like pesticides and fertilizers on the other side.

Increasing production cost due to rise in price of agricultural inputs and fall in prices of the produce due to smuggling in of cardamom pose a great problem. Union Government must take effective steps to check the illegal import of cardamom and other spices. How can cardamom be smuggled from Sri Lanka. Government alone with stern measures can put an end to this menace and can save the farmers especially the cardamom growers there. More than one lakh hectares of land in my constituency has been dedicated to the plantation. Tea estates also face severe problems these days due to cost escalation in managing the affairs both towards input costs and meeting overhead expenses. Pesticides and fertilizers cost more. It affects plantation. Estate workers could not get wages in time. Even plucking has been abandoned by many estate owners as maintenance itself give rise to huge expenditure. Tea cultivation and such crops must get insurance cover. Coconut growers encounter serious problems due to new kind of pests these days. The size of the coconut has grown small now. Due to pests and unknown diseases size of coconut has become small now. Coconut growers who got Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 per price could get only Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 now. Coconut Board must take effective steps to get pesticides and fertilizers and to save coconut trees.

There are Boards for Coconut, Cardamom and Tea. Whereas mangoes that are grown in plenty do not have a Board to take care of the growers. In my Periakulam constituency plenty of mangoes are grown. But enough of storage facilities and marketing support are not there. Even small rain can affect the mangoes that grow. Carbon Hydride a chemical substance is being used to ripen the mangoes. This is injurious to health apart from affecting the taste of mangoes. Hence I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the need to set up a board for protecting the interests of mango growers.

The garlic growers and potato growers who cultivate them remain to be small farmers and they do not get insurance cover and protection. Those cultivators in the hill tracts often face huge losses due to landslides. Small rivers there must have check dams at every second kilometre. This would help providing needed water source for cultivation round the year in the hilly terrain. Water shall be conserved from flowing away as flash floods.

Water for irrigation is available for 3 months a year. With the check dams in place availability of water can be ensured for a longer spall even through out the year. Irrigation facility can definitely help the farmers much better than any other possible intervention and their problems will be much reduced. Debt burden can be brought down.

When it comes to crop protection, insurance cover can be provided to help the farmers with the assistance from both the Centre and the State Governments. We have to give them subsidised rate of premium. All farmers can get the benefit only when premium rate is kept at a low through assistance from the State and the Central Governments. Farmers can not afford higher premium and hence it needs to be brought down.

Subsidised transport facility may also be provided to farmers so that agro-produce are collected from remote areas and taken to the marketing centres. For instance mango growers in my constituency find it a problem. Though mangoes are being exported to Singapore, Malaysia, and other countries. Indian mangoes go to US even. Exporters must get subsidy especially for transporting them to ports from the orchards in the remote areas in the hilly terrain. You must make exporting of cardamom, coconut and mangoes lucrative and remunerative by way of giving a cushion through incentives like transport subsidy.

When it comes to giving protection cover to crops it should not merely stop with insurance cover it should be in the form of providing pesticides, fertilizers, implements like machines, farm equipments like tractors and modern techniques in cultivation.

Hence I would like to impress upon the Government the need to create a situation and conducive atmosphere for the farmers to contribute to the economy of the country. A comprehensive crop insurance scheme shall benefit farmers giving even social security to them. This will arrest the trend of suicidal deaths of farmers.

Farmers Security Scheme and Farmers Market Scheme are two important and beneficial schemes that are in Tamil Nadu. These two schemes must be extended to other parts of India.

Crop Insurance Scheme is an essential one and its benefit can accrue better if villages are taken as a unit instead of having a district as a unit for extending benefits. Crop loan should not be commercialised. All those who are working in the fields must get social security cover and that alone make this Insurance Scheme meaningful.

By way of taking care of farmers and crops, we can increase agricultural production that will contribute to the country's economic prosperity. Your guarantee, support and assistance through Insurance Scheme can reach farming community only when it is implemented as a comprehensive one benefiting both the men and the process involved in this noblest occupation from time immemorial. With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, let me at the very outset congratulate Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi for having come up with this very important Bill. It has caught the imagination of all the sections of the House because agriculture is a subject which is very much supported and encouraged by every section of this House. It is a subject which is very close to the heart of every section of this House. We have come to the fag end of the discussion. My esteemed colleagues who spoke before me stated many things about the present day crisis in the agriculture sector. All were unanimous in their opinion that we have to support this most vital sector, which is the backbone of our economy, in whatever possible way that is available to us. We have to provide new scientific methods to our farmers we have to provide them with very low interest loans; and we have to provide them with quality inputs.

We face a lot of unemployment in this country. It is true particularly in the case of Kerala, with a population of 45 lakhs of unemployed youth in that State. Agriculture is the only sector where we can find more employment. Of course, I know, the Planning Commission differs from this view. Some time ago, in a Consultative Committee meeting, the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, said that the country should aim at taking people out of agriculture activity. He said that there is a lot of disguised employment in this field. So, he said, the aim should be to reduce the number of people engaged in agriculture.

Maybe from the national perspective and maybe from a purely economical point of view, that may be right. But we who are coming from South, especially those of us who come from Kerala, believe that only in agriculture we can find more employment. If agriculture can provide sufficient income to our youth, which is available in other sectors of the country, more and more youth will be attracted to take up agriculture as their profession. Youth coming to this sector can revolutionise this sector. It is because they are prone to new ideas and they can take up new scientific methods to improve production and to reduce cost. The bane of our agriculture, as the experts say, is the high cost of production. The quantity produced is also low in our country as compared to other countries.

Now, our farmers are competing not just in the local markets and local *mandis*. They are competing in the international markets too. So, when they compete in the international market, they have to be protected and supported in every possible way. In this Bill, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is said that farmers always suffer heavily due to flood, cyclone, drought and rains. That is right. But, now Indian farmers suffer also because of international market conditions. So, they have to be protected on that count also.

In addition to natural calamities and all that, now, as we know, due to stiff competition from abroad, due to heavy imports, there is very low price realisation for almost all the agricultural products.

We have lots of trade agreements. We have the Indo-Sri Lankan Tea Trade Agreement. We have the multi-lateral SAFTA Agreement with SAARC countries. Now, we are going to have the Indo-Asian Trade Agreement. Statistics may say that our exports are more to these countries than imports from these countries. But it is a fact that cumulative effect of all these imports stands out to be very detrimental to the ordinary, small and marginal farmers of this country. So, they have to be protected from the vagaries of the international market conditions also as we have reached such a stage.

So, what I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the assistance that is being given by way of tiding over the national calamities from the Calamity Relief Fund and National Calamity Contingency Fund is very meagre. It is not even worth as compared to effort that is being made by the ordinary farmer to get this assistance.

[Shri K. Francis George]

Some time back, there was a scheme called Price Stabilisation Fund to protect the cash crops. But then there were no takers because the scheme was not well founded, not well thought of and there were hardly any farmers to subscribe to this scheme. One thing is very clear that crop insurance is a critical relief measure to reduce the inherent risk in farming. We already have an agricultural insurance company and the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is in place. But that does not cover all the crops. In the Bill itself, a few crops have been mentioned. We have to cover all the cash crops, all the spices, all the horticulture crops and all the crops in the country. We have to cover all of them because we have reached such a stage. So, I would request the hon. Minister to include all the crops, all the food crops, cash crops, spices and horticulture crops under this crop insurance scheme.

In the case of Kerala, I would like to cite an example, under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme only paddy, topeoca, banana, pineapple, turmeric and ginger are covered. We have a host of other crops too, like cash crops, spices, etc. They are the ones who face the most difficulty now because they are cultivated in the high ranges, in the hilly areas of the State and whether it is rains, floods or drought or international market conditions. These crops are affected by all these factors. So, I would request that our national insurance scheme should be more comprehensive and it should cover all the major crops and assistance should be substantial for the farmers to tide over a crisis wherever it comes.

The objectives of this Bill are highly laudable and I once again congratulate our friend. Shri Sardagi, for coming up with a Bill like this. In fact, the Government should take serious note of this and make suitable amendment and make National Agriculture Insurance Scheme more effective, more farmer-friendly and more helpful to the farmers and thereby to the economy of our country.

17.49 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—contd.

(xviii) **Consumer Goods (Mandatory Printing of Cost of Production and Maximum Retail Price) Bill, 2006***

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Item No. 37 because Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir was not present at the time of introduction of the Bills.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for printing of cost of production and maximum retail price of consumer goods being sold in the market and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for printing of cost of production and maximum retail price of consumer goods being sold in the market and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: I beg to introduce** the Bill.

17.50 hrs.

(xix) **Forest Produce Management Board Bill, 2006***

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for right to earn livelihood to the tribals and other persons who are dependent on forest produce and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for right to earn livelihood to the tribals and other persons who are dependent on forest produce and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 28.7.2006

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

17.52 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE BILL, 2005—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we continue with Item 40, namely, Crop Insurance bill, Another two Members are there to speak. Then we may go to the next Item.

Shri Shankhlal Majhi. Shri Majhi, as there is time constraint, you kindly speak for only five minutes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Bill on Crop Insurance and matters related to it presented by Shri Iqbal Ahmad Sardagi.

India is predominantly an agricultural country and 70 percent population of the country depends on agriculture. Even today the farmer of the country depends on monsoon for irrigation. The crops get damaged either due to flood, due to drought, hailstorm and sometimes due to other natural calamities. The farmer works hard to grow his crops by arranging fertilizers, seeds, diesel and other items necessary for cultivation, but when he falls victim to natural calamity, he get devastated. Crop Insurance Bill has been brought to save farmers from natural calamity, this bill is going to change the destiny of the farmers of the country.

Sir, there is so much uncertainty, the farmer invest and toils himself to grow the crop and if the natural calamity hits the standing crops, the farmer losses his capital and is not able to make any arrangement for next crop. He do not remain in the position to make any kind of arrangement or purchase any input or other things. Consequently, the farmers are compelled to commit suicide. Today, farmers are committing suicide in all parts of the country, it was as a result of situation that the Commission headed by Shri M.S. Swaminathan had given

many suggestions for improving condition of farmers including the setting up of markets for farmers where they could sell their produce, and in turn get remunerative prices, providing loan to them at low interest rates and technical know how and the formulation of the National Agriculture Policy on the lines of industrial policy. The Government is not implementing the recommendations made by the Swaminathan Commission. This is a very sad state of affairs. The problem of farmers are aggravating day by day. The farmers do not get remunerative prices of their produce in proportion to hard work and toil put in and investment made by him. Another reason is that the farmers do not have storage capacity for their produce. He is not able to store it and he is not having marketing facility also. When farmers take his produce to market, he is exploited by Commission agents and black marketeers over there. We should evolve a mechanism, wherein farmers may be able to get advance price on the basis of fixed price limit and as per his requirement after taking their produce in the market. By this way, the farmer can be saved from black-marketeers. There is no arrangement for food processing for farmers. He can sell his produce in the form of raw material only. I have been repeatedly saying that agriculture should be given the status of industry and it can not be achieved merely by hurling slogans. If agriculture is granted the status of industry the farmers will get remunerative price for their produce. Swaminathanji had recommended the China model wherein agriculture could be made a joint entrepreneur between cities and villages, that would lead to the status of industry to the agriculture and setting up of Food Parks wherein food processing could be undertaken fetching commercial rates for the farmer's produce. The condition of farmer would be improved. There is no such mechanism in our country. The Government sheds crocodile tears over this and it has not been implemented till date.

The Members who spoke before me have given many details alongwith the figures. I will not go into much detail. I would like to say only this thing that if the suggestions given by the Swaminathan Commission that were made after having exhaustively going through the reasons for the poor financial condition of the farmers, are implemented timely and effectively, financial condition of the farmers can be improved.

This bill deal with Crop Insurance Scheme. I would like to say in this regard that till year 2004 only two crore farmers were covered under Crop Insurance Scheme. The target of covering six crore farmers up to

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Shankhlal Majhi]

year 2011-2012 has been set up. I would like to know whether there are only six crore farmers in the country? Related files keep on moving commission to Ministry and vice-versa. That file is pending from last June. If this would be the speed, I think Crop Insurance Scheme will become a day-dream. There is a plan to cover 6 crore farmers under Crop Insurance Scheme till 2011-12. Various schemes are formulated by the Union Government and very long time is taken to formulate and implement them but when this time is over, we come to know that these schemes could not be implemented. In this way, schemes are kept in abeyance. Honourable Minister is sitting here. I demand that the Crop Insurance Bill presented by Shri Iqbal ji be passed and seriously considering the recommendations and suggestions given by Swaminathan Commission and steps may be taken to improve the financial condition of farmers. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Lakshman Singh. It is nearing six o'clock. You may start your speech now and speak for a minute, and you may continue your speech next time.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the honourable Member that he has brought such an important Bill. Crop Insurance Scheme is already implemented in our country in the name of Comprehensive Crop Insurance. Now, it is known as National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. It is a good step. Government have decided to constitute a joint group and it should submit its report stating that how this scheme should be implemented in this country. But perhaps the joint group has no representatives from the field of agriculture and the persons who have knowledge of Insurance Schemes. It has got only I.A.S. officers. It hasn't got Members of Parliament and legislators who represent the people whose crops are damaged and who need Crop Insurance. The joint group has submitted its report. But why this report is gathering dust. Why the Government is not taking any decision in this regard. It is a serious matter and I want to draw the attention of the Government towards it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lakshman Singh, you may continue your speech next time.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Right, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, if the House agree, we may take up Zero Hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the Special Mention. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the shortage of electricity in Uttar Pradesh. The demand of electricity in Uttar Pradesh is around 7500 m.w. but there is always a shortage of 2000 to 2500 m.w. No State of Northern India has such shortage of electricity as in Uttar Pradesh. Union Government is providing electricity to other states but step motherly treatment is being meted out to Uttar Pradesh and it is providing them no help. Uttar Pradesh is getting only 2200 m.w. electricity in place of 3250 m.w., and there is 12 hour power cut in the cities of entire Uttar Pradesh and 14 to 15 hour power cut in rural areas. Uttar Pradesh Government is supplying electricity in its state by purchasing it from the Union Government at the cost of Rs. 25-30 crore everyday. Not only this, Centre Government have also imposed a penalty of rupees one lakh on Uttar Pradesh by filing a petition in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. Which is very indecent and condemnable. This clearly shows that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Uttar Pradesh by Union Government. Union Government is supplying 500 m.w. electricity to Punjab, 300 m.w. to Haryana and 1500 m.w. to Delhi Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country but only 100 m.w. electricity is being supplied to it. It is itself is very condemnable. I criticize it and through you, I demand that Union Government should pay special attention towards this.

Sir, not only this, Union Government is charging rupees 7 to 7.50 per unit for the 100 m.w. electricity being supplied to Uttar Pradesh whereas it charge rupees four per unit for the electricity being supplied to other states. I demand that same rate should be charged for the electricity being supplied to Uttar Pradesh as is being charged from other states. This clearly shows that step motherly treatment is being meted out to Uttar Pradesh by the Union Government. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the largest State and heart of the country. If Uttar Pradesh does not progress, the country cannot progress. Since electricity supply is a subject which is related to the economy and development of the country and the State. Therefore, I demand that Union Government should pay attention to it immediately.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[English]

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): Thank you, Chairman, Sir.

Continuing with the vicious and cruel bloodbath in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, the ruthless naxalites have abducted 18 tribal women on 25th of July. The women were resident in the Salwa Judum camp. Yet, the police in order to cover up security lapses reported to the media that the women were not in the camp.

In the last six months, hundreds of tribals connected with the Salwa Judum movement have been brutally murdered. Many thousands have fled their homes. The local Government has taken no census of the thousands affected. Many police encounters with naxalites are faked just to show some Government activities. The naxalites are resorting to a deliberate and precise retribution against Salwa Judum activists and Salwa Judum camps.

The State Government has failed to provide security to the tribals or stop the brutal killings. More and more tribal women are being killed, raped and abducted into slavery just because they are believed to be Salwa Judum activists. Bastar, once the most tranquil and natural habitat

of the tribal, has now become the bloodiest killing field in India. Today, Salwa Judum is the prime cause for provoking the naxalites who are heavily armed, well organised and ruthless. I would request the hon. Minister to take steps to restrict the Salwa Judum movement in Bastar and also to take steps to locate the kidnapped women.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Can I intervene? Salwa Judum was meant to unite the Adivasis. That was meant for a good cause. So, do not criticise Salwa Judum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MS. INGRID MCLEOD: The State Government failed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Now, Shri S. Ravichandran.

MS. INGRID MCLEOD: It was the State Government's duty to provide security to the tribals. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I admit the lapse. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mr. Ravichandran.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Tamil Nadu had experienced good rainfall during the last Rabi season and most of the reservoirs have already been at satisfactory level. With the anticipation of most prosperous agricultural season this year. The only negative aspect the farmers foresee is the shortage of fertilisers, especially DAP, urea and super phosphate.

With scarcity of phosphoric acid in international market resulting in reduced production of phosphatic fertilisers, especially DAP in India, the only viable alternative would be to import substantial quantity of DAP. The present ground stock availability of DAP is almost nil in Tamil Nadu.

Also, urgent steps should be taken to get more EC allocation for urea from Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd. To ensure adequate availability of super phosphate the selling price prevailing in other Southern States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala shall be made applicable to Tamil Nadu also.

*Not recorded.

In view of this, I urge the Government to look into this matter immediately and do the needful for supply of adequate fertilisers to Tamil Nadu farmers immediately.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, about six lakh employees belonging to the All India Bank Employees Union, the Bank Employees Federation of India and the All India Bank Officers Association struck work today.

The employees belonging to other Unions and the Reserve Bank employees have also joined the strike paralysing the banking sector in the country. So, the employees are on strike against the Central Government's move to introduce contract system on a massive scale by outsourcing the banking services which we discussed this morning on a Calling Attention Motion.

The employees demand the withdrawal of RBI circular on outsourcing along with its decision to outsource clearing operation. They want a cap on voting rights of foreign investors to be limited to 10 per cent. They want recruitment of staff for filling up nearly one lakh vacancies which exist in the banking sector. Their demand is also in regard to the fresh option to the employees to switch from the PF scheme to the pension scheme.

The UPA Government, with its policy to find more employment to the educated youth of the country should not allow contract system in the banking sector, as it will negate the expectations of millions of youth, who aspire for a better future, which the banking sector can provide. The employees also should be given one more chance to opt for the pension scheme as many of them could not do so at that time when it came up. I am also one of them. We could not opt for the pension scheme because there was lot of confusion and there was not proper consultation about it.

The Government also should not allow unbridled freedom to the foreign investors in this sector so vital to the economy. The Government should immediately direct the Indian Banks Association to start a dialogue with the Unions and settle this matter amicably to help the very vital banking sector of our economy. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important issue which is related to the dignity of all Members. Today, several State Assemblies in the country

have allowed their members to install green or other beacon lights on their vehicles as a symbol of recognition. In those states, even the Chairman of Zila Panchayat have been given status of Minister of State and are allowed to use beacon light on their vehicles. Hon'ble members of Parliament who represent many Tehsils and several Districts, are not allowed to use any kind of beacon light or name plate or siren on their vehicle due to which they have to face many problems while visiting their constituencies. Therefore, through you, I request the Central Government that keeping in mind the above problems, the Members may be allowed to use some kind of beacon light or name plate or siren on their Private vehicles for providing recognition of them.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: This is a very important issue. Many a times we have to visit our constituencies. A SHO installs red beacon light on his vehicle but a member cannot. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar's name will be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your statement is not being recorded. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue before the House. For the last some years, the people who represents the religious sentiments in the country and those who were associated with the freedom movement, adverse comments are made against them and they are included in the syllabus which is quite unfortunate. I am mentioning about one of such incidents. In the M.A. syllabus of Indira Gandhi Open University, derogatory quotation for the icons of Hindus faith, Lord Shankar and Goddess Durga have been made, which can not be tolerated. I demand that this university must be derecognised and also a criminal case must be registered against the author and Vice Chancellor of the university and they should be arrest.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you Mr. Chairman for allowing me to raise a very important issue of public importance. With terrorist attacks in India now increasingly linked to Bangladesh, Orissa which grapples with problems of infiltration is hard-pressed to secure itself from becoming a safe haven for the extremists. Over the years infiltration of Bangladeshis into India has defied solution. Official figures say that more than 20 million Bangladeshis reside illegally in India. The recent UNCTAD report—a United Nations Organisation—on Bangladesh is an eye opener because it has rung the warning bell. There is a need for proper fortification of India's 4,300 kilometre long frontiers with Bangladesh.

At the same time, all the States bordering Bangladesh should step up surveillance so also the States which are on the eastern coast. Managing the long coastline has emerged as the major headache despite the deployment of Coast Guard.

In Orissa, there is a need to strengthen the surveillance and policing network, especially in the six coastal districts which are highly vulnerable, Kendrapara has just six police stations while Jagatsinhpur has only eight. Besides controlling law and order keeping a tab on infiltration is a tall order. There is a need to have marine policing system in a structured manner which can help arrest infiltration. Their operation will be monitoring sea routes and riverine belts by using boats and trained personnel.

Out of 18 marine police stations proposed by the Orissa Government last year, only five have been sanctioned for as many districts, that is. Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinhpur, Kendrapara and Ganjam. Jajpur has been left out. Setting up a marine police station with adequate trained personnel is time-consuming. As terrorist activities are increasing so also the influx of Bangladeshis, it is high time that the Government should act. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps and sanction more number of marine police stations in Orissa at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. Through you, I would like to bring a very important issue to the notice of the House. Around 20 years back, NHPC sanctioned

two projects in the Pithoragarh which is the border district of Uttaranchal—on the Goriganga River and on the Sombra phase-II on the Dhauliganga river. The implementation of work of these two projects got hindered due to Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the whole of the area being declared as Kasturi Mrigvihar, but now after the release of the report of Geological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India and after getting clearance from Task Force of the Supreme Court, all the formalities have been completed. It is important for both energy production as well as for the employment of local people. When all these obstacles have been removed and we have received no objection certificate from all authorities, I specially request the Central Government that the projects related to our national interest which would not only augment our energy production but also generate employment, be sanctioned promptly and NHPC should be directed to start construction work on these projects immediately.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the MEL, Maharashtra Electronics Limited which is an ancillary of SAIL, contractual labourers are working in this establishment for the last 25 years, injustice is being done to them. The company had a pay contract with these contractual labourers for the period of 1978 to 1996. After 1996, the management of the company is not ready to renew the contract with these labourers and even after repeated requests it is being deferred. The management is not in favour of renewing the contract. Because of this reason, 605 labourers working under the contractor, are deprived of pay hike. Their family members are deprived of the medical facilities. The management is not helping them with regard to the education of their wards. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Steel to issue directions to the management to renew the contract so that 605 labourers working in the company may get justice. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, the undivided districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput in Orissa, which are now divided into eight districts, is the most under-developed region of the country.

These districts account for around 20 per cent population of the whole State of Orissa, and about 55 per cent of the population in this region are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is the poorest area in India where 87.14 per cent people live below the

poverty line. As per the 1999-2000 NSS data the literacy rate there is also very low. It is only 43 per cent. The population over there also suffers from high morbidity on account of high malnutrition.

A report was submitted by a Committee on the constitution of a separate Development Board in Orissa—which was constituted by the Government of Orissa long back when Shri Biju Patnaik was the Chief Minister. It stated that 96 per cent of the CD Blocks of this region are either very backward or backward. It stated that 49 blocks are very backward in this region and 28 blocks are considered to be backward. The Padampur sub-division is also one of the backward areas and should be included in the KBK scheme.

One long-term action plan was also formulated for this region, which was launched by the late Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao in August 1995. But the long-term action plan could not achieve the objective for which it was introduced, as the desired funds for it were not provided during the period. Subsequently, the Government of India formulated a revised long-term action plan in consultation with the Government of Orissa for a period of nine years. It started from 1998-1999, and will continue up to 2006-2007. But an alarming report has appeared in the newspaper that the Government of India has almost decided to disband this long-term action plan after 2007, and that it is not going to extend this programme.

It has also been reported in the newspaper that the Government of India has referred the matter to the Planning Commission, and asked for their opinion on this matter. My contention is that those KBK areas are still the most under-developed areas of the country. There is still illiteracy, lack of proper communication, and report of starvation deaths from that area. The problem of naxalites is also very prominent in that area as also the problem of migration. People migrate to neighbouring States, and other areas within Orissa itself to earn a livelihood. Under these circumstances—when the people are still reeling under poverty and misery—there is no justification in disbanding this scheme.

Therefore, my request to the Government of India is that—if at all they are contemplating to stop this scheme, they should not extend this scheme for another nine years. This scheme should also continue in the next Five Year Plan. The Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Naveen Patnaik has also requested the Government of India and has written letters to the Government of India on this

issue. He had also come to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister, the Planning Minister and other concerned Ministers to request them to continue this scheme.

I would like to draw the attention of this House, and through the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs—who is present here—to the Planning Ministry, Government of India and the Prime Minister to seriously consider this issue, and take a decision to continue the K.B.K. scheme. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you.

Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity functions under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It releases advertisements in newspapers and periodicals of all the languages of the country. These advertisements are given for all the Ministries and PSUs of the Government of India. Time to time DAVP releases guidelines for publishing advertisements and also fixes rate of advertisements for newspapers and magazines of the entire country. All the newspapers and magazines published, time to time, are also enlisted by DAVP. As per the earlier rules any new newspapers or magazines which are being published continuously for one year are enlisted for advertisement, however, from 1 June, 2006 new rules have been prescribed by DAVP. As per the rule one year time period has been extended to three years. From this it is evident that if somebody wants to start new newspaper and magazines he will have to face difficulty. For them, three-year period will be too long and it will be impossible to run it for three year without advertisement. The unfortunate thing is that as per the existing rule there is no binding on old newspapers for starting new edition.

Through you, I would like to submit to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that this discriminatory policy should be changed so that new newspapers and magazines should get opportunity. Under this policy, Government wanted to ensure that no new newspapers and magazines are published.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting that he should review the policy implemented from 1 June so that new newspapers and magazines may get assistance as earlier. For this necessary guidelines should be released.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, employment are being provided to the people living below poverty line by the Central Government under the National Rural Guarantee Scheme. Rs. 58 are being paid as wages to the persons who work under the said scheme. This wage rate was fixed as a norm in year 1996.

Sir, today prices are skyrocketing. So, it has become difficult for the poor families to survive in just Rs. 58. Upto 238 cube metre of earth is get dug by the labourer by paying the Rs. 58 as wage. One labourer is not able to do that much of digging in whole days. So, I would like to request the Central Government that the wages of the poor labourers should be increased to Rs. 80 from Rs. 58 per day so that he may maintain his family.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the uterus of women are getting damaged due to leproscopic or manual family planning operation. It is leading to cancer of the Uterus among women, besides turning them obese making them look bulgy and pregnant. Due to the above complications sometimes uterus has to be removed. Women are also dying due to uterus cancer. Poor families do not have sufficient means of their livelihood and Rs. 15 to 20 thousands are spent on the treatment of this disease. It is on account of this that there is long queue in hospital of those women who come to get their uterus operated.

Through you, I would like to demand from the Government that it should launch campaign all over the country in this regard. The Government should make arrangement for the treatment of damaged uterus. Financial assistance should be provided to them in the event of operation. Effective measures should be taken to protect women from cancer disease so that they may remain healthy. Besides, a group of specialist doctors should be constituted to take measure to protect women from such complications. I would like to demand from the Central Government that it should instruct the State Governments to launch campaign to ensure that free operation facility is provided to the women suffering from the problem of uterus. I would like to request that it must pay attention towards this.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like draw your attention to a big problem of our country which needs the kind help of the Government of India. Before the year 2003 there was a provision to

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Karnataka.

telecast those regional films of various languages of all states. Which have been given two state awards. This was on National Channel of Doordarshan. This role was there for the last 40 years. People of the entire country were viewing cinemas of all languages spoken in our country. They had subtitling in English or Hindi or the local language.

Due to this procedure the 'unity among diversity' was given a big boost in our country. The total Nation was able to know the culture of each & every state. The entire country had the opportunity to see all language films. Now, unfortunately "Prasar Bharati" took a decision in the year 2003 to telecast the regional films which have been honoured with National Award. This decision has deprived majority of states to get a chance to telecast their regional awards winning films on Doordarshan National Channel, because films of some states will never get a National Award. Some of the regional films may get National Award once in 50 years. I therefore request the Union Government to spend few minutes of their valuable time to think about this cultural crisis which can be solved very easily if the previous rule (before 2003) remains unchanged by "Prasar Bharati".

I hope and trust that the Centre would take immediate steps in this regard and issue orders to Prasar Bharati to retain the same rule which was in vogue before 2003. This will enable the people of the entire nation to understand, the culture, language and other salient features of all state languages of our vast and rich country.

Sir, with these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious issue which is concerned with the interest of common man and poor people. Recently, survey was done all over the country regarding the lists of people living below poverty line. All the Members of Parliament have to go to the public. The people ask them question as to why the persons who were enlisted in previous list do not figure in the new list. Point system have been adopted as basis for BPL survey and as per the norms the persons getting below 14 points have been included in the list of Below Poverty line while those getting above 14 points have been excluded. The Government claims that the percentage of persons below poverty line have come down from 34 to 26 percent. Can a poor person

become rich over night like this and the poverty may be alleviated?

Now, if a person owns bicycle, fan, radio, he is not covered in the list of BPL. If a person earns Rs. 800 per month and spends Rs. 400 and saves Rs. 400 and with that saving purchases bicycle, fan or black and white TV set, he is deprived of his status as BPL. On the other hand, if a person earns Rs. 800 and spends Rs. 600 in drinking and is living in poverty with his saving of Rs. 200 then he is enlisted in BPL category. The Government should conduct an enquiry regarding having the property more than the income and after holding intense inquiry income criteria should be reviewed and the persons living below poverty line should be included in the list and provision should be made to take action against those persons who illegally entered their name in the list of BPL so that the poor persons may not be deprived of their just right. Besides, the period of survey should also be extended so that the persons who are really poor and who were deprived of this opportunity could be added in the list of BPL and they may get benefit of the various schemes of the Government through this list.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that nearly more than 500 persons of Indian origin who had gone to work in Saudi Arabia are at present stationed at 40 km. away from Yanbu of Saudi Arabia and are subject to atrocities and torturing.

These people had gone there in February 2006 and main gulf Power Company of our country had sent them to serve as driver and co-driven there. They had agreement with Saudi Pal King Company but they had got the job on Sapak Company. They had given labourer jobs under which they are doing cement, concrete transportation works and digging for pipeline. A payment of one thousand Riyal had been promised to them and an agreement was made for this purpose. Free fooding was promised but those companies are paying only 700 riyal and deducting 150 Riyals for fooding and they are made to work for 100 hours in the name of over time and are paid only for twenty hours. A Punjabi youth died on duty five days ago. The company refused to send his body to his native place which angered the other employees and they decided to go on strike there and in this connection, almost hundred people have sent a memorandum to the Government of India and the Ministry of Finance and they have also intimidated the officers of

Indian Embassies situated in Riyadh and Jeddah. Those people are very terrorized, the way local police made the employees work forcefully who were sitting on strike on Amzal Road. A lot of people are somehow intimating in this regard by telephone. More than three hundred out of the 500 employees belong to Rajasthan who are trapped there. More than eighty people of my parliamentary constituency Siker are trapped there. Therefore it is my submission to you that you should direct Ministry of External Affairs to make arrangement to bring those people to India immediately. They should be paid their outstanding dues. They have demanded that they should be sent back to their country. So concrete measures are required to be taken to make such type of arrangements for them Punitive action should be taken against those companies who have sent them and local police should be directed for this purpose that they should keep a copy of the agreement of those people who go to other countries for doing odd jobs and there well being should also be monitored. My submission to you that people of Indian origin should be called back.

With these words I conclude my parts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat and Shri Laxman Singh associate themselves with this issue.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I am also associating with issue.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I would like to draw attention of the honourable Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology towards continuous deteriorations of telephone services in my Lok Sabha constituency, Alwar. There was already a lot of deficiencies in telecommunication services due to lethargic administration being prevailed in Department of Telecommunication of district during one and half year time. But recent rain has played havoc. Telephone poles will uprooted at some places. The result is that the people are deprived of telecommunication services.

Mobile services of this region have not been up to the mark. Specially, the people of Thanagaji hilly region under Tehsil of district are still deprived of telecommunication services even after fifty years. No

telephone exchange has been set up despite of submitting files around 150 people of Agar village of Thanagaji region. Facility of WLL services was provisioned but WLL instruments are lying out of order in houses. The people go to the Department of Telecommunication with complaints but no body is there to listen them.

I would like to submit that new mobile towers are proposed to be intalled at Agar, Brahmanvas, Chaugan, Kishori, Golakavas, Pratapgarh, Azabgarh, Bhangarh, villages of Thanagaji hilly region but due to administrative laxity this works has not been started. Therefore, it is my submission to honourable Minister of Telecommunication to conduct a survey of BSNL infrastructure at Alwar district and ensure improvement in telephone services in the whole region and launch mobile services immediately particularly in Thanagaji and Rajgarh like backward areas. Thanks. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Alwar. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down please. You will also be given a chance to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you associated yourself with them.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Yes, Sir, I come from Alwar, that's why I am associating. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. Your name is also associated with them.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Honourable Chairman Sir, it has always been advised to the farmers to grow minimum water consuming crops through advertisement and publicity by Government of India and Government of Rajasthan. The farmers of Rajasthan increase manifold production of minimum water consuming crops like mustard during the last three years by accepting Governments advise. Production of mustard in Rajasthan in current rabi season is around forty lakh metric tonne. The Central Government declared 1715 rupees of minimum support prices of mustard. The Government instructed NAFED a subsidiary under the Ministry of Agriculture to purchase mustard through RAJFED, an agency of Rajasthan Government.

As a result of bumper crops in Rajasthan during this year. The RAJFED, an agency of State Government procured 14.18 lakh metric tonnes of mustard and an

agency of the Central Government allowed NAFED to make payment for only 13.45 lakh tonnes of mustard. The Union Minister of Agriculture had said earlier that consent was given to procure 14 lakh metric tonnes of mustard. The payment against procured mustard is also made within 3-4 months. Therefore, the Government of India is requested to make the payment of an outstanding amount of 137.50 crores of rupees against the 14.18 lakh metric tonnes of mustard procured from Rajasthan this year, and final payment to the farmers for which consent has already been given by the Union Government. The State Government had made the payment to the farmers on its own after getting full assurance from the Centre. ...(*Interruptions*) This problem is prevalent over all the districts of Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name of Shri Subhash Maharia may also be associated with it.

[*English*]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you, Sir, for having permitted me to raise an important matter of concern pertaining to the working journalists and other non-journalist employees in the media industry.

Media is considered as the fourth pillar of our supreme democracy and it acts as a watchdog for the maintenance of India's democracy. Journalists and non-journalist employees of print media and visual media form the cornerstone of this pillar. But unfortunately these employees are being denied salaries and service conditions commensurate with the new challenges in the professional arena and all round increase in the cost of living. The salary and service conditions of journalists and non-journalist employees in newspaper and news agencies are governed by the Working Journalists Act of 1955. Under the provisions of this Act, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to constitute Wage Boards every five years to revise the salaries of the workforce of newspaper and news agencies.

The last Wage Board was constituted in 1993 under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajkumar Manisana Singh. Already 12 years have lapsed. The last five years have seen wage revision being effected in banking insurance and other similar industries as well as for the State Government. The Government here has now decided to constitute VI Pay Commission. But still the workforce in the media industry who stand for democratic rights of the

society is being denied wages that would justify their workload and increase in cost of living. Delay in revision of wages would only weaken the firm commitment of journalists to fearless and fair journalist practices and that will not augur well for the country.

Several anti-labour and unfair labour practices are prevailing in the newspaper and TV industries. Contract employment is on the rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am coming to it.

There is an increasing tendency among several management to force employees to switch over to contract employment. In the TV industry almost the whole recruitment process is on contract basis. This not only leaves the journalists and non-journalists employees at the mercy of the management but also weakens the collective bargaining power. So, I urge upon the Government to:

1. Constitute a new Wage Board for journalists and non-journalists employees in newspapers, news agencies and TV channels with stipulations about the timeframe for submitting the report.
2. Bring journalist and non-journalists employees in TV channels under the ambit of Working Journalists Act.
3. Announce 25 percent interim relief for all journalists and non-journalists in newspapers, news agencies and TV channels.
4. Initiate measures to curb contract employment and other anti-labour practices in the print and visual media industries.

Yesterday, the leaders of the Kerala Unit of Working Journalists met the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He had assured that the Wage Board would be implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You have made your point. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the people

*Not recorded.

of the world are going to witness a significant global front in recent months whereby the General Secretary of the United Nations will be selected. India has been pitching hard for its own nominee, Shashi Tharoor, for this post. We are well aware that after U Thant of Myanmar, no Asian has been represented in the United Nations.

India is such a country which has taught the world one mantra, 'live and let live'. The great Mahatma has preached the world that there is a weapon which is called non-violence. It was invented to fight the tyrant which had at that time inspired the liberation movement throughout the world.

Already the selection process has been gathering steam. It has been informed that the informal note that is Straw Poll, Shashi Tharoor has been ranked second. The selection process will continue till October. We will urge upon the United Nations Security Council Members, which include 15 Members, to select our nominee Shashi Tharoor as the Secretary General of the United Nations. In this regard I would also urge upon the House to pass a Resolution and convey it to the members-countries so that they push their buttons in favour of encourage for Shashi Tharoor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrappan, you have given notice to raise three issues but you are entitled to raise only one.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, India is depending upon Colombo, Singapore and Dubai for international container terminal. That is to say that we do not have in India a developed infrastructure which is, in the present day, very important for bringing the mother ships to our ports. Because our major ports do not have that raft and also a lot of silting is there, no port in India can bearth and mother ship.

Recently, it has been found that Vizhinjam, which is located in Kerala, Trivandrum, which is 30 nautical miles away from the international shipping channel, is having that raft which can accommodate mother ships of not only this generation but also mother ships of next generation.

So if that port is developed into an international container terminal, then that will bring a lot of benefits to

*Not recorded.

our country. Today, because of our dependence on Colombo, Singapore and Dubai, we are losing tens of thousand of dollars every year.

The Kerala Government has submitted a scheme for the development of Vizhinjam Port as an international container terminus. If it is developed into an international container terminus, it will add to our revenue by way of shipping and also it will encourage high profile tourism in our country. So my request to the Government of India would be to sanction the development project of the Vizhinjam Port as an international container terminus. I would also request the Government to provide financial assistance to develop it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, when the floor was given you to speak, you were not present at that time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I beg your pardon for this and I request you to please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Now it is your turn to speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: The situation in respect of dak distribution is deteriorating due to constant shortage of Postmen. The Jaipur city has been given a wide expansion and a lot of multistory buildings have come up there. A postman has to distribute dak in wide area and he is faced with difficulties in distributing dak in multistory buildings. The multistory buildings having 8 to 10 floors have been constructed there. Now-a-days love

letters are also sent through the dak. If a love letter of someone comes in the hand of other, the former gets annoyed. That's why the postman has to go upstairs to distribute dak in these buildings. The number of postmen is very meagre in view of the wide expansion of Jaipur city and a ban has been imposed on the recruitment against vacant posts of postmen. Sir, through you, I demand from the Government that new postmen should be recruited and the ban so imposed should be lifted.

Sir, I think that I have raised the best and relevant subject in this zero hour today. I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, I also associate myself with this demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, the names of both the Hon'ble Members be associated with this.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I thank to both the Hon'ble Members for this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 31st July, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

18.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 31, 2006/Sravana 9, 1928 (Saka)

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and printed by Shree Enterprises, New Delhi.
