

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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CONTENTS

Fourteenth Series, Vol. IX, Fourth Session 2005/1927 (Saka)

No. 23, Thursday, April 21, 2005/Vaisakha 1, 1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER	1
Re:Demise of a number of passengers in the Tragic Railway Accident in Gujarat	
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 381-383	5-27
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	27-289
Starred Question Nos. 384-400	27-52
Unstarred Question Nos. 4145-4374	52-289
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	289-291
STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS	
Fifth and Sixth Reports	292
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY	
Fifth and Sixth Reports	292
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
Fourth and Fifth Reports	292
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
Fifteenth to Eighteenth Reports	293
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	
Seventh and Eighth Reports	293
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT	
Sixth Report	293
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
One Hundred Fifty Eighth to One Hundred Sixtieth Reports	294
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	294-295
Collision between Sabarmati Express and Goods	294-295
Train on Godhra-Vadodara Section of Western Railway	
Shri R. Velu	

*The sign +marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	297-301
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	301-302
Regulation of raising matters of Urgent Public Importance after Question Hour ('Zero Hour')	
SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS	
(i) Re: Tabling of the Reports of the Justice Phukan Commission and the Central Vigilance Commission	302-305
(ii) Re: Reported pay off by South African Company in the procurement of arms for the Indian Army	305-309
(iii) Re: Reported improper treatment meted out to Railway Minister in Gujarat	343-345, 366-378
GENERAL BUDGET — 2005-2006 - DEMANDS FOR GRANTS	322-346, 346-366
Ministry of Agriculture	
Shri Kailash Joshi	325-328
Shrimati D. Purandeswari	328-332
Shri Abdullakutty	332-333
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	333-337
Shri Brajesh Pathak	337-340
Shri Prakash Paranjpe	340-343
Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil	346-348
Shri Sachin Pilot	348-351
Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria	351-353
Shri Prabodh Panda	353-355
Shri Khagen Das	355-357
Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	358
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	358-359
Shri M. Shivanna	359-361
Shri Anil Basu	361-366

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ANNEXURE-I	379-384
Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	379
Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	380-384
ANNEXURE-II	385-388
Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	385
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	386-388

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 21, 2005/Valsakha 1, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

**Re: Demise of a number of passengers in the
tragic Railway Accident in Gujarat**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are aware of a very tragic railway accident, which has taken place. This House expresses its deep sorrow at the sad demise of a number of passengers in the tragic railway accident that has occurred today in the early hours in the State of Gujarat.

We convey our deepest sympathies to the family members of the people who have passed away in this accident. I am sure the Government will make an appropriate statement on it.

We may now observe one-minute silence.

11.0½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you wanted to raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, kindly allow me to speak on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I have also given a notice for suspension of Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you also. First of all let me find out what Mr. Malhotra has to say.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have expressed condolence on behalf of the entire House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Member who has given notice speak. Please sit down and cultivate the habit of speaking one by one.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have expressed sympathy towards the family members of the people who have been killed in the rail accident. Please tell us the time of suomotto statement by the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already instructed them to do it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. No Minister from the Ministry of Railways is present here and the Ministry is not doing anything.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make this tragic incident controversial.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, Shri Lalu Prasadji's entire time is taken up by Bihar and railways accident are constantly taking place. Shri Lalu Prasadji should resign from his post and if he does not do so then he should be made to resign. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Show the proceedings to me, and I will decide on it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, please sit down.

[English]

Nothing more will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have also given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, you have raised a very important issue. The House, as a whole, has expressed its concern on this issue. I have instructed the Government that a statement be made by the Minister. Is the Government ready with the statement on this issue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please make the statement on this issue at 12 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, what is he saying?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded. It is not being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not permitted. This will not be permitted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, you have already made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalu Prasadji should resign and the Prime Minister should appoint some other person as the Minister of Railways who can devote some time to Railways.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for them to decide on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me regulate the proceedings of the House. Mr. Bansal, you have given a notice.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have sought your permission for suspension of Question Hour. A very disturbing news has appeared in the media that a lot of money was paid by a South African firm to swing the defence purchases in their favour. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise this issue after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, a very disturbing news has appeared in the media that money to the tune of

hundreds and thousands of crores of rupees are involved in a matter where pay offs have been made by the firm.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the hon. Defence Minister is here. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, please sit down. Why are you speaking? Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Mr. Chowdhury, you are a Member of Parliament of India. People have sent you here with so much expectation. There are rules and we have to follow them. We are trying to discuss every issue. Interrupting each other and showing disrespect to the Chair does not help. This applies to every side. I am only saying that he has given a notice, but I will permit him to raise it after Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Alright, this issue will be raised after Question Hour but he is the Chief Whip of his party and they are in power then why are they not taking any action. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up Question Hour.

[Translation]

What is happening. Please let it go.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. This is Question Hour. Prof. Malhotra, this is not right. Let us take up Q. No. 381.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): We do not get a chance to speak. We give notice everyday. It is a very important issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I will not tolerate this. I am saying it third time that I will not tolerate this, and you should be ready to face the consequences. Any hon. Member defying the Chair should be ready to face the consequences.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who is talking? You must have the courage to stand up. Do not throw remarks against the Chair.

Q No. 381, Shri Uday Singh.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Shortage of Civilian Staff

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*381. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Navy is facing shortage of civilian manpower and finds it difficult to run its establishments, particularly the workshops for maintenance of warships and equipments as reported in the 'Hindu' dated March 28, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of various projects of Navy affected due to shortage of manpower;

(d) whether the Government has contemplated any steps to meet the shortage of civilian manpower in Navy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government is aware of the shortage of civilian manpower in the Navy.

Against the total sanctioned strength of 48998 civilian personnel, 8756 posts are lying vacant.

The civilian manpower for the Naval Ship Repair Yard at Karwar Base and Warship Overseeing Team at Kochi for indigenous Aircraft Carrier project is yet to be sanctioned by the Government.

The Government issued instructions on 16.5.2001 in which certain restrictions were imposed on filling up direct recruitment vacancies. According to these instructions, 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies arising in the year can only be filled up subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. This was done to achieve a reduction of 10% in the total civilian cadre strength, in all Departments, over a period of five years.

The shortages of civilians in the Navy are being tackled by filling up the vacancies in accordance with the above instructions.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not at all satisfied with the hon. Minister's reply.

[English]

The hon. Minister's reply is delightfully vague. Having accepted that there is manpower shortage, the reply actually tells us nothing as to why the Government has been sitting on this matter. Shortage of manpower, specially sanctioned manpower, is an extremely serious matter. While on the one hand, the Navy is suffering on account of their projects being delayed, on the other hand, and more importantly, eligible youths are still amongst the unemployed. I would like to know from the Minister whether any efficient recruitment policy is being put in place so that these shortages do not occur in future.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have admitted that there is a shortage in the civilian personnel in Navy. Perhaps, the hon. Member is aware of a decision which was taken by the earlier Government in 2001. While presenting the Budget for that year, the then Finance Minister declared that a decision had been taken to reduce 10 per cent of civilian officials/employees in various Departments of the Government of India. A formula was also adopted as to how the vacancies would be determined, which is, one-third of the vacancies would be filled in and that one-third number of the vacancies should not exceed one per cent of the total sanctioned manpower.

There is one point which the hon. Member will agree, and I also agree with him, that due to this formula, Navy is suffering because unlike the Army and unlike the Air Force, a very big contingent of the Naval personnel belongs to civilian categories. Therefore, we have approached the Finance Ministry to relax this because if we apply this formula, the

Army and the Air Force are not affected to that extent, but the Navy is affected where almost 50 per cent of the total contingent belongs to civilian category who help in repairing ships and other equipment on the docks.

Therefore, this issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance and I can assure the hon. Member, and through you the House, that this matter will be sorted out

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Thank you, Mantriji.

The other thing that I would like to ask the Government is whether it is not time to examine the possibility of the defence forces becoming the nodal recruitment agency for training and using the youth of our country for three-four years and then seconding them to Central and State Police organisations and other Paramilitary Forces. I do not know what the Government would like to say on this.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: At one point of time it was thought that those who are retiring from the Army could be inducted into the parallel Central Paramilitary Forces and like that because a lot of service is left. They normally retire at 35, 36 and 37 years after putting in close to 15-16 years of service. But, the other problem will come that the promotional prospects of those who are directly recruited in either BSF or CRPF or ITBP or, other Central Paramilitary Forces will be choked. Therefore, this thing could not move very much. Whether we can have, instead of having a standing Army of around a million, a system where everybody, or a large number of people, will be given military training, that is a larger policy issue. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot discuss a major policy issue during the Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh. - Not present.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether, in the recruitment being made to fill in the vacancies, priority will be given to the land-affected persons due to the military for defence projects.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In the area of construction of a project, normally some priority is being given to those persons and family members of those persons who have given land for construction of the project. But it is not determined; a priority is being given.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Just now the hon. Minister had mentioned that the earlier Government in 2001 had decided to reduce ten per cent of the total strength of manpower in various Departments. So, that is the reason for this very serious situation we are facing, especially in the civilian category of employees in the Navy. I would like to know from the Ministry whether the Government is ready to re-examine the shadow of ban on the recruitment. Is the Government now ready to re-examine the situation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, this is a suggestion.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the boys with technical education who wanted to join Army after completing education are unable to do so. Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister as to for how long has there been a ban on recruitment in army services and whether there is any arrangement for deploying retired soldiers in the technical side?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, for different categories of persons, there are different qualifications. In respect of the deployment of forces, as I mentioned to you, we try to accommodate those who are retiring in different areas including private security agencies and other areas. Further, I have been told that the total reduction which is contemplated in the civilian services is ten per cent over a period of five years effectively at the rate of two per cent each year.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is difference in retirement benefits awarded to soldiers serving in the Army and those in BSF. Whether the soldiers of BSF are getting the same retirement benefits that are awarded to the soldiers retiring from the Army? I think soldiers of BSF are given lesser retirement benefits. I want to know from the Government whether soldiers of both the forces. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: BSF cannot be covered in this question.

[English]

It does not arise. BSF does not come under Defence Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Whether the Government propose to provide same retirement benefits to the soldiers of both the forces. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This subject does not come under his Ministry.

[English]

It is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Anant Gudhe, you file another question.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity.

The policy of the last Government to reduce the personnel of the Government, even in the Army and Paramilitary Forces, is well known. In the answer, it is stated that more than 10 per cent vacancies are there, and 8,756 posts are lying vacant. Ten per cent means 4,800. When the policy has to be implemented, our Navy officers are obliged to implement it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is another suggestion for action.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As I told earlier, 10 per cent is not in one year, 10 per cent would be for a period of five years. I am just giving one example. If there are sanctioned strength of 100 and vacancies are 30, one-third of the vacancies are to be notified; 30 of one-third is 10. But the recruitment would be only one per cent of the total sanctioned strength of 100. Therefore, the fine calculation that the Ministry of Finance has done is implemented then over a period of five years, 10 per cent of the total strength would be reduced and the objective is to make the administration lean and to reduce the additional posts that are operational in respect of the civilian population. Operational posts are not covered. The problem with Navy is that this very fact that the 50 per cent of the Naval Forces are civilians in their nature of duty, that factor was not taken into account. That is why we have taken it up with the Ministry of Finance.

Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

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*382. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent hike in crude oil price in the international market the Government proposes to increase the prices of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations for withdrawal of additional cess on petrol and diesel keeping in view the proposed steep hike in oil products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps Government proposes to control the prices of the petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MĀNI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiralling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. The Indian basket of crude oil touched an all-time high of US \$ 52.83 per bbl on 04.04.2005 compared to an average price of US \$ 27.96 per bbl in 2003-04 and US \$ 39.21 per bbl in 2004-05. There has since been some softening, the Indian basket having declined to around US \$ 47/bbl in the week ending 16.4.2005. The Government is continuously monitoring the price situation.

With a view to containing the burden of the increase in international prices on consumers of diesel and petrol, it was decided that the burden should be equitably shared also by the Government and Oil Companies. Thus, Government reduced the excise duty on petrol and diesel by 4% and 3% respectively effective 16/6/04. Effective 19/8/04, the excise duty on petrol and diesel was further reduced by 3%. The Government also reduced customs duty by 5% each on petrol and diesel with effect from 19/8/04. In the Budget 2005-06, a reduction in custom duty on crude from 10% to 5% and in other petroleum products from 15-20% to 10% was announced.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not passed on the full increase in international prices to the domestic consumer prices of these products. Although, with effect from 1st August 2004, Government had worked out a price band mechanism, allowing OMCs freedom to revise the prices of petrol and diesel within the prescribed price band, the steep and volatile increase in the international prices of crude oil resulted in the ceiling of the price band being breached within weeks of its being made operational resulting in the mechanism being placed in abeyance.

The pricing mechanism attempts to balance the interests of various stakeholders, viz., Consumers, Government and Oil Companies. The burden borne by oil companies will, of course, go up to the extent that domestic prices are not revised upwards when international prices shoot up, but it is hoped that when international prices stabilize, or Government so decides, the price band mechanism might be restored. It may be noted that private sector companies are free to fix their prices.

As regards withdrawal of cess, Ministry of Finance has informed that representation has been received by the Ministry of Finance from the All India Confederation of Goods

Vehicle Owners' Association (AICGVOA) requesting Government to review/withdraw the additional cess of 50 paise per litre on diesel or, as an alternative, exempt truckers from the payment of toll on highways.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Petroleum Minister has said in his reply that this average has come down below 45 American Dollars from 52.83 dollars, therefore the Government should make maximum efforts to avoid the rise in prices at any cost and should not give the private companies the freedom to control the prices. The transporters, small industries, farmers and border area farmers will have to face huge losses due to this. Attention needs to be paid to the efforts made by Hon'ble Minister in this regard and the private companies should not be allowed to increase the prices.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: There is no denying of the fact that the energy security is of paramount importance and should be given priority to ensure energy supply for the country. In this context what are the new initiatives the Government have undertaken which are intended to ensure that the country will not be held to ransom on energy supply?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we are ready to consider this suggestion. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member that as long as the public sector prices are lower than private sector prices, they do not have much to do. We will have to keep special control over the public sector prices, this will automatically control the private sector prices.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: While the question itself related to pricing of petroleum production, I am happy to answer, with your permission, the hon. Member's supplementary. Firstly, we are attempting to greatly increase production from existing producing wells through techniques which are called Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOL) techniques.

[English]

Secondly, under the different rounds of the new Exploration Licensing Policy, we are attempting to attract a much larger amount of foreign investment and encourage partnership between Indian and foreign companies to increase the acreages that come under exploration and production.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: The question is about increasing the price of petroleum products. The basic thing is that the production of the petroleum products in the country itself is short. It is hardly 27 per cent to 28 per cent. We need about 72 per cent of the petroleum products to be imported, which is of worth more than Rs.1,10,000 crore. The basic thing that has to be tackled by the Government of India is the alternative source of energy like bio-diesel. I agree that the Government has taken an initiative in this regard. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to take a decision to increase the use of ethanol in petrol from five per cent to ten per cent. Similarly, the production of the bio-diesel, in the world in more than 40 countries, is more and in our country also we have initiated eight to ten steps. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry would give surety for the people who are producing bio-diesel.

Thirdly, we are attempting to find equity oil or gas as well as producing as well as prospective properties outside the country. By combination of all these, we hope to substantially increase the availability and assuredness of hydro carbon supplies to meet our requirements. In this context, I believe, special mention must be made of the proposals to lay pipelines from Iran to Pakistan to India, from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan to India and from Myanmar through Bangladesh into India.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: As the hon. Minister has referred, the question is related to oil pricing, I would like to ask the question on oil pricing.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, addressing myself to the first part of the question which was relevant, I would like to inform the hon. Member that not only are we a major importer of crude oil and a very small importer of petroleum products but we have also become a very significant exporter of petroleum products. In the year 2004-05, it is estimated, subject to final confirmation, that there are exports, in the first eleven months of the year, amounted to Rs.25,699 crore. If we take the full year, it is likely to be somewhere in the region of Rs.28,000 crore. I think, the House needs to recognise the fact that the Ministry of Petroleum is increasingly becoming an export-oriented Ministry and does not remain merely an import-oriented Ministry.

My question is very specific and definite. In view of the prevailing volatility of the situation in the oil sector, whether the Government intends to increase the price of petroleum products. If so, what is the quantum of it. What is the price of each barrel and whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The short answer is 'no'. The Government have not taken a decision in this regard, but the matter is under active consideration. I am afraid, I will not be able to vouchsafe the decision of the Government to the hon. Member until the Government takes a decision in this regard.

As regards ethanol, we have had detailed discussions on this. I am sure, the hon. Member is aware of the discussion we have had with the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA). We have sent the ISMA, a draft MoU regarding short supply of ethanol at reasonable prices. Their response is still awaited.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the hon. Minister has said that no decision has yet been taken. So, you can only give suggestions for action now. That will be fine.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, if you want to insist, go ahead.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, petroleum products have become essential commodities nowadays. Any change in the petroleum products really reflects the prices, in general. It really leads to the burden on the common man, especially the customers.

Considering this fact, will the Government think about enlisting the petroleum products in the Essential Commodities List and give some concessions to these products?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is a suggestion on which I am not competent to give a full response. But what I can assure the hon. Member is that we have been very, very careful about the petroleum prices. I would like to just share with the House that during the period March, 1998 to January, 2004, when the international crude prices rose by about 17.78 dollars a barrel, and the period April, 2004 to April, 2005, when the international crude prices - I am talking of the Indian basket -- have also risen by approximately the same amount, 17.43 dollars, we have to note that whereas the price of petrol was raised by Rs. 10.87 per litre, we have raised it by only Rs. 4.28 per litre. They raised it by 48 per cent, and we raised it by 13 per cent. About diesel price, they raised it by Rs. 11.49, which is an increase of 112 per cent whereas in our case we have increased it by Rs. 6.48 per cent, which is an increase of only 13 per cent. About kerosene price, they increased it by Rs. 6.49, which is an increase of 258 per cent whereas our increase is exactly zero, it is zero per cent. We have not raised it. For domestic LPG- they raised it by Rs. 105.60, which is an increase of 78 per cent, whereas we have increased it by only Rs. 53.15, which is just an increase of a mere 22 per cent.

So, you will, I am sure, recognise that we have been far more customer-friendly than our predecessors. Incidentally, I have been corrected by my officers that the petroleum products are already under the Essential Commodities Act.
...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: We hope, you will not follow their examples.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, I have seen the reply of the hon. Minister who is very learned and competent.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. It is a mere suggestion for action. This is not the place.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, I am just telling. ... (Interruptions)

From the beginning to the end, what he has said is that because of the sharp rise in the international prices, and in spite of the fact that they have reduced the excise duty, the customs duty and so on, they are not in a position to control it and they have left it to the oil companies.

Sir, even a retail small businessman in a village.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question, please.

SHRI K. S. RAO: But there must be a formulation. Even a retail trader in a village will increase his consumer price the moment he gets the purchase price increased. But here, we have got a pool of technologists -- Member (Technical), Member (Management), and others. Their job is to find out the alternative ways to reduce this price structure.

MR. SPEAKER: This is dealt with prices. Mr. Rao, I believe, you are a scientist.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Yes, Sir. My point is that in view of this, I wish that this Ministry must think in terms of taking up the oil blocks.

MR. SPEAKER: This is another advice. Mr. Minister, you need not reply it.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, after the production of oil in other countries, the input cost has not gone up. It is because of the cartel of the oil producing countries that the prices are going up.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, you are a senior Member, please co-operate.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, I wish to know from the hon. Minister that whether he would go in a big way in taking up the oil blocks in Gulf and African countries, and produce oil by ourselves, providing employment to a large number of people.

MR. SPEAKER: After all that, you may ask him to reduce the price. No, Mr. Minister, you need not answer it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond? You are a very obliging Minister that is why I am asking.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I wish to assure the hon'ble Member that we are already in as many as 47 countries around the world attempting to do exactly what he has proposed.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Brajesh Pathak.

If you have anything to do with the pricing, do it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know and bring this to the notice of the House that in the year 1999 the diesel price was Rs. 11.33 per liter. Today in 2005 it is Rs. 28.27 per liter. Diesel is a thing of public use. It is used by farmers and common people and there is a constant increase in the prices of such an important thing. The common people and farmers are troubled due to this. I would like to know that the state Governments in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The State Government put so much of tax on this that it almost breaks the backbone of the common people and farmers. The State Governments should not be able to put additional tax on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot answer for the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Are the government considering to form any law regarding this?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to request that they should bring such suggestion in the House, we may support them. But our Constitution provides full right to the State Governments to apply tax. Please forgive me, I will not be able to answer your question.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question contrary to the Constitution. It is not permitted. Please do not put questions, which mean an amendment to the Constitution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister whether it is in his

knowledge that 75 percent of kerosene given on subsidized rates is used for adulterating petrol and diesel.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come here. No, sorry. You please sit down. You come to the price, do not start with adulteration. You do not give encouragement

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I am coming to the price. I am saying whether the Government have any scheme to provide kerosene at subsidized rates to the poor of the country or should it be accepted that black marketeers are going to have the maximum subsidy benefits in this field?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No adulteration. I do not think that question arises here.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your observations are not being taken down. Why are you putting them? Try to speak with the permission of the Chair. You may go on shouting, I won't allow it to be recorded.

(*Interruptions*) ...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh, if you do not want to put a question, I will come to another hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that as told by the Hon'ble Minister our country not only imports but also exports. Which means we not only buy goods but also sell them. As Patil Saheb just now said that a long discussion took place regarding ethanol during the previous NDA Government's tenure, at that time it was also said that ethanol could also be produced from Molasses and maize. It only meant that...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If I will not make a background before what I have to ask, the actual question will not come.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am concerned with your foreground; the background is too long.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Therefore, I want to say that corn and sugarcane were to be used for Ethanol production. On one hand there were talks about farmers getting encouragement for production and at the same time it was said that Ethanol would cost less, if the prices would be less then how much this will affect the selling of petrol. If this will affect then we would like to know as to what measures the government are going to take to control the price by increasing the Ethanol production.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Is there any connection between ethanol and pricing?

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, at present the Ethanol prices are slightly higher. One reason for this could be that the sugarcane production last year was less. If the sugarcane production rises this time then the prices can come down slightly and it may also happen that we produce ethanol by using such products. In our Ministry we only consider how much and at what price ethanol would be made available. As I told the Hon'ble Member, we have informed ISMA to ensure us that they can make the desired quantity of ethanol available to us and at reasonable price. If they can make it available then we will definitely use it. Our Ministry has prepared a draft MoU in this regard, which has been sent to ISMA and we are waiting for its reply. As soon as it is received, we will move ahead on this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put questions in the background of the Government's announcement that no decision has been taken.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister today said that they have not decided anything about increase in the prices. That is the clear statement that he has made.

MR. SPEAKER: Up till now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Up till now - till today, and tomorrow, he can do it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Till 1135 hours today, there is no increase.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I understand the heart of the Minister he is playing his cards close to his chest. He has to be like that because he is a Minister.

There was an article which appeared in the Press about

the report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas, wherein it was stated that the domestic price is linked to the international prices, and the domestic price is linked to the taxation of the Central Government. On that issue, I am seeking a clarification.

Is the Minister aware that the report has been submitted by the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas wherein it was stated that already in the Budget, in different ways, taxation has been levied on petroleum products which will yield the Government, an additional Rs.3,000 crore and this taxation will come to surface in course of time. That is also a way to increase the prices. Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a report like this and is he aware that there is a contention in the Standing Committee that already tax has been increased, which is not disclosed, to the extent that it yields Rs.3,000 crore to the Government?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes. The Government is aware of the report of the Standing Committee; the Government is aware of the figures given by the Standing Committee; and the Government is taking those figures extremely seriously. We will look into what the Standing Committee has said with utmost care before arriving at a decision.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is not the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it. You have referred to the Standing Committee's report. He has clearly said that the Government will give utmost consideration to that.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: May I know whether tax has been levied?

MR. SPEAKER: How can he say that? He is not the Finance Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But the Ministry knows. He is avoiding a reply to the Parliament.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is aware of the changes in the tax structure with respect to customs duty and excise duty that has been announced in the Finance Bill, 2005. The implications thereof have been examined by the Standing Committee and we are examining those implications. We have made some assumptions ourselves. We are in discussion with the Ministry of Finance. All these will be crucial components of the decision-making process.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has told in his reply that he has adopted IOR and EOR technology for increasing the production of oil but despite adopting this technology, he has given a statement

in "The Times of India" only yesterday that import of oil has increased from 90 million tonnes to 95 million tonnes. Import has increased even after this technology has been put to use. What are the reasons for this and whether there are better technologies in the rest of the world to increase the production of oil?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise from the main Question.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic reason for this is that India is really shining after this Government came to power. The prices of oil are constantly increasing as the pace of our economic development is increasing constantly and I assure you that it will keep increasing. As far as this fact is concerned that domestic production is not sufficient to meet our demand, we would make arrangements for the import of oil so that the progress of the country is not harmed by any shortage of energy.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi. This is the last supplementary. I have already allowed ten supplementaries on this.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the oil producing countries have two kinds of prices – one is the domestic price and another is the price for export. The export price of oil is related to international market. There is no difference between the prices of oil and diesel in Saudi Arabia. We produce 30 per cent oil, then why do they relate it with rates of international market. People of our country do not get any benefits of domestic production. Is this policy right?

Another thing that I want to know from the hon. Minister is whether he would launch any big campaign to prevent theft from, the reservoirs of petrol and gas? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is all this? From price where has it gone?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the decision to try to shift towards import parity arose out of the fact, the undeniable fact, that our import dependence has increased from about 50 per cent in 1980 to about 70 per cent at present and is projected to increase to 85 per cent over the next 20 years. In these circumstances we have found that if we control these prices inside India, while there may be some immediate benefit to the consumer, the problem is that it does not generate enough resources for investment required upstream and downstream; that we are not able to adequately attract

private capital and Foreign Direct Investment; that there are no incentives then for technological up gradation or cost minimisation; that we need to make the sector competitive and vibrant; that we need incentives to make profitable investment, and that we do not want a situation in which the private sector does the gold-plating of costs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon. Minister asked a question in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pathakji, please let it go. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is translation available.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There will be a lot of distortion of prices in case of continuation of subsidies and cross subsidies.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I have learned Hindi but it is difficult to use all these technical words in Hindi. If the hon. Member is finding it difficult to understand, he can use the earphone to listen the interpretation in Hindi.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: It would have been better if he had replied in Hindi.

He is ignoring Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)* He is teaching me rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**...

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I know very well.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Now why is he speaking in English?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Why are you now saying that you know very well? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. Shri Pathak, please take your seat when I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sh. Ponnuswamy, you are a senior Member. How can you defy the Chair?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: He is educated. What does he think of himself. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you replying to him? I will name both of you. You should behave properly here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pathak, this is not permissible. Our rules permit that, if you wish to persuade some hon. Minister to speak in a language you want, you have to persuade him outside and not inside the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no reply has been given to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: It would not be given now.

[English]

Obscenity in TV Programmes and Advertisements

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*383. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to enact a new law to check beaming of obscene scenes on TV as reported in Hindu dated March 28, 2005;

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

(c) the time by which a new law is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether a separate Censor Board would be set up to ensure clearance of TV serials and advertisements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government is contemplating the establishment of an autonomous Authority to regulate content on television channels. The need for such authority has been long felt in our country. Such Authorities exist in almost all advanced countries in the world. The details are being worked out. As such, no time-frame can be indicated. Pre-telecast clearance of TV serials and advertisements is not being envisaged.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister must agree to the fact that visual fares often include semi-nudity, nudity and oddity which provoke repugnance. It is also a fact that some of the visual fares have been transgressing the threshold limit of decency which is often attributable to the increase of sex violence and other egeregious activities and have a direct bearing on the psyche of the adolescents and children. We do not know the exact parameters of what is to be called obscenity, etc. The Minister has admitted in his brief statement that the Government is contemplating establishment of an autonomous authority to regulate the content. Such authorities exist in almost all advanced countries of the world.

May I ask the hon. Minister what are the impediments lying there and whether any vested interest, especially among the stakeholders are putting any stumbling block and are obstructing the establishment of any regulatory mechanism?

MR. SPEAKER: When will your contemplation result in a decision? That is what he wants to know.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order is raised in the Question Hour.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, to the best of my knowledge, I can say that I am not aware of any vested interest

in the matter. The Government is determined to set up an autonomous authority to regulate content. We are looking at the piece of legislation. We hope to bring it forward very soon.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the issue has risen now so I should be allowed to raise a point of order and express my views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On what issue?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hindi is our national language and the House has passed a resolution to promote Hindi at every level and it is mentioned in the Constitution of India. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting you. What is happening in this country? Do you want to divide this country? It is entirely for the hon. Member or the hon. Minister to decide about the language in which he wants to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members are saying that as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar knows Hindi, it would be better if he would reply in Hindi. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There may be a request. You cannot demand.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only requested the hon. Minister but he started teaching me rules that if I want to listen his speech in Hindi, I can use the headphone for availing this facility of interpretation. Even I know this. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: I would not permit this. The Question Hour is a very valuable hour and you are trying to misuse this hour.

*Not recorded.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: In the aftermath of Tehelka expose, the entire population of our country got surprised to know that a shady deal is being perpetrated in the corridors of power which involved even the higher personalities of the earlier Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Furthermore, the journalist, Mr. Tarun Tejpal, had been subjected to severe torture and tormentation. May I know from the hon. Minister whether that kind of sting operation or investigative journalism have been put under any restriction or not?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The sting operations are an integral part of investigative journalism. So long as sting does not involve porn, we have no problem. I am for sting sans porn.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, the question of censoring of TV programmes is a very sensitive one. I say this because the media, including television have a tremendous reach. They reach into our homes and have the capacity to influence the minds. I am not talking here of adult minds. They can think of themselves. But I certainly speak for impressionable minds -- the children -- especially those who have not yet attained adulthood.

First of all, the answer from the hon. Minister shows that an autonomous body is going to be set up to monitor the contents in television programmes. But unlike the statement, rather contrary to the statement, there are reports in the newspapers about no law being enacted. I take it that no law is being enacted. In that case what I have to say is that while television censorship is good, does the Government propose to carry out some kind of an assessment of the impact of television programmes on impressionable minds and does it also propose to set up a community assessment panel, as has been done in some other countries, and whether it would be done soon or it will take some time?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I generally endorse the sentiments voiced by the hon. Member in regard to the adverse impact that can be produced on impressionable minds by undesirable content of television channels.

I would like to clarify that we would like to setup an autonomous authority through a statute. So, it will be through a law. As for the studies to be made on the impact, a lot of studies have been made by private organisations. In these areas, studies are bound to be subjective. However, we would like to leave the matter to the autonomous authority.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that this

question is quite important and as he has said that obscene visual fare is being shown on TV and the Government propose to enact a law in this regard but no time limit has been fixed for this. It shows clearly that the Government is not really concerned about this. It is a very important issue. TV has reached every village and every household and we watch TV serials along with our family. There is no check on TV serials, which show too much vulgarity. The Government's insensitivity in this regard shows the attitude of the Government. Whether the Government propose to formulate any law to check the damage being done to our Indian culture and civilization through TV serials? If so, a time limit should be fixed in this regard so that we are aware by what time this law is likely to be enacted. Secondly, he has said in his reply that as of now any type of Censor Board is not being envisaged while there is some kind of censorship on TV serials being made in other countries. The serials are telecast only after getting clearance from the Board. It is unfortunate that we do not have this kind of Censor Board so I request the hon. Minister to tell whether he proposes to set up a TV Censor board?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member about the impact. But I would like to repudiate her suggestion, with all the authority at my command, that this Government is insensitive.

Sir, I may bring to her notice, through you, that when I was a Minister eight years ago I introduced the Broadcast Authority Bill and then the NDA Government was there in power for six years and it remained monumentally insensitive. Now the hon. Member would like to tell me that I must bring forward the legislation. I am responding favourably. I am only telling that the process of law-making in our country is time consuming. We need to consult a number of Ministries. I want to do it as quickly as possible. I cannot, possibly, indicate a time frame.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, under the Cinematography Act 1952, all music and video albums are to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification to ensure transmission of video suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. An inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995 had been formed to look into violations of programme code.

Does the Government think that programmes being transmitted in several channels of cable television, such as Fashion TV, are in conformity with the programme code?

If not, what action has so far been taken by the Government to stop projection of such videos which are against all norms of Indian culture?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, music albums are subject to the process of clearance of the Censor Board. Having said that, we have found that some TV channels were guilty of telecasting censored bits as well and we have also noticed that some TV channels did not conform to the programme code. Therefore, recently, we suspended the permission of one channel named Cine World for 30 days and we gave notices to as many as nine music channels as to why their permission cannot be withdrawn or suspended or revoked. We also gave notice to one TV channel for showing porn as part of news. While we are engaged in the process of enacting law, our Inter-Ministerial Group is active in taking action and we want to strengthen this process.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very important issue is being discussed. Entire country and the House is concerned at the way nudity and obscenity is being shown through Cable TV Channel, everybody is concerned and wants a law in this regard. Hon. Minister has said in his reply that he would definitely enact a law so that there could be a check on such programmes. It is my submission to the hon. Minister that he would be able to control Doordarshan by enacting a law but what about other numerous satellite channels, as the hon. Member said right now obscene visual fare is being shown through Fashion TV. Would it be possible to have a check on these channels so that the hon. Minister has control over the channels showing vulgar visual fare and serials? These channels have an adverse effect on the youth and children of our country. What steps does he propose to take to control these programmes and save the Indian culture and civilization from the onslaught of such programmes?

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, a Regulatory Authority will be competent to take action not only against Doordarshan channels -- which are not guilty of any such violation of any programme code - but also against private channels. Even before such an authority is instituted, the Government has inherent powers and we are taking action in this regard. All Members of Parliament are welcome to make specific complaints in this connection.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, he is not in his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Sorry. Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded. This is grossest violation of direction.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Koya – not present. Md. Salim.

MD. SALIM: Sir, there is no denying the fact that earlier the same Minister has brought the Broadcasting Bill and there was a Select Committee appointed on the demand of the Members which was chaired by Shri Sharad Pawar. We know of those who tried to project themselves as cultural police in public place. We know how this Bill was jettisoned during the time of the NDA Government. Now that the UPA Government is in place and with the concern expressed by all sections of the House, is the Minister ready to bring a comprehensive Bill once again so that an autonomous body is there which can go to the details of the contents? Sir, he is promising for one year but already eleven months of the UPA Government are over. By when is he going to revive the Broadcasting Bill, update and bring it back to the House?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We will naturally consult the old Broadcast Bill. However, after eight years we cannot update that Bill. We will bring forward a new piece of law to deal with the whole question adequately. I have said before that no time frame in such matters can be indicated in the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Discontinuation of Uneconomic Rail Lines

*384. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the number of uneconomic rail/ branch lines in the country, zone-wise;
- the loss being suffered by the Government from these rail lines every year;
- whether the Government has decided to discontinue some of these rail/branch lines;
- if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;
- whether the Government has obtained the views of the concerned State Governments in this regard; and
- if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) The number of uneconomic rail/branch lines in the country as on 1.4.2004 is 112.

Zone-wise details are given below:

S.No.	Name of the Zonal Railway	Number of uneconomic Branch lines
1	Central	7
2	Eastern	11
3	East Central	5
4	East Coast	4
5	Northern	13
6	North Central	5
7	North Eastern	6
8	North East Frontier	15
9	North Western	7
10	Southern	6
11	South Central	5
12	South West	0
13	South Eastern	6
14	South East Central	2
15	Western	20
16	West Central	0
Total		112

(b) The loss being suffered by Government from uneconomic branch lines during the last five years is as under:

Year	Loss in crore of Rupees
2003-04	409.94
2002-03	460.77
2001-02	434.38
2000-01	449.46
1999-00	347.68

(c) and (d) In view of the losses being suffered and also based on the recommendations of the Railway Reforms Committee, Railways have been making efforts to close down some of the uneconomic branch lines, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned, but State Governments have neither agreed to the closure of these lines nor to share the losses as proposed.

(e) and (f) Immediately after the Railway Reforms Committee made the recommendations, Railway Ministry approached the State Governments concerned, seeking their

concurrence for closure, but none of the States had agreed to the suggestion.

Implementation of Railway Projects

*385. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Committees/ Commissions set up as on date to ensure implementation of railway projects besides safety and improvement in the railways; and

(b) the action taken on the recommendations made by these Committees/Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) and (b) A Standing Empowered Committee has been set up in September, 2004 to periodically review and monitor the progress of projects costing Rs.100 crore and above. The Empowered Committee is headed by Member Engineering, Railway Board and consists of Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Additional Member (Budget), Railway Board as its members. Since this is a standing committee, it is not required to give one time specific recommendations regarding project implementation.

There are in all over 135 Railway projects costing more than Rs.100 crore. In its first meeting held on 22.12.2004, the Committee reviewed the progress of projects costing Rs 1000 crore and above and fixed targets for completion of the projects. The Committee took note of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. The problems being faced in implementation of Railway Projects were also discussed like non-deposition of State share by the State Governments for cost-sharing projects, delay in forestry clearance and steep hike in steel prices. The problem areas are being continuously monitored and pursued for early resolution.

[English]

Uniformity Rate of Entertainment Tax

*386. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring Cinema in the concurrent List of the Constitution to have a uniform rate of entertainment tax throughout the country;

(b) If so, whether the views of the State Governments have been ascertained;

(c) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) the time by which the bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The issue of bringing cinema to the Concurrent List was one of the items taken up for discussion during the 24th State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON) held in 2001. After extensive consultations it has not been felt necessary to pursue the matter further.

[Translation]

Hydrocarbon Reserves

387. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has adequate reserves of hydrocarbon to meet the present requirements in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment of Hydrocarbon reserves in various States;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for exploration of hydrocarbons?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Based on the reserves established so far and the demand for petroleum products in the country, the requirement of the country can not be met from our established indigenous hydrocarbon reserves, alone. However, our prognosticated reserves of oil and oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) are upwards of 25 Billion Metric Tonnes and every effort is being made to assess and access these reserves.

(b) and (c) The State-wise established hydrocarbon reserves position as on 1.4.2004 accredit by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Private/ Joint venture companies is as under:-

State	Ultimate Reserves (MMT) (Oil & Oil Equivalent gas)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	62.79
Arunachal Pradesh	12.22
Assam	550.09

1	2
Gujarat	476.77
Nagaland	4.00
Rajasthan	35.73
Tripura	30.95
Tamil Nadu	43.83

The ultimate O+OEG reserves established as on 1.4.2004 for onland and offshore areas are 2950 MMT.

(d) For exploration of hydrocarbon the Government of India has taken the following steps:-

- (i) New areas for further exploration have been opened up under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. The exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. 20 more exploration blocks have been offered for international competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP.
- (ii) Accelerated exploration programme by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.

Agreement between Indian and Chinese Oil Companies

*388. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC (Videsh) Ltd. and Chinese National Petroleum Corporation have decided to work jointly in the international oil market;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between them in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) is a joint partner with CNPC, the National Oil Company of the People's Republic of China, in the Greater Nile Oil Project in Sudan where OVL holds 25% Participating Interest (PI) and CNPC holds 40% PI. Also, in Block CI-112 in Cote d'Ivoire, OVL holds 23.5% PI and SINOPEC, another Chinese company, holds 30% PI.

Looking to the vast mutual advantages in forging cooperative relationships with Chinese oil companies in seeking acreages in third countries as also in bilateral cooperation in several areas of the hydrocarbons sector, the National oil companies of India and China keep in touch with each other to identify specific collaborative ventures. The scope of such cooperation is being explored also through Government-to-Government interaction. However, no formal agreement has as yet been signed between OVL and any Chinese oil company, or between the Governments of the two countries, to jointly bid for oil assets abroad.

Import of Defence Equipment

*389. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Defence equipment are still being imported; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for manufacturing these equipment indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A portion of defence equipment is still being imported. However, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is engaged in indigenous development of defence equipment for manufacture by Indian industry. A number of equipment are being manufactured indigenously.

Towards further indigenisation of equipment manufacturing, various steps, such as, Transfer of Technology (TOT) and licence manufacture of imported equipment in Ordnance Factories, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other Indian Industries, wherever feasible, are also taken up.

[English]

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

*390. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several Unmanned Aerial Vehicles have been sighted recently in Ladakh;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made any inquiry to find out their originating base and their purpose;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that such UAVs were sighted in the Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh regions in the months preceding the Kargil intrusion;

(e) if so, the measures taken after the Kargil conflict to strengthen Air Surveillance to check such intrusions;

(f) whether India possess the technology to spot such objects; and

(g) if not, the name of countries having this technology and approached them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Strengthening of air surveillance capabilities of the Indian Air Force through procurement of radars and sensors is an ongoing process. The Indian Air Force has the requisite air defence mechanisms in place to monitor and thwart intrusions by UAVs/aircraft.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sanction of Funds to Prasar Bharti

*391. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to Prasar Bharati for expansion and other activities during 2004-05;

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry and the Prasar Bharati;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Prasar Bharati to reduce its financial burden and increase revenue earnings?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) A sum of Rs. 417 crore for Plan schemes, including expansion and an amount of Rs. 924.35 crore under the 'Non-Plan' activities were sanctioned by the Government to Prasar Bharati during 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Prasar Bharati on 22.5.2000, which deals with the financial and accounting matters of Prasar Bharati. Clause 6 of the MoU, in particular, provides that Prasar Bharati shall endeavour to augment its revenue earnings

year after year, strengthen its mechanism of resource mobilization and take effective steps for optimally utilizing the available resources to progressively reduce its dependence on Grants-in-Aid from the Central Government.

(d) Following are some of the initiatives taken by Prasar Bharati, for improving its financial position and increasing its revenue earnings:-

- An inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (I&B) with representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission to recommend suitable measures to improve financial sustainability of Prasar Bharati.
- Development Communication Division has been set up for production of programmes and spots for various Ministries on payment basis. This Division is also preparing media plans for the client Ministries.
- Marketing Divisions have been set up at six locations in the country for giving impetus to marketing. Marketing of feature films and sports events is being carried out in-house now which has resulted in better returns.
- Scrolling advertisements have been introduced from selected High Power Transmitters and Low Power Transmitters of Doordarshan to mobilise additional resources.
- The Commercial Rate Card is being constantly reviewed and revised to bring it in tune with market trends.
- The accreditation rule has been revised. Doordarshan has enhanced the bank guarantee to be submitted by the marketing agencies producers from 3 lakhs to 25 lakhs.

Fake LPG Cylinders

* 392. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake LPG cylinders are being used in the country;

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

(c) the number of incidents caused by fake LPG cylinders reported during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the provisions for taking action in this regard; and

(e) the number of agency owners held for their involvement in the fake LPG cylinders trade during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/ transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard/ spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped/ crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action which could be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or induces such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines, provide inter alia, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the 1st and 2nd offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a 3rd offence.

OMCs have neither reported any incident of accident caused due to fake cylinders supplied by their distributors during the last 3 years nor has any distributor been found involved in the fake LPG cylinders trade during this period.

Purchase of Crude Oil

*393. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crude oil purchased by India from the international market is normally cheaper than its price prevalent in the international market;

(b) if so, the extent to which the price of the crude oil purchased by India is less than its price prevalent in the International market on an average in a year; and

(c) the estimated average rate of production of petrol, diesel, kerosene and natural gas from the said crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The purchase of crude oil by India from the international market is based on prevailing international prices. More than two-thirds of the imported crude in India comes from West Asian countries where prices are fixed at the Official Selling Price (OSP) and are sold directly by the National Oil Companies (NOCs) of producing countries. The rest of the crude is procured on a spot basis through tenders floated by PSUs. Both OSP & tender price are guided by prevailing international oil prices.

(c) During April-February 2004-05, 113.685 MMT of crude oil was processed in PSU refineries of which 86.703 MMT was imported grades. Imported and indigenous crude oils are processed simultaneously by the refineries and the final products are obtained by blending both the streams. During April-February 2004-05, the yield of main products in PSU refineries was as follows:

Product	Figures in MMT
Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	5.068
Petrol	9.978
Diesel	42.138
Kerosene	8.372

[English]

Visit of Naval Chief to USA

*394. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy Chief visited USA recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the defence relations between India and USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit matters relating to enhancement of defence cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of Navy, were discussed.

(c) There has been a steady development of defence relations with the United States. This has taken the form of continuation of high level military visits, training opportunities and exchanges, participation in seminars,

cooperation in disaster management and joint exercises. In addition, the United States is now responding positively to opportunities for high-technology, defence sales and cooperation.

[Translation]

**Reservation/Employment Opportunities
for SC/ST/OBC in Private Sector**

*395. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to engage in a dialogue with industry to explore mechanism for increasing employment opportunities for SC/ST in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made by the said Group so far;

(d) whether reservation for OBCs in the Private Sector is also being considered by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time by which the Group of Ministers is likely to submit its report to the Government; and

(g) the steps taken by the government to expedite the issue?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of composition and terms of reference of the Group of Ministers (GOM) are given below:

(i) Composition:

1. Shri Sharad Pawar,
Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
2. Shri Lalu Prasad,
Minister of Railways;
3. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,
Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel;
4. Shri P. Chidambaram,
Minister of Finance;
5. Shri P.R. Kyndiah,
Minister of Tribal Affairs and Minister of Development North Eastern Region;

6. Shri Kamal Nath,
Minister Commerce and Industry;

7. Shri H.R. Bharadwaj,
Minister of Law and Justice;

8. Smt. Meira Kumar,
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment;

9. Shri Dayanidhi Maran,
Minister of Communications and Information Technology; and

10. Shri Kapil Sibal,
Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (IC) of the Department of Ocean Development.

(ii) Terms of Reference:

The GOM has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation, in the private sector. The GOM will initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) The GOM ascertained the response of industry and trade and thereafter held consultations with the representatives of four apex associations of industry and trade located in New Delhi viz: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) No specific time frame can be indicated at this Stage.

Requirement of Petroleum Products

*396. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirements of LPG, LNG, Kerosene, Diesel and Petrol in each State;

(b) whether any quota has been fixed by the Union Government for supply of these petroleum products to the States;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirements of States;

(e) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments to increase their present quotas of these products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The State-wise average monthly consumption of. LPG, Kerosene, Diesel and Petrol for the period April-September, 2004 is given in the enclosed statement-I. LNG is a decontrolled product and its procurement and supplies are made on commercial considerations. Currently, approximately 5 MTPA of LNG is being imported by Petronet LNG Ltd. at Dahej LNG Terminal in Gujarat. Bulk of this gas is being marketed in Gujarat and some quantities are supplied to the consumers along HBJ pipeline in M.P., U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi.

(b) to (f) Kerosene is allocated to various States/Union Territories for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) on quarterly basis. Distribution of Kerosene within the State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The allocation of Kerosene to various States/UTs under PDS during 2004-05 and 1st quarter of 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement-II. MoP&NG receives representations from various States/UTs for enhancement of their kerosene quotas under PDS from time to time. During the year 2004-05, MoP&NG has allocated an additional 1,50,502 Metric Tonnes of PDS kerosene over and above the annual quota to various states/UTs to meet their urgent requirements. The requirement of Petrol, Diesel and LPG, is met in full by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) through their dealers/distributors.

Statement-I

**Average Monthly Consumption During April-Sep. 2004*

(Figs in TMT)

State	Diesel	Kerosene	LPG	Petrol
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	300.4	41.2	63.0	49.4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.8	0.5	0.4	0.5
Arunachal Pradesh	2.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
Assam	34.8	21.9	12.6	7.3
Bhutan	3.4	0.6	0.4	0.7

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar	83.5	52.3	20.1	10.1
Chandigarh	5.5	0.9	2.3	5.0
Chhattisgarh	46.4	12.0	7.4	8.7
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.9	0.3	0.7	0.6
Daman and Diu	6.2	0.3	0.4	0.7
Delhi	101.8	14.1	45.1	53.5
Goa	20.5	1.6	3.4	5.0
Gujarat	180.3	62.8	47.0	55.5
Haryana	188.9	12.2	28.9	25.5
Himachal Pradesh	25.5	4.0	6.4	5.1
Jammu and Kashmir	31.7	13.5	7.9	7.3
Jharkhand	70.9	17.7	7.3	10.1
Karnataka	198.0	39.2	52.0	41.8
Kerala	109.2	18.3	40.1	36.5
Lakshadweep	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Madhya Pradesh	120.6	39.7	30.2	26.0
Maharashtra	275.1	106.5	119.7	96.0
Manipur	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.1
Meghalaya	11.5	1.8	1.0	2.1
Mizoram	1.7	0.5	1.4	0.8
Nagaland	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.1
Orissa	73.5	25.4	10.8	12.5
Pondicherry	19.5	1.0	1.9	3.8
Punjab	212.8	19.5	40.1	36.9
Rajasthan	220.0	33.2	33.5	28.8
Sikkim	2.4	1.3	0.6	0.5
Tamil Nadu	275.5	49.2	74.5	61.4
Tripura	3.3	2.4	1.5	1.1
Uttar Pradesh	359.4	103.7	84.2	60.8
Uttaranchal	26.6	7.2	10.1	6.4
West Bengal	146.8	63.4	39.6	18.4
Total	3175.8	772.2	797.7	682.0

*PSUs only

Statement-II

State/UT -wise SKO allocation during 2004-05 & 1st quarter of 2005-06

(in Metric Tonnes)		
State/UT	2004-2005	1st quarter of 2005-06
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5,771	1,454
Andhra Pradesh	4,85,448	1,29,289
Arunachal Pradesh	9,257	2,314
Assam	2,51,714	64,501
Bihar	6,31,639	1,61,857
Chandigarh	13,067	3,266
Chhattisgarh	1,43,354	36,734
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2,782	695
Daman and Diu	2,118	529
Delhi	1,68,484	42,121
Goa	19,212	4,803
Gujarat	7,43,759	1,85,939
Haryana	1,42,068	36,404
Himachal Pradesh	50,537	12,634
Jammu and Kashmir	72,444	14,489
Jharkhand	2,11,175	52,793
Karnataka	4,61,478	1,15,369
Kerala	2,11,033	54,077
Lakshadweep	795	400
Madhya Pradesh	4,76,691	1,22,152
Maharashtra	12,53,530	3,19,219
Manipur	19,907	4,976
Meghalaya	20,401	5,100
Mizoram	6,217	1,554
Nagaland	13,012	3,328
Orissa	3,07,295	78,744

1	2	3
Pondicherry	12,058	3,064
Punjab	2,32,813	59,298
Rajasthan	3,96,500	99,728
Sikkim	5,433	1,395
Tamil Nadu	5,45,297	1,39,732
Tripura	30,033	7,708
Uttar Pradesh	12,11,485	3,10,443
Uttaranchal	85,959	22,462
West Bengal	7,48,228	1,88,025
Total	89,91,054	22,86,596

FDI in Oil Sector

*397. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering enhancing foreign direct investment in oil and natural gas sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India has liberalized Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). The salient features liberalizing FDI in the petroleum sector, which includes both Oil and Natural Gas, are given below:

I Petroleum (other than refining)

- (i) FDI upto 100 per cent is permitted on the automatic route on petroleum product marketing. FDI for this sector would be permissible subject to the existing sectoral policy and regulatory framework in the oil marketing sector.
- (ii) FDI upto 100 percent is permitted on the automatic route in oil exploration in both small and medium sized fields subject to and under the policy of the Government on private participation in: (a) exploration of oil and (b) the discovered fields of national oil companies.
- (iii) FDI upto 100 percent is permitted on the automatic

route for petroleum product pipelines subject to and under the Government Policy and regulations thereof.

- (iv) FDI up to 100 percent is permitted for Natural Gas/LNG Pipelines with prior Government approval.
- (v) 100% Wholly owned Subsidiary is permitted for the purpose of market study and formulation.
- (vi) 100% Wholly owned Subsidiary is permitted for Investment/Financing.
- (vii) For actual trading and marketing, minimum 26% Indian equity is required over 5 years.

■ **Petroleum (refining)**

- (i) FDI is permitted up to 26% in case of public sector units (PSUs). PSUs will hold 26% and balance 48% to be held by public. Automatic route is not available.
- (ii) In case of private Indian companies, FDI is permitted up to 100% under automatic route.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in addition to private sector companies, actively seek FDI within the framework of Government policy in this regard.

Manning of Cantonment Boards

*398. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Cantonment Boards in the

country are being manned by unelected public representatives;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the problems of the local civilians in areas under these Boards are being solved;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any Advisory Council until the elected Board is constituted;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the elections will be held in these Cantonment Boards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Out of sixty two Cantonment Boards, sixty one are manned by officials and nominated members and one Board has a term up to 13th June, 2005 (The list is enclosed as statement). The term of elected members of 61 Boards has expired. A new legislation for the Cantonment boards, namely the Cantonments Bill 2003 has been introduced in Parliament which is under examination of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

Section 14 of the Cantonments Act, 1924 empowers the Central Government to vary the constitution of the Board in any Cantonment. Such reconstituted Cantonment Boards take care of the problems of the local civil population in Cantonments.

The Government has not constituted any advisory council for Cantonments.

It is proposed to conduct the elections of all the Cantonment Boards as per the provisions of the new Cantonments Act.

Statement

Position of Cantonment Boards

Sr.No.	Name of Board	Date of last Election	Term Expired	Varied Till/Term Till
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Badami Bagh	1986	1992	26/08/2005
2.	Agra	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
3.	Ahmednagar	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
4.	Ajmer	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
5.	Allahabad	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
6.	Almora	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Aurangabad	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
8.	Babina	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
9.	Bakloh	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
10.	Bareilly	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
11.	Barrackpore	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
12.	Belgaum	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
13.	Cannanore	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
14.	Chakrata	02/02/1997	26/06/2004	26/09/2005
15.	Dagshai	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
16.	Dalhousie	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
17.	Danapur	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
18.	Dehu Road	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
19.	Delhi	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
20.	Deolali	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
21.	Jabalpur	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
22.	Jalapahar	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
23.	Jammu	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
24.	Jhansi	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
25.	Jutogh	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
26.	Kanpur	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
27.	Kasauli	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
28.	Kirkee	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
29.	Lansdowne	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
30.	Lebong	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
31.	Lucknow	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
32.	Meerut	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
33.	Mhow	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
34.	Morar	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
35.	Nainital	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
36.	Nasirabad	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
37.	Pune	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005

1	2	3	4	5
38.	Ramgarh	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
39.	Ranikhet	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
40.	Roorkee	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
41.	Saugor	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
42.	Secunderabad	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
43.	Shahjahanpur	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
44.	Shillong	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
45.	St. Thomas Mount	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
46.	Sabathu	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
47.	Varanasi	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
48.	Wellington	02/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
49.	Amritsar	23/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
50.	Ferozepur	23/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
51.	Jalandhar	23/02/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
52.	Dehradun	08/06/1997	02/03/2003	03/09/2005
53.	Ahmedabad	12/04/1998	31/05/2004	31/05/2005
54.	Clement Town	19/04/1998	31/05/2004	31/05/2005
55.	Mathura	19/04/1998	31/05/2004	31/05/2005
56.	Ambala	12/08/1998	31/05/2004	31/05/2005
57.	Faizabad	21/02/1999	30/03/2003	30/09/2005
58.	Fatehgarh	21/02/1999	30/03/2003	30/09/2005
59.	Kamptee	21/02/1999	30/03/2003	30/09/2005
60.	Landour	21/02/1999	30/03/2003	30/09/2005
61.	Pachmarhi	21/02/1999	30/03/2003	30/09/2005
62.	Khasyol	14/05/2000	13/06/2005	13/06/2005 (ordinary term)

[English]

Involvement of Women at Panchayat Level in Environment Preservation

*399. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased

to state:

(a) whether the Govt. has prepared any policy measures and directives for the full-fledged involvement of women in environment preservation at village panchayat level;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage women to protect the environment at Panchayat level?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Constitution of India stipulates the following provisions relating to the environment:

Article 48A

"Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wild life. – The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country."

Part - IV A(g) – Fundamental Duties Article 51 A

"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures."

In the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women (2001) under the sub-head "Environment", it has been provided as under:

"6.10 Women will be involved and their perspectives reflected in the policies and programmes for environment, conservation and restoration. Considering the impact of environmental factors on their livelihoods, women's participation will be ensured in the conservation of the environment and control of environmental degradation. The vast majority of rural women still depends on the locally available non-commercial sources of energy such as animal dung, crop waste and fuel wood. In order to ensure the efficient use of these energy resources in an environmental friendly manner, the Policy will aim at promoting the programmes of non-conventional energy resources. Women will be involved in spreading the use of solar energy, biogas, smokeless chulhas and other rural application so as to have a visible impact of these measures in influencing eco system and in changing the life styles of rural women."

(c) The three levels of Panchayats at the District, Intermediate and Village level have, at present 21,86,452 elected representatives out of which 12,87,838 are male and 8,90,605 are female representatives. Article 243G of the Constitution relates to powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats. This provision is as under:

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority and may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats, at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to –

- (a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;
- (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed as the Eleventh Schedule.

As per the Eleventh Schedule, the following subjects have a significant impact on environmental preservation:

1. Agriculture, including Agricultural Extension;
2. Land Improvement, Implementation of Land Reforms, Land Consolidation and Soil Conservation.
3. Minor Irrigation, Water Management and Watershed Development.
4. Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Poultry.
5. Fisheries.
6. Social Forestry and Farm Forestry.
7. Minor Forest Produce.
8. Drinking Water
9. Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

The Eleventh Schedule also lists out Women and Child Development as a subject that may be transferred to Panchayats.

A Task Force on Devolution of Powers constituted by the then Ministry of Rural Development has prepared an Activity Mapping frame-work which elaborates the activities relating to above subjects that may be assigned to the three levels of Panchayats. In the Second Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Mysore in August, 2004, States have agreed, through consensus, that they will undertake Activity Mapping to the three levels of Panchayats, which would also include the assigning of activities to Panchayats on environmental and women's issues.

The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has been enacted to provide for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act provides that every local body which includes Panchayats shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee within its areas for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and

microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity. As per the Biological Diversity Rules 2004, framed under the Act, every local body shall constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee within its area of jurisdiction. The Biodiversity Management Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than six persons nominated by the local body, of whom not less than one third should be women and not less than 18 percent should belong to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe. The peoples biodiversity registers shall be maintained and validated by the Management Committee.

Oil Production

*400. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is venturing into increasing indigenous oil production through new explorations and also through participation in oilfields abroad in exploration and production;

(b) if so, the details of the ongoing projects and the capacity addition likely to be made by these ventures on maturity; and

(c) the extent to which these ventures are likely to reduce the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Various measures to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production are being taken. These include the following:-

- (i) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (ii) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. The Fifth Round of NELP has been declared open as of the 4th January, 2005 to invite bids for 20 exploration blocks; bids close on the 31st May 2005.
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields; and

- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas

Besides, in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL and GAIL, have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as the acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Qatar and Egypt.

As on 1.4.2004, the domestic hydrocarbon reserves established through exploratory efforts by the national and private/JV oil companies is about 2950 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) of oil and oil equivalent of gas (OEG). OVL have established another 199 MMT of OEG from their overseas assets.

Domestic production of crude oil and natural gas in 2004-05 was around 33.98 MMT and 31.75 Billion Cubic Meter(BCM) respectively. During this period, OVL's share of production from its overseas assets was 3.7 MMT of oil and 1.35 BCM of gas.

(c) Reduction in the import bill would be in proportion to the increased availability of oil and gas from domestic assets.

Development of Satellite based Navigation System

4145. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is developing a satellite-based navigation system for planes;

(b) if so, whether this will help to enhance air safety while allowing more aircraft to operate in the Indian Skies simultaneously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. India is developing a Technology Demonstration System (TDS) for Satellite Based Navigation over the Indian airspace through GPS and Geo Augmented Navigation System (GAGAN).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. When operational, the GAGAN system will be one of the means for increasing flight safety and navigation capability over the Indian airspace.

*[Translation]***Passenger Train Between
Meerut-Delhi Route**

4146. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the total number of passengers commuting daily between Meerut-Delhi route and number of trains needed on the said route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of requests/representation received for increase in passenger trains on this route; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) At present, 18 trains from Delhi to Meerut and 19 trains from Meerut to Delhi are available for the travelling public. These are considered adequate for the traffic offering in this section. Some representations were received. These were examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

*[English]***Vocational Rehabilitation Centres**

4147. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres functioning in the country as on date, location-wise;

(b) the main purpose of these centres;

(c) the assistance being provided by the Government to these centres;

(d) whether the Government has prepared new programmes for mentally and physically handicapped persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) for the Handicapped are functioning in the country, one each at Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Kolkota, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Delhi, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara.

(b) These Centres evaluate the residual capacities of the Handicapped, provide adjustment training and facilitate their economic rehabilitation through jobs, self employment etc.

(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India under which these centres are functioning have made an allocation of Rs.8.8 crores for the financial year 2005-06 for these centres.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Relocation of Kota Airport**

4148. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Rajasthan for relocation of Kota Airport outside the city;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the details of present area and assets of the Kota airport; and

(d) the details of annual income and expenditure of the said airport during the last three years including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal has been received from State Government of Rajasthan from time to time for relocating the existing Kota airport, which belongs to Airports Authority of India outside the limits of Kota city. However, due to limited traffic potential, the relocation proposal has not been found favourable.

(c) The assets and infrastructure available are runway, taxiway, apron, terminal building, residential quarters, boundary walls, navigational aids, etc. which are spread over approx. 376 acres of land.

(d) The annual income and expenditure figures of Kota airport for the years 2004-05, 2003-04 and 2002-03 are 6.27, 71.41; 4.40, 90.90 and 6.26, 65.87 (Rs. in lakhs) respectively.

Funds to Regional Cultural Centres

4149. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released by the Government to the Regional Cultural Centres in various States to run their activities during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether complaints have been received in regard to misuse of funds provided to these centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL

REDDY): (a) Ministry of Culture, Government of India does not release any funds to the Regional Cultural Centres in various States. However the Ministry supports Seven Zonal Cultural Centres: Details of funds released during the 10th Plan period are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Funds Released to ZCCs in Tenth Plan Period

Ministry of Culture, Government of India does not release any grants to Regional Cultural Centres in various States. However under the Ministry of Culture, Seven Zonal Cultural Centres are functioning which are located at:-

1. North Zone Culture Centre (NZCC), Patiala, 2. North Central Zone Cultural Centre, (NCZCC), Allahabad, 3) North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur, 4) West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur, 5) South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, 6) South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur and 7) Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata. These ZCCs are receiving grants in the Tenth Plan from Ministry of Culture. The grants released to ZCCs during the tenth plan from Ministry of Culture (2002-05) are as follows:-

Zonal Cultural Centres	Addl. Corpus		NCEP		Guru Shishya Parampara		Theatre Rejuvenation		Documentation		Young Talented		Total Artists	
	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed	Alloca- ted	Relea- sed
NZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.20 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	16.50 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	20.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.82 Crore
NCZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.20 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	16.50 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	10.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.72 Crore
EZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.14 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	16.50 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	20.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.76 Crore
SZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.10 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	16.50 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	20.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.72 Crore
SCZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.14 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	11.00 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	10.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.80 Crore
NEZCC	5.00 Crore	5.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.10 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	11.00 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	30.00 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	6.78 Crore
WZCC	5.00 Crore	2.00 Crores	2.20 Crore	1.14 Crore	58.80 Lakhs	23.52 Lakhs	27.50 Lakh	11.00 Lakhs	50.00 Lakhs	18.58 Lakhs	6.90 Lakhs	2.30 Lakhs	8.63 Crore	3.69 Crore
	35.00 Crores	17.00 Crores	15.40 Crore	8.02 Crore	4,11,6 0,000	1,64,6 4,000	1,92,50 000	99.00 Lakhs	3.50 Crore	1.28.58 Lakhs	48.30 Lakhs	16.10 Lakhs	60.41 Crore	29.07 Crore

No complaints have been received from any of the ZCCs regarding misuse of funds provided to these centres.

[English]

Petroleum Reserves in Cauvery Basin

4150. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated gas and petroleum reserves found in the Cauvery basin in the recent years;

(b) the number of oil and gas blocks auctioned by the Ministry for exploration during the last three years;

(c) whether commercial exploration of gas reserves in Cauvery basin has been commenced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated production of gas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total estimated inplace gas and oil reserves in the Cauvery basin are about 73.60 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) and 65.12 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) respectively as on 1.4.2004. Estimates for the year 2004-05 are under finalisation.

(b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), 6 exploration blocks have been contracted in the Cauvery basin to various private/joint venture companies and National Oil Companies (NOCs) during the last three years. One block CY-ONN-2003/1 has also been offered for competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP which opened on January 4, 2005.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is producing oil and gas in the State of Tamil Nadu since 1985-86. The details of actual gas production during the last three years from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is as under:-

Year	Gas Production (MMSCM)
2002-03	466
2003-04	605
2004-05 (Provisional)	678

Mapping of Heritage Sites

4151. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to map heritage sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for neglecting the heritage sites?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Culture is proposing to launch a national mission on built heritage and antiquities which provides for comprehensive listing of built heritage, monuments, sites and antiquities.

Apart from this, the Archaeological Survey of India is bringing out circle-wise directory of monuments protected under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

[Translation]

Funds for Wadsa Garhchiroli New Railway Line

4152. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to conduct survey for laying new railway line in Surajgarh of dominated district of Garhchiroli;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide funds for laying Wadsa-Garhchiroli new railway line for which survey has already been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Demands have been received for construction of a new line between Bailadilla-Ballarshah (via Surajgarh-Alapalli) (200 Kms). No survey has been conducted for the proposed line so far.

A survey had been conducted for a new line from Wadsa to Gadchiroli during 2000-01, as per which the cost of this 49.5 Kms long line was assessed as Rs. 76.85 crore with a rate of return of (-) 8.19%.

Due to heavy throw-forward on ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider taking up the above proposals for the present.

Environment Friendly Toilet System in Trains

4153. YOGIADITYA NATH:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce environment friendly toilet system in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which environment friendly toilet system are likely to be introduced in all the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An Environmental friendly toilet system (Green Toilet) is proposed to be introduced on passenger coaches of Indian Railways. Proposal for fitment of green Toilets in 300 coaches at an estimated cost of Rs. 30 crore has been made in the Budget. Subject to successful field trials of such toilets, it is proposed to cover all coaches by the year 2012.

TV Transmitters in States

4154. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of high-power, low-power and very low/high power T.V. Transmitters in the country; capacity-wise, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received requests from the various States for setting up and conversion of VLPT/LPT/HPTS in their States during the last three years;

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

(d) the action taken/ to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that 1401 transmitters of varying capacity (HPTs-195, LPTs-828, VLPTs-359 and Transposers-19 are presently functioning in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Requests for setting up of new transmitters as well as upgradation of existing transmitters are received from time to time from various quarters including State Governments, and these are considered while formulating plans of TV expansion.

Free to air DTH service of Doordarshan (DD Direct+) has been launched to provide coverage to hitherto uncovered areas. The DTH bouquet consists of 33 TV and 12 Radio (AIR) channels. It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands) with the help of a small sized dish receive system.

Statement

Doordarshan Transmitters (as on 19.4.2005)

State/UT

State/UT	HPTs (13)
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur
	Hyderabad
	Kurnool
	Nandyal
	Rajamundry
	Tirupati
	Vijaywada
	Vishakhapatnam
	Warangal
	Hyderabad (DD News)
	Vijaywada (DD News)
	Vishakhapatnam (DD News)
	Rajamundry (DD News)

LPTs (80)

Achampet
Adilabad
Adoni
Alagadda
Amalapuram
Banswada
Belampally
Bhadrachalam
Bhainsa
Bheemadolu
Bheemavaram
Bobbili
Chitoor
Cuddapah
Darsi
Devarkonda
Emmiganur
Gadwal
Giddalur
Guntakal
Hindupur
Jadcherla
Jagtial
Kadiri
Kakinada
Kamareddy
Kandukur
Karimnagar
Kavali
Khammam
Kosgi
Kothagudam
Kuppam
L R Pally
Magherla
Machilipatnam
Madnapalli
Madugula
Mandassa

Markapur
 Medak
 Mehboobnagar
 Miryalaguda
 Nagar Karnul
 Nalgonda
 Narayanpet
 Nellore
 Nirmal
 Nizamabad
 Ongole
 Pedapalli
 Proddutur
 Pulamaner
 Rajampet
 Ramagundam
 Siddipet
 Sirisilla
 Sirpur
 Srikakulam
 Talakondapally
 Tamblapalli
 Tandur
 Tekkali
 Tirupati
 Tuni
 Udaigiri
 Veldanda
 Vemalvada
 Vinukonda
 Vishakhapatanam
 Wanaparthy
 Yellandu
 Zahirabad
 Atmakur (DD News)
 Kakinada (DD News)
 Madhira (DD News)
 Narsaraopet (DD News)
 Nellore (DD News)
 Pedanandipaou (DD News)
 Vishakhapatnam (DD News)

Arunachal Pradesh

VLPTs (10)
 Chintapalli
 Duttalur
 Icchapuram
 Kanigiri
 Madipardu
 Maripadu
 Paderu
 Parwatipuram
 Seetampeta
 Srisalem
Transposer (1)
 Vijaywada
HPTs (2)
 Itanagar
 Itanagar (DD News)
LPTs (3)
 Miao
 Passighat
 Tezu
VLPTs (43)
 Along
 Anini
 Barinjo
 Basar
 Boleng
 Bomdiua
 Changlang
 Chayangtajo
 Daporizo
 Darak
 Deomali
 Dirang
 Italin
 Geku
 Gensj
 Hawaii
 Hayuliang
 Hunli
 Inkiyong

	Kalaktang		Haflong
	Keying		Hatsinghari
	Khimyong		Hojai
	Khonsa		Jorhat
	Liromoba		Kokrajhar
	Mariyang		Lumding
	Mechuka		Margheritta
	Mukto		Nagaon
	Nampong		Nazira
	Namsai		North Lakhimpur
	Palin		Sonari
	Raga		Tezpur
	Roing		Tinsukhia
	Rupa		Dibrugarh (DD News)
	Sagalee		VLPT (1)
	Sangram		Digboi
	Seijosa		Transposer (1)
	Seppa		Guwahati
	Taliha	Bihar	HPTs (5)
	Tawang		Katihar
	Tirbin		Muzaffarpur
	Tuting		Patna
	Yomcha		Patna (DD News)
	Ziro		Muzaffarpur (DD News)
	Transposer (1)		LPTs (35)
	Sankhiview		Aurangabad
Assam	HPTs(5)		Banka
	Dibrugarh		Begusarai
	Guwahati		Bettiah
	Silchar		Bhabhua
	Guwahati (DD News)		Bhagalpur
	Silchar (DD News)		Buxar
	LPTs (21)		Darbhanga
	Bokakhat		Daudnagar
	Bongaigaon		Forbesganj
	Dhubri		Gaya
	Diphu		Gopalganj
	Goalpara		Jamui
	Gohpur		Khagaria
	Golaghat		Kishanganj

	Lakhisarai		Pandaria
	Madhepura		Pendra Road
	Madhubani		Raigarh
	Motihari		Rajhara Jharandili
	Munger		Sakti
	Nawada		VLPTs (7)
	Phoolparas		Bijapur
	Ramnagar		Jashpurnagar
	Raxaul		Kondagaon
	Rosera		Koylibeda
	Saharsa		Pakhanjore
	Sasaram		Pathalgaon
	Sheikhpura		Sarangarh
	Sikanora	Goa	HPTs (2)
	Simri Bakhtiarpur		Panaji
	Sitamarhi		Panaji (DD News)
	Siwan	Gujarat	HPTs (8)
	Supaul		Ahmedabad
	Darbhanga (DD News)		Bhuj
	Gaya (DD News)		Dwarka
	VLPTs (2)		Rajkot
	Marhaura		Surat
	Masrakh		Ahmedabad (DD News)
Chhattisgarh	HPTs (4)		Rajkot (DD News) (Int.)
	Ambikapur		Surat (DD News) (Int.)
	Jagdalpur		LPTs (59)
	Raipur		Ahwa
	Raipur (DD News)		Ambaji
	LPTs (16)		Amod
	Bailadilla		Amreli
	Bilaspur		Bantva
	Champa		Bhabbar
	Dungargarh		Bharuch
	Kanker		Bhavnagar
	Kharod		Botad
	Konta		Chhota Udaipur
	Korba		Dediapara
	Kurasia		Deesa
	Manindergarh		Devgaoh Baria
	Narayanpur		Dhandhukha

Dharangadhra

Dhari

Dharpur

Dhorajee

Dohad

Godhara

Idar

Jamjodhpur

Jamnagar

Jhagadia

Junagarh

Kevadia Colony

Khambalia

Khambat

Limbdia

Lunawada

Mahuva

Uangrol (Junagarh)

Mangrol (Sural)

Mehsana

Modassa

Morvi

Palanpur

Palitana

Patan

Porbander

Punandhro

Radhanpur

Rajpipla

Rajula

Rapar

Sanjeli

Shamlaji

Songarh

Surendranagar

Tharad

Umergaon

Una

Vadodara

Valsad

Haryana

Veraval

Gandhinagar (DD News)

Bhavnagar (DD News)

Jamnagar (DD News)

Vadodra (DD News)

VLPTs (3)

Kakrapar

Netrang

Sagwara

LPTs (20)

Bhiwani

Charkhi Dadri

Firozpur Jhirka

Hissar

Jind

Mahendergarh

Meham

Narnaul

Rewari

Rohtak

Sirsa

Tohana

Ambala (DD News)

Bhiwani (DD News)

Hissar (DD News)

Karnal (DD News)

Kurukshetra (DD News)

Mandi Dabwali (DD News)

Narnaul (DD News)

Yamunanagar (DD News)

Himachal Pradesh**HPTs (4)**

Kasauli

Shimla

Shimla (DD News)

Kasauli (DD News)

LPTs (9)

Bilaspur

Dharamshala

Kullu

Manali

Mandi
 Rampur
 Sunder Nagar
 Sujanpur
 Mandi (DD News)
VLPTs (39)
 Ajhu Fort
 Ashapuri
 Awah Devi
 Baunath
 Bandia
 Banjar
 Bharmour
 Bharathi
 Bijli Mahadev
 Chamba
 Chaupal
 Chauri Khas
 Chirgaon
 Dalhausi
 Diar
 Hamirpur
 Holi
 Jahalma
 Jatingiri (Phooladhar)
 Jogindernagar
 Kaja
 Kalpa
 Karsog
 Keylong
 Khara Pathar
 Kotkhai
 Nehri
 Nichar
 Palampur
 Parwanoo
 Pirbhayanu
 Rohru
 Sarkaghat

Jharkhand

Shivbadar
 Thaneoar
 Tissa
 Udaipur
 Una
 Veer
Transposers (2)
 Rajgarh
 Solan
HPTs (5)
 Daltonganj
 Jamshedpur
 Ranchi
 Jamshedpur (DD News)
 Ranchi (DD News)
LPTs (19)
 Barharwa
 Bokaro
 Chaibasa
 Chatra
 Deoghar
 Dhanbad
 Dumka
 Ghatshila
 Giridh
 Godda
 Gumla
 Hazaribag
 Kodarma
 Lohardaga
 Mushabani
 Noamundy
 Saraikella
 Bokaro (DD News)
 Dhanbad (DD News)
VLPTs (3)
 Simdega
 Ramgarh Hill
 Garhwa (DD News)

Jammu and Kashmir**HPTs (19)**

Gurez
 Jammu
 Kathua
 Kupwara (Int)
 Leh
 Naushera
 Poonch
 Samba (Int.)
 Srinagar
 Tithwal
 Gurez (DD News)
 Jammu (DD News)
 Kupwara (DD News) (Int.)
 Naushera (DD News)
 Poonch (DD News)
 Samba (DD News) (Int.)
 Srinagar (DD News)
 Tithwal (DD News)
 Srinagar (Kashir Ch)
LPTs (20)
 Darhal
 Dharamsal
 Kargil
 Patnitop
 Poonch
 Rajouri
 Riasi
 Udhampur
 Anantnag
 Bandipore
 Chowkibal
 Kulgam
 Pattan
 Quazigund
 Sonarwani
 Uri
 Wusan
 Baramulla (DD News)
 Kathua (DD News)
 Leh (DD News)

VLPTs (91)

Abran
 Ardh Kumari
 Amas
 Bani
 Banihal
 Basgo
 Basoli
 Batalik
 Batot
 Bhadarwa
 Bilawar
 Bodh Khurboo
 Budhal
 Chakroi
 Chanani
 Chumathang
 Chushul
 Dah
 Daskit
 Dhar
 Doda
 Domchuk
 Doongi Grati
 Dras
 Fatula
 Gujjaron Nagrota
 Hanle
 Hira Nagar
 Ichar
 Jajjar Kotti
 Kalakot
 Keri
 Khalsi
 Khaltai
 Kishtwar
 Kotranka
 Kud
 Lati
 Loran

Mahore
 Mandi
 Manjakot
 Mansur
 Mendhar
 Mulbekh
 Nagrota
 Nimu
 Nyema
 Padam
 Panamik
 Panicker
 Poni
 Ramban
 Ramkot
 Ramnagar
 Ringdom Gompa
 Sakti
 Sanasar
 Sankoo
 Siachin (Base camp)
 Sudh-Mahadev
 Sunderbani
 Tangmarg
 Tangste
 Tatapani
 Thanamandi
 Thathri
 Tilel
 Timsogam
 Turtok
 Uri
 Zangla
 Kargil (DD News)
 Ashmuqam
 Baramulla
 Boniyar
 Gulmarg (Cheemapost)
 Kangan
 Khrew

Karnataka

Lolab Valley
 Machil
 Maniuam
 Mohri
 Nowgam
 Pahalgam
 Pulwama
 Shopian
 Sonmarg
 Trai
 Tregam
 Yusmarg
 Transpose (1)
 Surankot
 HPTs (12)
 Bangalore
 Dharwad
 Gulbarga
 Hassan
 Mangalore
 Mysore
 Raichur
 Shimoga
 Bangalore (DD New)
 Dharwad (DD News)
 Gulbarga (DD News)
 Mysore (DD News)
 LPTs (47)
 Arsikere
 Athani
 Bagalkot
 Bantwal
 Basava Kalyan
 Belgaum
 Bellary
 Belthangadi
 Bhatkal
 Bidar
 Bijapur
 Chickmaglur

Chikodi
 Chitradurga
 Dandeli
 Davangere
 Gadag Betgari
 Gangawati
 Gokak
 Harphanhalli
 Hattihal
 Hiriyur
 Holenarsipur
 Hosdurg
 Hospet
 Hungond
 Indi
 Karwar
 Kolar Gold Field
 Koppa
 Kumta
 Medikeri
 Mudigere
 Mundargi
 Pavagada
 Puttur
 Ramadurg
 Ranibennur
 Sagar
 Sandur
 Sirsi
 Taukota
 Tiptur
 Tumkur
 Udipi
 Bellary (DD News)
 Davangere (DD News)
VLPTs (7)
 Badami
 Huvin Hippargi
 Kudligi
 Madhugiri

Sakleshpur
 Sringeri
 Sulya
HPTs (7)
 Calicut
 Cannanore (Int)
 Cochin
 Trivandrum
 Calicut (DD News)
 Cochin (DD News)
 Trivandrum (DD News)
LPTs (22)
 Adoor
 Attapadi
 Changanacherry
 Chengannur
 Idukki
 Kalpetta
 Kanhangarh
 Kasargod
 Kayamkulam
 Kottarakara
 Mallapuram Manjiri
 Pala
 Palghat
 Pathanamthitta
 Punalur
 Shoranur
 Tellicherry
 Thodupuzha
 Trichur
 Cannanore (DD News)
 Trichur (DD News)
VLPTs (4)
 Devikolam
 Eratuppeta
 Kanjirapalli
 Mundakayam
HPTs (10)
 Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh

Guna
 Gwalior
 Indore
 Jabalpur
 Shahdol
 Bhopal (DD News)
 Gwalior (DD News)
 Indore (DD News)
 Jabalpur (DD News)
 LPTs (63)
 Agar
 Alirajpur
 Ashoknagar
 Bada Malhera
 Badwani
 Balaghat
 Bareil
 Betul
 Bhander
 Bhanpura
 Bhind
 Bijaipur
 Burhanpur
 Chanderi
 Chhatrapur
 Chhindwara
 Damoh
 Datia
 Gadarwara
 Garot
 Harda
 Itarsi
 Jaora
 Jhabua
 Karaira
 Kelaras
 Khandwa
 Khargaon
 Khurai
 Kukdeshwar

Kukshi
 Kurwai
 Lahar
 Lakhnadon
 Maihar
 Malanjkhanda
 Mandla
 Mandsaur
 Multai
 Murwara
 Nagda
 Narsimhapur
 Neemuch
 Panchmarh
 Panna
 Piparia
 Raghogarh
 Rajgarh
 Ratlaw
 Rewa
 Sagar
 Satna
 Seoni
 Shajapur
 Sheopur
 Shivpuri
 Sidhi
 Sindhwa
 Singrauli
 Sironj
 Sitamau
 Tikamgarh
 Ujjain
 VLPTs (5)
 Alot
 Budhni
 Diamond Mining Proj.
 Parasia
 Singrauli

Maharashtra**HPTs(14)**

Ambajogai
 Aurangabad
 Chandrapur
 Jalgaon (Int)
 Mumbai
 Nagpur
 Pune
 Ratnagiri
 Ambajogai (Dd News) (Int.)
 Aurangabad (DD News)
 Mumbai (DD News)
 Nagpur (DD News)
 Pune (DD News)
 Mumbai (Digital)

LPTs(89)

Achalpur
 Acot
 Aheri
 Ahmednagar
 Akalkot
 Akluj
 Akola
 Amalner
 Amravati
 Arvi
 Badiapur
 Barshi
 Bhamragad
 Bhusawal
 Bid
 Brahampuri
 Buldana
 Chandur
 Chikhli
 Chiplun
 Daryapur
 Devrukh
 Dhadgaon

Dharmabad

Dhule
 Diglur
 Garhchiroli
 Gondia
 Hinganghat
 Hingoli
 Ichalkaranji
 Jalna
 Kankauli
 Karad
 Karanja
 Khamgagn
 Khanapur
 Khopoli
 Kinwat
 Kolhapur
 Mahad
 Malegaon
 Mangal Wedha
 Mangaon
 Manmad
 Mehekar
 Mhasie
 Morshi
 Nanded
 Nandurbar
 Nasik
 Navapur
 Osmanabad
 Pandharkawada
 Pandharpur
 Parbhani
 Patan (Satara)
 Phaltan
 Pulgaon
 Pusad
 Rajapur
 Raver
 Rissod

Sangamner

Sangli

Satana

Satara

Shahad

Shirdt

Shirpur

Sholapur

Sironcha

Tumsar

Umerga

Umerkhed

Wani

Wardha

Washim

Yavatmal

Akola (DD News)

Amravati (DD News)

Bhandara (DD News)

Dhule (DD News)

Kolhapur (DD News)

Malegaon (DD News)

Handed (DD News)

Nasik (DD News)

Sangli (DD News)

Sholapur (DD News)

VLPTs (20)

Ambet

Arjuni

Ashti

Bhokar

Chikaldhara

Chimur

Junnar

Karanja (Wardha)

Karjat

Khed

Koregaon

Kurkheda

Malkapur

Malwan

Pimpalner-Sakri

Sakoli

Sindewahi

Tiwsa

Vasantgarh

Wai

Transposer (1)

Aurangabad

HPTs (3)

Imphal

Churachandpur

Imphal (DD News)

LPT (1)

Ukhrul

VLPTs (4)

Chandel

Kangpokpi

Moreh

Senapati

HPTs (4)

Shillong

Tura

Tura (DD News)

Shillong (DD News)

LPTs (3)

Jowai

Williamnagar

Cherapunji

VLPTs (2)

Baghmara

Nongstoin

Transposer (1)

Shillong

HPTs (3)

Aizwal

Lunglei

Aizwal (DD News)

Manipur

Meghalaya

Mizoram

	LPTs (2)	Banapur
	Lawngtlai	Bargarh
	Lunglei (DD News)	Baripada
	VLPTs (2)	Bhadrak
	Champhal	Bhanjanagar
	Saiha	Bhuban
	Transposer (1)	Birmitrapur
	Aizwal	Bonai
Nagaland	HPTs (3)	Boudh
	Kohima	Brajrajnagar
	Mokokchung	Chikti
	Kohima (DD News)	Dasrathpur
	LPTs (3)	Deogarh
	Dimapur	Dhenkanal
	Tuensang	Durgapur
	Mokokchung (DD News)	G. Udaigiri
	VLPTs (6)	Gondiya
	Mon	Jeypore
	Phek	Joda
	Satakha	Kabisuryanagar
	Shamtorr	Kamakhyanagar
	Wokha	Karanjia
	Zunheboto	Keonjharagarh
	Transposers (2)	Khandpara
	Kohima	Khariar
	Barabasti	Koraput
Orissa	HPTs (7)	Kotpad
	Baleshwar	Kuchinda
	Berhampur	Lutherpunk
	Bhawanipatna	Malkangiri
	Cuttack	Mohana
	Sambalpur	Narsinghpur
	Cuttack (DD News)	Navrangpur
	Sambalpur (DD News)	Nuapara
	LPTs (68)	Padampur
	Anandpur	Padmapuram
	Angul	Padua
	Athamalik	Paliahara
	Balangip	Paradeep
	Baligurha	Parlakhemundi

Patnagarh		Rourkela (DD News)
Phulbani		Lalitgiri (DD News)
Puri		Transposer (1)
Rairangpur		Sunabeda
Rajgangpur	Punjab	HPTs (6)
Rajranapur		Amritsar
Rayagada		Bhatinda
Redhakhol		Jalandhar
Rourkela		Fazilka (Int.)
Simlguda		Jalandhar (DD News)
Sohela		Amritsar (DD News) (Int.)
Sonepur		LPTs (5)
Sundergarh		Abohar
Talcher		Firozpur
Tushara		Gurdaspur
Umerkote		Pathankot
Baleshwar (DD News)		Patiala
Baliapal (DD News)		Transposer (1)
Bhubneshwar (DD News)		Talwara
Dhenkanal (DD News)	Rajasthan	HPTs (10)
Dudharkot (DD News)		Barmer (Int.)
Kendrapara (DD News)		Ajmer
Tirtol (DD News)		Bundi
VLPTs (18)		Jaipur
Aul		Jaisalmer
Bada Barbil		Jodhpur
Chitrakonda		Ajmer (DD News)
Jayapatna		Bundi (DD News)
Kalampur		Jaipur (DD News)
Kashipur		Jodhpur (DD News)
Koksara		LPTs (70)
Lanjigarh		Alwar
Machhkund		Anupgarh
Nagchi		Bali
Nayagarh		Banswara
Patkamal		Baran
Sabdega		Bari Sadri
Simlipalgarh		Barmer
Sukinda		Basava
Thoumal Rampur		Bhadra

Bharatpur	Ratangarh
Bhilwara	Rawatsar
Bhinmal	Sagwara
Bikaner	Salumber
Chirawa	Sardarshahr
Chittaurgarh	Sawaimadhopur
Churu	Shahpura
Deeg	Sikar
Dungarpur	Sirohi
Ganganagar	Sojat
Gangapur (Swai Madho Pur)	Sridungargarh
Hanumangarh	Sujangarh
Hindaun	Suratgarh
Jaisalmer	Taranagar
Jalore	Tonk
Jhalawar	Udaipur
Jhunjhunun	Vallabhnagar
Karanpur	Alwar (DD News)
Karauli	Bansi (Dd News)
Kesriaji	Bikaner (DD News)
Khetri	Udaipur (DD News)
Kishnagarh-Vas (Alwar)	VLPTs (17)
Kotputli	Amet
Kushalgarh	Aandhi
Makrana	Bhim
Mount Abu	Chaumahla
Nagar	Deogarh
Nagaur	Fatehpur
Nathdwara	Gangapur (Bhilwara)
Navalgarh	Kotra
Nimaj	Kumbhalgarh
Nohar	Laxmangarh
Nokha	Mandalgarh
Pali	Neem Kathana
Phalodi	Rajgarh (Alwar)
Pilani	Rawatbhata
Pirawa	Sikrai
Pratapgarh	Tibi
Raisinghnagar	Virat Nagar
Rajgarh (Churu)	

	Transposers (2)	Marthandam
	Jamua Ramgarh	Mayuram
	Lalsot	Nagapattinam
Sikkim	HPTs (2)	Nagarcoil
	Gangtok	Nattam
	Gangtok (DD News)	Neyveli
	VLPTs (6)	Palani
	Gyaishing	Pattukottai
	Mangan lad	Peranampet
	Namchi	Pollachi
	Rangpo	Pudukottai
	Singtam	Rajapalayam
	Zorethang	Salem
Tamil Nadu	HPTs (8)	Shankarankovil
	Chennai	Thanjavur
	Kodaikanal	Thiruvaiyaru
	Rameshwaram	Tindivanam
	Kumbakonam (Int.)	Tiruchendur
	Chennai (DD News)	Tiruchirapalli
	Kodaikanal (DD News)	Tirunelveli
	Chennai (Podigai Channel)	Tirupattur
	Chennai (Digital)	Tiruvannamalai
	LPTs (55)	Tuticorin
	Arani	Udagamanoalam
	Ambasamudram	Udumalpet
	Ambur	Vandavasi
	Arcot	Vaniyambadi
	Attur	Vellore
	Cheyyar	Villupuram
	Chidambaram	Coimbatore (DD News)
	Coimbatore	Erode (DD News)
	Coonoor	Madurai (DD News)
	Courtalam	Salem (DD News)
	Cuddalore	Tiruchirapalli (DD News)
	Denkanikotta	Tirunelveli (DD News)
	Dharmapuri	Tirupattur (DD News)
	Erode	Tuticorin (DD News)
	Gudiyatam	Vellore (DD News)
	Kallakurchi	
	Krishnagiri	

	VLPTs (7)	LPTs (63)
	Gingee	Akbarpur
	Kanchipuraw	Aligarh
	Mettupalayam	Amroha
	Tiruvanamalai	Athdama
	Valliur	Auralya
	Valparai	Bahraich
	Vaza Padi	Ballia
	Transposers (1)	Balrampur
	Dindigul	Basti
Tripura	HPTs (2)	Bidhuna
	Agartala	Chhibramau
	Agartala (DD News)	Deoria
	LPTs (5)	Dudhinagar
	Kailasahar	Etah
	Amarpur	Etawah
	Teliamura	Farrukhabad
	Jolaibari	Fatehpur
	Kailasahar (DD News)	Ganj Dundwara
	VLPTs (1)	Gauriganj
	Dharma Nagar	Gonda
	Transposer (1)	Hardoi
	Bellonia	Jagdishpur
Uttar Pradesh	HPTs (18)	Jhansi
	Agra	Karw
	Allahabad	Kasganj
	Banda	Kosi
	Bareilly	Lalganjfrae Bareilly
	Faizabad	Lalitpur
	Gorakhpur	Mahoba
	Kanpur	Mahroni
	Lakhimpur	Mainpuri
	Lucknow Mau	Mau Ranipur
	Varanasi Agra (DD News)	Mohammadabad
	Allahabad (DD News)	Moradabad
	Bareilly (DD News)	Nanpara
	Gorakhpur (DD News)	Narora
	Kanpur (DD News)	Naugarh
	Lucknow (DD News)	Obra
	Varanasi (DD News)	Orai

	Pilibhit	Kashipur
	Puranpur	Khetikhan
	Rae Bareli	Kotdwar
	Rampur	Naini Danda
	Rath	Nainital
	Rudauli	New Tehri
	Saubhal	Pauri
	Shahjahanpur	Pithoragarh
	Sikanderpur	Tanakpur
	Sitapur	Khetikhan (DD News)
	Sultanpur	VLPTs (33)
	Talbehat	Almora
	Thirwa	Aroli (Banoli)
	Aligarh (DD News)	Badrinath
	Azamgarh (DD News)	Bageshwar
	Jhansi (DD News)	Basot
	Lalganj(Pratapgarh) (DD News)	Bhatiari
	Mathura (DD News)	Chaukhatia
	Mau (DD News)	Devprayag
	Moradabad (DD News)	Dewal
	Rampur (DD News)	Dharchula
	Rasra (DD News)	Didihat
	Shahjahanpur (DD News)	Dugadda
	Sultanpur (DD News)	Fata
	VLPTs (4)	Gajja
	Khubia	Ghandyal
	Nangal	Gopeshwar
	Manikpur	Joshimath
	Mankapur	Kauikhal
	Thakurdwara (DD News)	Karan Prayag
Uttaranchal	HPTs (2)	Kausani
	Mussoorie	Maneshwar
	Mussoorie (DD News)	Manila
	LPTs(16)	Munsiari
	Bachher	Nandprayag
	Champawat	Naugaonkhal
	Dak Pathar	Okhimath
	Haldwani	Pokhri
	Haridwar	Pratapnagar
	Kalagarh	Rajgrahi

West Bengal	Ranikhet	Rayna
	Ruderprayag	Shantiniketan (DD News)
	Tharali	Basanti (DD News)
	Uttarakashi	VLPT (1)
	Transposers (2)	Egra
	Mussoorie	LPTs(3)
	Srinagar	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
	HPTs (13)	Car Nicobar
	Asansol	Port Blair
	Balurghat (Int.)	Port Blair (DD News)
	Kharagpur (Int.)	VLPTs (12)
	Kolkata	Baratang
	Krishnanagar	Caupbel Bay
	Kurseong	Diglipur
	Murshidabad	Great Nicobar
	Shantiniketan	Havelock
	Asansol (DD News)	Hutbay
	Kolkata (DD News)	Kalighat
	Murshidabad (DD News)	Katchal
	Kolkata (Bangla Channel)	Mayabunder
	Kolkata (Digital)	Nancowry
	LPTs(21)	Rangat
	Alipurduar	Swaraj Gram
	Baghmandi	LPTs (1)
	Balrampur	Chandigarh
	Bardhaman	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
	Bishnupur	LPT (1)
	Contai	Daman and Diu
	Darjeeling	Silvassa
	Farakka	LPTs (2)
	Garhbeta	Daman
	Jhalda	Diu
	Jhargram	Delhi
Kalimpong	HPTs (2)	
Kalna	Delhi	
Koch Bihar	Delhi (DD News)	
Maldah	Delhi (Digital)	
Medinipur	LPTs (2)	
Puruliya	Delhi (Lok Sabha)	
Ranaghat	Delhi (Rajya Sabha)	

Lakshadweep	LPT (1)
	Kavaratti
	VLPTs (9)
	Agatti
	Amini
	Andrott
	Chetlat
	Kadmat
	Kalpeni
	Kilton
	Minicoy
	Kavaratti (DD News)
Pondicherry	HPT (1)
	Pondicherry (Int.)
	LPTs (3)
	Karaikal
	Pondicherry
	Pondicherry (DD News)
	VLPTs (2)
	Mahe
Yanam	

Revamping of HMT Units

4155. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) The details of production capacity and financial conditions of H.M.T. units in the country especially Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal during each of the last three years;

(b) whether these units are facing financial constraints;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to revamp these units by providing financial assistance to these units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A statement indicating production and profit/loss is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Revival proposals in respect of H.M.T. Ltd. and its subsidiaries are being submitted to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for their recommendations, including the requirement of financial assistance, if any.

(e) Not applicable.

Statement

The details of production and profit/loss of H.M.T. units during the last three years

HMT Watches Ltd. {Units at Ranibagh (Uttaranchal), Bangalore, Tumkur}

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	44.49	28.67	19.98
Profit/Loss	-112.91	-134.81	-128.92

HMT Chinar Watches Limited (Jammu and Kashmir)

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	2.72	1.97	0.21
Profit/Loss	-6.31	-21.92	-25.72

HMT Limited – Holding Company including Tractor

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	141.45	129.35	186.74
Profit/Loss	-34.01	-7.19	6.21

HMT Machine Tools Limited

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	197.07	178.34	205.52
Profit/Loss	-102.05	-119.08	-95.46

HMT Bearings Limited

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	18.41	23.60	24.40
Profit/Loss	-15.03	-9.58	-9.79

HMT (International) Limited
Trading organization only

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	37.98	29.94	27.79
Profit/Loss	0.34	0.13	0.03

Praga Tools Limited

(Rupees in crores)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	6.29	8.12	10.53
Profit/Loss	-21.13	-10.79	-7.04

*[English]***Regularisation of Toy Train**

4156. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is operating National Heritage Toy Train in Darjeeling to boost the tourism in the region;

(b) whether the said Toy Train is sometimes non-operational due to shortage of coal;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to regularise the Toy Train;

(d) whether there is any plan to introduce Toy Train in Shillong to boost the tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The operation of the Joyride train between Darjeeling and Ghoom was affected only once in September 2004 owing to delayed supply of coal from the Eastern Coalfields Limited, Asansol because of torrential rains. Regular monitoring of the coal stock and its supply is done so that train operation is not affected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Activities of Ambedkar and Maulana
Azad Education Foundation**

4157. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to

state the details of amount spent on schemes and activities undertaken by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation and Maulana Azad Education Foundation during 2003-04 separately, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): The details of Amount spent on Schemes and Activities undertaken by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation during 2003-04 is as under:

Schemes and Activities	Amount Spent (Rs. in Lakhs)
Dr. Ambedkar Chairs	51.22
Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship	30.06
Dr. Ambedkar Memorial	253.06
Dr. Ambedkar Bhawans	34.30
Medical grant to SCs	0.70
Tele Serial	8.84
Birth and Death Anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar	11.92
Birth Anniversary of Saints	0.55
CWBA	14.15
Publication of Patrika	6.04
Administrative Expenses	88.06
Total	499.80

The details of Amount spent on Schemes and Activities undertaken by Maulana Azad Education Foundation during 2003-04 is as under:

(i) The Foundation has sanctioned grant-in-aid of Rs.381.5 lakh to 46 NGOs/Local Bodies during the year 2003-04 under its Educational Schemes for construction/expansion of School/Colleges/Hostels buildings, purchase of equipment/furniture, technical education and the scheme of Maulana Azad Sadbhawana Kendras.

(ii) The Foundation has sanctioned Scholarship of Rs. 63.40 lakh to 634 meritorious girl students belonging to minorities in 21 states under its scheme of Maulana Azad National Scholarship during 2003-04.

*[English]***Payment of Arrears to Employees**

4158. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of the Indian Airlines retired on February 29, 2000 as a result of reduction in retirement age from 60 to 58 years;

(b) if so, whether the suggestions given by the Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Indian Airlines in this regard has been implemented;

(c) if so, whether payment of and pension to retired employees have been made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such Committee was constituted by the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines Limited.

(c) Arrears have been paid to employees who have retired on 29.02.2000. Annuity is being paid to all such retired employees who had opted for annuity payments.

(d) Does not arise.

Overbridge at Nagpur

4159. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway Authorities have denied Nagpur Improvement Trust move to have another opening under the Narendra Nagar bridge at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways considering to build a railway overbridge at the site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Proposal for provision of Road Over Bridge near Narender Nagar initiated by Public Works Department (PWD), Nagpur in May 1998 on deposit terms has since been dropped at their request. However, work for construction of a Road Under Bridge on ring road near Narender Nagar has been sanctioned on deposit terms at the request of Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). General Arrangement Drawing has been finalized. Construction work has also been started by the party.

Retention of Tiruchi-Karaikudi MG Rail Line

4160. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Goldenrock Workshop' in Tiruchi (Tamil Nadu) which has placed a pivotal role in the maintenance of metre gauge locomotives coaches and wagons in southern India, is likely to be cut off from the entire metre gauge net work;

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

(c) whether the Southern Railway has requested to Railway Board to return the Tiruchi-Karaikudi section, the only metre gauge line to the Goldenrock workshop; and

(d) if so, the details and response of railway board thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The gauge conversion of Trichy-Karaikudi-Manamadurai Metre Gauge (MG) line to Broad Gauge (BG) has been taken up. After conversion, the MG connection to Golden Rock Workshop will not be there with the MG network.

(c) Yes, Sir. Southern Railway had made a reference in regard to retaining MG line on Trichy- Karaikudi section.

(d) It has been decided to convert the section from Trichy to Karaikudi. MG locos and coaches would be loaded into BG BFRs for transportation to/from workshop.

Tea Stalls

4161. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Railway/ Railway Board has made a policy to have all tea-stalls of same size at all stations of Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tea-stalls were found of the size in excess of the standard size decided in the said policy;

(d) the number of big size tea-stalls have been converted into standard size;

(e) the number of tea-stalls have remained of the size in excess of the standard size decided in the above referred policy; and

(f) the officials responsible for not converting the remaining big size tea-stalls into standard size and the time by which these remaining tea-stalls are likely to be converted into standard size?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per policy guidelines it has been decided to

replace the old catering stalls with modular style in order to have free movement of passengers.

(c) 46 tea stalls were found of the size in excess of the standard size as per policy guidelines.

(d) Four big size tea stalls have been converted into standard size.

(e) 42 tea stalls are still in excess of the standard size.

(f) All the catering/vending contractors have been advised to convert their stall into standard modular stalls as per the policy guidelines. Condition for conversion of non-standard size stall into modular stalls has also been incorporated into the new catering/vending license agreements as well as notification to be published for fresh award of contracts. Hence, licences will not be renewed and new stalls allotted by IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation)/ Railway will not be allowed unless the stalls are conforming to the "Modular Stall Policy"

Development of Nagpur as Cargo Hub

4162. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Nagpur as a Global Cargo Hub;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to set up air cargo complexes at key airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been initiated by the Government of Maharashtra to develop Nagpur as a Global Cargo Hub and have set up a company called Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) in this regard.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) in addition to existing cargo complexes, proposes to set up Air Cargo Complex at Jammu and Indore Airports and is awaiting Customs custodianship.

[Translation]

Repairing of Aeroplanes

4163. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that number of employees in the Indian Airlines who were doing repair work of motor vehicles have been on promotion deployed for doing the repair work of aeroplanes without imparting any training to them;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Indian Airlines to depute the trained employees for repair work of aeroplane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The repair work of Motor Vehicles is undertaken by MT Mechanics. No MT Mechanics have been promoted and posted in Engineering Department for undertaking repair work on aircraft. However, some Helpers working in various sections of Engineering and Ground Support Department, including those working in Motor Transport Section, were selected as Trainee Technicians after due process of selection involving Trade Test and interview. These Trainee Technicians undergo one-year of Training (Class-room and on-the job) and after passing the written tests and on successful completion of on the job training are appointed as Aircraft Technicians. Only 'Aircraft Technicians' are deployed for undertaking repair work on aircraft.

Demolition of Educational Institution

4164. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 391 on December 4, 2003 regarding demolition of building at Kalyan Railway Station and state the present status of the case in which a building of educational institution was demolished by the Railways in Kalyan in 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Railway's appeal filed in Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai against the orders of the Civil Court. Kalyan, is currently subjudice.

[English]

Import of Spare Parts

4165. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on import of Railway spare parts, coaches, engines and other related materials during each of the last three years;

(b) the estimated total expenditure likely to be incurred on import of the above items during the next three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for manufacture of above items indigenously and for achieving self-reliance in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion of Gwalior-Shioper
Kalam Rail Line**

4166. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding gauge conversion of Gwalior-Shioper-Kalam rail line;

(b) if so, when and the amount likely to be spent on the said project;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopor Kalan with extension upto Kota was completed in 1996-97. As per survey report, the cost of the project had been assessed as Rs. 363.92 crore. The project could not be taken up due to heavy throwforward of projects, its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

[English]

Rail Towns

4167. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of towns in the country which have been designated as Rail Town;

(b) whether the Government is considering to declare Rangia as a Rail Town, in view of its strategic importance as a Railway Divisional Headquarter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be declared as Rail Town?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are no towns in the country designated as Rail Towns.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Suspension of Sale of Tickets by
Air India Agents**

4168. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Agents have suspended sale of tickets of the national carrier in the recent past;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to deal with the situation and to avoid inconvenience caused to the customers of Air India after such a decision of the agents of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Travel Agents' Association have given a call to suspend the sale of Air India tickets from April 01, 2005. This is because Air India alongwith other international carriers have decided to reduce the commission for travel agents from 7 to 5 per cent. The decision to reduce the commission is a consequence of the global trend, which is to replace agency commission with a transaction fee. Almost all international airlines operating out of India have decided to reduce commission to 5 per cent effective May 01, 2005.

(c) Several Agents continue to issue tickets on Air India. Additionally, Air India offices allover India are issuing tickets at competitive market fare levels to ensure that the passengers who are travelling on Air India are not inconvenienced in any way.

Censor Board

4169 SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for nominating a member on the Censor Board;

(b) whether all the Members have been nominated to the Censor Board for this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be nominated?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Board members of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) are appointed in accordance with section 3(1) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, which states that "For the purpose of sanctioning films for public exhibition, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official

Gazette, constitute a Board to be called the Board of Film Certification which shall consist of a Chairman and not less than twelve and not more than twenty five other members appointed by the Central Government." No specific criteria as such have been prescribed in the Act for nominating members to the Board. The present Board of CBFC comprises a Chairperson and 22 members. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name	Date of Notification
Chairperson		
1.	Smt. Sharmila Tagore	13.10.2004
Members		
1.	Smt. Mrinal Pandey	05.02.2005
2.	Shri Sanjiv Goenka	05.02.2005
3.	Shri L. Suresh	05.02.2005
4.	Dr. Mrunalini D. Patel	05.02.2005
5.	Shri T.S.S. Chauhan	05.02.2005
6.	Shri Himanshu Joshi	05.02.2005
7.	Shri P.S. Bhaktavatsalam alias Ponneelan	05.02.2005
8.	Shri Shravan Shroff	05.02.2005
9.	Shri M.V. Bhaskar Rao	05.02.2005
10.	Shri Virendra Saxena	05.02.2005
11.	Shri K.T. Mahi	05.02.2005
12.	Shri Sanjeev Bhargava	05.02.2005
13.	Shri A. Natarajan	05.02.2005
14.	Shri Vinod K. Bakshi	05.02.2005
15.	Shri Krishna Mohan	05.02.2005
16.	Shri Anis Durrani	05.02.2005
17.	Smt. Bobbeeta Sharma	05.02.2005
18.	Dr. (Smt.) Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi	05.02.2005
19.	Dr. (Ms.) Shanta P. Halagi	05.02.2005
20.	Smt. K. Indira Banerjee	05.02.2005
21.	Shri Rajiv Arora	05.02.2005
22.	Shri Tom Vadakkan	03.03.2005

Fire in Toofan Mail

4170. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of fire that broke out in 3008 Dn Toofan Mail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the loss of life and property as a result thereof;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the incident;
- (e) if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (f) the action taken against the erring persons/officials; and
- (g) the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 04.04.2005, there was a fire incident in 3008 Dn Udyan Abha Toofan Express between Darauli and Dildamagar stations in Mughalsarai-Danapur Section of Dana pur Division of East Central Railway.

(c) In this incident there was no loss to human life. However, the damage to Railway property costing approximately Rs.1 crore 40 lakh has been reported.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety/ Eastern Circle is inquiring into this incident. Based on the recommendations of the Inquiry report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety appropriate action can be taken against the officials held responsible for the accident.

(g) To avoid recurrence of such incidents, a safety drive has been launched all over Indian Railways for prevention of carriage of gas cylinders, explosives, crackers and other inflammable articles in trains, prevention of unauthorized hawkers and vendors and use of sigris and stoves etc. by them. Checks by Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and ticket checking staff have also been intensified to ensure compliance of the above provisions.

Oil Wells In Rajasthan

4171. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recently found two oil wells in Bothia village in Barmer district of Rajasthan is a bone of contention between Centre and the States;

(b) whether the expenses on construction of the oil wells are jointly shared by the Centre and State Governments;

(c) whether the revenue from the returns is shared equally by the Centre and the State or entirely by the Centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There is no dispute between the Central and Rajasthan Governments on oil discoveries in Barmer district, including oil discoveries in Bothia Village. In the past, the State Government have been seeking the sharing of profit petroleum, under the PSCs, in the ratio of 50:50 between the Central and State Governments. Now, based on the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the Government of India have agreed to share profit petroleum with State Governments in respect of PSCs signed under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) within the overall limit of central allocations made to State Governments.

(b) In terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), the entire expenditure on petroleum operations is funded by the contractor and is recoverable out of the oil and gas sales revenue. The Central Government and the State Government are not required to contribute to any expenditure on petroleum operations.

(c) and (d) In terms of the PSC and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time, the State Government is entitled to the petroleum exploration license fee, dead rent and royalty on crude oil and gas. The Central Government gets a share of profit petroleum under NELP & pre-NELP PSCs and cess in pre-NELP blocks.

Computation of Dealers Commission

4172. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since received the report from the Committee of Directors of Oil Marketing Companies looking into the issue of computation of Dealers Commission;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

Advertisements for Installation of Petrol Pumps

4173. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the public sector oil companies to cancel their advertisements for the want of potential and commercially viable sites under land owner category for the installation of petrol pumps to watch their commercial interests; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While the Government has not directed the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to cancel their advertisements for installation of retail outlets (petrol pumps) under land owner category. The provisions in the guidelines for OMCs to select their dealers, which provide for allotment of dealerships, etc. without recourse to advertisements, were reviewed and the OMCs were directed to follow the following procedure:

The OMCs should, after receipt of direct offers of land, assess the viability of the location and if the same is found viable, OMCs must release an advertisement in two leading newspapers, which are in circulation in the area, stating the fact that they have received offer(s) of land for dealerships, etc., and are inviting similar offers from others. Further, these advertisements must indicate that the final selection of the dealer will be on the basis of evaluation of the lands offered and evaluation of the candidates in respect of other parameters as provided for in the guidelines.

Newly Commissioned Retail Outlets

4174. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed all the Public Sector Oil PSUs to submit the list of newly commissioned retail outlets/proposed to be commissioned in the country particularly in Haryana and Punjab, which are in the vicinity of one Km. from the check barriers to avoid violations of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the officials of the oil companies are giving wrong information to the Government on such newly commissioned retail outlets; and

(d) if so, the action the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Government have issued guidelines prescribing norms for access to fuel stations, service stations and rest areas along National Highways. Under these guidelines, it has been prescribed that the distance from the check barrier/toll plaza would be at least one kilometre and no check barrier/toll plaza would be installed within one kilometre of any fuel station/ rest area. However, Government have not sought any list of newly commissioned retail outlets/ outlets proposed to be commissioned in the country particularly in Haryana and Punjab which are in the vicinity one kilometre from the check barriers.

(c) and (d) In view of the question having been raised, the Ministry will now initiate the required enquiries.

Supply of Crude Oil to Punjab Refinery

4175. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to set up a crude oil refinery in Punjab for refining oil recently discovered in Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan has threatened to block the pipeline to be laid for the proposed Refinery; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited are setting up an oil refinery at Bathinda (Punjab). Crude inputs for the refinery are planned to be transported from Mundra port (Gujarat) through a cross-country pipeline.

(b) and (c) The Company is not aware of any threat from the Government of Rajasthan to block the pipeline to be laid for the proposed Bathinda refinery.

Transfer in Railways

4176. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on transfer of elements in Sr. Scale and above from the Zonal Railways to Railway board have been implemented except in Security;

(b) whether there is a proposal to bring the element of DIG from the Zonal Railways to Railway Board even after the Godhara Carnage;

(c) the number of elements of Sr. Scale and above belonging to RPF/RPSF is under operation of Railway Board causing shortage of officers in the Zonal Railways; and

(d) the time by which these elements are likely to be released for the officer of RPF/RPSF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The ban on transfer of elements in Senior Scale and above to Board's office is applicable to Security Directorate also.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No posts/ elements of Sr. Scale and above belonging to RPF/RPSF from the Railways are operated in Security Directorate of the Board's office.

(d) Does not arise.

Pre-Stressed Concrete Sleepers

4177. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any private firm has come up with a new design for the Pre-stressed Concrete Sleepers;

(b) if so, whether Research, Design and Standards Organization has undertaken scrutiny of adequacy of the design;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the railways in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Research, Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) gave its technical clearance for undertaking field trial of the said new design and left its commercial assessment to Railway Board.

(d) Railway Board decided to undertake trial of the said design in a stretch of 3 KMs each on East Coast Railway, Northern Railway and West Central Railway in the year 2002 without any financial commitment to the firm. However, in the year 2005, in view of reduced factor of safety (approx. 11 % lower than the existing design), reduced load factor (approx. 17.5% lower than the existing design), reduced rail seat bottom failure moment (approx. 18.2% lower than the existing design), lower moment of resistance etc. (i.e. lower strength as compared to the existing design in almost all parameters of strength when compared taking same basic assumption for both) and wide variation in field in terms of loading, ballast cushion etc., Railway Board has decided to review the said decision of trial of new design.

National Family Relief Fund

4178. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released under National Family Relief Fund Scheme to respective States during 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) whether some States have been discriminated in the matter of releasing funds;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the funds pending for release by the Union Government in respect of Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) There is no such scheme being operated in this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

4179. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 1,500 crore Metro Rail Transport system is waiting for the Railway Board's approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the project is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether Union Government and Government of

Maharashtra have taken up Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) with the help of World Bank;

(d) if so, details thereof alongwith the total cost involved in the project;

(e) the present status of the project;

(f) whether the second phase of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project and Rs.4028 crore Mumbai Transport Harbour link from Sewri to Nhava Sheva is yet to take off; and

(g) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The proposal of State Government of Maharashtra for Metro Rail in Mumbai is under examination of the Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) The details of the above proposal is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Union Government (Ministry of Railways) and Govt. of Maharashtra have taken up Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) with the help of the World Bank.

(d) The total cost of MUTP is Rs.4535/- crore of which the expected World Bank funding is Rs.2601/- crore. The anticipated completion cost of the Rail Component of MUTP is Rs.3510/- crore of which World Bank funding will be Rs.1780/- crore. At present Rail Component has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.3125/- crore at December 2001 prices in 2003-04. In this, World Bank funding is Rs.1613/- crore.

(e) The progress of Rail Component of MUTP as on 31.3.2005 is 28%. The target for completion is June, 2008.

(f) and (g) The rail projects of MUTP Phase II are under consideration of Ministry of Railways. As far as the project of Mumbai Transport Harbour link from Sewri to Nhava Sheva is concerned, this project does not concern to Central Government Ministries/Departments.

Statement

Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has prepared a Master Plan for Metro Rail in Mumbai that envisages 9 corridors for a total length of 146.5 km. (Underground 32.5 km. and elevated 114.0 km.) to be constructed in three phases at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.525 crore (April' 03 prices) during 2005-2021. Phase-I consisting of 3 corridors of total length of 63.8 km. is proposed to be implemented between 2005-2011. The details of these 3 corridors of Phase I are given below:-

Phase-I (2005-11)

Corridor	Length of the Corridor (Km)			Cost (Estimated) (April '03 prices) (in Rs. crore)
	Underground	Elevated	Total	
Line No.1 Versova-Andheri Ghatkopar (VAG)	0.0	15.0	15.0	1500
Line No.2 Colaba (Backbay) – Mahim – Charkop	9.9	26.1	36.0	5085
Line No.3 Mahim to Mankhurd	2.1	10.7	12.8	1595
Total	12.0	51.8	63.8	8180

Of the three Priority I corridors identified in the Master Plan for Mumbai Metro, the Government of Maharashtra intends to first take up Versova – Andheri – Ghatkopar corridor (15 km). The Detailed Project Report (February 2005) for Line 1 - VAG Corridor has been prepared by Govt. of Maharashtra through Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and the proposal received from the GOM shows the cost at June'04 prices as Rs.1488.46 crore, without taxes but including land cost.

The Alignment of the corridor is Versova - D.N Nagar - Azad Nagar - Andheri -Weh- Chakala - Airport Road -Marol Naka - Sakinaka- Subhash Nagar - Asalpha Road -Ghatkopar. All the 12 stations are elevated, located in the middle of the road and designed with elevated concourse with access from both sides of the road. Traffic integration facilities are provided at Andheri Metro Station with Andheri Suburban Railway Station, Ghatkopar Metro Station with Ghatkopar Sub urban Railway Station and Versova with Versova Bus Depot.

The corridor is proposed to be executed on Build Own Operate Transfer (BOOT) basis, Govt. of India contribution has been sought towards Viability Gap funding (estimated to be the tune of Rs.450-500 crore) and equity. The exact requirement of Viability Gap funding and equity will be available only after the bidding process initiated by the State Government is finalised in the meantime, on the basis of the State Government's proposal of February 2005, "in - principle" approval to the project is under examination in consultation with the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Financial Powers for Purchase of Materials

4180. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the zonal Headquarters of South-East Central Railway, Bilaspur has been given full financial powers for the purchase of various materials needed for the zone;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Regional industries are accorded any priority in the purchase of such materials used in this Railway zone;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Railways are likely to take any initiatives for setting up industries for those materials for which there is no industry presently;

(f) if so, whether the Railway Zone has taken up this matter with the Chhattisgarh Government; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The General Manager of South-East Central Railway, Bilaspur, has been delegated financial powers upto Rs. 15 crore for procurement of stores on par with the General Managers of other Zonal Railways. If the procurement value of stores exceeds Rs. 15 crore, then, purchases are approved by the Railway Board/ Minister of State for Railways/ Minister of Railways.

(b) The powers already delegated are considered adequate.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Railways follows the guidelines of the purchase policy of the Government of India for procurement of materials. Purchase preference is given to the Central Public Sector Enterprises.

(e) Ministry of Railways has no intention of setting up industries for materials required by Railways.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Commission for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)

4181. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided continuation of the Commission for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs);

(b) if so, whether the Commission has been asked to recommend welfare measures and the quantum of reservations in education and Government employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(c) if so, whether the Government has also agreed to give a legal and administrative modalities for implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the problem focused in this Commission and the other points that the Commission has been asked to go into during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the Commission are:

- (i) to elicit the views of State Govts./UTs and others on the subject;
- (ii) to suggest criteria for identification of economically backward classes;
- (iii) to recommend the welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education and Government Employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities;
- (iv) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations.

The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, one Member and one Member Secretary.

The Commission is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months from the date of appointment of the Chairperson.

Classical Languages

4182. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the languages which have been declared as classical languages;

(b) the criteria being followed to declare a language as classical language;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare 'Santali' language as a classical language; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government have declared Tamil as classical language.

(b) The following criteria will be used to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered for classification as a 'classical languages':-

- (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years.
- (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- (iii) The Literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Violation of Children Adoption Act

4183. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a widespread violation of Children Adoption Act by the NGOs throughout the country; particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered against the NGOs who have exported hundreds of children under the cover of Juvenile Justice Act;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken against NGOs found involved in such illegal activities;

(e) whether the Government proposes to issue any fresh directions to the State Governments to stop this malpractice; and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Government of NCT, Delhi has reported the possibility of violations of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) guidelines on adoption and provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 by the adoption agencies. An inquiry is being conducted by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Delhi.

(e) and (f) Guidelines and circulars are issued from time to time to States and Union Territories to promote legal adoptions and streamline adoption procedure.

[Translation]

Grant of Subsidy

4184. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding grant of subsidy like North-Eastern States for Helicopter services being run by state Government to save the people of Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Pangi-Bharmaur tehsil of Chamba district from natural calamities and epidemic which remained as inaccessible from rest of the country for about six months due to heavy snowfall;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received in the recent past. It is, however, mentioned that the Ministry of Civil Aviation does not have any provision for providing subsidy to helicopter operations in any State or Union Territory.

Anti-Collision Device

4185. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No.460 dated August 26, 2004 regarding Anti-Collision Device and state:

(a) whether the work of providing Anti-Collision Device (ACD) as a Pilot Project on North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government has taken up further work of providing ACD on other sections the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the routes/ sections selected and estimated expenditure to be incurred on the project;

(e) the time by which all sections of railways are likely to be provided with ACD;

(f) whether there is any proposal to manufacture these ACD's in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and estimated expenditure involved in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No Sir. Installation of Anti Collision Device in the Rajdhani Route upto Guwahati on North-East Frontier Railway (NFR) has been completed i.e. about 90% of the physical work has been completed. Checking and fine tuning has started. Works are likely to be commissioned by June, 2005.

(b) Total estimated cost of the work on North-East Frontier Railway is Rs. 65.74 crore and the expenditure upto March is Rs. 43.24 crore.

(c) No, Sir. Further work of providing Anti Collision Device will be taken up after the pilot project on North-East Frontier Railway is completed successfully and its effectiveness is proved in the field.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Corporate Safety Plan of Indian Railways (2003-2013), the targets for completion of ACD works on entire Broad Gauge section of 52,600 Route Kilometres is year 2013-14.

(f) Yes, Sir. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL- a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways) has developed Anti Collision Device. KRCL is presently manufacturing the ACDs through their outsourced manufacturing unit in Hyderabad in India,

(g) This out sourced manufacturing facility of ACDs has been created by the technology partner of KRCL. No expenditure has been incurred separately by Ministry of Railways on this so far.

[English]

Allowances of Loco Running Staff

4186. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a High Level Committee for determination of allowances of Loco Running Staff in 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the actions taken/to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Retail Outlets/ Gas Agencies/ Kerosene Depots on Lease Basis

4187. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets/gas agencies and kerosene oil depots being operated by the public sector oil companies on lease basis;

(b) the details of retail outlets/ agencies/depots for which lease was given to the same person for more than two times;

(c) whether the Government are aware that some of the petrol pumps in Delhi are being illegally operated by the former lease-holders even after expiry of the lease;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the number of petrol-pump outlets/gas agencies being operated by the public sector oil companies themselves alongwith the operational profits during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fuel Retailing by ONGC

4188. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is contemplating to undertake retail trade of petrol, diesel and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be invested by ONGC in this trade; and

(d) the number of petrol, diesel and LPG retail outlets proposed to be opened during the current year State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC have been authorized to market transportation fuels and have commissioned their first Retail Outlet (RO) on 19.3.2005 at Mangalore. ONGC have also been allowed to market seasonally surplus LPG through the parallel marketing system or directly, after meeting domestic requirements, till 31.3.2006 and thereafter market LPG with effect from 1.4.2006.

(c) For the financial year 2005-06, ONGC have made a provision of Rs. 10 crore for setting up of ROs.

(d) The opening of ROs depends upon various factors such as identification of viable locations, release of advertisements, conducting interviews etc. and hence it is not possible to indicate the exact number of ROs to be opened by ONGC during the current year. However, ONGC have reported that they propose to open up 15 ROs in Karnataka and Gujarat during the current year at Government/ ONGC owned locations.

Rail Link Projects

4189. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Haryana which are proposed to be linked with new rail lines;

(b) the names of such areas and the States to which these are to be linked;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) (i) The details of on-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Names of important places to be linked by rail line	States
1.	Construction of new rail line between Kalka and Parwanoo	Kalka and Parwanoo	Haryana and Himachal Pradesh
2.	Construction of new rail line between Jind and Sonapat	Sonapat, Gohana and Jind	Haryana
3.	Construction of new rail line between Rewari and Rohtak	Rewari, Jhajjar and Rohtak	Haryana

going new rail line projects falling partly/fully in Haryana State and names of important places and States to be linked by rail line are given as under:

(ii) The following surveys have been included in Budget 2005-2006 for laying new rail lines falling partly/fully in Haryana State:

- Chandigarh-Baddi (35 kms.)
- Bhattu Kalan-Jakhal via Fatehabad and Ratia (80 kms.)
- Hissar to Sirsa via Agroha (93 kms.)
- Yamuna Nagar-Patiala (100 kms.)

(c) and (d) A request has been received from the Government of Haryana for construction of rail line between Rewari and Rohtak. The work of construction of new broad gauge rail line between Rewari and Rohtak via Jhajjar had been included in the Supplementary Budget 2003-04. The final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate is under preparation. An amount of Rs. 2 crore has been proposed in the Budget 2005-06 for this project.

[English]

Homoeopathy Treatment in Military Hospitals

4190. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that there is not a single doctor for homoeopathic medicines in the Army Medical Corps; and
- if so, the steps being taken by the Ministry to include Homoeopathic treatment in the Military Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no Homoeopathic doctor in the Army Medical Corps. The Army Medical Corps provides war-time and peace-time treatment to the Armed Forces personnel and their families. Keeping in view the special requirements of the Armed Forces, the Allopathic system of

medicine is considered more suitable. Hence, there is no proposal for introducing Homoeopathic treatment in Military hospitals.

Doubling of Railway Track

4191. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the length (in KMs) of railway track doubled during each of the last three years;
- the sections on which works of doubling the Railway tracks were executed during the said period; and
- the progress so far made on doubling the rail line between Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 194 Kms, 206 Kms & 282 Kms of railway lines were doubled during 2002- 03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 respectively.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Track linking in the Mukerian-Mirthal section (18 Kms) and Madhopur-Bharoli (12 Kms) has been completed. Work is in various stages of progress in remaining section.

Statement

Doubling on the following sections were completed during the last three years, i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05.

S. No.	Name of projects/sections	Kms.
1	2	3
1	Chandanpur-Gurup	7
2	Alipur-Akra	9
3	Parsa Bazar - Punpun	6

1	2	3
4	Siho-Karpurigram (part)	28
5	Colonelganj-Jarwal Road	9
6	Calicut-Mangalore (part)	41
7	Bangarapet-Bisanatham-Kuppam	35
8	Vijayawada-Krishna Canal	5
9	Naila-Champa	11
10	Champa-Balpur	7
11	Bilaspur-Dagori & Nipania-Bhatapara	35
12	Kesinga-Norla Road	23
13	Bolpur-Ahmedpur	19
14	Gurup-Pallaroad 3rd line	20
15	Sheoraphuli-Diara	6
16	Jarwal Road-Burhwal	5
17	Gorakhpur-Domingarh	6
18	Calicut-Shoranur (part)	50
19	Gudur-Renigunta-Tirupati	55
20	Balapalle-Pullampet	22
21	Salegaon-Nergundi	5
22	Rahama-Paradeep	23
23	Kapilas-Nergundi (3.5 km) & Nergundi-Birupa Cabin (3 km)	6.5
24	Belliary-Hagari & Guntakal-Hagari of Hospet-Guntakal	65
25	Barauni-Tilrath	8
26	Semapur-Katihar	11
27	Mansi-Maheshkunt	10
28	Gaya-Chakhand	9
29	Punpun-Taregna	16
30	Lanjigarh Road-Norla Road of Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	5
31	2nd Bridge over Birupa, Birupa Cabin-Kendrapara Road of Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur	5

1	2	3
32	Mukerian-Mirthal & Madhopur-Bharoli of Jallandhar-Jammu Tawi	30
33	Pattabhiram-Thiruvallur 3rd line	16
34	Mankpur-Cheonki	18
35	Amroha-Moradabad	37
36	Ahmedpur-Sainthia	13
37	Panskura-Rajgoda	6
Total		682.5

Use of EMU between Colmbatore-Ernakulam Rail Line

4192. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to put EMUs in regional service between Coimbatore-Ernakulam railway line to ensure speedy and efficient commuter traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Railways is taking up to achieve the objective; and

(c) the steps taken for setting up of facilities in Kerala for service and maintenance of EMUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration in Rajasthan

4193. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploration and development works of oil and natural gas in Rajasthan are being carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Limited and M/s Cairn Energy.

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred and achievements made during the last three years;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. proposes to set up oil refineries in the country particularly in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the places indentified and the time by which those are likely to be set up; and

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. are carrying out exploration and development activities in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL are as under:-

	(Rs. in crores)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
OIL	7.42	6.50	10.84
ONGC	6.56	8.46	6.46

OIL have established in-place reserve of the order of 9.29 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of natural gas and 14.60 MMT of heavy oil. ONGC have also established 3.35 BCM of in-place gas reserves. The gas produced by OIL and ONGC is in the range of 0.75-0.80 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), which is supplied to the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL) for power generation.

An expenditure of US \$ 174.6 Million had been made by M/s Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. and 7 oil and gas discoveries were made during the last three years.

M/s Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd. are carrying out exploration activities in the pre-NELP block RJ-ON-90/1 falling in the State of Rajasthan. Till date, a total of 9 oil and gas discoveries have been made in this block. 4 of the discoveries, namely Mangla, Aishwarya, Saraswati and Rageshwari have been declared as commercial. The remaining 5 discoveries are being appraised by the operator. The in-place reserves are estimated to be 136.34 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

(c) to (e) ONGC remains focused in its core activity, namely, exploitation of hydrocarbons in the country. However, in tune with practice of global oil and gas majors, ONGC have been seeking opportunities for value chain integration and for synergistic value addition to their existing streams of operation.

In view of the special characteristics of Heavy crude found in block RJ-ON-90/1, the joint venture partners, namely, ONGC (30%) and Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd. (70%) are

exploring all possibilities of evacuation of crude vis-a-vis setting up a Well Head refinery.

As the field is still under exploration, the location of the proposed refinery and expenditure thereon can only be firmed up after due appraisal of the likely reserves base and completing the detailed feasibility studies for the refinery.

[English]

Running of Jammu Tawi-Haridwar Express via Amritsar

4194. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received to run the Jammu Tawi-Haridwar Express train via Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Some representations were received. These were examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

Grants-in-Aid to NGOs

4195. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests of NGOs regarding grant-in-aid including for handicapped are pending with the Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the number of pending proposals State/UT-wise is enclosed. The request of NGOs for grant in aid will be considered provided that their proposals are complete in all respects, availability of funds and number of projects already existing in the area.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	No. of proposals pending
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	88
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1

1	2	3
3	Assam	26
4	Bihar	22
5	Chhattisgarh	11
6	Delhi	20
7	Goa	0
8	Gujarat	143
9	Haryana	8
10	Himachal Pradesh	17
11	Jammu and Kashmir	3
12	Jharkhand	7
13	Karnataka	63
14	Kerala	40
15	Madhya Pradesh	53
16	Maharashtra	62
17	Manipur	55
18	Meghalaya	0
19	Mizoram	2
20	Nagaland	3
21	Orissa	37
22	Punjab	8
23	Rajasthan	17
24	Sikkim	1
25	Tamil Nadu	51
26	Tripura	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	181
28	Uttaranchal	12
29	West Bengal	29
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
31	Chandigarh	1
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
33	Daman and Diu	0
34	Lakshadweep	0
35	Pondicherry	0
Total		965

Bridges in Karnataka

4196. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for construction of Rail-Over-Bridge/ Rail-Under-Bridge at railway crossing near Moti Talkies and a foot over-bridge-near the railway gates in Davangere in Karnataka are pending for a very long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency;

(c) the time by which the work on these projects are likely to be started; and

(d) the amount allocated/released for these projects during 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No proposal has been received from State Government for construction of Rail over bridge/Rail Under bridge near Moti Talkies and Foot Over Bridge near Railway Gates.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Acquiring of Land by KRC

4197. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of implementing project 'Konkan Railways' an assurance was given to those persons from whom lands were acquired for the project, to give employment or opportunity to set up stalls, shops in railway stations;

(b) if so, whether it has been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railway projects do not come under the category of construction of dams where whole of villages are displaced. Therefore, no employment to landlosers is provided as a matter of right. However, Konkan Railway on their own have tried to accommodate the interest of landlosers, even after paying all the legally due compensation and solatium amount. As a Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) policy, priority is always given to the landlosers who have lost their land for Konkan Railway project so that one member of the family is given a job and the same opportunity is given in allotment of stall etc. Thus any business Opportunity at the stations is always offered

first to the landlosers. Already 926 landlosers have been given jobs in Group 'C' & 'D' after due selection and 76 stalls/STD Booths/Mobile Trolleys/Milk Parlours, etc. have been given to the landlosers.

[Translation]

ROB on Railway Crossing

4198. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of the Government for construction of a ROB on railway crossing between Nai Bazar and Shankar Bazar near railway station, district Chitrakut, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter and construction work commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No firm proposal has yet been received from the State Govt.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipe Line for Crude Oil

4199. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. proposes to use the Kandla-Bhatinda pipelines for curde oil instead of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this scheme of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is going to affect the interests of various refineries; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for maintaining continuity in the supply of petroleum products in the western regions?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Part of the pipeline is under conversion to crude oil service by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

(b) As the most economical option, the pipeline is being converted to meet the additional crude oil requirement for IOC's Panipat Refinery.

(c) and (d) The Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline was constructed to transport imported petroleum products mainly to northwestern parts of India. On conversion of the Kandla-

Panipat Pipeline section to crude oil service, it has been ensured that the supply of petroleum products to the western and north western regions will be met through several new pipelines, which have already been laid for that purpose, namely Koyali-Viramgam – Sidhpur product pipeline, Sidhpur-Sanganer product pipeline and Panipat-Rewari product pipeline.

[English]

Extension of Tenure of Godhra Inquiry Committee

4200. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to further extend the tenure of the high-level committee set up to inquire into the fire incident on Sabarmati Express at Godhra station;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The tenure of the High Level Committee set up to inquire into the incident of Fire on Sabarmati Express at Godhra station is upto 04-06-2005. No proposal is under consideration at present to further extend the tenure of the said Committee.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs.26,04,271/-.

[Translation]

Funds under Welfare Schemes

4201. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated/released under various

welfare schemes for SCs, disabled, minorities, orphans and other weaker sections during 2004-05 to different States/ Union Territories, scheme-wise, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the funds actually utilized by each State/Union Territory under such schemes and number of persons benefited during the said period, scheme-wise;

(c) whether complaints regarding mis-utilisation or diversion of funds by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been received during the said period;

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

(e) whether the Government has paid proper attention towards the backward and poor people living under BPL under these schemes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of new schemes, if any, launched for upliftment of said communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Organisation of Exhibitions by DAVP

4202. SHRI D. B. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exhibitions organized by the Exhibition Wing of DAVP in the capital during the last one year;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the future plans of DAVP in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The details of exhibitions organised by the Exhibition Wing of DAVP in the capital during the last one year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 24.39 lakhs was sanctioned for this purpose.

(c) It has been the endeavour of DAVP to organise exhibitions on developmental and other themes. Some of the issues on which exhibitions are planned in near future include HIV/AIDS awareness, National Integration, Health & Family Welfare, Government's Policies & Achievements, etc.

Statement

Details of Exhibitions organized by the Exhibition Wing of DAVP in the capital during last one year

Sl. No.	Exhibition Title/Venue	Date of Exhibition
1	2	3
1.	K.L. Saigal, Siri-Fort	28.4.04 – 2.5.04
2.	Awareness of AIDS, Netaji Nagar	25.5.04 – 29.5.04
3.	Awareness of AIDS, Laxmibai Nagar	01.6.04 – 05.06.04
4.	AIDS & Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Sarojini Nagar	08.06.04 – 12.06.04
5.	AIDS & Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Moti Bagh	15.06.04 – 19.06.04
6.	Orient Programme for RS Members, Parliament Annex	24.06.04 – 25.06.04
7.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Nirman Bhawan	9.7.04 – 12.7.04
8.	AIDS & Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Vishwakarma Park	13.7.04 – 17.7.04
9.	AIDS & Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Mayur Vihar-II	20.7.04 – 24.7.04
10.	AIDS & Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Trilok Puri	27.7.04 – 31.7.04
11.	AIDS & Tobacco, Kalyan Puri	03.08.04 – 7.8.04
12.	Polio, Vigyan Bhawan	7.8.04 – 8.8.04
13.	Freedom Struggle of India, Sarojini Nagar	14.8.04 – 23.8.04

1	2	3
14.	Parliament at Work, Parliament Library.	18.8.04 – 27.8.04
15.	AIDS & Tobacco, R.K. Puram, Sector-VIII	6.9.04 – 11.9.04
16.	AIDS & Tobacco, Moti Bagh	14.9.04 – 18.9.04
17.	AIDS & Tobacco, R.K. Puram, Sector-II	21.9.04 – 25.9.04
18.	AIDS & Tobacco, R.K. Puram, Sector-IV	28.9.04 – 4.10.04
19.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, ITPO	21.9.04 – 26.9.04
20.	Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Nagar	1.10.04 – 10.10.04
21.	AIDS & Tobacco, Jafarpur	7.10.04 – 14.10.04
22.	AIDS & Tobacco, Base Hospital, Jharoda	16.10.04 – 23.10.04
23.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Najafgarh	26.10.04 – 2.11.04
24.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, R.K. Puram	6.11.04 – 7.11.04
25.	K. Kamraj, Vigyan Bhawan	27.10.04
26.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Talkatora Grounds	29.10.04 – 7.11.04
27.	Jawaharlal Nehru, National Stadium	14.11.04
28.	Sukhi Parivar, Pragati Maidan	14.11.04 – 27.11.04
29.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, US Embassy	4.12.04
30.	Dange Gopalan & A Narendra Dev, Parliament House	10.12.04 – 15.12.04
31.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Moti Nagar	15.1.05 – 16.1.05
32.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Tikri Kalan	15.1.05 – 16.1.05
33.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Bakkarwala	7.2.05 – 8.2.05
34.	Women in India, Mandir Marg, New Delhi	20.2.05 – 22.2.05
35.	J & K – A Passage in Time, IGNC, New Delhi	21.2.05 – 4.3.05
36.	Development Init. In N-E region, ITPO, Pragati Maidan	7.3.05 – 14.3.05
37.	Healthy Mother Healthy Child, Talkatora Stadium	7.3.05
38.	Dandi March, JNU, New Delhi	12.3.05
39.	Tsunami Challenge, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi	15.3.05 – 21.3.05

**Co-production of Aircraft
with US Firms**

4203. SHRI MILIND DEORA:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached between India and US on Co-production of fighter aircraft including F -16s and F -18s with US firms;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the time by which the co-production is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

ROB at Maksi Railway Crossing

4204. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways was received any proposal from the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for construction of over bridge at Maksi railway crossing on Agra-Mumbai National Highway No.3, situated on Ujjain-Bhopal rail line under, Western Railway Division, Ratlam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No proposal has been received from Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways. However, National Highway Authority (NH Circle), Indore has proposed Road Over Bridge on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) concept at this location to the Zonal Railway.

General Arrangement Drawing for it had already been approved by Railway in Nov. 2001 but, thereafter, no progress has been made by Road Authority.

[English]

Loss Making CPSUs

4205. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Public Undertakings constantly incurring losses for the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for their running in losses;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government for restructuring of loss making CPSUs for their turn around; and

(e) the names of the Central Public Sector Undertakings closed during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The information is given in Statement 7 B of the Public Enterprises Survey 2002-03 which was laid in the Parliament on 8.6.2004 and is a published document.

(b) and (c) The Public Enterprises Survey which is laid in the Parliament every year contains analysis of reasons of losses which include inherent problems of the taken over CPSEs, old plants and machinery, outdated technology, high interest burden, resource crunch, high input costs, stiff competition, low capacity utilization, weak marketing strategies etc. Similar observations have been made in the Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial).

(d) Enterprise specific need based measures are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments/CPSE from time to time. As per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 the sick industrial CPSEs are referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for framing suitable revival schemes. The National Common Minimum Programme stipulates that every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry. A Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has been set up to consider the cases of sick and loss making CPSEs and to make recommendations to the Government in this regard.

(e) As per available information, establishments of 15 CPSEs namely Bharat Brakes and Valves Limited, Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers. Ltd., Canwore Textiles Limited, Cycle Corporation of India Ltd., The Elgin Mills Company Limited, Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd., National Bicycle Corp. of India Ltd., Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, RBL Limited, Southern Pesticides Corporation Limited, Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited and Weighbird India Limited had been closed upto 31.3.2003. In addition, Mandya National Paper Mills Limited has been wound up.

**Doubling of Rail Line Between
Bangalore and Mysore**

4206. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the doubling of Railway line between Bangalore and Mysore is going on at slow pace;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of work on the line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) On Bangalore-Mysore section, doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri (12 kms) and Kengeri-Ramanagaram (32 kms) sections have been taken up on 2/3rd cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. The matching funds have not been provided by the State Government which is affecting the progress of works. Doubling of Bangalore-Kengeri-Bidadi (27 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

Work on doubling of balance length i.e. Ramanagaram-Mysore (95 kms) is not yet approved for which survey has been taken up.

[Translation]

**Doubling of Barharva to Teen Pahar
Rail Line Project**

4207. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of doubling of railway line from Barharva to Teen Pahar Project; and
- (b) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The detailed estimate for doubling of Barharwa-Tinpahar section has been sanctioned. Earthwork and minor bridges have been taken up. An outlay of Rs.3 crore has been proposed for the work in Budget 2005-06.

(b) The target date for completion of the project has not yet been fixed.

[English]

**Electrification of Villupuram-
Madurai Line**

4208. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Southern Railway for electrification in the broad-gauge line between Villupuram and Madurai viz. Tiruchy; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only proposal for electrification of Villupuram-Tiruchchirappalli section (178 Route kilometres) at a cost of Rs.87.82 crore has been received recently. Final decision to electrify this section depends upon the appraisal of the proposal.

[Translation]

Illegal Transaction of Defence Land

4209. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal transaction of Defence land in cantonment area of Delhi is being carried out; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No case of illegal transaction of Defence land in the Cantonment area of Delhi has come to the notice of Government.

- (b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Bilateral Defence Ties with Russia

4210. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Russia have reached an agreement to carry forward their bilateral defence ties;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to strengthen bilateral defence ties?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) There exists an institutional mechanism for discussion on defence cooperation with the Russian Federation in the form of 'India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation'. The Commission has held four meetings so

far. The fourth meeting of the Commission was held in New Delhi on December 1-2, 2004. The Commission proposed enhancement of ongoing military technical cooperation and promotion of military-to-military relations including conduct of combined exercises by the armed forces of Russia and India.

Allotment of Catering Contracts at Stations

4211. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure/criteria adopted by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for allotment of Pantry Car, Catering Contracts as well as food plaza at Railway Stations;

(b) the details of earnings of pantry car, catering contracts as well food plaza during the last three years; and

(c) the details of contractors who were allotted the above-mentioned contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per extant Catering Policy guidelines, issued by the Ministry of Railways, licences of pantry cars and food Plazas and other major contracts are awarded by Indian railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) under two packet tendering system inviting pre-qualified eligible parties through press notification. Packet

'A' consists of the technical criteria and Packet 'B' consists of the financial bid. The financial bids are opened for those bidders who qualify in technical criteria (packet -A). The highest financial bidder is awarded the licence of the unit. In case of small static units, the applications are screened with reference to eligibility conditions and the licence is awarded after competitive tenders amongst qualified applicants.

(b) The details of earnings of pantry car, catering contracts as well food plaza is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) The details of contractors who were allotted the above mentioned contracts is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Earning from catering units (Mobile and other Static Units) and Food Plazas during last Three Years.

(Fig. in Lakhs of Rs.)

2002-03	2002-03	2002-03	Total
Mobile and Other Static Units			
1107.70	1394.37	1750.45	4252.52
Food Plazas			
86.16	219.41	461.51	767.08
1193.86	1613.78	2211.96	5019.60

Statement-II

Pantry Cars operated by Contractors under IRCTC (Mail/Express Trains)

S.No.	Train No.	Train Name	Pair of Station	Name of the Licensee
1	2	3	4	5
1	5645-46	GHY-DR Express	GHY-DR	M/s Boon's Catering Co.
2	6023-24	MAS-SBC Express	MAS-SBC	M/s K M A Caterers
3	3151-52	Sealdah Express	SDAH-JAT	M/s Doon's Caterers
4	2141-42	LTT-PNBE Express	LTT-PNBE	M/s R K Agrawal
5	2165-66	LTT-BSB Express	LTT-BSB	M/s Ambuj Hotel
6	6009-10	MAS-CSTM Mail	MAS-CSTM	M/s R K Agrawal
7	6011-12	MAS-CSTM Mail	MAS-CSTM	M/s R K Agrawal
8	6909-10	All-SBC Exp.	All-SBC	M/s K M A Caterers
9	2925-26	Paschim Express	BDS-ASR	M/s R C Goel
10	8003-04	HWH-YPR Exp	HWH-YPR	M/s K M A Caterers
11	2903-04	Golden Temple Mail	BCT-ASR	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
12	2129-30	Azad Hind Express	PA-HWH	M/s R K Enterprises
13	1031-32	PA-BSB Express	PA-BSB	M/s R K Enterprises

1	2	3	4	5
14	3201-02	PNBE-CLA Express	PNBE-CLA	M/s R K. Enterprises
15	6803-04	TPJ-HWH Express	TPJ-HWH	M/s Kwaliti Caterers
16	6317-18	Himsagar Express	CAPE-JAT	M/s Kwaliti Caterers
17	6355-56	CAPE-HWH Express	HWH-CAPE	M/s K M A Caterers
18	8111-12	Ispat Express	HWH-ROU	M/s Food World
19	2321-22	HWH-CSTM Exp.	HWH-CSTM	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
20	2627-28	Karnataka Exp.	SBC-NDLS	M/s K M A Caterers
21	6351-52	NCJ-TPTY Exp.	NCJ-TPTY	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
22	6353-54	TPTY-CSTM Exp.	TPTY-CSTM	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
23	2559-60	Shiv Ganag Exp.	NDLS-BSB	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
24	2557-58	Delhi MFP	NDLS-MFP	M/s R K Enterprises
25	1033-34	Pune - Darbhanga	PA-Darbhanga	M/s R K Enterprises
26	5631-32	GHY-JU Express	GHY-JU	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
27	2307-08	Howrah Jodhpur	HWH-JU	M/s Food World
28	6505-06	SBC-GIM Express	SBC-GIM	M/s P K Sheffi
29	6507-08	SBC-JU Express	SBC-JU	M/s P K Sheffi
30	2641-42	Thirukmral Express	CAPE-NZM	M/s Bharat Ctg. Corp.
31	6127-28	MS-GUV Express	MS-GUV	M/s C K K Catering
32	8477-78	Kalingautkal Express	PURI-NDLS	M/s Doon's Caterers
33	2679-80	Intercity Express	CBE-MAS	M/s Arenco Catering
34	2131-32	PA-NGP Express	PA-NGP	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
35	1037-38	PA-PNBE Express	PA-PNBE	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
36	1013-14	CBE-CLA Express	CBE-CLA	M/s K M A Caterers
37	6311-12	TVC-JU Express	TVC-JU	M/s Our's Aarya Bhawan
38	6033-34	MAS-DDN Exp	MAS-DDN/CDG	M/s Boon's Catering Co.
39	8237-38	Chattisgarh Express	BSP-ASR	M/s Midwest Caterers
40	2561-62	Swantarta Sennai	MFP-NDLS	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
41	2811-12	HTE-LTT Express	HTE-LTT	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
42	8613-14	HTE-YPR Express	HTE-YPR Express	M/s Boon's Caterers
43	2985-86	JP-SDAH Express	JP-SDAH	M/s Boon's Catering Co.
44	5227-28	MFP YPR	Express MFP-YPR	M/s Our'S Aarya Bhawan
45	3413-14	Farkha Express	MLDT-BNW	M/s Ambuj Hotel
46	3483-84	Farkha Express	MLDT-BNW	M/s Ambuj Hotel
47	2179-80	Taj Express	NZM-GWL-NZM	M/s R D Sharma (TSV)
48	1103-04	Intercity Express	NZM-AGC-NZM	M/s R D Sharma (TSV)
49	6345-46	Netravati Exp	TVC-LTT	M/s V Gangadharan

1	2	3	4	5
50	7091-92	SC-RJPB Exp	SC-RJPB	M/s Midwest Caterers
51	2649-50	Samparak Kranti	YPR-NZM	M/s Roop Caterers
52	2391-92	Sharamjeevi Exp	RGD-NDLS	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
53	7037-38	SC-BKN Exp	SC-BKN	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
54	2553-54	Vaishali Express	BJU-NDLS	M/s Mahesh H Caterers

Pantry Cars operated by Contractors under IRCTC (Rajdhani / Shatabdi Exp. Trains)

1	2003-04	Shatabdi Express	LKO-NDLS	M/s R K Associates
2	2035-36	Shatabdi Express	LKO-NDLS	M/s R K Associates
3	2001-02	Shatabdi Express	NDLS-BPL	M/s Ambuj Hotel
4	2439-40	Rajdhani Express	NDLS-HTE	M/s Arabui Hotel
5	2441-42	Rajdhani Express	NDLS-BSP	M/s Doon's Caterers
6	2437-38	Rajdhani Express	NZM-SC	M/s Food World
7	2423-24	Rajdhani Express	NDLS-GHY/ DBRT	M/s R K Enterprises
8	2435-36	Rajdhani Express	NDLS-GHY/ DBRT	M/s R K Enterprises
9	2051-52	Jan Shatabdi	LTT-MAO	M/s R K Enterprises
10	2053-54	Jan Shatabdi	LKO-ALD	M/s Bharat Ctg. Corp
11	2079-80	Jan Shatabdi	SBC-UBL	M/s Golden Caterers
12	2061-62	Jan Shatabdi	JBP-HBJ	M/s R D Sharma
13	2077-78	Jan Shatabdi	MS-BZA	M/s Our's Aarya Bhawan
14	2081-82	Jan Shatabdi	NBVJ-ADI	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
15	2065-66	Jan Shatabdi	MLDT-HWH	M/s J K Ghosh
16	2055-56	Jan Shatabdi	NDLS-DDN	M/s Doon's Caterers
17	2059-60	Jan Shatabdi	NZM-KTT	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
18	2075-76	Jan Shatabdi	ERS-TVC	M/s Our's Aarya Bhawan
19	2057-58	Jan Shatabdi	NDLS-CDG	M/s Pee Kay Associates
20	2073-74	Jan Shatabdi	HWH-BBS	M/s Poorvanchal
21	2021-22	Jan Shatabdi	TATA-HWH	M/s Food World
22	2069-70	Jan Shatabdi	RIG-DURG	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
23	2067-68	Jan Shatabdi	GHY-DMV	M/s J K Ghosh
24	2083-84	Jan Shatabdi	TJ-CBE	M/s Arenco Catering
25	2023-24	Jan Shatabdi	PNBE-HWH	M/s Bharat Ctg. Corp

Pantry Cars awarded by IRCTC (Mail /Express Trains - not operational)

1	2	3	4	5
1	5635-36	GHY-OKHA Express	GHY-OKHA	M/s Mahesh H Caterers
2	5637-38	GHY-SC Express	GHY-SC	M/s Midwest Caterers
3	5639-40	GHY-PURI Express	GHY-PURI	M/s Poorvanchal
4	2107-08	LTT-LKOExp	LTT-LKO	M/s Boon Ctg.Co.(P) Ltd.
5	5933-34	DBRT-ASR Exp	DBRT-ASR	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons

Food Plazas Operated by Contractors under IRCTC

1	Pune	5th May'02	R K Associates
2	Mumbai Central	31st October'02	RKHS
3	Nizamuddin	5th September'03	RK Associate
4	Delhi	31st August'03	R K Associates
5	Allahabad	28th June'03	Hotel Kanha Shyam
6	Howrah	24th July'03	R K Associates
7	Visakhapatnam	24th June'03	Ambica Empire
8	Tata Nagar	10th September'03	Hotel Amarjeet
9	Ranchi	30th August'03	Airport Restaurent
10	Patna FF	11th April'03	Airport Restaurent
11	Patna GF	11th April'03	Airport Restaurent
12	Chennai	16th July'02	Oriental Cuisines
13	Bilaspur	15th December'03	A S Sales Corp.
14	Tirupati	3rd February'04	Good Lands
15	Bangalore City	8th December'03	R K Associates
16	Thrissur	13th December'03	Arengo Catering
17	Kurseong	10th March 03	Glenary's
18	Nagpur	6th Feb'04	R K Agrawal
19	Rajendra Nagar	28th February 04	Poorvanchal Caterers
20	Vijyawada	10th May 04	R K Agrawal
21	Agra Cantt	8th June 04	R K Associates
22	Chennai Egmore	05th April 04	Adyar Ananda
23	Madurai	21st April 04	Oriental Cuisines
24	Ernakulam	27th September 04	Hotel Highway Palace
25	Tiruchapalli	15th October 04	C K K Catering
26	Shoranur	1st December 04	Hotel Highway Palace
27	Chennai Beach	4th December 04	Arengo Catering

1	2	3	4
28	Allahabad City Side	21st December 04	A S Sales Corp.
29	Churchgate - CH	28th December 04	Food World
30	Howrah - Old	22nd February'05	Switz Foods
31	Raipur	17th March'05	Hotel Celebration
32	Rajamundry	22nd March'05	Good Lands

Food Plazas Awarded by IRCTC (Not Operational)

S.No.	Station	Name of the Licensee	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	Habibganj	Samdariya
1	Coimbatore	Arenco Catering	5	Chennai Park	Arenco Catering
2	Churchgate	Wimpy's	6	Trivandrum	Royal India Marketing
3	Emakulam Town	Hotel Highway Palace	7	Jabalpur	Samdariya
			8	Secunderabad	Midwest Caterers

Static catering services operated by Contractors under IRCTC

S.No.	Station	Activity	Name of the Licensee
1	AGC	Sale of Petha & Dalmoth	M/s Kwality Petha House
2	AGC	Food & Beverages	M/s R K Associates
3	AGC	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Universal Dairy
4	MTJ	Sale of Peda/Petha	M/s Kwality Petha House
5	MTJ	Food & Beverages	M/s Hakmi Chand D & Sons
6	MTJ	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Vadilal Enterprises
7	NGP	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Dinshaw Dairy Foods
8	BSL	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Dinshaw Dairy Foods
9	JHS	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Universal Dairy
10	DGR	Food & Beverages	M/s Urvashi
11	DHN	Food & Beverages	Poorvanchal Caterers
12	NRCH Canteen		Bharat Catg. Corp.
13	BUI	Cafeteria	J P Singh & Bros
14	Begumpet	Fast food outlet	M/s Midwest Caterers
15	Lingampally	Fast food outlet	M/s Midwest Caterers
16	Bharat Nagar	Fast food outlet	M/s Midwest Caterers
17	Nature Care	Fast food outlet	M/s Midwest Caterers
18	NDLS	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Universal Dairy
19	NZM	Sale of Ice cream	M/s Universal Dairy
20	DLI	Sale of Ice cream	M/s GCMMF
	Small Units		
21	MNE	Stalls	Manoj Kumar
22	JP	Stalls	Kurshid Ahmed
23	AWR	Stalls	Prakash C Verma
24	GDAJ	Stalls	Smt. Arti Jain

AVMs operated by Contractors under IRCTC

S.No.	Name of the Licensee	
Hot Beverages		
1	AVMs at MAS/MMC	Fresh & Honest Cafe
2	AVMs at MAS/MMC	Amalgamated Coffee
3	AVMs at MAS/MMC	Hindustan Lever Ltd.
4	AVMs at MAS/MMC	Nestle India Ltd.
5	AVMs at MAS/MMC	Amalgamated Coffee
6	AVMs at BCT	Amalgamated Coffee
7	AVMs at ST	Nestle India Ltd.
8	AVMs at HYB	Fresh & Honest Cafe
9	AVMs at SC	Fresh & Honest Cafe
10	AVMs at HYB	Hindustan Lever Ltd.
11	AVMs at SC	Hindustan Lever Ltd.
12	AVMs at BZA	Fresh & Honest Cafe
<i>AVMs awarded IRCTC (Not operational)</i>		
Hot Beverages		
13	AVMs at DR	Amalgamated Coffee
14	AVMs at CSTM	Nestle India Ltd.
15	AVMs at DR	Nestle India Ltd.
16	AVMs at JBP	Nestle India Ltd.
17	AVMs at MML	Nestle India Ltd.
18	AVMs at CRCH	Hindustan Beverages
19	AVMs at CSTM	Amalgamated Coffee
20	AVMs at BCT	Amalgamated Coffee
Cold Beverages		
21	AVMs at HYB	Pepsi Foods Ltd.
22	AVMs at CCO	Hindustan Beverages
23	AVMs at JBP	Pepsi Foods Ltd.
24	AVMs at MML	Pepsi Foods Ltd.
25	AVMs at CRCH	Hindustan Beverages
26	AVMs at BCT	Hindustan Beverages

Development of Language Theatres

4212. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National School of Drama has received any representation that the theatres in various languages be developed as national theatres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain eminent theatre personalities have submitted such representation to the Government. The important demands are:-

1. Define National Theatre policy – According National Theatre status to all the national languages theatres of India.
2. Allocate resources for theatre to adequately face the huge challenge of entertainment industry.
3. National School of Drama, National Theatre Repertory and Theatre-in-Education Programme may be set up in all the States of the country.
4. Do 'cultural auditing' of the existing central and state cultural institutions (apart from their financial auditing).

(c) The Government has directed the National School of Drama to discuss the issue in the appropriate forum of the School i.e. the National School of Drama Society.

Disinvestment of Oil

4213. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to disinvest 47% share of Oil India Ltd. with Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether this disinvestment is oriented towards merger of the oil companies;

(d) if so, whether in case of merger OIL would become a subsidiary of IOC; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Excavation Under Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan Virashad Pariyojna

4214. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excavation work has been undertaken at certain places under 'Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan Virashad Pariyojna';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on this project so far; and

(d) the evidence found so far to establish the existence of Saraswati river?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No excavation work has been undertaken under 'Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan Virashad Pariyojna'.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) No evidence to establish river Sarasvati has been found so far.

[English]

Construction of Airports

4215. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out a master action plan to construct futuristic airports using the modern concept of glass and steel replacing cement and mortar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is roping any private firms into this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on each airport identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to construct futuristic airports

using glass and steel in addition to conventional materials at Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trichy, Dibrugarh, Kolkata, Surat, Calicut, Srinagar, Amritsar, IGI Delhi, CSI Mumbai, Varanasi, Khajuraho, Madurai, Mangalore and Vizag airports.

(c) and (d) Private firms are being appointed for designing terminal buildings, aerobridges and other aesthetically good airport design by holding global and national design competitions in accordance with the guidelines of Council of Architecture.

(e) The amount likely to be spent on modern buildings is (Rs. in crores): Ahmedabad (145.00), Trivandrum (150.00), Jaipur (80.00), Udaipur (69.45), Trichy (planning stage), Dibrugarh (49.00), Kolkata (160.00), Surat (35.30), Calicut (89.48), Srinagar (77.48), Amritsar (75.00), IGI Delhi (90.00), CSI Mumbai (85.66), Varanasi (planning stage), Khajuraho (planning stage), Madurai (planning stage), Mangalore (planning stage) and Vizag (94.93).

Container Traffic Movement

4216. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received proposals from private transporting companies for entering the container traffic movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some parties have applied for operation of container trains on the lines of Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR). In order to meet the growing demand for container trains, organizations other than CONCOR will also be considered for movement of container traffic, as per the guidelines of the revised policy being formulated.

Payment of Entertainment Tax

4217. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has opined that multi-service operators (MSOs), and not cable operators, are liable to pay entertainment tax levied by States as reported in 'the Hindustan Times' dated March 17, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to ensure that the MSOs do not pass this burden on cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delay in Award of Licences

4218. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has lost total revenue of about Rs.22.49 crore due to delay in award of licences to operate money exchange counters and accepting a lower rate license fee from car park licenses as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter;

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

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report has observed that Airports Authority of India (AAI) has lost a total revenue of about Rs.22.49 crore due to delay in award of licences to operate money exchange counter and accepting a lower rate licence fee from car park licences etc. As per AAI, the delay in award of the contract for money exchange counter was mainly due to the court cases filed by various parties in courts at Mumbai, Kolkata and Trivandrum. As regards the acceptance of lower rate of licence fee from car park, as per AAI, there has never been a proportional increase commensurate with percentage increase in the revision of car park rates due to lower use of parking area.

(c) to (e) The observations of CAG are under examination.

Joint Programme of Air India and Indian Airlines

4219. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and the Indian Airlines have launched/ proposed to launch any joint programme to face

the impending competition in the domestic and international skies from the private sector airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Details of joint initiatives undertaken by both Air India and Indian Airlines to face competition are:- (i) Joint Frequent Flier Membership Programme called Flying Returns; (ii) Utilization of the spare capacity of Indian Airlines by Air India flights during night when there are no scheduled operations; (iii) Air India and Indian Airlines propose to finalise a code share agreement under which Indian Airlines will offer a certain number of seats on select flights to Air India at agreed price and (iv) Special Prorate Agreement between Air India and Indian Airlines whereby Air India offices give preference to selling domestic sectors of Indian Airlines for international passengers arriving from abroad and travelling within India.

Cultural Policy

4220. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to formulate a comprehensive Cultural Policy to save the Cultural Heritage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government is not contemplating to formulate any formal policy document. However, the 'Mission' of the Government includes protection and preservation of all protected monuments and all forms of cultural assets and heritage - both tangible and intangible. For the protection of cultural heritage sites and properties, necessary legislation already exists. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 were enacted for the above purpose. A number of institutions such as the Archaeological Survey of India, National Archives of India, Anthropological Survey of India, Institutes of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, various Museums and Libraries under the administrative control of the Government, Akademies - Sangeet Natak, Lalit Kala, and Sahitya - and National School of Drama have been constituted for this purpose. In addition, the Government is providing grants under various schemes to individuals and institutions including registered societies, trusts and Non-Governmental Organisations for achieving the above policy objectives.

*[Translation]***Replacement of Signal System**

4221. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for replacing the signal from Jodhpur to Phulera in Rajasthan is lying pending for clearance with the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the time by which decision is expected to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal pending for clearance. Two works of upgradation of Signalling System in Jodhpur-Phulera section have been included in the Budget 2005-06 at a total cost of Rs.29.48 crore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation**

4222. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) the allocation of funds to the State units during the said period;

(c) whether the State units are acting as money-lenders, putting the conditions and top-heavy formalities for entertaining the applications of financial assistance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the status of achievements by NMDFC for the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The funds allocated by the Government of India and disbursed by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) for the last three years are as given below.

(in crores of Rs.)

Year	Amount allocated to NMDFC by the Ministry	Amount disbursed by NMDFC to State Channelising Agencies (SCAs)
2002-03	24.00	73.93
2003-04	17.16	86.66
2004-05	73.65	139.00
2005-06	25.00	0.00

(c) No, Sir NMDFC implements its schemes through the State Channelising Agencies (SCA) nominated by the respective States/UTs Governments. These SCAs act as financing institutions following the prevailing norms governing credit activities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A statement showing achievements of NMDFC for the last two years is enclosed.

Statement*National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation*(Amount in Rupees Lakhs)
Updated upto 31/03/2005*State wise achievements of NMDFC for the last two years*

S.No.	State	SCA	2003-04		2004-05	
			Amt.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	APSMFC	640	3847	928	9972
2	Assam	AMDFC	79	770	34	780
3	Bihar	BSMFC	521	2470	811	2572

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Chandigarh	CHCFDCL	13	21	6	10
5	Chhattisgarh	CHACDFC	0	0	50	235
6	Delhi	DSCSTFDC	75	150	100	243
7	Gujarat	GBCDC	0	0	0	0
		GMFDC	600	1507	100	200
8	Himachal Pradesh	HPMFOC	50	70	150	136
9	Haryana	HBCKN	159	473	275	522
10	Jammu and Kashmir	JKSCSTOC	0	0		
		JKWDC	200	327	366	985
11	Jharkhand	JSCSTDC	0	0	100	196
11	Kerala	KBCDC	1025	1665	1850	4530
		KSCFFDC	150	448	55	102
		KSWDC	150	301	275	468
12	Karnataka	KMDC	705	2316	1243	3316
13	Maharashtra	MHBCMFCDC	537	1498	1025	2034
14	Manipur	MTDC	0	0	0	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	MPBCMFCDC	50	556	200	1139
		MPHDC	30	75	35	150
16	Mizoram	MCAB	50	99	0	0
		ZIDCO	0	0	0	0
17	Nagaland	NIDC	260	549	300	481
		NHDC	50	84	130	525
18	Orissa	ORSCSTFDC	33	278	99	664
19	Pondichery	PDBCMDC	9	21	10	25
20	Punjab	BACKFINCO	50	101	350	706
21	Rajasthan	RSCSTFDCC	0	0		
		RMFDCC	55	138	181	699
22	Tamil Nadu	TAMCO	215	1111	325	1322
23	Tripura	TSCDC	0	0	50	87
24	Uttar Pradesh	UPMFDC	1202	2805	1983	6758
25	Uttaranchal	UMFDC	0	0	5	20
25	West Bengal	WBMDFC	1760	5919	2867	7709
		Total	8667	27599	13901	46586

Implementation of Post Based Roster

4223. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the directives of Supreme Court pertaining to Post Based Roster have been implemented by the Railway Board;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Security Department of the major railways have violated these directives since 1998, in selection made under Rules 70 and 72 which was approved by the Railway Board;

(d) the details of selection held under Rules 70 and 72 by the major railways like Northern, North Eastern, South Central and NF Railways during the last three years and the number of SC/ST candidates selected against the total number of posts in each Zone;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for non-implementation of these directives; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court given in the case of J.C. Malik, (where Ministry of Railways was a party) the Post Based Rosters has been implemented based on the principles laid down in R.K. Sabharwal's case. However, the same could not be implemented in case of Group 'B' services where the cadre strength is not fixed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The total number of candidates selected under rule 70 & 72 in the said Railways viz. Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway, North-east Frontier Railway and South Central Railway, during the last three years i.e. 2002 to 2004 and the number of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) candidates amongst them are as under:-

Railways	Selections under 'Rule 70' (on seniority-cum-suitability)				Selection under 'Rule 72'			
	SC	ST	UR*	Total	SC	ST	UR*	Total
Northern Railway	31	10	145	186	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
North Eastern Railway	69	36	195	300	14	1	57	72
North-east Frontier Railway	51	12	143	206	15	9	46	70
South Central Railway	91	54	421	566	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* UR = Unreserved

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Training of Pilots

4224. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme for training of pilots of Indian Air Force by the Russian group before acquiring MIG-29 from Russia; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for procuring MiG-29 from Russia by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the near future. Hence, there is no scheme formulated for training of

IAF pilots. However, for the initial induction of MiG-29 aircraft in 1987, the first batch of pilots were trained in Russia.

Scholarship Schemes for SC Students

4225. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance allocated and released under the scholarship schemes, separately to each State and Union Territory during 2005-06; and

(b) the number of students likely to be benefited from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Financial assistance to the States/UTs is released under the following scholarship schemes for scheduled caste students:-

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes.
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations (which mostly includes Scheduled Castes students.)

Under the above schemes funds are not allocated State-wise but are released based on anticipated expenditure of the State Governments/UT Administrations. No funds have been released to any State/UT during the current financial year 2005-06. Above 29 lakh students are likely to be benefited under the above two schemes during the current financial year.

[English]

Upgradation of Guwahati and Dibrugarh Radio Centres

4226. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Guwahati and Dibrugarh Radio centres run without powerful transmitters;

(b) whether there is any proposal to upgrade both the Centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR, Guwahati and Dibrugarh already have High Power Transmitters. Therefore, there is no proposal to upgrade the power of transmitters at these places.

Commercial Utilisation of Land

4227. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have formulated any comprehensive policy for commercial utilisation of land and air space of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount/ revenue earned by railways during the last three years by commercial utilisation of railway land and air space Zone-wise; and

(d) the target set for revenue generation during the current financial year from commercial use of railway land and airspace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have in place policy on commercial utilisation of railway land and air-space. As per this, the Railways put its vacant land/air-space for various commercial uses like plantation, pisciculture, way-leave etc. Some sites, where potential exists are also taken up for property development through transparent bidding procedure. The land is also given on long lease to Govt. Deptts./Public Sector Undertakings. Apart from commercial development of railway land/air-space, the vacant railway land which is not required for immediate operational and maintenance purpose, is utilised for short-term licensing for purposes connected with railway working (e.g., bulk oil installations, sidings, commercial, plots etc.)

(c) Total revenue earned by Railways during the last three years from land including property developments is given below zone-wise:

Rlys.	Amount in Rs. '000 (in thousands)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 Upto Jan. '05
Central	113290	101384	84016
Eastern	81930	64716	39896
East Central	*	1520	3792
East Coast	*	15394	51397
Northern	349463	301521	592447
North Central	*	15914	19806
North Eastern	31681	57665	19251
Northeast Frontier	27302	81296	44821
North Western	*	66017	71716
Southern	126685	177396	145479
South Central	37275	74278	68934
South Eastern	50575	32830	17353
Southeast Central	*	21461	10059
South Western	*	11181	18946
Western	12974	50552	42172
West Central	*	275	18653
Metro	2973	767	0
Total	834148	1074167	1248738

* Booking under these New Railways started from 2003-04.

(d) A target of Rs.150 crore was kept for the year 2004-05.

*[Translation]***Expansion of Raipur Airport**

4228. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently announced expansion of some of the airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the expansion of Raipur Airport of Chhattisgarh State is included in it;
- (d) if so, the extent of land required for the expansion of Raipur airport and the amount required for acquiring this land;
- (e) whether the Airports Authority of India has made the required payment to the State Government for the acquisition of land;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue.

(c) No, Sir. However, in line with the policy for upgrading airport infrastructure on regular basis at various airports, AAI has plans to extend runway at Raipur to 7500 feet to make it suitable for operation of A-320 type of aircraft and to increase the parking capacity of existing apron.

(d) The total area of land required is 50.17 acres. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has acquired 50.17 acres of land (22.22 acres of private land and 27.95 acres of Government land). The State Government has handed over this land to AAI free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

*[English]***Hike in Charges for Night Viewing of Taj**

4229. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has hiked the charges for night viewing of Taj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the ASI has opposed the hike in the charges which anticipated reduction in tourist traffic and thereby fall in revenue earning; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the tourist traffic for night viewing?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rates of ticket for night viewing of Taj Mahal are as under:

Indian citizens	Rs.510 per head
Others	Rs.750 per head
Children (3-15 years)	Rs.500 per head

(c) No, Sir. The rate of entry fee for night viewing was fixed based upon the additional cost for providing security, and for regulating the number of visitors as the Supreme Court of India had directed to allow only 400 visitors per night. The number of tourists who visited night viewing since November, 2004 till March, 2005 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) As the number of tourists for night viewing so far has not touched the maximum permissible number of 400 visitors per night, any steps for increasing the tourist traffic for night viewing does not arise at this stage.

Statement**Number of Visitors for Night Viewing of Taj Mahal from November, 2004 to March, 2005**

Month & Year	Date	Adults		Child (Indian + Foreigner)	Total numbers of visitors for night viewing of Taj Mahal
		Indian	Foreigner		
1	2	3	4	5	6
November, 2004	27.11.04	229	49	23	301
	28.11.04	204	119	24	347
	Total	433	168	47	648
December, 2004	26.12.04	154	42	29	225
	27.12.04	137	47	42	226
	28.12.04	140	85	63	288
	Total	431	174	134	739

1	2	3	4	5	6
January, 2005	23.1.05	24	36	03	63
	24.1.05	107	71	00	178
	25.1.05	96	113	13	222
	26.1.05	28	80	00	108
	27.1.05	21	51	05	77
	Total	276	351	21	648
Feb. 2005	22.02.05	22	130	04	156
	23.02.05	34	84	00	118
	24.02.05	86	88	06	180
	26.02.05	45	83	10	138
	Total	187	385	20	592
March, 2005	23.03.2005	16	55	04	75
	24.03.2005	96	60	18	174
	26.03.2005	193	68	33	294
	27.03.2005	19	28	02	49
	Total	324	211	57	592

Outstanding Amount Against Credit Parties

4230. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees of Indian Airlines are outstanding against credit parties for a number of years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor together with the details of the credit parties and the loss of interest involved therein;

(c) the steps taken to recover the outstanding amounts from the concerned parties;

(d) whether the Airlines has issued any instructions to its Regional Offices to recover the outstanding amounts from the credit parties;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken against the official responsible for neglecting recoveries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) An amount of Rs.36.66 crores is due from credit parties for tickets sold on credit by Indian Airlines till 30th September, 2004.

(b) The credit parties mainly include Government Ministries/ Departments/ Public Sector Undertakings. The

delay in settlement of invoices is mainly due to internal procedures of Government Departments like non-availability of funds, correlation of invoices with TA/DA claim of concern officers, non-submission of TA/DA by concern officers, pre audit clearance etc. The details of credit parties with outstanding dues of Rs.10 lakhs and above, as on 30.09.2004, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (g) The dues are realised in the normal course of business as per the credit terms. There is regular follow-up procedures for overdue invoices. The suspension of credit facility or legal action is normally considered in exceptional circumstances as most of these are Government parties.

Statement

Amount Due (Rs. 10 lacs & above) from Credit Parties for Tickets Issued on Credit Till 30th September, 2004

S.No.	Name of the Party	Amount (Rs. lacs)
1	2	3
1.	Lok Sabha Sectt. New Delhi	621.78
2.	Rajya Sabha Sectt. new Delhi	452.70
3.	M/O Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi	58.28
4.	Central Reserve Police Force, Mumbai	53.89

1	2	3
5.	CRPF Kolkata (Various Divisions)	53.32
6.	BSF West Bengal (Various Divisions)	50.04
7.	S.P.G. Cab. Sectt. Race Course Road, New Delhi	45.64
8.	Director General of Police, Madras	43.74
9.	Indian Embassy in Bangkok	42.37
10.	S.O. DG Civil Aviation, S'jung, Apt., New Delhi	41.50
11.	Indian Embassy in Yangon	41.32
12.	Indian Oil Corporation, Mumbai	39.00
13.	AAI, New Delhi	38.87
14.	BSF, Kashmir Frontiers, Srinagar	36.00
15.	M/O Agr. D/O Rural Development, New Delhi	35.84
16.	General Public Works Deptt., Madras	31.72
17.	CBI, CGO Complex, New Delhi	30.80
18.	Commissioner of Income Tax, West Bengal	29.39
19.	D/O Science & Technology, New Delhi	28.94
20.	Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi	28.52
21.	Document Scout Service, Mumbai	28.13
22.	Asstt. Director, Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi	27.59
23.	Asstt. Director, Accts, Hqrs. Jammu Frontiers (BSF), Jammu	27.52
24.	The Statesman Ltd., Kolkata	26.17
25.	Mazagon Dock Ltd., Mumbai	25.84
26.	Indian Embassy in Bangladesh	25.48
27.	M/O Agriculture & Co-opn. New Delhi	24.82
28.	National Airports Authority of India	22.62
29.	DG of Metrology; India Metrological Deptt., New Delhi	21.96
30.	Asstt. Director (Prov.), Hqrs., AMM&N Frontier, BSF	21.40

1	2	3
31.	Central Electricity Authority; M/O Energy, New Delhi	21.29
32.	Under Secretary to Govt., (PERS), Madras	20.25
33.	N.S.G. M/O Home Affairs, New Delhi	19.75
34.	Chief Finance Manager, M E C O N, Kolkata	19.21
35.	Prime Minister Sectt., South Block, New Delhi	18.11
36.	State Bank of India	17.88
37.	Commission for SC & ST, R.K. Puram, New Delhi	17.56
38.	A & IR South Eastern Coal, Fields Ltd., Vilaspur	17.90
39.	M.E.A. (T.G.) Akbar Bhawan, New Delhi	17.14

[Translation]

Free Rail Passes to Patient's Attendant

4231. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides free rail pass or rail travel concession to the attendant accompanying the epileptic patients in train journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the assistance provided by the railways to such patients in case of any difficulty faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Concession is not granted to epileptic patients. However, Doctors are given 10% concession for attending to passengers in need of medical attention.

[English]

Upgradation of T-72 Tanks

4232. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far for up gradation of fleet of T-72 Tanks; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by the Government to include latest modern systems available around the World in the upgradation project of T-72 fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Upgradation of defence equipment is a continuous process depending on available technology, threat perception and availability of funds. The fleet of T-72 Tanks is being upgraded and modernized to include the fitment of Thermal Imager Stand Alone System, advanced engines and installation of Auto Land Navigation System for Command and Control Tanks etc.

FDI in Defence Sector

4233. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allowed 26% FDI in defence equipment manufacturing sector during 2002;

(b) if so, the number of letters of intent issued for the production of equipments; and

(c) the number out of these have been commissioned so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No letter of Intent has so far been issued for production of defence equipments under FDI. However, 22 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have been issued so far to private entrepreneurs for manufacture of various defence items. None of them have, however, commenced production as yet.

[Translation]

LNG Plant in Russia

4234. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is contemplating over the possibility of setting up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC/ONGC Videsh Ltd. have no proposal at present for setting up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Plant in Russia.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allotment of Land for Development of Airport

4235. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports to be developed for which land has been allotted to National Airports Authority by the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the development work has been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought 5.87 acres of land from the National Airports Authority; and

(e) if so, the details and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has allotted land at Khajuraho airport only. Additional land has been sought at Bhopal airport for extension of the runway to 7500 ft.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Extension of runway at Khajuraho airport has been completed. However, the extended portion of runway could not be commissioned as works related to diversion of canals and High Tension (H.T.) lines has not been completed by concerned authorities in the State Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has agreed "in principle" to lease 5.87 acres of land at Bhopal airport for the development of the State Government Hangar Complex at a token fee of Re.1/- and also subject to certain conditions.

Permission to Private Airlines for International Sectors

4236. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Private Airlines Companies which have been granted permission to operate on international sectors are reluctant to operate their flights within the prescribed time limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these private airlines have requested for extension of time for operation of their flights on the international sectors; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Neither Jet Airways nor Sahara Airlines has requested for any extension of time to commence operations on the sectors allocated to them. Both the airlines have indicated that they would be utilizing the traffic rights within the Summer season 2005, i.e. between 27th March, 2005 to 29th October, 2005. Jet Airways has, in fact, already commenced operations between Mumbai and Singapore.

[English]

Withdrawal of Troops from Siachen

4237. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress so far made with regard to withdrawal of troops from Siachen; and

(b) the fresh initiatives taken by the Government on Siachen issue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No Troop withdrawal has taken place from Siachen. Also no agreement has been reached with Pakistan on reduction of forces in Siachen.

[Translation]

Production of Heavy Vehicles

4238. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of production of heavy vehicles being manufactured in major defence installation vehicle factories of the country in collaboration with major vehicle companies in the private sector is being achieved;

(b) if so, the details of the targets achieved during each of the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ): (a) Heavy vehicles like tanks and infantry combat vehicles, which are produced in defence installation vehicle factories are not manufactured in collaboration with private sector companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Supply of Newspaper Clippings

4239. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Information Bureau has discontinued the services of providing day-to-day newspaper clippings to various Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, since when it has been discontinued and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up Public Relations Cells within the Ministries/Departments by completing disbanding the PIB; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

RoB on Chanakyapuri Railway Crossing in Ahmedabad

4240. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVJI BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of RoB on Chanakyapuri Railway Crossing in Ahmedabad was to be taken up by the Railway authorities and AUDA on 50:50 cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the progress so far made on construction of said bridge; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal received from Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) was not complete. They have been advised to submit the corrected proposal. On receipt of a complete proposal, Railway will examine.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

[English]

Direct Marketing of PMT Gas

4241. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of gas produced from Panna, Mukta and Tapti Oil fields daily/ annually;

(b) whether the Government allow direct marketing of gas from Panna-Mukta-Tapti fields;

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

(d) whether the current arrangements for supply of PMT gas through GAIL's network would continue; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the other alternatives arrangements made for supply of PMT gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The quantity of gas produced daily and annually from the Panna-Mukta and Mid-South Tapti fields are as under:

	Panna-Mukta	Tapti
Present daily rate (MMSCMD)	4.16	6.91
Annual Production (MMSCM)	1411.8	2129.61

(b) to (e) With effect from the 1st April 2005, Government have permitted the Panna-Mukta-Tapti joint venture to make arrangements to market their own gas except for 6 Million Standard Cubic Metres per day, which is to be sold to GAIL for meeting the requirements of the fertiliser and power sectors.

ROB in Mandi Govindgarh in Punjab

4242. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present status of construction of Railway overbridge at Mandi Govindgarh in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): The proposal was received from Municipal Council, Gobindgarh for construction of Road Over Bridge at Km. 323/23-25 on deposit terms. Preliminary plans and abstract estimate were sent to the Municipal Council in April 2002 for acceptance. Acceptance of the same is still awaited.

Supply of smaller LPG Cylinders

4243. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of LPG consumers in the urban and rural areas separately in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to supply smaller LPG cylinders in the hilly regions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were having about 691.12 lakh customers in urban areas and 135.68 lakh customers in rural areas i.e., at a total of 826.80 lakh customers, as on 1.1.2005.

(b) and (c) In addition to the normal 14.2 kg LPG cylinder, OMCs are also marketing 5 kg LPG cylinders. Out of the total number of 826.80 lakh customers enrolled as on 1.1.2005, 2.23 lakh customers were in the 5 kg category.

Termination of LPG Agencies in Punjab

4244. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies terminated by Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Punjab during 2004-05;

(b) whether the action against all these agencies has been taken in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines laid down by the Ministry;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to enforce the guidelines to ensure that these are uniformly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have terminated two LPG distributorships in Punjab during the year 2004-05 by invoking the provisions of Distributorship Agreement. IOCL have reported that the

malpractice/irregularity were of a serious nature in both cases and hence action against the erring distributors has been taken in terms of the Distributorship Agreement. Government have approved the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) to deal with various malpractices on the part of distributors and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) follow these uniformly. However, in case any instance of deviation on the part of OMCs in following these guidelines comes to the notice of the Government, this is looked into and appropriate advice given to the OMCs.

Compensation to Land Oustees

4245. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of families lost their land due to construction of line from Banspani to Jokhapura in Orissa;
- (b) the rate at which compensation has been paid to each land oustees;
- (c) whether some people are yet to be paid compensation; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Total 2352 nos. families lost their land.

(b) State Government of Orissa is acquiring the required private land for Daitari-Keonjhar-Banspani (DKB) Rail Link Project and is paying necessary compensation to the land-losers, taking into account the prevailing rate of land in the area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Collector/Keonjhar has given instructions to the Special Land Acquisition Officer/Keonjhar/DKB Rail Link Project to expedite payment of compensation to the remaining land-losers subject to fulfillment of all necessary formalities.

Airport at Shirdi

4246. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether survey for development of an Airport at Shirdi has been carried out; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out a

preliminary feasibility study of the site suggested by State Government near Khandala village, Tehsil Srirampur, about 30 km. from Shirdi shrine. State Government has been requested to provide additional information for finalization of the Report.

[Translation]

Construction of Jai Prakash Narayan Library

4247. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of the Jai Prakash Narayan Library project; and
- (b) the funds released so far for the project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The construction of the library involves land use pattern change. DDA approval has not been received thus far for such a change. So far, for these works, Rs.222 lacs has been released to CPWD.

[English]

Creamy Layer Concept for OBC

4248. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the concept of creamy layer to Other Backward Classes is detrimental to their social progress;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to remove the concept wherever it is applied now;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering reservation for OBCs in Educational Institutions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The concept of Creamy layer amongst Other backward Classes (OBCs) has been introduced at the specific directions of the Supreme Court in the Indira Sawhney & Others Vs Union of India and others case to segregate socially advanced persons/sections from the benefits of reservation for OBCs in civil posts and services under the Government of India. There is no proposal to remove this concept.

(d) and (e) Reservation for OBCs in educational Institutions run by the Central Government is under consideration.

[Translation]

Encroachment in Cantonment Areas

4249. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cantonment boards existed at present and the details of the grants given to each board during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints regarding encroachment and unauthorized occupancy of defence lands inside and outside the cantonments;

(c) if so, the number of such complaints received during 2004 and 2005 (till date);

(d) the action taken/being taken in this regard;

(e) whether the administrators of the Cantonment Boards have adequate powers to deal with the encroachments and unauthorized occupancies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Defence Estate Offices have received a total of 119 complaints in 2004-2005 and action is taken by the authorities under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Evictions of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(e) and (f) The Cantonment Executive Officer, Defence Estate Officer and Station Commanders have adequate powers to deal with the encroachments and unauthorized occupation of Defence Land inside and outside Cantonments under the provisions of Cantonments Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Evictions of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Statement

S.No.	Cantt. Board	Allotment (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1	Agra	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Ahmedabad	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Ahmednagar	125.00	130.00	195.00

1	2	3	4	5
4	Ajmer	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Allahabad	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Almora	58.00	45.00	30.00
7	Ambala	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Amritsar	0.00	10.00	10.00
9	Aurangabad	25.00	40.00	0.00
10	Babina	50.40	0.00	0.00
11	Badamibagh	25.00	155.00	93.00
12	Bakloh	57.00	60.00	74.00
13	Bareill	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Barrackpore	115.00	115.00	167.00
15	Belgaum	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Cannanore	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Chakrata	67.00	55.00	129.00
18	Clement Town	70.00	60.00	117.00
19	Dagshai	42.00	60.00	59.00
20	Dalhousie	47.00	57.00	70.00
21	Danapore	62.00	95.00	124.00
22	Dehradun	186.00	120.00	0.00
23	Dehu Road	15.00	0.00	0.00
24	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Deolali	117.00	0.00	0.00
26	Faizabad	72.00	75.00	92.00
27	Fatehgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Ferozpur	124.00	130.00	165.00
29	Jabalpur	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Jalapahar	32.00	45.00	90.00
31	Jalandhar	160.00	90.00	90.00
32	Jammu	96.00	10.00	54.00
33	Jhansi	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Jutogh	51.00	55.00	61.00

1	2	3	4	5
35	Kamptee	10.00	0.00	0.00
36	Kanpur	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	Kasauli	68.00	70.00	102.00
38	Khasyol	76.00	70.00	112.00
39	Kirkee	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	Landour	50.00	50.00	68.00
41	Lansdowne	105.00	84.46	121.00
42	Lebond	34.00	32.00	48.00
43	Lucknow	0.00	0.00	0.00
44	Mathura	0.00	0.00	0.00
45	Meerut	0.00	0.00	0.00
46	Mhow	0.00	0.00	0.00
47	Morar	5.00	0.00	0.00
48	Nainital	33.00	50.00	57.00
49	Nasirabad	0.00	0.00	0.00
50	Panchmarhi	22.46	30.00	32.00
51	Pune	0.00	0.00	0.00
52	Ramgarh	130.00	130.00	141.00
53	Ranikhet	201.62	250.00	351.38
54	Roorkee	0.00	0.00	0.00
55	Saugor	20.00	80.00	50.00
56	Secunderabad	0.00	0.00	0.00
57	Shahjahanpur	7.00	20.00	15.00
58	Shillong	66.71	54.00	53.00
59	St. Thomas Mount	0.00	0.00	0.00
60	Subathu	45.00	65.00	65.00
61	Varanasi	5.00	0.00	0.00
62	Wellington	122.81	107.54	161.62
Total		2598.00	2500.00	2997.00

*[English]***Metro Rail in Chennai**

4250. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has any proposal to construct Metro Railway in Chennai in coordination and collaboration with Ministry of Urban Development and private parties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Court Martial**

4251. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that cases of court martial are increasing in the defence forces;

(b) if so, the number of higher officials of defence services against whom court martial proceedings were initiated during each of the last three years and current year; and

(c) the details of the punishment inflicted on them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There has been no increase in cases of Courts Martial in the defence forces.

(b) Number of higher officials (Brigadier/ equivalent and above) court-martialled during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:-

Service	2002	2003	2004	2005
Army	02	02	01	01
Navy	-	01	-	-
Air Force	01	-	-	-

(c) The punishment imposed varied from severe reprimand to cashiering coupled with rigorous imprisonment.

*[English]***Repairing of ROB at Itwari**

4252. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a portion of Maskasath railway overbridge at Itwari, Nagpur caved in for the second time in last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the bridge is likely to be repaired and opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The single lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) No. 8/AL is designed and constructed for light vehicular traffic only. Due to increased commercial activities in the area, growth in population and unauthorized plying of heavy vehicles on this bridge, there is extensive damage to super structure of ROB. This ROB got damaged twice (in Oct. 2001 & Feb 2005).

The Railway had sanctioned repair/rehabilitation of damaged girder for execution in 2005-06. But as per meeting held with State Government authorities on 19.3.2005 they desired to construct two lane new ROB at this location. Formal proposal from State Government for new Road Over Bridge on cost sharing basis is still awaited. Railway shall take necessary action after receipt of proposal from State Government.

Airport at Paliakalan

4253. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has constructed an airport at Paliakalan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the said airport has been made operational;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facilities provided there;

(e) if not, the reasons for not making the airport operational; and

(f) the time by which the said airport is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Channels Under DTH Service

4254. SHRI RAGHUVI SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of free Channels and pay Channels under DTH service in the country;

(b) whether the ratio of advertisements is very high in pay Channels;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate a policy to provide these pay Channels free/at nominal charges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of ratio of time periods between advertisements and original programme on free and pay Channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The only private DTH Service provider M/s. ASC Enterprises Ltd. is providing 85 TV channels to its subscribers on monthly subscription charges. However, the DTH service of Doordarshan provides 33. TV Channels and 12 Radio channels free to its subscribers, as Doodarshan does not collect monthly subscription charges.

(b) to (f) The duration of advertisement time either on FTA or pay channels is not monitored by the Government. Presently there is no proposal to formulate a policy to provide pay channels free at nominal charges.

Rail Bridge at Muraina Railway Station

4255. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has any proposal to construct a rail bridge at railway crossing on Muraina Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No firm proposal has yet been received from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

4256. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Heritage Committee of

UNESCO has decided to include the Chhattarpati Shivaji Terminus in the world heritage list;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways has prepared any plan to develop Chhattarpati Shivaji Terminus as world class model station;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other plans prepared by the Railways to conserve the CST for its architectural splendour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the World Heritage Convention held in China in June/July 2004, UNESCO has inscribed Chhattarpati Shivaji Terminus in the world heritage list.

(c) It is considered that the facilities available at Chhattarpati Shivaji Terminus already make it one of the leading stations internationally and it can be considered to be a model station.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A plan has been prepared to restore the original authenticity of the building including architectural features. The plan includes water proofing of terrace, internal and external repairs, revamping of toilets, improvement in water supply and plumbing arrangement and installing a fire fighting system.

Selection of Producers

4257. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale anomalies in the selection of producers for commissioned programmes in Doordarshan, Guwahati and Doordarshan (PPC) North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria being followed for selection of the producers for commissioned programmes in the North-east;

(d) whether any violation in the criteria and procedures has come to the notice of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL

REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have not detected any anomaly in the selection of producers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the criteria for selection of producers are:-

(i) **For long running fiction based serials:**

International/National award winners in the area of video or film production with proven track record of such productions or producers having five years or more experience.

(ii) **For non-fiction based programmes:**

Producers with shorter experience and having specialized training from institutes like FTII, SRFTI and other similar specialized institutions of the country and fresh producers.

Prasar Bharati has informed that Producers have been finally selected on the basis of their track record, technical team, story/synopsis, show reel and oral presentation before the Selection Committee.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Rail Line Between Jammu and Udhampur

4258. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail link between Jammu and Udhampur has been completed;

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

(c) the actual expenditure incurred so far thereon as against the original estimated amount;

(d) the reasons for price escalation;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the escalation of cost of the projects in future; and

(f) the time by which the rail line between Jammu and Udhampur is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a), (b) and (f) The rail line between Jammu & Udhampur has been completed and opened to passenger traffic on 13.04.2005.

(c) The original estimated cost in 1981-82 was Rs. 50 crore and cost now anticipated is Rs. 515 crore. The anticipated expenditure upto March, 2005 is Rs. 507 crore.

(d) Normally, the cost of the project increases during the construction period due to increase in cost of material, fuel, labour etc. In this case, the project has been executed in the difficult hilly terrain in young Himalayans with unstable formation and difficult geological conditions. Lot of technical problems have been encountered in planning and execution of bridges and tunnels. This resulted in delay in completion and cost escalation.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

Arakkonam Railway Station as a Model Station

4259. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued any orders for making Arakkonam railway station as a model station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the proposal is under examination.

Bofors Case

4260. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI's investigation into the Bofors pay-off has suffered a crippling blow;

(b) if so, whether the Swiss Government had not entertained the request of CBI for cooperation in the case;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Swiss Government;

(d) if so, the response of the Swiss Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Swiss Government has rendered co-operation in the matter of execution of the Letters Rogatory issued in the year 1990 and 1998. However, the Swiss Authorities expressed their inability to execute certain points of the Second Letters Rogatory of 1998 on the ground that transactions in question pertained to a period which is older than ten years and Swiss banks are obliged to keep their documents for a period of 10 years only and further that some of the banks in question have, in the meantime, been

sold or merged or reorganized and most of the Bank officials who were required to be examined for gathering relevant information, were no longer present in their original function.

(c) and (d) A CBI delegation held detailed discussion with the concerned Swiss Authorities during April, 2004 in the above matter. The Swiss Authorities informed in writing that the facts of the case fell under the rule "Lapse of time" and it regretted that it could not offer any further help to the authorities of India on account of reasons mentioned above. However, should new facts emerge not covered by the lapse of time clause, the Swiss authorities would re-examine the matter.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Summit of Asian Gas Dealers

4261. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Summit of the Asian gas sellers/dealers was held in Delhi on February 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and outcome thereof; and

(c) the number of the countries participated in the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The 3rd Asia Gas Buyers' Summit was held in New Delhi on the 14th & 15th February 2005. It was organized by FICCI and promoted by GAIL (India) Limited. The central theme of the conference was "Customer service in the Natural Gas Sector". Delegates from 25 countries participated in the Summit. Various natural gas related issues were discussed at the Conference, including Gas Management System; Competing Infrastructure; Boon or Bane; Strategic Storage for Supply security; Innovative Customer Accounting and Management; Technical services in gas distribution; and Gas to market: New technologies.

Maintenance of Monuments of Historical Importance

4262. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals/ requests from other countries for maintenance of objects/ monuments of historical importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether talks have been held with some countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals have been received from the countries of Japan, Italy and Belgium and World Monument Fund for conservation of some monuments and historical objects.

(c) Yes, Sir.

- (d)
- Japan is providing financial assistance through UNESCO for conservation of Buddhist sites at Sanchi and Satdhara in Madhya Pradesh.
 - Japan Bank of International co-operation has given soft loan for conservation and tourism development projects at Ajanta - Ellora Piltalkhora - Aurangabad caves, Daultabad Fort and Bibi - ka - Maqbara in Maharashtra.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Government of Italy for conservation of paintings of Ajanta & Ellora.
 - Janssen Pharmaceutica NV. Berse, a private sector company, of Belgium has signed an MOU with ASI for conservation of paintings of Tipu Sultan's Palace at Srirangapatana and Chemical conservation of stone work of monuments at Hampi.
 - World Monument Fund is conducting Restoration of Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan along with ASI.

15-Point Programme for Minorities

4263. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of the minorities under 15-point programme so that the unemployed persons of the minorities can get employment by registering their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): The 15-Point Programme is in the nature of guidelines issued to various Ministries/ State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings and

envisages special consideration for minorities in recruitment particularly for the Central and State Police Forces.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for weaker sections among Minorities alongwith SCs and OBCs for admission into various professional and technical institutions as well as for recruitment to various posts and services in both public and private sectors. Under the scheme the students are also given stipendiary benefits.

However, there is no stipulation of separate registration of unemployed persons belonging to the minorities.

Increase in Quota in Kerosene in Uttar Pradesh

4264. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request for the Government of Uttar Pradesh to increase the monthly quota of kerosene of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received representations from various State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs), including Uttar Pradesh, for the enhancement of their SKO quota.

(c) Additional allocations have been made to various States/UTs to meet their demand, including an additional allocation of 30,287 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of SKO for the period January to March, 2005 to Uttar Pradesh. The Central Government have also commissioned the National Council of Applied Economic Research to undertake the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country. Further action will be taken after examining the report when it is received.

[English]

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC and ST Students

4265. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for providing scholarship to SC and ST students for pursuing M. Phil and Ph.D. courses in the Universities across the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has short listed the Institutes in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of the institutes earmarked for the purpose, State-wise;
- (e) the quota reserved for women incumbents in such institutes;
- (f) the mode of selection of candidates for admission to such institutes; and
- (g) the time by which the scheme is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The government is in the process of formulating the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for providing scholarship to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students pursuing M.Phil and Ph. D. in the universities across the country. The scheme is likely to be announced during the current financial year.

Purchase of Scorpene Submarines

4266. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Sub deal delay costs India 2 cr. a day" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 26, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether delay and indecision over the acquisition of Scorpene attack submarines by Indian Navy has led to a price escalation of Rs. 4000 crores;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the decision to check further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government had approved a long term Perspective Plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in

submarine building. As no final decision has been taken by the Government on the proposal for construction of Scorpene submarines under Transfer of Technology, the issue of escalation is notional.

CNG Filling Stations

4267. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering setting up a chain of CNG stations along the National Highways to facilitate CNG motorists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some State Governments have also shown interest in setting up of CNG stations along NHs; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, it is proposed to progressively introduce CNG in polluted cities, with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas.

(c) and (d) No specific request for setting up CNG stations along National Highways has been received from State Governments. If and when such requests are received, they will be duly considered.

[Translation]

Seizure of Cartridges

4268. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent seizure of consignment containing 5012 cartridges in a coach of Rajdhani Express coming from Dibrugarh to New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 22.3.2005 at about 06.20 hrs. Train No.2435-A Down Rajdhani Express from Dibrugarh arrived at Guwahati Railway Station and was attached to Train No. 2435 Guwahati - New Delhi Rajdhani Express. On checking by Government Railway Police/Assam, 04 unclaimed VIP suitcases and 01 brief case were found in a coach No. AS-8 /97106. The VIP suitcases and the Briefcase were opened and 5012 numbers of ammunition (3255 rounds

of Self Loading Rifle 7.62, 1697 rounds of .303 Rifle and 60 rounds of Light Machine Gun) with 592 numbers Charger Clips, 55 numbers of Bandoliers in 5 gunny bags and 02 plastic bags were recovered by the Government Railway Police, Guwahati (Assam).

(c) Government Railway Police, Guwahati (Assam) has registered a case No.23/05 u/s 25(1)(A), 27/1(1)(2) Arms Act dated 22-3-2005.

**Pre-examination Coaching Facilities
for SC Candidates**

4269. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the places where pre-examination coaching facilities for the benefit of Scheduled Caste candidates aspiring for the Central services viz. Indian Administration Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Foreign Service etc. are available, State-wise;

(b) the number of SCs candidates imparted pre-examination coaching for Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and Indian Foreign Service during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise;

(c) the total amount of expenditure incurred on providing coaching facilities during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the percentage of successful candidates in these examinations during the said period;

(e) whether the results of these competitive examinations have been upto the expectations/targets; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps being taken/to be taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (f) A Scheme of Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities is being implemented catering to the target groups of these three social segments at 5:3:2 ratio respectively. The Scheme broadly supports coaching for recruitment to Group 'A' and Group 'B' Services of Central and State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and their equivalents in private sector. The scheme does not segregate or classify services inter-se. Therefore, the service-wise break-up of beneficiaries and expenditure is not maintained. There are 5 State Governments, 22 Universities

and 50 NGOs who have been sanctioned grants-in-aid under the Scheme during the year 2004-05, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*Details of NGOs, Universities and State Governments
sanctioned grants during 2004-05*

A- States & UTs

- 1 Andhra Pradesh (A.P. Study Circle, Hyderabad)
- 2 Haryana (Various Centres in the State)
- 3 Madhya Pradesh (M.P Bhoj (Open) University, Bhoj and various other centres)
- 4 Punjab (Ambedkar Institute of Careers and Courses, Mohali)
- 5 Delhi (Pre-examination Coaching Centre, Karol Bagh)

B- Universities

- 1 Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
- 2 Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananatapur, Andhra Pradesh
- 3 Guwahti University, Guwahati, Assam
- 4 Patna University, Patna, Bihar
- 5 Munshi Ram College, Motihari, Bihar
- 6 Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
- 7 Bangalore University, Bangalore, Karnataka
- 8 Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- 9 Devi Ahilya University, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- 10 Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
- 11 APS University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh
- 12 Dr.Babasaheb Ambedka National Institute of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh
- 13 University of Mumbai, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 14 University of Pune, Maharashtra
- 15 Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- 16 Pondicherry University, Pondicherry
- 17 Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab
- 18 Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Tamil Nadu
- 19 University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
- 20 Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
- 21 Motilal Nehru Ins.of Tech. Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh

22 HNB University, Uttarakhand

C- NGOs

- 1 Prasad Ekta Samruti, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- 2 Suruchi VPS, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- 3 Vikas Seva Samiti, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
- 4 Rao Study Centre, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- 5 Sri Raju Educational Society, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- 6 Sri Vivekananda Vidya Samstha Soc Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
- 7 APTECH Ltd, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- 8 Training Rec. Edn. Env. Soc. (TREES), Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- 9 Good Hope Study Centre, Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 10 NIIT Ltd.Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 11 APTECH Ltd. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- 12 NIIT Ltd Bangalore, Karnataka
- 13 APTECH Ltd, Bangalore, Karnataka
- 14 New Era Education Society, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 15 SEVA, Nanded, Maharashtra
- 16 Dnyanvardhini Edu. & Char. Found, Sholapur, Maharashtra
- 17 APTECH Ltd. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 18 NIIT Ltd. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 19 Akhil Bh. Leva Sarnaj Utk. Mandal, Jaigaon, Maharashtra
- 20 Jeevanrekha Pratishthan, Latur, Maharashtra
- 21 Social Sc. Sudha Research Inst Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- 22 Jansewa Khadi Gram.Sewa Sans. Etawah, Uttar Pradesh
- 23 Dr. RML Vyavasaik Pr.Sansthan.Kanpur.Uttar Pradesh
- 24 PMT Physics College, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 25 Sahara Academy, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- 26 Agnisiksha, Balasore, Orissa
- 27 LC Inst. of Social & App. Sc., Bhubneswar, Orissa
- 28 Social Ref. & Dev.Council, Manipur

- 29 Dev. of Rural Youths, Imphal, Manipur
- 30 Rural Industries Dev. Asson, Thoubal, Manipur
- 31 Women's Economic Dev. Soc., Imphal, Manipur
- 32 Social Dev & Reh.Council, Thoubal, Manipur
- 33 Manipur Rural Service Asson., Imphal, Manipur
- 34 Env. & Economics Mang. Asso., Imphal, Manipur
- 35 Social Aware. & Dev. & Agency, Imphal, Manipur
- 36 Assn. for Social Adv. & Res., Authority, Manipur
- 37 Kishan Development Asson., Imphal, Manipur
- 38 Western Rur. Socio-Econ. Dev. Org., Imphal, Manipur
- 39 Educational Foundation, Nagaon, Assam
- 40 NIIT Ltd., New Dehi
- 41 APTECH Ltd., New Delhi
- 42 Hamdard Education Society, New Delhi
- 43 Hamdard Education Society, New Delhi
- 44 Delhi Education Centre, New Delhi
- 45 Dr.Saxena Vision Foundation, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
- 46 New Public Modern Sikshan Samiti, Pali, Rajasthan
- 47 Vidya Mandir Siksha Samiti, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan
- 48 NSA Krishi Samiti, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- 49 NIIT Ltd., Kolkota, West Bengal
- 50 APTECH Ltd., Kolkota, West Bengal

Sexual Harassment of Female Cadets

4270. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints about alleged sexual harassment of female cadets at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB

MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The allegations of harassment have been brought out by three Ex-women Flight Cadets, viz. Ms. Anshu Singh, Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl who were admitted for training in the Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad in January 2004 under the Short Service Commission for Women (SSC(W)) scheme. The three Ex-Flight Cadets failed in three or more exams during training, which exceeded the maximum number of failures permitted under the existing policy. Subsequently, the cadetship of Ms Anshu Singh was terminated on 28.12.2004 and that of Ms Sarabjit Jus and Ms Preeti Bahl on 13.1.2005. The allegations of sexual harassment was first raised by Ms Sarabjit Jus on 25.1.2005 through a written complaint. Ms. Anshu Singh did not make any such allegation during her interview with the officers of the Air Headquarters, although she announced it in the media later. Ms. Preeti Bahl only made a mention in her review application dated February 28,2005 regarding a senior instructor demanding some undue cooperation, which she denied.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been convened on 18.3.2005, which is still under progress. Necessary action will be taken based on the findings of the Inquiry.

[English]

Agreement between IOC and OIL

4271. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has signed a 10 year agreement with Oil India Ltd. (OIL) for foraying into upstream business of oil as well as other related prospects in the hydrocarbon chain;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the total investment made by the Indian Oil Corporation abroad in LNG (liquefied natural gas) and petrochemicals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 8.12.2004, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to synergise their skills and strengths in their respective domains and jointly pursue overseas upstream business opportunities.

In terms of the MOU, the participating interest of IOC and OIL in all overseas opportunities will be equal unless mutually decided otherwise on a project-to-project basis. OIL will be the operator for all overseas upstream projects wherever the IOC-OIL combine acquires operatorship rights. Initially, the MOU will be effective for a period of 10 years and, thereafter, can be extended by mutual agreement.

(c) IOC have not made any investment abroad as yet in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Petrochemicals projects.

Setting up of National Flying Training Institute

4272. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to open a National Flying Training Institute at Gondia in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the time by which the Institute is expected to start functioning and how many potential pilots will be trained in the Institute in a year;

(d) whether this Institute will impart training to pilots of the public sector companies or to private sector companies also as more and more companies are entering aviation field;

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

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up such institutes in other parts of the country; and

(g) if so, the future plan of action and the possible sites expected to be selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A token provision of Rs.1.00 crore has been made in the financial year 2005-2006 for setting up of the National Flying Training Institute at Gondia in Maharashtra. For this, a Project Director has since been appointed to initiate Registration to complete formalities/ procedures.

A detailed project report is also being prepared. After this report is finalised, the exact estimated cost of the project, the likely date of opening of this Institute and the number of pilots to be trained shall be firmed up.

(d) and (e) The institute is planned to undertake flight training to any airminded youth from ab-initio to Commercial Pilot's Licence level.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Rail Connectivity with States

4273. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the States/Union Territories which are not linked with the rail;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any plan to link these States/Union Territories with the rail; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Meghalaya, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep do not have rail connectivity.

(b) and (c) The work of new line from Dudhnoi to Depa (in Meghalaya) has already been taken up. There is at present no plan to provide rail link to rest of States/Union Territories.

[Translation]

Capital Investment in CPSEs

4274. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Public Sector Enterprises as on March 31, 2005;
- (b) the number of such CPSEs out of them whose original capital has wiped out completely due to continuous losses; and
- (c) the total capital invested by the Government in those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2002-03 which was laid in the Parliament on 8.6.2004 and is a published document, there were 240 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.3.2003, till which period the information is available. Out of these, 227 were in operation and 13 under construction.

(b) 88 of the 227 operating CPSEs were having negative networth as on 31.3.2003 thereby wiping out their capital completely.

(c) The total investment made by the Central Government by way of equity in these 88 CPSEs was Rs. 5097 crore (excluding the investment of holding companies in the subsidiaries) as on 31.3.2003.

[English]

Air Fleet

4275. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bulk of the air fleet consists of ageing MIG series aircraft;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to maintain deterrence capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) in all circumstances to ensure air superiority in the region; and
- (c) the time by which Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) will be inducted into IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. However, a considerable residual life of this fighter fleet is still left for utilization by the Indian Air Force.

(b) The Indian Air Force combat fleet is being modernized through procurement of Su-30, Mirage-2000, Jaguar and other combat aircraft and upgradation of existing aircraft inventory on a continuous basis.

(c) The Light Combat Aircraft is planned for induction in the Indian Air Force from the year 2008 onwards.

Construction of Road Overbridges in Kerala

4276. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the new proposals received from the Government of Kerala for construction of ROB/RUBs in the State;
- (b) the action taken by the Railways thereon;
- (c) whether construction of ROB/RUBs in Kerala is going on a very slow pace;
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken so that the work would be speeded up; and
- (e) the amount allotted so far for the ongoing work of ROB/RUBs in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The following three proposals received from State Government of Kerala have been included in the Railway Budget 2005-06.

- (i) Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No.33 between Ettumanoor-Quilon.
- (ii) ROB in lieu of LC No.36 between Kottayam-Chingavanam.
- (iii) Road Under Bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No.50 between Chalakkudy-Karukutty.

(c) to (e) Construction of Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge is a joint work of Railway and State Government. Railways construct bridge proper i.e. bridge across Railway tracks and approaches by State Government. All out efforts shall be made by Railway to complete its portion of work simultaneously with the approaches by State Government.

At present there are 49 works sanctioned on cost sharing basis in State of Kerala, which are at various stages of planning and execution.

An outlay of Rs.10.38 Crore have been provided for these works in Railway Budget 2005-06.

Summer Special Trains

4277. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

MOHD. MUKEEM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce holiday special/special trains during this Summer Season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the starting and terminating places thereof, train-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any special package for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

A total no. of 2378 holiday/Summer special are running/proposed to be run during Summer-2005. The details are as under:

S. No.	Train No.	Sector	Period	Trips
1	2	3	4	5
1.	231/232	Howrah-NewDelhi-Howrah (Four days a week)	1.5.05 to 15.6.05	52
2.	407/408	Mumbai Central-Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central (Bi-weekly)	10 4.05 to 2.7.05	48
3.	905/906	Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus (Weekly)	9.4.05 to 28.6.05	24
4.	233/234	Howrah-Dehradun-Howrah (Weekly)	6.5.05 to 12.6.05	12
5.	528/527	Kathgodam-Dehradun-Kathgodam (Bi-weekly)	1.5.05 to 30.6.05	36
6.	653/654	Jodhpur-Chennai Central-Jodhpur (Weekly)	4.4.05 to 15.6.05	22
7.	639/640	Ajmer-Chennai Central -Ajmer (Weekly)	7.4.05 to 11.6.05	20
8.	674/673	Yaswantpur - Ajmer- Yaswantpur (Weekly)	3.4.05 to 29.6.05	26
9.	637/638	Bangalore-Ermakulam Jn.-Bangalore (Daily)	1.4.05 to 1.7.05	182
10.	683/684	Bangalore-Chennai Central - Bangalore (Weekly)	8.4.05 to 26.6.05	24
11.	635/636	Chennai Central - Trivandrum - Chennai Central (Tri- Weekly)	4.4.05 to 7.6.05	56

1	2	3	4	5
12.	601/602	Chennai Central - Mangalore - Chennai Central (Weekly)	8.4.05 to 4.6.05	22
13.	657/658	Dadar-Chennai Central - Dadar (Weekly)	2.4.05 to 13.6.05	22
14.	605/606	Nagercoil Jn - Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil (Bi-weekly)	3.4.05 to 13.6.05	42
15.	607/608	Madurai-Chennai Egmore-Madurai (Bi-weekly)	2.4.05 to 12.6.05	42
16.	613/614	Tuticorin-Chennai Egmore - Tuticorin (Weekly)	4.4.05 to 7.6.05	20
17.	201/202	Guwahati-Bangalore-Guwahati (Weekly)	10.4.05 to 21.6.05	20
18.	764/763	Secunderabad-Tirupati-Secunderabad (Weekly)	20.4.05 to 16.6.05	18
19.	724/723	Secunderabad-Vijayawada-Secunderabad (Weekly)	19.4.05 to 17.6.05	18
20.	702/701	Secunderabad-Chennai Central-Secunderabad (Weekly)	17.4.05 to 13.6.05	18
21.	MB1/BM1	Mysore-Bangalore-Mysore (Daily)	1.4.05 to 30.6.05	182
22.	165/166	Dadar-Ernakulam Jn -Dadar (Weekly)	9.4.05 to 26.6.05	22
23.	167/168	Dadar-Mangalore-Dadar (Weekly)	13.4.05 to 30.6.05	24
24.	803/804	Howrah-Bangalore-Howrah (Weekly)	6.4.05 to 1.7.05	26
25.	JUVUJI	Chickjair-Hubli-Chickjair (Daily)	1.4.05 to 30.6.05	182
26.	972/971	Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central- Ahmedabad (Weekly)	9.4.05 to 26.6.05	48
27.	4845/4846	Ahmedabad- Bandra Terminus- Ahmedabad (Tri-Weekly)	11.4.05 to 30.6.05	70
28.	919/920	Jaipur-Bandra Terminus - Jaipur (Tri-Weekly)	10.4.05 to 15.6.05	58
29.	975/976	Okha-Bandra Terminus - Okha (Weekly)	11.4.05 to 10.5.05	10
30.	983/984	Porbandar-Bandra Terminus-Porbandar (Weekly)	11.4.05 to 28.6.05	24
31.	139/140	Dadar-Varanasi-Dadar (Daily)	3.4.05 to 1.7.05	178
32.	524/523	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Gorakhpur (Daily)	8.4.05 to 15.7.05	176
33.	204/203	Guwahati-Mumbai CST- Guwahati (Weekly)	15.4.05 to 21.6.05	20
34.	860/859	Howrah- Mumbai CST-Howrah (Weekly)	15.4.05 to 26.6.05	22
35.	143/144	Varanasi-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Varanasi (Bi-weekly)	4.4.05 to 4.7.05	52
36.	155/156	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Gorakhpur (Tri-weekly)	4.4.05 to 2.7.05	78
37.	109/110	Madgaon- Mumbai CST-Madgaon (Daily)	8.4.05 to 1.7.05	168
38.	959/960	Gandhidham-Mumbai Central-Gandhidham (Tri-weekly)	12.4.05 to 01.7.05	70
39.	992/991	Indore-Bandra Terminus-Indore (Weekly)	12.4.05 to 15.6.05	20

1	2	3	4	5
40.	949/950	Dhanbad-Ahmedabad- Dhanbad (Weekly)	9.4.05 to 28 6.05	24
41.	525/526	Gorakhpur-Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur (Weekly)	18.4.05 to 13.7.05	26
42.	997/998	Valsad- Patna-Valsad (Weekly)	10.4.05 to 26.6.05	24
43.	746/745	Howrah-Hyderabad-Howrah (Weekly)	15.4.05 to 12.6.05	18
44.	807/808	Howrah-Puri-Howrah (Weekly)	19.4.05 to 29.6.05	22
45.	243/244	Howrah-New Jalpaiguri- Howrah (Weekly)	4.5.05 to 16.6.05	14
46.	249/250	Howrah-Gorakhpur- Howrah (Bi-Weekly)	4.5.05 to 16.6.05	26
47.	409/410	Howrah-Puri- Howrah (Weekly)	17.4.05 to 13.6.05	18
48.	207/208	Sealdah-Guwahati- Sealdah (Bi-weekly)	3.5.05 to 15.6.05	28
49.	719/720	Bikaner-Hyderabad- Bikaner (Weekly)	17.4.05 to 16.6.05	18
50.	153/154	Pune-Gorakhpur- Pune (Weekly)	5.4.05 to 30.6.05	26
Total				2378

**Implementation of Recommendations of
Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report**

4278. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to implement the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee report for Navy and Air Force Officers;

(b) if so, the number of Officers likely to be benefited as a result thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred after the implementation of said report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee report in respect of non-select ranks of Officers of the Navy and Air Force have been implemented.

(b) 2307 Officers of Navy and 4445 Officers of Air Force have been promoted to the next higher rank.

(c) The likely expenditure to be incurred per annum is Rs. 18 crores in respect of Navy and Rs. 21.45 crores for the Air Force.

[Translation]

Sale of LPG at Grocery Shops

4279. MOHD. SHAHID : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any licence for the sale of LPG at grocery shops in the States;

(b) if not, whether the Government has received complaints about sale of LPG at grocery shops in some districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) market LPG through a network of authorized distributors throughout the country. Neither has the sale of LPG at grocery shops been allowed nor has any complaint been received about the sale of LPG at grocery shops in some districts of Uttar Pradesh.

**Central Assistance for Payment
of Destitute Pension**

4280. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides the entire amount as additional central assistance for payment

of destitute pension being paid to the beneficiaries above the age of 65 years;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government provides additional central assistance for all the beneficiaries of 'Rashtriya Pariwar Sahayata Yojana;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether appropriate additional central assistance will be provided to Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the number of the eligible beneficiaries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally Sponsored National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year 2002-03. After the transfer of the schemes to the States/ Union Territories, the Central Government is only providing Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for these schemes. The States/UTs have requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes.

(e) and (f) During the year 2004-05, the Ministry of Finance had released Rs. 7644.82 lakh to the State of Madhya Pradesh as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under the National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna Scheme.

Security in TTEs in Running Trains

4281. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the security aspect of TTEs in running trains;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the incidents of manhandling with the TTEs often take place during ticket examination;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide them security;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the role of Railway Police Force is not satisfactory in the regard; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken /to be taken to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (e) Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police (RPF/GRP) personnel assist in ticket checking on demand from Railways Commercial or Vigilance Department. Whenever any incident of manhandling is reported, action is taken as per provision of law.

[English]

Free of Cost Channels

4282. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to telecast more Channels free-of-cost under the Direct to Home Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Channels being telecast free under the above service in the country;

(d) the number of the broadcasters who have applied to the Prasar Bharati for free telecast of their channels, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted Prasar Bharati to increase the number of DD-Direct+ to fifty in its bouquet. Prasar Bharati is in the process of making necessary arrangements in this regard.

(c) and (d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) No precise time-frame can be indicated, as this will be dependent on the procurement of requisite hardware.

Statement

List of channels included in the bouquet of DD Direct Plus

DD Channels

1. DD National
2. DD News
3. DD Sports
4. DD India
5. DD Bharati

6. DD Kashmir
7. DD Punjabi
8. DD North East
9. DD Bangla
10. DD Oriya
11. DD Gujarati
12. DD Sahyadri (Marathi)
13. DD Saptagiri (Telugu)
14. DD Chandana (Kannada)
15. DD Podhigai (Tamil)
16. DD Malayalam
17. DD LS (Lok Sabha)
18. DD RS (Rajya Sabha)

Educational Channel

1. Gyan Darshan

Private Channels

1. Aaj Tak
2. Headlines Today
3. BBC World
4. Jain TV
5. Star Utsav

6. Zee Music
7. Smile TV
8. ETV Marathi
9. Sun TV
10. Kairali TV
11. Aakash Bangla
12. ETC Punjabi
13. MH-1
14. TV-9

Radio Channels

1. Vividh Bharti
2. AIR FM Rainbow
3. AIR FM Gold
4. AIR Hindi
5. AIR Bangla
6. AIR North East
7. AIR Oriya
8. AIR Gujarati
9. AIR Marathi
10. AIR Telugu
11. AIR Tamil
12. AIR Kannada

List of Channels that have applied for inclusion in DD Direct Plus

Sl. No.	Name of Channel	Language/Content	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Aastha	Hindi/Religious	Delhi
2.	Channel News Asia	Asian News Channel	Singapore
3.	CMM Music	Hindi/ Music	Delhi
4.	Day Star	English religious	US
5.	Deutsche Welle	German/English/ Ext. Service	Germany
6.	ETC Music	Hindi/ Music	Punjab
7.	India Vision	Malayalam/ News	Kerala
8.	Jagran (Zee)	Hindi/ Religious	Delhi
9.	Jaya TV	Tamil /Gen. Entertainment	TN
10.	Jeevan	Malayalam/ Gen. Entertainment	Kerala
11.	Maharshi Veda Vision	Hindi/Religious	
12.	God TV	English/Hindi Religious	Chennai

1	2	3	4
13.	Mana TV (4 Channels)	Telugu/ Educational	AP
14.	MTA	8 Langs/ Religious/ General	
15.	Nepal 1	Nepali/ General	Nepal
16.	Raj Musix	South/Tamil/Music	TN
17.	Muslim TV Ahmedia	Religious - Kerala	Kerala
18.	Sadhana	Hindi/Religious	Delhi
19.	Sahara One	Hindi/ Gen. Entertainment	Delhi
20.	Sahara Samay Rashtriya	Hindi/ News	Delhi
21.	Sanskar	Hindi/Religious	Delhi
22.	Splash	Children's	Delhi
23.	SS Music	English/Hindi/S. Indian/ Music	Chennai
24.	SS TV	(Canadian)/ Gen. Entertainment	Canada
25.	Sur Sangeet	Hindi/ Music	Chennai
26.	TBN India	Hindi/ Religious	
27.	TV 5	French/External Service	France
28.	Vyas	Hindi/Eng./Educational	Delhi
29.	Win TV	Hindi/Gen. Entertainment	Delhi
30.	Win TV Kannada	Kannada/Gen. Entertainment	Karnataka
31.	Zee News	Hindi/ News	Delhi
32.	Worldroom Travel TV	English/Travel & Tourism	London
33.	Speed Music	Hindi/Regional	Delhi
34.	Balle Balle	Punjabi/Hindi	Delhi
35.	Punjab Today	Punjabi News Channel	Delhi
36.	Love World	English/Hindi/Regional/Religious	US
37.	Jhankar	Hindi/English/Music	Delhi
38.	Total TV	Hindi/Punjabi	Delhi

Promotion of SC/ST Employees

4283. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has implemented Government instructions for promotions where it is mandatory for the PSU management to obtain prior approval of the Board of Directors in the supersession of SC/ST employees for Class I & II posts;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote

SC/ST employees who have been superseded in violation of the Government policy; and

(d) the number of SC/ST employees promoted in different categories during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) ONGC have implemented Government of India instructions for promotions of SC/ST employees to Class I & II posts.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) During the last three years, a total number of 1468 SC/ST employees were promoted at the Non-Corporate level i.e. E-4 and below. In the same three years, 46 SC/ST

employees were promoted at the Corporate level w.e.f. 1-1-2003. Promotions for the years w.e.f. 1-1-2004 and 1-1-2005 for corporate level employees are under consideration.

Disabled Friendly Educational Institutions/Hospitals

4284. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI VENKATESH A. NAIK:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of educational institutions (particularly Schools and Colleges) and Hospitals in the Country are not at all disabled-friendly;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any special programme to see that all Hospitals and educational institutions would become disabled-friendly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action has been taken by various agencies for providing these facilities in public buildings including schools, colleges and hospitals. Many of these facilities have been provided in a number of educational institutions and hospitals. Specific programmes undertaken for the purpose are given below:

(i) Model Building bye-laws, containing provisions for barrier-free built environment alongwith guidelines and space standards for public buildings and facilities have been prepared and circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories, for adoption.

(ii) A comprehensive Action Plan for the Inclusive Education of Children and Youth with Disabilities has been formulated for making all the schools and colleges in the country disabled friendly.

(iii) Financial assistance is provided under the Integrated Education of the Disabled Children (IEDC) Scheme for removal/ modification of architectural barriers for education of children with disabilities in schools.

(iv) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) all new school buildings being constructed are provided with ramps, handrails and other such modifications.

(v) Workshops have been organized in partnership with States/NGOs for awareness generation of barrier free features in public buildings.

Purchase of Simulators

4285. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had purchased 'Simulators' known as computerised training kits for training of railway drivers;

(b) if so, the number of Simulators purchased and the amount spent thereon;

(c) the number of railway drivers who have been imparting the training so far;

(d) the number of railway drivers likely to be trained during 2005-06;

(e) whether the Railways have any proposal to purchase Simulators during 2005-06; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 16 Nos.; Rs. 134 crore (approximate).

(c) 31,922 Railway Drivers have been trained so far.

(d) About 5,572 Railway Drivers are planned to be trained in the year 2005-06.

(e) and (f) A proposal for purchase of 2 nos. Simulators has been sanctioned in Machinery & Plant Programme, 2005-06.

Extension of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

4286. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend Indo-Iran gas pipeline to China via Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extension of this pipeline to China is likely to give to India a huge sum as transit fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has prepared enough safeguards against disruptions, if any; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for smooth flow of gas on its commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The proposal of Iran - Pakistan - India gas pipeline is at initial stages of discussion. The details of the project are yet to be finalized. There is no formal proposal at present to extend the pipeline to China via Myanmar, but the thought has been thrown up for public discussion.

(c) and (d) The transit fee dimension of the concept is also open for public consideration.

(e) and (f) Enough safeguards to ensure security of supplies would be built into the project if and when the details are formalized. Meanwhile, the security dimension also is open for public consideration.

[Translation]

Pantry Car Facility in Trains

4287. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that pantry car facility is not available in a number of trains thus causing inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the names of trains in which pantry car facility is not available and the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of trains in which pantry car facility has been provided during 2004-05;

(d) the names of trains selected for provision of pantry car facility during 2005-06;

(e) whether the pantry car facility is not available in Vikramshila Express running between New Delhi-Bhagalpur; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the pantry car facility is likely to be provided in said train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pantry Car facilities are provided on selected Super-fast/ Mail Express trains which run on popular routes where adequate and satisfactory catering services through static units are not possible. As such, there are about 59 number of long distance Super-fast/Mail Express trains on Indian Railways which presently do not have pantry car

attached although the journey time of these trains is of more than 24 hours each way and which have ten sleeper coaches or above. The names of trains in which pantry car is not available is enclosed as Statement-I. The reasons for non-provision of pantry car facilities in these trains include sufficient stoppages at stations where satisfactory catering services from static catering units are available enroute and operational constrains like non-availability of rolling stock, room on train etc. Pantry car services on long distance trains are, however, being introduced in a phased manner subject to availability of new pantry car.

(c) The name of the trains in which Pantry Car facility has been provided during 2004-05 is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) The names of trains for pantry car facility during 2005-06 have not yet been finalised. Only trains No. 7037-7038, Secunderabad-Bikaner Express has been provided pantry car facility during 2005-06 and Tender for Vikramshila Express has been floated.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Railways have decided to introduce Pantry car services in Vikramshila Express trains. Tenders for this train have been invited by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) and likely to be finalised shortly.

Statement-I

Long Distance Mail Express/Superfast Trains running without Pantry Car whose Journey Time is more than 24 hours each way and having 10 sleeper including AC Sleeper Coaches

S. No.	Train No.	Name
1	2	3
1.	1039/1040	Shri Chhatrapati Sahu Maharaj (T) - Gondia Maharashtra Express.
2.	1043/1044	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Madurai Exp.
3.	1045/1046	Lokmanya Tilak (T)- Bhubaneshwar Exp.
4.	1053/1054	Shri Chhatrapati Sahu Maharaj (T) Nizamuddin Exp.
5.	1055/1056	Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Godaan Express
6.	1057/1058	Dadar - Amritsar Express
7.	1059/1060	Chapra -Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
8.	1067/1068	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Faizabad Saket Express
9.	1069/1070	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Allahabad Exp.
10.	1071/1072	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Kamayani Exp.

1	2	3
11.	1093/1094	Chhatrapati Sivaji Terminal Mumbai-Varanasi Mahanagri Express
12.	1097/1098	Pune - Ernakulam Poorna Express
13.	1405/1406	Vishakapatnam-Kakkinada Town Manmad Express
14.	1463/1464	Rajkot-Jabalpur Exp.
15.	1465/1466	Rajkot-Jabalpur Exp
16.	2315/2316	Sealdah- Ajmer Ananya Exp.
17.	2317/2318	Sealdah- Amritsar Akal Takht Exp
18.	2405/2406	Bhusawal-Nizamuddin Gondwana Exp
19.	2409/2410	Bilaspur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Exp
20.	2647/2648	Coimbatore-Nizamuddin Kongu Exp.
21.	2905/2906	Porbander-Howrah Exp
22.	2977/2978	Ernakulam-Jajpur Marusagar Exp.
23.	2983/2984	Bilaspur-Jaipur Exp
24.	3009/3010	Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express
25.	3013/3014	Howrah-Dehradun Upasna Express
26.	3019/3020	Howrah-Kathgodam Bagh Express
27.	3287/3288	Tata Nagar - Durg - Patna South Bihar Exp.
28.	3447/3448	Bhagalpur-Dadar Express
29.	4311/4312	Bareilly - Bhuj Ala Hazrat Express
30.	4313/4314	Bareilly - Dadar Express
31.	4707/4708	Bikaner-Bandra Terminal Ranakpur Express
32.	4853/4854	Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Express
33.	4863/4864	Varanasi-Jodhpur Marudhar Express
34.	5017/5018	Dadar-Gorakhpur Kashi Express.
35.	5635/5636	Okha- Guwahati Dwarka Express.
36.	5637/5638	Secunderabad- Guwahati Express
37.	5639/5640	Puri-Guwahati Express
38.	5707/5708	Katihar-Amritsar Express
39.	5933/5934	Dibrugarh Town-Amritsar Express
40.	6003/6004	Howrah-Chennai Mail
41.	6125/6126	Chennai Egmore- Jodhpur Express
42.	6357/6358	Nagarcoil Junction-Howrah Gurudev Exp.
43.	6359/6360	Ernakulam-Rajendra Nagar Express
44.	6529/6530	Mumbai-Bangalore Udyan Express
45.	6613/6614	Rajkot-Coimbatore Express

1	2	3
46.	8005/8006	Howrah-Koraput Express
47.	8029/8030	Howrah-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
48.	8103/8104	Tata Nagar -Amritsar Jallianwala Bagh Exp.
49.	8233/8234	Indore-Bilaspur Narmada Express
50.	8415/8416	Bhubaneshwar-Yesvantpur Express
51.	8609/8610	Hatia - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express
52.	9019/9020	Bandra - Dehradun Express
53.	9049/9050	Valsad-Rajendra Nagar Express
54.	9163/9164	Ahemedabad-Faizabad Sabarmati Express
55.	9165/9166	Ahemedabad-Muzaffarpur Sabarmati Exp.
56.	9167/9168	Ahemedabad-Varanasi Sabarmati Express
57.	9305/9306	Indore-Howrah Shipra Express
58.	9313/9314	Indore-Rajindernagar Express
59.	9569/9570	Okha-Varanasi Express

Statement-II

S.No.	Train No.	Name
1.	2501/2502	Poorvottar Sampark Kranti Express
2.	2707/2708	Andhra Pradesh Sampark Kranti
3.	5265/5266	Bihar Sampark Kranti
4.	2823/2824	Chattisgarh Sampark Kranti
5.	2917/2918	Gujarat Sampark Kranti
6.	2653/2654	Karalla Sampark Kranti
7.	2907/2908	Maharashtra Sampark Kranti
8.	2121/2122	Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti
9.	2819/2820	Orissa Sampark Kranti
10.	2463/2465	Rajasthan Sampark Kranti
11.	2447/2448	Uttarpradesh Sampark Kranti
12.	2329/2330	West Bengal Sampark Kranti
13.	2449/2450	Goa Sampark Kranti
14.	2825/2626	Jharkhand Sampark Kranti
15.	2651/2652	Tamilnadu Sampark Kranti
16.	7091/7092	Secunderabd Rajinder Express
17.	2649/2650	Karnataka Sampark Kranti Express

*[English]***Programme Generation Facility Centres**

4288. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of programme generation facility centres constructed and commissioned in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether some centres have been constructed but not commissioned even after a long time;

(c) if so, the number of such centres along with the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government for commissioning of these centres expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Three studio centres at Hissar, Gangtok and Warangal have been commissioned during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Five studio centres at Rajouri (J&K), Calicut (Kerala), Patiala (Punjab), Coimbatore & Madurai (Tamil Nadu) are technically ready, but could not be commissioned due to non-availability of adequate manpower for which efforts are being made.

Telugu News

4289. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift Telugu News in All India Radio from Delhi to Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the Telugu News Unit has already been shifted from Delhi to Hyderabad with effect from 1st April 2005.

Facilities at Mathura Railway Station

4290. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that facilities/amenities for the passenger at Mathura Railway Station are inadequate;

(b) whether the Government proposes to improve the facilities/amenities for the passengers at Mathura Railway Station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Mathura junction is a 'A' category station. All the minimum essential amenities as per norms are available at this station. Three works related to improvement to Passenger amenities -have been taken up at Mathura viz. (i) Extension of electrical charging facility to Platform No 6 for starting 13 coaches train at a cost of Rs. 29.35 lakh (ii) Provision of coach guidance indicator at a cost of Rs. 21.50 lakh and (iii) Provision of additional landing of Foot over bridge on Platform No.2 /3 at a cost of Rs. 10.27 lakh.

*[Translation]***New Transmitters for Rural Areas**

4291. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether two or three Channels of Doordarshan are being directly telecast only in Metros and other big cities of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing such facility in other rural areas of the country;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to install new transmitters for telecasting two-three Channels of DD in rural area also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to reconsider the telecast of free-to-air D.T.H. service due to its expensiveness; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan channels in satellite mode are available throughout the country. Two terrestrial channels viz. DD-1 and DD News are available to about 90.7% and 45.9% population of the country respectively through a network of 1401 transmitters installed throughout the length and breadth of the country, including rural areas.

(c) and (d) Multi-channel coverage (33 TV and 12 Radio channels) has been provided in the entire country (except A&N islands) through Ku-band (free-to-air DTH) transmission service. The areas hitherto uncovered by terrestrial transmission have been provided coverage through the Ku Band transmission service.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Recruitment of Pilots

4292. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for recruitment of commercial pilots keeping in view the increasing demand thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prescribed selection procedure for them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While no specific scheme has been formulated, in order to meet the increased demand for pilots, Government has permitted airline operators to utilize the services of professional pilots upto the age of 61 years beyond the maximum age limit of 60 years subject to the conditions that (i) Pilot should have clean medical record i.e. no medical limitations on license privileges, (ii) Pilot should undergo fresh Class I medical assessment from IAM Bangalore/ AFCME New Delhi every 3 month.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The airlines normally issue advertisements for recruitment of trainee pilots etc. in line with their requirements. This is a continuing process depending on the number of aircraft being inducted by the airline in their fleet. The selection process comprises of: Written Test, Proficiency Assessment Check on applicable simulator followed by Group Discussions and Personal Interview. The candidates are normally selected from Indira Gandhi National Udan Academy, Air Force, Navy and from open market.

*[English]***Awareness Campaign for SC Welfare Schemes**

4293. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create an awareness campaign with the support of non-governmental organizations to ensure that Scheduled Caste families get their fruits through welfare schemes meant for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of non-governmental organizations identified to rope in this campaign;

(d) the amount fixed for this purpose during 10th Plan; and

(e) the amount spent in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***International Air Traffic Routes**

4294. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international air traffic routes passing through Indian air space and the annual income earned by the Government from the flights using these air traffic routes; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revamp the civil aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 84 International Air Traffic Services (ATS) Routes passing through the Indian airspace. The income earned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on account of Route Navigational Facilities Charges (RNFC) (Enroute) for the year 2003-04 was Rs.339.32 crores.

(b) With regard to Indian airspace, AAI has implemented Revised ATS Route Structure, Europe Middle East Asia Route Structure South of Himalayas (EMARSSH) Project, Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) whereby the capacity of airspace in horizontal as well as vertical dimension have been increased considerably. Besides, AAI has also commissioned new Radars at various Area Control Centres, Automatic Dependent Surveillance / Controller Pilot Data Link Communication (ADS/CPDLC) at Chennai & Kolkata Area Control Centres. There is a plan to introduce ADS/CPDLC at Mumbai and Delhi. AAI has shortened some trunk international ATS routes to reduce the flying time of international flights through Indian airspace with the aim to attract more number of international flights through Indian airspace.

*[English]***Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines**

4295. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Electronic News Gathering Units

4296. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic news gathering (ENG) units set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Governments for setting up of ENG units in the States;

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

(d) the details of ENG units proposed to be set up during the current financial year along with the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Electronic News Gathering (ENG) units have been provided at all Doordarshan Studio centres in the country and at Tirupati HPT (Locations of Studio centres are given in the enclosed Statement).

(b) to (d) Requests for setting up of ENG units at Studio centres are received from time to time from various quarters including State Governments. ENG units at Studio centres are augmented from time to time depending on the local requirements and availability of requisite resources. There is no scheme to set up ENG units at new locations during 2005-06.

Statement

Doordarshan Studio Centres (as on 19.04.2005)

S.No.	State/UT	Existing Studios
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Guwahati Dibrugarh Silchar Guwahati (Regional Production Centre)

1	2	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad Vijaywada Warangal
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
4.	Bihar	Patna Muzaffarpur
5.	Chhattisgarh	Jagdalpur Raipur
6.	Goa	Panaji
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Rajkot
8.	Haryana	Hissar
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Daltonganj
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar Jammu Leh
12.	Kerala	Trivandrum Trichur
13.	Karnataka	Bangalore Gulbarga
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal Indore Gwalior
15.	Meghalaya	Shillong Tura
16.	Maharashtra	Mumbai Nagpur Pune
17.	Manipur	Imphal
18.	Mizoram	Aizawal
19.	Nagaland	Kohima
20.	Orissa	Bhubneshwar Bhawanipatna Sambalpur
21.	Punjab	Jalandhar

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
23.	Sikkim	Gangtok
24.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
25.	Tripura	Agartala
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Gorakhpur Bareilly Mau Allahabad Varanasi Mathura
27.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
28.	West Bengal	Calcutta Shantiniketan Jalpaiguri
29.	Delhi	Delhi Central Production Centre
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
31.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
32.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh

[Translation]

Pakistani Television Programmes

4297. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programmes of Pakistani Television are viewed more clearly in border districts of Rajasthan like Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Sri Ganganagar and Bikaner;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to combat those programmes of Pakistani Channels; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the quality of Pakistan TV signals varies from poor to good in parts of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Sri Ganganagar and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan.

For enhancement of quality of signals of Doordarshan programmes in terrestrial mode, 15 Doordarshan transmitters (HPTs-4), (LPTs-11) are presently functioning in the above mentioned districts. Prasar Bharati has informed that the quality of signal in the coverage zone of the transmitters is quite satisfactory. They have also informed that the terrestrial coverage in border areas of Rajasthan is being expanded further.

Prasar Bharati have informed that multi Channel coverage (33 TV channels and 12 Radio Channels) with excellent signal quality has been provided in the border areas of Rajasthan, along with other parts of the country, through KU band (free to air DTH service), to combat the programmes of Pak TV channels.

[English]

Gauge Conversion between Palanpur and Gandhidham

4298. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether (KRCL) Kutch Railway Company has taken over the job of Gauge conversion between Palanpur and Gandhidham;

(b) if so, whether the formation of KRCL under Public Private Partnership initiative has slackened down due to financial crunch and management crisis; and

(c) if not, the present status of achievements under this initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Entry of Unreserved/Unauthorised Passengers in Reserved Coaches

4299. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

MOHD. MUKEEM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has started a surprise checking campaign to detect the unreserved/unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches on express trains particularly running through Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of cases for entry of unreserved/unauthorised passengers in reserved compartments detected during the last one year, till date;

(c) the action taken against guilty officials;

(d) whether large sums of money were also recovered by the Railways due to imposition of the penalties on unreserved/ unauthorised passengers;

(e) if so, the total amount recovered during the said period; and

(f) the steps taken/to be taken by the Railways to prevent entering of unreserved/ unauthorised passengers in reserved compartments particularly in view of coming rush period of summer season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Ticket checking is an ongoing process. In addition to the routine ticket checking, surprise checks against entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches are also conducted all-over Indian Railways including Bihar. Persons found travelling unauthorisedly in reserved coaches are dealt with as per provisions of the law. However, separate statistics for unreserved/ unauthorised passengers detected travelling in reserved coaches is not maintained. However, during the period April, 2004 to February, 2005, a total of 73.54 lakh cases of ticketless/irregular travel were detected.

(c) Suitable disciplinary action is taken under Discipline & Appeals Rules against the guilty railway staff.

(d) and (e) During the period April, 2004 to February, 2005, an amount of Rs.172.38 crore has been realised as fare and penalty from the persons found travelling ticketless or with irregular ticket.

(f) Following steps have been taken:-

(i) Penalty for ticketless/irregular travel has been enhanced from Rs.50/- to Rs.250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.

(ii) Surprise checks by Commercial, Vigilance & Police are organised regularly.

Down Linking Policy

4300. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the Downlinking Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to come into effect; and

(d) the manner in which the new policy will be different from the existing practice and rules?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government is examining the issue of introducing downlinking policy to regulate satellite TV Channels which are uplinked from other countries and are down linked in India for public viewership. No time frame can be indicated for finalizing the guidelines.

Presently, there is no restriction on downlinking of signal of Satellite TV Channels which are uplinked from abroad and downlinked in India for public viewership.

National Press Centre

4301. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to set up a National Press Centre in New Delhi during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, reasons for delay in execution of the project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious implementation of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Scheme "Setting up of National Press, Centre at New Delhi" had been included in Eighth Five Year Plan and continued in the Ninth Plan of Press Information Bureau (PIB). The project could not be taken up as the possession of encumbrance free plot of land was given by the Ministry of Urban Development in October, 2002.

A state-of-the-art National Media Centre is proposed to be set up at New Delhi with modern communication facilities for use of the print and electronic media as part of the Plan Scheme of PIB, during the Xth Five Year Plan. A plot measuring 1,955 acre has been allotted for the purpose at 7, Raisina Road, Rs.35.00 crore have been earmarked for setting up of the National Media Centre under the Scheme. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 25th January 2005 has approved the project. Since the project is located in Lutyens Delhi, its design and facade have to be planned carefully taking all sensitivities in account. The process of selecting a design has been initiated. The project is likely to be completed in twenty-four months from the date of commencement of construction.

Retail Outlets of SCs/STs

4302. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Retail outlet (R.O.), SKO and LDO dealers and L.P.G. dealers belonging to SC/ST Communities in each State;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the BENAMI (Unnamed) dealers are working/handling R.O., SKO/LDO and dealership and distributorship of SCs/STs in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against BENAMI dealer/dealership those who are handling dealership/distributorship of SCs/STs;

(d) whether the existing R.O., SKO, LDO and L.P.G. dealer or SC/ST categories are adequate as per reservation quota; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) As on 1.3.2005, there were 2349 retail outlet dealerships, 1612 LPG distributorships and 574 SKO-LDO dealerships of public sector oil marketing companies, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes categories, in operation in the country.

(b) and (c) During the last three years, the oil marketing companies have come across benami operation in respect of three retail outlets and five LPG distributorships under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category. While, in the case of retail outlets, one outlet has been terminated and in the remaining two, the oil company is taking action in line with the marketing discipline guidelines/dealership agreement for termination, in the case of LPG distributorships, three distributorships have been terminated and in the remaining two, show cause for termination has been issued. The companies have not come across any case of benami operation in respect of SKO-LDO dealership during the said period.

(d) and (e) The public sector oil marketing companies follow the percentage of reservation prescribed for different sections of the society, including the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category, in the matter of allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products. The details of allotments are available with the Director (Marketing) of the companies concerned.

[Translation]

Overcharging by TTEs

4303. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Travelling Ticket Examiners overcharge from the passengers particularly travelling in Panchvati Express in Maharashtra; and;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported and the action taken against TTEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The ticket checking staff charge the passengers travelling irregularly e.g. travelling without ticket, travelling in reserved coaches with unreserved tickets without permission, travelling with monthly season tickets in trains and coaches not permitted for Monthly Season Ticket holders, travelling in superfast surcharge ticket, etc.

Panchavati Express has been converted into superfast train with effect from 15.11.2004. Monthly Season Ticket holders need to have superfast surcharge ticket also alongwith their Monthly Season Tickets. Ticket checking staff will charge penalty if superfast ticket is not purchased. However, where ticket checking staff are found wrongly charging the passengers they are taken up suitably. Regarding number of such cases, it is mentioned that no separate statistics is maintained.

Construction of Commercial Complexes

4304. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct commercial complexes to increase revenue sources of the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of locations identified for the purposes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Railways have taken up the commercial utilisation of Railway land/air space which also includes establishing commercial complexes/hotels etc. at or around major stations depending upon the requirement, feasibility and potential to generate revenues for improving rail facilities.

Railway do not maintain State-wise details. However, 61 sites on zonal Railways were taken up out of which 9 sites have been finalised so far and revenue of Rs. 6.5 Cr. has been realised.

Rail Projects in Tamil Nadu

4305. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID :

SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new rail projects and surveys undertaken in Tamil Nadu and the progress made so far in respect of completion of these projects and surveys;

(b) the details of funds allocated for these projects and the expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Government to provide special package to complete these on going project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No new rail projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been included in the budget 2005-06. Following new surveys falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu have been included in the budget 2005-06 :-

- (1) New line from Erode to Palani via Dharapuram (115 kms)
- (2) New line from Mayiladuturai to Karaikal via Tirukadēyur, Taramgambadi & Tirunallar (35 kms)
- (3) New line from Satyamangalam to Mettur via Anthiyur (75 kms)
- (4) New line from Chennai to Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram & Pondicherry (71 kms)
- 5) Gauge conversion of Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90 kms)

These surveys would be taken up once the Budget is passed by the Parliament.

- (c) No such requested has been received.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Partner in Allotment of Tea Stalls

4306. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Railway/Railway Board has a policy to allow introduction of a partner (within the family or outside the family) in the tea-stalls allotted in individual names;

(b) if so, the features of the policy and when was it framed;

(c) the number of applications received in Western Railway for allowing introduction of partners separately from within the family and outside the family;

(d) the number of applications in which introduction of a partner has been allowed and the number of applications has been rejected in this regard;

(e) the number of applications of introducing partner are still lying pending at Regional/Zonal Railways offices of Western Railway; and

(f) the reason for their pendency and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Chief Commercial Managers of zonal railways/MD, IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) as the case may be, are empowered to consider personally, in exceptional cases only the request of individual licensees, in case of old age, disablement, infirmity etc. for inclusion of the names of their son/daughter, wife/husband in their licence subject to satisfactory performance, no pending railway dues and also not holding any other catering/vending licence over Indian Railways. Thus, new entrant in the licence is not a partner. He/She is only a caretaker on behalf of the licensee and endorsed by the licensee. Such provision has been reiterated in the Catering Policies issued by Railways Board from time to time.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Change in Contractors' Name in Allotment of Stalls

4307. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Railway/Railway Board has a policy to allow change in the name of contractor who has been allotted tea-stalls, chemist stalls, fruit stalls etc. at railway stations;

(b) if so, the features of the policy and the time since when it is in operation;

(c) the number of requests received from the contractors for allowing change in the name of the firms by the Western Railway;

(d) the action taken thereon;

(e) whether allottee of a Dining Car is also allowed to introduce a partner and change the name and title of the firm;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of cases in this regard still pending, the reasons for their pendency and the time by which same are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Catering Policy 2005 dated 16.03.2005, change/transfer of name of the contractor is allowed only in the event of death of the contractor to the spouse/legal heir of the contractor only for the un-expired period of the contract.

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

(e) No, Sir. In case of old age, disablement, infirmity etc. inclusion of the names of son/daughter, wife/husband/legal heir in catering licence is permissible, subject to his/her performance being satisfactory and also that no railway dues are pending against the licensee. Inclusion of Partner is not allowed in later course in catering licences.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Recruitment of Staff in New Railway Zones

4308. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the seven new Railways Zones created 2 years back are managing their offices by the staff and officers borrowed from other zonal headquarters;

(b) if so, the details of such strength of the staff and the officers borrowed zone-wise;

(c) if not, whether all the new zones have made recruitment's for its Headquarters offices for all categories of posts; and

(d) if so, the details of the recruitment made by such Zonal offices, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies being a continuous process, recruitment is made to fill up posts in recruitment grades in various categories as per requirement from time to time and procedure in force. However, recruitment of officers is not done Railway wise but as a whole for Indian Railways.

Children Homes

4309. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Children's homes in the country especially in Mumbai have been found with serious irregularities/lapses;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to check the lapses/irregularities in the Children's Homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) Irregularities have been detected in 3 children homes in Mumbai and 8 elsewhere in Maharashtra. The government of Maharashtra has issued detailed guidelines regarding preparation of district-wise action plan before sanctioning new institutions in any district; recruitment of qualified and experienced staff and their training and improvement of supervisory standards of these institutions.

Saudi Aramco's offer for Stake in HPCL Refinery

4310. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American Petroleum Giant Saudi Aramco has offered to pick up stake in Vishakhapatnam refinery of HPCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Indian Company likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is in discussions with M/s Saudi Aramco but has not as yet received any formal proposal from them for acquiring a stake in its Visakhapatnam Refinery.

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

[Translation]

Corruption in Railways

4311. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to corruption Railways has been suffering heavy losses for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the number of corruption cases came to the notice of Railways Authorities during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of officials punished against whom corruption cases proved/established; and

(d) the details of firms found involved in corruption cases blacklisted during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Vigilance Department in Railways is regularly carrying out preventive checks and investigations of complaints involving Vigilance angle.

(b) The number of preventive checks conducted and the complaints, involving vigilance angle, investigated during each of the last three years are given below :-

	2002	2003	2004
Preventive checks	35,212	30,799	32,580
Complaints investigated	2,141	1,421	1,463

(c) The number of corrupt officials punished during the last three years are given below :-

	2002	2003	2004
	10,539	8,633	8,565

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The following firms found involved in corruption cases have been blacklisted during the last three years :-

1. M/s. Singh Builders, Lucknow;
2. M/s. Ishvakoo India (P) Ltd., New Delhi;
3. M/s. Deepak Kumar Jindal, Bhatinda;
4. M/s. B.M. Electrical Enterprises, Halishahar, 24 Paraganas;
5. M/s. Transworld, Kolkata;
6. M/s. Arvind Engineers, Corporation, Moradabad;
7. M/s. Israr Ahmed, Lakshar
8. M/s. Mohan Singh Engineer & Contractor, Moradabad
9. M/s. Shamim Ahmed, Lakshar;
10. M/s. Orient Engineers, Ambala Cantt;
11. M/s. Aditya Roy, Undal;
12. M/s. B.C. Sahay, Sealdah;

13. M/s. Mesa Construction, Sealdah;
14. M/s. M.R. Mondal, Kolkata;
15. M/s. B.C. Sona, Kolkata;
16. M/s. Evershine Electricals (P) Ltd., Delhi
17. M/s. Shail Construction, Delhi;
18. M/s. Hi-Feb Steel Construction Co. Saharanpur;
19. M/s. Modi Enterprises, Bikaner;
20. M/s. Janata Traders, Unchahar, UP;
21. M/s. Jain Brothers, Mumbai
22. Shri K.L. Jain Contractor, Sainthala, Bolangir;
23. M/s. Allied Construction, Bullandsahar; UP;
24. M/s. Bimala & Sons, Contractor, Kharagpur;
25. M/s. Balaji Engineering Corporation, Raipur;
26. M/s. Hindustan Construction Co., Bhubaneshwar
27. M/s. Anil Agarwal, Bhubaneshwar;
28. M/s. Krishna Construction Co. Chakradharpur;
29. M/s. Ashok J. Surana Contractor; Bhusawal;
30. M/s. Awate Constructions, Thane;
31. Shri Srikant Singh Contractor, Gorakhpur; and
32. M/s. Shiv Singh Railway Contractor, Gwalior.

[English]

Power Plants and Petrochemicals Complex by ONGC

4312. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has signed any agreement with Hinduja Group for implementation of Gas-Based Power Plant and petrochemicals complex;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the time by which these will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Ashok Leyland Projects Services Ltd. (ALPS), a Hinduja Group of Company, have signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for jointly exploring LNG based business opportunities in the Southern peninsula of India.

The MOU while broadly delineating areas of mutual co-operation, provides scope for jointly developing a detailed framework of projects if this is found feasible. Any such projects would require the approval of the corporate and government bodies concerned.

(c) In view of the very preliminary nature of discussion, no timeline can be forecast at this stage.

Expansion of Television and Radio Coverage

4313. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken by the Government to meet the increased requirements of human resources in the entertainment sector through the creation of new institutions;

(b) the progress made in setting up of low power community radio stations in FM Mode by local communities and other organizations; and

(c) the concrete measures taken in expanding the coverage of Television and Radio services to the unserved areas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) There is no proposal to create new institutions. However, the Ministry has been taking appropriate steps to organise various courses in the existing institutions to meet the increased human resource requirements.

(b) 68 applications have been received from different educational institutions till date, seeking license for setting up of community radio stations in FM mode. Letters of intent have been issued to 30 institutions. Of these, 20 institutions have signed license agreement and 7 of them are in various stages of being operational.

(c) Doordarshan have launched Ku-band (free to air DTH) service and its bouquet consisting of 33 TV and 12 Radio channels can be received throughout the country (except A & N Islands) with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

As regards All India Radio, 99.13% of population is covered by the primary grade signal of AIR and after completion of 10th Plan schemes, 99.49% of population is expected to be covered by radio signals. During the 10th Plan, 25 new radio stations are proposed to be set up. In addition, 200 KW MW transmitter at Najibabad (replacement of 100 KW MW Transmitter), Agartala 10 KW FM Transmitter (Additional Channel) and Tuinsang 5 KW FM Transmitter

(Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter (Additional Channel) will provide signal to uncovered areas.

100 Low Power FM Transmitters in North East region and another 50 in other areas are also proposed to be set up during 10th Plan.

The above schemes will be implemented subject to approval and availability of the funds.

Three radio stations at Nyoma, Diskit and Padam are technically ready

Indecent and Immoral contents

4314. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

PROF. M. RAMADASS :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of complaints concerning telecast of indecent and immoral content by Cable TV Operators and satellite channels;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken to check/regulate the aesthetic quality of indecent and immoral programmes/advertisements being broadcast by the Cable TV operators and satellite channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the last one year, approximately 18 (Eighteen) references on content of TV channels were received.

There is no pre-telecast censorship of television channels. Programmes and advertisements of all satellite TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

Action for violation of the codes can be taken by any authorised officer i.e. SDM, DM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazettee by the Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted two interministerial committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertising Code.

Action is taken from time to time on specific complaints. This is an ongoing process. Steps to be taken to strengthen the enforcement mechanism, at the local level were also discussed at the recently concluded SIMCO XXV (State Information Ministers Conference).

The Government is also contemplating establishment of an autonomous regulatory authority to regulate content of TV channels.

Petrol and Diesel Retail Outlets

4315. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of oil PSUs, where low sulphur petrol and diesel are being supplied in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether high performance petrol and diesel containing Octane 91 are also being distributed/supplied in the country; and

(c) if so, the number of retail outlets in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The Government have specified different specifications of Motor Spirit (MS) (Petrol) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) (Diesel) that will be introduced in the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu, as under :-

- (i) Bharat Stage-II MS throughout the country w.e.f. 1.4.2005
- (ii) Bharat Stage-II HSD in all the States/Union Territories except in the States of Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and certain districts in the State of Uttar Pradesh, w.e.f. 1.4.2005.
- (iii) Euro-III equivalent MS and HSD in eleven identified cities, including Chennai, w.e.f. 1.4.2005.
- (iv) Euro-III equivalent MS in Sholapur and Lucknow cities w.e.f. 1.6.2005.

(b) and (c) The oil marketing companies are supplying high performance petrol and diesel through select retail outlets in the country, including in the State of Tamil Nadu, under different brand names.

[Translation]

Additional Allocation of Kerosene

4316. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh Government has sought an additional allocation of kerosene to the tune of 20 thousands kilolitres for drought relief purposes; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05, this Ministry received requests for the additional allocation of 10,000 kilolitres (KLs) of SKO each for meeting the situations arising out of flood and drought respectively from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

(b) Additional allocations of 5,000 KLs for floods and 7,500 KLs of SKO for drought were made to Uttar Pradesh during July and September, 2004 respectively.

[English]

Hike in Entry Fee of Monuments

4317. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hike entry fee of the protected monuments as reported in the Times of India dated March 13, 2005;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the tourism industry have been ascertained in the matter; and

(d) if so, the response of tourism industry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Overcrowding of Stations during Holi Festival

4318. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the overcrowding of stations during Holi Festival as appeared in the Dainik Jagran dated March 21, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. There was considerable increase in demand for travel towards Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The following measures were taken by the concerned Zonal Railways to deal with the overcrowding on account of Holi rush :

- (i) 35 Special trains were run from different stations like Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi-Safdar Jung and Hazrat Nizamuddin with stoppage at Ghaziabad to clear the Holi rush and to avoid overcrowding at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations.
- (ii) Extra coaches were attached to various trains on day to day basis.
- (iii) Extra force was deployed by Railway Protection Force in co-ordination with traffic police, civil police and Government Railway Police.
- (iv) Close monitoring was done by RPF through Closed-Circuit Camera Monitoring System at New Delhi and Delhi railway stations.

[English]

Development of Natural Gas Reserves

4319. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Japan to develop the Natural Gas Re-sources in India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed with Japan in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the survey is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) No, Sir. No agreement has been signed between Government of India and the Government of Japan to develop natural gas resources in India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Building of Aircraft Carrier

4320. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to build indigenously designed aircraft carrier;

(b) if so, the agencies involved in building such aircraft carrier;

(c) the amount required for building aircraft carrier; and

(d) the time by which such aircraft is likely to be built?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS) of approximately 37,500 Metric Tons at Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the Indian Navy. The revised cost of the construction of the ADS is 2880 crore. The construction of aircraft carrier is likely to be completed by 2011-2012.

[English]

Introduction of DMU in Kerala

4321. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce more Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) in Kerala, where electrification is still not completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to replace all the passenger trains in Kerala with EMUs and DMUs and add more coaches to these trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Passenger traffic in the region is being catered to by conventional train services. Diesel Multiple Units can supplement them, just as one Electrical Multiple Unit already does. However, there are no plans to introduce Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allotment of Dealership in Rajasthan

4322. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1559 on December 9, 2004 regarding Application for Dealership/Retail outlets in Rajasthan and state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has scrutinized all the 1,207 applications received against 47 locations;

(b) if so, the number of dummy candidates found against each location; and

(c) the action proposed or proposed to be taken against dummy candidates?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No instance of any dummy candidate having applied for dealership against any of the locations has come to IOC's notice.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

[Translation]

Railway Land Development Authority

4323. MOHD. SHAHID :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the areas of the surplus lands with the Railways;

(b) if so, the total area (in hectares) of such land, Zone-wise;

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the surplus land;

(d) whether the Government proposes to establish Railway Land Development Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Railways do not have any surplus land. Railways have however 42,846 hectares of vacant land which is required largely for Railways own developmental works in future. The details of vacant land zone-wise are as under :

Railways	Vacant land (in hectare)
1	2
Central	2478.05
Eastern	1516.00

1	2
East Central	4453.82
East Coast	188.43
Northern	2898.45
North Central	713.39
North Eastern	5874.64
Northeast Frontier	3472.8
North Western	374.13
Southern	2287.00
South Central	3903.14
South-Eastern	83.95
South East Central	3260.00
South Western	2853.9
Western	7458.56
West Central	1030.23
Total	42846.49

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Railways (amendment) Bill, 2004 to make commercial use of Railway land (and air space) as one of the Railway works and to set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) to commercially utilise the railway land, by amending Railways Act, 1989, has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.04 and stands referred to the Standing Committee on Railways.

Rehabilitation of Orphaned Children

4324. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of children become orphaned and homeless due to earthquake and communal violence in the country during the last three years;

(b) the welfare measures taken by the Union government to rehabilitate such orphan and homeless children;

(c) whether the Government has received foreign aid in this regard during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) The details are not maintained by this Ministry.

(b) An organization named Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) was given assistance for the rehabili-

tation of 539 orphan children who were victims of communal riots in Gujarat.

2002-03 - Rs. 60 lakhs
2003-04 - Rs. 37.44 lakhs

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[English]

Rail Travel Concessions to Disabled Persons

4325. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

SHRI VENKATESH A. NAIK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Rail Travel Concessions to the disabled persons are not at all provided in many trains like Shatabdi Express, Rajdhani Express and other special trains;

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

(c) whether there is persistent demands from public representatives, social organizations and disabled welfare federations for providing rail travel concession for the disabled in all the trains and in all the classes without any discrimination; and

(d) if so, reaction of the Government to provide such facility in Shatabdi, Rajdhani and other special trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) Concession to disabled persons is granted in all trains except premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi trains which are well patronized. Requests for grant of concession to disabled persons in these premium trains have been received. Due to financial constraints, the proposal can not be accepted.

Cinema Hall in Running Trains

4326. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had any proposal to start "Cinema Hall" in long distance trains for the entertainment of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which the same proposal has not yet been implemented so far;

(d) whether in view of the great demand from the public, the Government proposes to implement the same proposal now; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) TO A proposal for povision of mini theatre in the running trains was considered and the same was not found feasible from operational as well as financial point of view.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Energy Policy

4327. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of the Group of Ministers has been constituted to study and formulate Energy Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No Committee of the Group of Ministers has been constituted. An Expert Committee was constituted on 12th August, 2004 under the chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission to formulate a draft Energy Policy. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

Corruption in Allotment of Berths in Trains

4328. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of bribe cases in regard to allotment of berths in trains;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Cases of Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) indulging in irregularities with regard to allotment of seats/ berths on trains have been reported. However, statistics of bribe cases reported against the TTEs are not maintained separately.

(c) Suitable disciplinary action is taken against the guilty railway staff under the Discipline & Appeals Rules.

[Translation]

**Opening of Handicapped
Rehabilitation Centres/DDRC**

4329. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government monitors the functioning of Handicapped Rehabilitation Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons provided assistance by each of these Centres during each of the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more such Handicapped Rehabilitation Centres or DDRCs in other States/UT; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith locations identified for this purpose, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Each District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) is monitored by a District Management Team (DMT) headed by the District Collector.

(c) The number of persons assisted by each of these DDRCs during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Recently sixteen more locations have been approved for setting up of new DDRCs. Details of which are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

*No. of persons provided assistance through DDRCs
during the last three years*

Name of DDRC	No. of disabled rehabilitated
1	2
DDRC Alot	931
DDRC Agar	216
DDRC Agartala	283
DDRC Agra	7225
DDRC Ahmedabad	707
DDRC Aizwal	1454

1	2
DDRC Allahabad	7264
DDRC Almora	3224
DDRC Ambedkarnagar	1600
DDRC Anantpur	46432
DDRC Anantnag	635
DDRC Aurangabad	2866
DDRC Ballia	10124
DDRC Balaghat	2435
DDRC Banka	2533
DDRC Bastar	333
DDRC Belgaum	4799
DDRC Bellary	8332
DDRC Buladana	1680
DDRC Dakshin Dinajpur	10784
DDRC Darbhanga	5930
DDRC Dewas	2389
DDRC Dharamshala	5269
DDRC Dibrugarh	381
DDRC Dimarpur	5019
DDRC Diu	851
DDRC Dumka	2164
DDRC Durg	39
DDRC E Singhbhum	408
DDRC Farrukhabad	1442
DDRC Ferozpur	5021
DDRC Gangtok	848
DDRC Gaya	6674
DDRC Gonda	9644
DDRC Gorakhpur	8736
DDRC Gulbarga	12646
DDRC Gwalior	10031
DDRC Haridwar	4678
DDRC Hazaribagh	8915
DDRC Imphal	1561
DDRC Indore	6951
DDRC Itanagar	559

1	2
DDRC Jaipaluri	1348
DDRC Jamnagar	2704
DDRC Jashpur	751
DDRC Jawad	45
DDRC Jehanabad	635
DDRC Jhabua	8455
DDRC Jhansi	3731
DDRC Junagarh	126
DDRC Kalahandi	617
DDRC Karimnagar	8358
DDRC Kishanganj	2541
DDRC Kolhapur	3685
DDRC Koraput	19084
DDRC Kozhikode	17101
DDRC Latur	4497
DDRC Leh	585
DDRC Madurai	20453
DDRC Mahim	387
DDRC Mandasaur	117
DDRC Mandya	1294
DDRC Mangalore	5649
DDRC Mau	7349
DDRC Mayurbhanj	591
DDRC Meerut	2523
DDRC Muzafarpur	2896
DDRC Nawada	952
DDRC Panaji	599
DDRC Patiala	10781
DDRC Phulbani	29760
DDRC Pilibhit	16057
DDRC Pondicherry	21190
DDRC Port Blair	805
DDRC Raigarh	29781
DDRC Rajgarh	14422
DDRC Rajkot	3728
DDRC Raipur	225

1	2
DDRC Ranchi	8616
DDRC Rewa	124
DDRC Rohtak	1619
DDRC Sagar	9009
DDRC Samastipur	240
DDRC Sambalpur	651
DDRC Sangrur	1538
DDRC Saran (Chapra)	5640
DDRC Satna	351
DDRC Selam	1124
DDRC Shillong	5068
DDRC Shimla	6286
DDRC Silchar	3850
DDRC Silvasa	1659
DDRC Sindhurg	12363
DDRC Surat	5479
DDRC Tehri	5014
DDRC Tezpur	3053
DDRC Thiruvananthapuram	15399
DDRC Thoothukudi	9218
DDRC Thrissur	13363
DDRC Tumkur	11303
DDRC Udaipur	16913
DDRC Udhampur	1006
DDRC Ujjain	12498
DDRC Vadodara	26
DDRC Varanasi	8465
DDRC Vellore	2307
DDRC Virudhnagar	580
DDRC Vishakhapatnam	35582
DDRC Wardha	12403
DDRC 24-Pargana (N)	1208
Total	669810

Information of 110 out of 115 functional DDRCs, remaining 5 are newly set up.

Statement-II

State	Districts Sanctioned for Setting up of new DDRCs
Uttar Pradesh	1. Raibarielly + Fatehpur
	2. Muzzaffamagar
	3. Maharajganj
Punjab	4. Bhatinda
	5. Hoshiarpur
Bihar	6. Begusarai
	7. Kaimur
	8. East Champaran
Orissa	9. Ganjam
	10. Jajapur
Mizoram	11. Kolasib + Mamit
	12. Lunglei + Lunglit
Assam	13. Dhemji + Lakhimpur
	14. Nagaoan + Marigaon
Nagaland	15. Tuensang
	16. Mon

Railways Comprehensive Perspective Plan

4330. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any railways comprehensive perspective plan projecting the growth and capacity for the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formed any Committee for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) includes Railways comprehensive perspective plan, projected growth of passenger and freight traffic and capacity enhancement for the period 2002-2007.

A mid-term appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan has also been undertaken by the Planning Commission in order to reassess the projected growth of traffic, capacity augmentation and other requirements.

An 'Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan (2005-2010)' has also been prepared incorporating various modernization measures and schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]**Opening of Retail Outlets**

4331. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :
SHRI ILYAS AZMI :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets proposed to be opened by the private/public sector companies in the country during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have come to the notice of the Government regarding opening of diesel/petrol pumps in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) After the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector w.e.f. 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) make their own marketing plans for setting up of new retail outlets (ROs) on yearly basis. There is no target for the Tenth Plan period for setting up ROs. As regards private sector companies, M/s Reliance Industries limited, M/s Essar Oil Limited and M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Ltd. have been authorized to market transportation fuel and they propose to set up 5,849, 1,700 and 2,000 number of ROs respectively. However, there is no fixed time-frame for setting up these ROs.

(b) to (d) The Government do receive, from time to time, complaints regarding the opening of retail outlets/selection of dealers by OMCs. These complaints are looked into and remedial action taken after enquiry.

Inclusion of Castes in OBC List

4332. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of castes included in State list of other backward classes by the Rajasthan Government;

(b) the number of castes out of them included by the Union Government in the central list of OBCs; and

(c) the time by which the remaining castes are likely

to be included in Central list of OBCs by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) 82

(b) 61

(c) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) examines requests for inclusion of any caste/ community in the Central List of OBCs only after the receipt of requests from Associations/Organizations or Individuals. Out of the 21 castes in the State List which have not been included in the Central list, the Commission has received representations for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan for 5 castes/communities only. No representation has been received in respect of the other 16 castes/ communities. It is not possible to give the time limit for the disposal of the 5 cases by the NCBC.

[English]

Additional Flights for Summer

4333. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2400 additional flights were to be put into operation in order to meet the demand of seats to and from India during the winter months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the desired target of additional flights could not be achieved;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide additional flights in different routes to clear the summer rush;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the routes where additional flights are proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) In order to meet the extra demand of seats to/from India during the winter season, the Government had declared a limited open sky policy for the period 01 November, 2004 to 31 March, 2005 under which foreign carriers were permitted to operate any number of additional flights to their available points of call or upgrade equipment on their existing flights. There was no target set for the number of additional flights. However, a total of 2534 additional flights (5,30,763 seats) were operated under this policy. In addition 61,066 seats were deployed by way of upgradation of aircraft.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal to extend the limited Open Sky policy to the Summer season, 2005. However, additional bilateral rights have been agreed to on several routes as part of the on-going process of reviewing traffic rights. It is expected that the increase in seat deployment by foreign as well as Indian carriers during summer 2005 would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the travelling public.

White Paper on Status of Minorities

4334. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a White Paper on the status of Minority Communities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, No time frame has been decided.

Purchase Centre in North Eastern Region

4335. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make Guwahati, the Purchase Centre for the army with the objective to help the new entrepreneurs of the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present purchase level of the army with in the North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, dry food rations are procured on a centralized basis and distributed to the troops throughout the country.

Implementation of Recommendations of National Commission for SCs

4336. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the findings/decisions of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes are not being implemented by some of the Public Sector Undertaking/Banks and Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to ensure implementation of the findings/decisions of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) In one case an employee of Gurgaon Gramin Bank had approached the Commission seeking his reinstatement in the service. The National Commission had advised reinstatement since the punishment awarded to the employee is disproportionate. However, the Board of Directors of the Bank did not do so because there is no provision in the Service Regulations to review the case.

Value of Assets of CPSEs

4337. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism available with the Government to assess the value of fixed assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

(b) whether the Government is aware that several CPSEs are showing incorrect value of the fixed assets;

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The value of fixed assets in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is generally assessed as per the mechanism given in Accounting Standard (AS) 10 issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in 1985.

(b) to (d) The Audit Report No. 2 of 2005 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial) which was laid in the Parliament on 22.3.2005 indicated the findings/ observations of the Statutory Auditors in Chapter 1 relating to the accounts of CPSEs for the year 2003-04. Such findings are forwarded by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Commercial) to the concerned Ministries/ Departments for taking necessary action and submission of the Action Taken Notes to the Committee on Public

Undertakings (COPU) after having been vetted by the Audit. However, no information about making any enquiry in this regard is maintained centrally.

Referral Centres

4338. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up referral Centres at the State and district levels under the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned additional central assistance in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) to (d) Fifteen States/ UTs have set up State Referral Centres and twenty five States/UTS have set up District Level Centres under the National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), which was approved as a State Sector Scheme in the year 1999-2000. The Government of India provided funds to the States/UTs as additional central assistance for implementation of the scheme during the years 1999-2002.

State-wise details of additional central assistance released are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State/UT-wise Central Assistance Released under NPRPD

S.No.	State/UT	Amount Released
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	147.30
2.	Andhra Pradesh	257.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	366.90
4.	Assam	476.70
5.	Bihar	599.00
6.	Chandigarh	147.30
7.	Chhattisgarh	363.95
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	147.30

1	2	3
9.	Daman and Diu	147.30
10.	Delhi	147.30
11.	Goa	147.30
12.	Gujarat	366.90
13.	Haryana	257.10
14.	Himachal Pradesh	257.10
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	257.10
16.	Jharkhand	366.90
17.	Karnataka	379.40
18.	Kerala	257.10
19.	Lakshadweep	147.30
20.	Madhya Pradesh	708.80
21.	Maharashtra	379.40
22.	Manipur	257.10
23.	Meghalaya	257.10
24.	Mizoram	147.30
25.	Nagaland	257.10
26.	Orissa	379.40
27.	Pondicherry	147.30
28.	Punjab	257.10
29.	Rajasthan	379.40
30.	Sikkim	147.30
31.	Tamil Nadu	379.40
32.	Tripura	147.30
33.	Uttar Pradesh	818.60
34.	Uttaranchal	257.10
35.	West Bengal	257.10
Total		10413.15

**Bringing of Sections of Railway
Act, 1989 Under RPF**

4339. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sections 150, 151 and 152 of the Railways Act 1989, pertaining to sabotage and related wrecking of/damage to trains and railways properties and causing hurt to people etc. are still in the jurisdiction of the Government Railway Police (GRP) ;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring this jurisdiction under Railway Protection Force; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) These sections deal with offences which are considered rather serious and have a direct bearing on law and order, which are subject matter of the State Police. Moreover, investigation of such offences requires expertise and experience which are not available with the Railway Protection Force (R.P.F.)

[Translation]

**Modernisation and Digitalisation of
AIR and Doordarshan Kendras**

4340. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for modernisation and digitalization of AIR/Doordarshan Kendras in the country, particularly in Maharashtra during the Tenth Plan;

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

(c) the time by which the modernisation/digitalisation work of the said centres is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the enclosed statement. The schemes are expected to be completed during the 10th Plan, subject to availability of resources and approval of the competent authority.

Statement

All India Radio

The scheme for Modernisation and Digitalisation during the 10th Plan are as follows :-

1. Provision of Digital Satellite News Gathering System at Zonal Headquarter.
2. Provision of portable MSS terminals for News Gathering at Major Stations.

3. Provision of Digital uplinks at new State capitals.
4. Upgradation of existing satellite uplinks at State capitals.
5. Replacement of old transmitters, studio equipments and studio transmitter link by digital equipments.

In Maharashtra, the following schemes have been proposed :

1. MSS terminal at Mumbai.
2. Digital Satellite News Gathering System and upgradation of satellite uplinks at Mumbai.
3. Replacement of 1KW MW transmitter at Aurangabad by 10 KW FM transmitter.
4. Replacement of 6 KW FM transmitter at Nagpur by 10 KW FM transmitter.'
5. Replacement of 6KW FM transmitter at Pune by 10 KW FM transmitter.
6. Replacement of 10 KW FM and 5 KW FM transmitter at Mumbai by 20 KW FM transmitter.

Doordarshan

Doordarshan Studio centres to be digitalised during 10th Plan Period

State/UT	Studio centres to be fully digitalised	Studio centres to be partially digitalised
1	2	3
Assam	Guwahati	Guwahati (Regional Production Centre) Dibrugarh Silchar
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad*	Vijayawada
Arunachal Pradesh		Itanagar
Bihar	Patna	Muzaffarpur
Chhattisgarh		Raipur*
Goa		Panaji*
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Rajkot
Himachal Pradesh		Shimla
Jharkhand		Ranchi Daltonganj*
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Jammu*

1	2	3
Kerala	Trivandrum	
Karnataka	Bangalore*	Gulbarga*
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Indore
Meghalaya		Shillong Tura
Maharashtra	Mumbai*	Pune
Manipur		Imphal
Mizoram		Aizwal
Nagaland		Kohima
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	Sambalpur
Punjab	Jalandhar	
Rajasthan	Jaipur	
Sikkim		Gangtok*
Tamil Nadu	Chennai*	
Tripura		Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Bareilly Mau Allahabad
West Bengal	Calcutta*	Jalpaiguri
Delhi	Delhi* Central Production Centre*	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		Port Blair*
Pondicherry		Pondicherry*

*Digitalisation since completed

Accidents in Ordnance Factories

4341. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents that took place in various Ordnance Factories in the countries during the last two years;

(b) the number of employees killed and injured in each accident;

(c) the number of kins of aggrieved persons who were provided compensation and the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide any help to such aggrieved families of whom no member has been appointed on compassionate grounds; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The details of major accidents took place in Ordnance Factories during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is given in the statement enclosed.

Compensation paid to employees in case of accident involving permanent disability or death is governed by

Workmen's Compensation Act and is paid to individual in case of permanent disability or next to kin in case of death.

(d) Compensation under Workmen's Compensation Act is paid in case of accident involving death or permanent disability irrespective of whether Compassionate appointment is provided to the kin in case of death or not.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Accidents in Ordnance Factories during 2003-2004 :

Sl. No.	Factory/Bldg. No./Date	Details of accident	Loss of Human life	No. of persons injured	Compassionate appointment given
1.	OFCH/Proof Range 31.10.2003	Accident occurred while conducting Proof of advance sample of Fuze Mine 1-C	1	Nil	Appointment given to son of deceased
2.	OFAJ on 4.7.2003	Road accident inside Factory	1	Nil	No appointment given since it did not merit consideration
3.	OFM/LSF Sec. on 14.08.2003	Accident due to splashig of molten metal	1	Nil	Appointment given to son of the deceased
4.	OFPM/LMD Sec., on 11.10.2003	Accident due to electrocution	1	Nil	Appointment given to wife of the deceased
5.	GCF/Vig Sec on 5.11.2003	Falling from height	1	Nil	No application has been received

Details of Accidents in Ordnance Factories during 2004-2005 :

1.	VFJ/Store Section Yard/13.4.2004	Fire took place in the Store Yard outside production shop where Packing Wood Scrap were kept	Nil	Nil	—
2.	OFK/334 F3 Sec. on 21.4.2004	During assembly of secondary CCC with short of 125 mm FSAPDS Ammn	1	1	Employment given to son of the deceased
3.	OFV/Bldg. No. 90-91- Primer filling Section on 27.4.2004	Explosion of Lead Styphnate	1	1	Employment given to son of the deceased
4.	MSF/Pump Room Extrusion Process MME Sec. on 16.11.2004	Fire inside Pump Room of Extrusion Press occurred after end of shift when the press was not working and room was closed	Nil	Nil	—
5.	OFCH/273-Unit IX on 31.1.2005	A fire occurred in Bldg for assembly of 81 mm Bomb HE which was closed for lunch break. The fire led to explosion of a few number s of Bombs	Nil	1	—
6.	GCF on 13.9.2004	Falling from height	1	Nil	Under processing
7.	VFJ/TG-7 area on 16.12.2004	Falling from height	1	Nil	Under processing
8.	OCFS on 2.3.2005	Road accident inside Factory	1	Nil	Employment given to son of the deceased

*[English]***National School of Drama**

4342. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National School of Drama (NSD) is being considered grant of 'Deemed University status' by UGC;

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

(c) whether there is any opposition to this proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the recommendation of the University Grants Commission which examined a proposal for Deemed to be University Status to National School of Drama, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary & Higher Education vide its Notification dated 11th March, 2005, has already declared the National School of Drama would be in a position to initiate research in chosen fields of specialization and also could initiate innovative programmes in academics.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There was opposition from some students to the Deemed to be University Status. It has been decided in the combined meeting of the Academic Council and NSD Society not to proceed with the "Deemed to be University" status unless the implications are fully studied and all the stakeholders are satisfied. A committee is making an in-depth study. Government will take a view after studying all aspects.

Protest by AAI Employees

4343. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Airports Authority of India had undergone fast to protest the decision to privatise major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A country-wide relay fast to protest was organised by Airports Authority of India (AAI) Employees Joint Forum 7th

March 2005 to 23rd March, 2005 at all International and Major Airports.

(c) Adequate steps were taken to ensure that no disruption in the Airport Operations is caused. During the protest period, operation at airports was normal and no adverse report on flight operations and other airport services were received from any field station. Frequent meetings are also being held with representatives of Employees of AAI to brief them about various aspects of the restructuring process.

Shortage of Bullet Proof Jackets

4344. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Bullet Proof Jacket in the Army;

(b) whether it has resulted in complexities in Army operations;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Based on the immediate requirement as projected by Army, 1 lakh bullet proof jackets are under procurement. 1.79 lakh bullet proof jackets are available with the Army at present. No complexities in operational role has been reported by the Army Headquarters due to bullet proof jackets.

Corruption Cases in Air India

4345. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption and mismanagement cases received by the Vigilance Department of Air India during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which inquiry have been completed;

(c) the number of officials against whom action has been taken on the basis of Vigilance reports;

(d) whether the guidelines of periodicals rotations of officials in identified sensitive departments are being followed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The

Vigilance Department of Air India received 202 cases of corruption and mismanagement during last three years out of which inquiry have been completed in 193 cases.

(c) On the basis of vigilance reports, action has been taken against 107 officials.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statutory Dues to CPSUs Employees

4346. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector employees whose statutory dues amounting to Rs. 1365 crore as on June 30, 2004 have not been paid by various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for payment of all statutory dues to workers of CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The outstanding amount of Rs. 1365 crores as on 30.6.2004 on account of statutory dues and salary/wages of employees of the relevant Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) referred to in part (a), has since come down to Rs. 399.72 crores as on 28.2.2005 as per available information (details are given in the enclosed statement).

(c) CPSEs have been advised by the Government to clear outstanding dues to their employees in the following manner : (i) CPSEs that are capable of clearing the outstanding dues to their employees are to do so expeditiously. (ii) CPSEs that may take time to raise resources by selling surplus assets to clear the dues are to mobilize funds from the market, for which Government may stand guarantee and give interest subsidy as necessary, (iii) whenever legal issues are involved, the concerned administrative Ministry are to explore out-of-Court settlement or to refer the case to Ministry of Law to expedite resolution of the issues, (iv) CPSEs facing financial difficulties are to submit specific action plans for revival/closure/disinvestment of the CPSE/unit thereof to avail of one time financial assistance from the Government to clear the dues expeditiously.

Statement

Sl. No.	Ministry/ Department	CPSEs where dues are pending with respect to reference date of 31.12.2002	Outstanding Dues as on 28.2.2005 (Rs. Lakh)
1.	D/o Agriculture & Cooperation	1. State Farms Corporations of India Ltd.	1117
		Total	1117
2.	D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals	2. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	975
		3. Smith Stanistreet & Pharmecuticals Ltd	73
		Total	1048
3.	D/o Defence Production & Supplies	4. Mazagon Dock Ltd.	14
		Total	14
4.	M/o Shipping	5. Hooghly Dock & Port Engineering Ltd.	80
		Total	80
5.	M/o Steel	6. Bharat Refractories Ltd.	2000
		7. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	8300
		Total	10300
6.	M/o Textiles	8. National Jute Manufacturing Corporation Ltd.	19008
		9-17. National Textiles Corporation's 9 subsidiaries	4923
		Total	23931
7.	M/o Water Resources	18. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd	3482
		Total	3482
Grand Total			39972

Pilferage of Crude Oil

4347. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the pilferage of crude oil in Gujarat and Assam;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of oil reported to be pilfered during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and placed on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Loss making Railway Projects

4348. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to abandon 122 loss making railway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any Expert Committee to examine profit/loss making projects and to provide maximum amenities to the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

CNG Filling Stations in NCT Region

4349. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

MOHD. SHAHID :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently directed the State Governments coming under National Capital Territory Region to make provisions for sufficient CNG filling stations in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of CNG filling stations likely to be set up in the country, particularly in NCT region, State-wise during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Vide its orders dated the 11th March 2005 the Supreme Court had directed the States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to render full cooperation and assistance to M/s Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) to set up the required number of CNG outlets in Faridabad and Gurgaon in the State of Haryana and in Noida, including Greater Noida, in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Court also directed that with regard to loss of revenue on account of waiver of sales tax, the matter should be discussed, in the first instance, between the Union of India and the State Governments concerned to secure an amicable solution. The Court further directed IGL the States of Haryana & Uttar Pradesh and the Union of India to file a progress report within period of five weeks.

(c) and (d) IGL have already initiated preliminary activities for introducing CNG in the NCR cities viz., Noida (including Greater Noida), Gurgaon and Faridabad. Government have allocated natural gas for this purpose for these cities. IGL initially plans to set up 20 CNG stations in the first phase as per the following details :-

Name of the city	No. of CNG stations
Faridabad	6
Gurgaon	6
Noida	5
Greater Noida	3
Total	20

As of now, two CNG stations have been commissioned in Noida. CNG will be progressively introduced in other cities of the country with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas.

[Translation]

Institutes for Minority Communities

4350. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA :

MOHD. SHAHID :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified Institutes

for candidates of Minority Communities for their admission in Private Coaching Institutes;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount the Government proposes to provide for such institutes; and
- (d) the norms adopted for selection of reputed coaching institutes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) There is no proposal to identify institutes exclusively for the students belonging to Minority Communities.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gramset Yojna

4351. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure incurred on the Gramset Yojana during the last three years and as on date, State-wise and year wise;
- (b) the details of the programmes telecast under this scheme;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to associate the tribal people in these programmes to promote the tribal culture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Carrying of Pets in Trains

4352. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the facilities to take pets alongwith the passengers in the same train is available in the railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith clear cut rules in this regard; and
- (c) the steps the Government proposes to take to transport pets with a human touch and easy access of the owner during travel for passengers other than First AC and

First Class, especially in long distance trains such as Tamil Nadu, GT and Rajdhani Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) As per extant rules, a pet dog can be carried in dog box in Second Class Luggage and Brake Van (SLR). Dog is also permitted to be carried with the passenger in AC First Class and First Class Compartments only provided that the whole coupe (2 berther or 4 berther) is booked by the passenger or the group of passengers for his/their exclusive use. Dog carried in dog box is charged at parcel rates applicable to the train at 30 kgs per pet dog. Pet dogs can also be carried in AC first Class at parcel rate of 60 kgs per dog. Dogs are not allowed to be carried in AC 2 tier, AC 3 tier, AC Chair Car, Sleeper Class and Second Class Compartments. The facility for booking of a dog in AC First Class and First Class and Dog Boxes provided in SLRs can be availed in all Mail/Express and in AC First Class in Rajdhani Trains. Both First Class and AC first Class have separate cabins/coupees so that carriage of pets does not cause inconvenience to co-passengers. In Shatabadi trains, booking of dogs is not permitted as these trains do not have AC First Class and First Class compartments. Booking of dogs in dog boxes is not permitted in Rajdhani/Shatabadi trains as they do not have dog boxes. In other trains one dog box is provided and only one dog is booked per train on first-come-first served basis. There is no provision of advance booking of dogs. They are booked at the counter, one hour before departure of the train. Dogs are locked in the dog boxes in the presence of the owner who is responsible for feeding of the dog enroute. Special Vehicle (Horse Boxes) can also be provided in case of number of dogs being more then one and upto 36 in the case of dogs being of large size.

In addition to above, as per extant rules, Puppies, Cats, Kittens, Mongooses, Ferrets, Rabbits, Monkeys, Guinea-pigs and other small animals and small birds (other than poultry) are also permitted to be carried in brake-van at parcel rates applicable to train service and in passenger carriage at owner's risk with the permission of the Station Master at the starting station and with the consent of fellow passengers.

At present the Government has no proposal for carrying pets in classes other than First AC and First Class coaches or to provide for dog kennels in each bogie as possibility to transport of pets with human touch and easy access of the owner during travel in coaches other than First AC and First Class is negligible.

Retirement Age of Pilots

4353. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to raise the retirement age of the pilots;

- (b) if so, the reasons for raising the age limit; and
 (c) the methodology to be followed to assess the physical fitness of such pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) With sustained growth in the aviation sector, the country is facing a shortage of experienced commercial pilots. To overcome the present shortage, Government has permitted airline operators to utilize the services of professional pilots upto the age of 61 years beyond the maximum age limit of 60 years subject to the conditions that (i) Pilot should have clean medical record i.e. no medical limitations on license privileges, (ii) Pilot should undergo fresh Class I medical assessment from IAM Bangalore/AFCME New Delhi every 3 month. Exemption for flying beyond 60 years is granted on case to case basis on the recommendations of the duly constituted Board consisting of Principal Director - Medical Services (Specialist), IAF, as Chairman with Director of Operations (Training & Licensing) and Representative of Chief Flight Operations Inspector as Members.

[Translation]

Kingfisher Airlines

4354. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kingfisher Airlines has been granted permission to operate its flights within the country and abroad;
 (b) if so, the routes for which permission has been granted;
 (c) whether the Kingfisher Airlines has also requested for working space at the Indore Airport; and
 (d) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. The Kingfisher Airlines has been granted No Objection Certificate (NOC) to operate scheduled air transport services. The company is yet to get operator's permit.

- (b) Does not arise. In any case, all airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.
 (c) Yes, Sir.
 (d) Kingfisher Airlines will be given allotment as per the availability of space.

Provision of Rakes for Transport of Slack Coal

4355. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the priority for providing the rakes for transportation of slack coal for brick kins through railways has been withdrawn and as a result railway rakes are not being made available to Uttar Pradesh for transportation of coal;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government to make the rakes available for transportation of slack coal; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Rakes are being allotted for non-core sector consumers including Brick industry on the basis of programmes submitted by coal companies. Allotments are made on the basis of seniority of programmes. No exceptions are made by the railways.

[English]

Lonar Crater

4356. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Lonar Crater in Maharashtra, which is one of the five largest craters in the world has been declared as national monument by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
 (b) if so, whether the Government is aware that structure at Lonar Crater is in a dilapidated condition; and
 (c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to renovate structure at Lonar Crater?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Lonar Crater is not a centrally protected monument under the ASI. However, fifteen temples/structures around the Crater are centrally protected, and are being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India.

[Translation]

Enhancement of Penalty for Under Weighing of Petrol

4357. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has

sent any proposal to the Union Government to enhance the penalty under section 39(2) of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 for under weighing of petrol by petrol pumps;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A suitable amendment to Section 39(2) of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985 has been proposed.

(c) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Bill, 2005 to amend the said Act has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 10.02.2005 and has since been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Welfare of SC/ST

4358. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of SC/ST MPs was held from 5th to 7th December, 1999 and the Drafting Committee made recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had circulated the recommendations to the concerned Ministries/Departments for its implementations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the concerned Ministries/Department in this regard; and

(f) the time by which appropriate action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. a convention of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Members of Parliament was held in New Delhi on 5th to 7th December 1999. A Drafting Committee from amongst the participants was constituted to draw up the recommendations of the convention. The recommendations made by the Drafting Committee were circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments, all State Governments and Union Territories for appropriate action.

[English]

Functioning of Old Age Homes

4359. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the number of senior citizens/old age people in the country who needs due care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that old homes are not providing adequate facilities to the old age people despite charging huge amountng from them;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to monitor the facilities provided in these old age homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Old Age Homes funded by the Ministry do not charge any amount.

(e) Periodical inspections of the old age homes are carried out by the respective State Governments officials and the Government of India monitors the facilities provided in the old age homes funded by this Ministry.

Operating Community Radio Stations

4360. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of community radio stations which are operational at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received applications/requests from educational institutions to operate community radio stations;

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

(d) whether Gram Panchayats and other Local Bodies are eligible for licenses for Community Radio Broadcasting; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Seven community radio stations are operational at present. The State-wise details are following :

Tamilnadu-3, Pondicherry-1, Rajasthan-1, Maharashtra-1, Uttar Pradesh-1

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Till date, 68 applications have been received. 48 eligible applications have been referred to Ministry of Home Affairs & Human Resource Development for clearance and Ministry of Communications & IT for availability of frequency. In case of 30 institutions clearances have been received from the concerned ministries and subsequently letters of intent have been issued to them. Of these 20 institutions have signed license agreement with us after allocation of frequency by Ministry of Communication and 7 of them are operational at present.

(d) and (e) No, Sir As per the present policy only educational institutions are eligible to seek licenses for Community Radio Broadcasting.

[Translation]

Vacancies in Railways

4361. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of posts of T.C., station masters, guards and important posts of operational level are lying vacant in the Railways all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of vacant posts;

(c) whether there is any plan to make recruitment for these posts in the near future; and

(d) if so, the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Buying of Petroleum Products by Private Companies

4362. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several companies buy petroleum products for export;

(b) whether the companies who have been

permitted to buy these products on quota system cross international barriers by selling to other companies for advantage of export/import policies ;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against such companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) As per information available, oil companies are not buying petroleum products for export. However, indigenously produced petroleum products, which cannot be absorbed locally, are being exported by the oil companies.

(b) As per the EXIM policy, Oil companies enjoy duty draw back benefit in the form of Advance License enabling duty free import of crude oil against export of petroleum products. No misuse of this benefit has come to the attention of this Ministry.

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

Improvement In Programmes by the Prasar Bharati

4363. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan / All India Radio is facing stiff competition from the proliferation of private TV channels/FM;

(b) if so, steps taken by the Prasar Bharati to improve the quantity and content of the programmes telecast/broadcast by them; and

(c) the details of annual turnover of Private TV Channels/FM during the last three years and how does the same compare with that of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan and All India Radio are facing competition from the proliferation of Private TV Channels/FM Radio Channels. Prasar Bharati has been constantly aiming for excellence both in terms of content and quality. Doordarshan continuously reviews the quality of serials/programmes telecast on its various channels and makes efforts to further improve the contents and technical quality/transmission. The studios and equipment are continuously being modernized to improve technical quality of programmes.

(c) Details of Turnover of Private TV channels are not maintained by Government. However, total ad spend on television according to Federation of India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)/FRAMES reports from 2002 to 2004 are as follows :

Calender Year	Amount
2002	Rs. 3900 crores
2003	Rs. 4220 crores
2004	Rs. 4676 crores (estimated)

The details of revenue earnings of DD during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Amount
2002-03	Rs. 553.81 crores
2003-04	Rs. 530.23 crores
2004-05	Rs. 665.27 crores

Prasar Bharati is a Public Service Broadcaster and is not motivated by purely commercial considerations. Details relating to turnover of Private FM channels are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Condemned Wagons

4364. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that wagons were condemned prematurely by the Railways and many of those wagons had to be taken from the scarp depot for traffic use;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired for causing financial loss to the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the wagons which needed heavy and uneconomic repairs were to be condemned, even if under-age; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. If a wagon requires heavy repair which is not economical, it may be condemned even if under-age.

[Translation]

Improvement in Old Coaches

4365. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the condition of the old rail coaches is very bad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring improvements in the old rail coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The condition of all the rail coaches is regularly improved by suitable maintenance attention. Coaches of Mail and Express trains are given periodic Overhaul (POH) after every 12 months and those of Passenger coaches after every 18 months. Mid life Rehabilitation of some coaches is also carried out after 12-15 years of life of the coach. During this rehabilitation, the coach is given extensive corrosion repair and internal fittings are renewed. However, due to funds constraints it has not been possible to give mid life rehabilitation to all coaches of Indian Railways.

[English]

Maintenance Facilities for Trains

4366. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are primary and secondary maintenance facilities for Chennai-New Delhi/Hazrat Nizamuddin trains;

(b) if so, whether they are maintained as per the specifications/guidelines;;

(c) if so, whether water washing the exteriors of the trains is mandatory; and

(d) if so, the reasons as to why these trains wear a dirty look and the steps taken to keep these trains as per the specifications/guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, for trains where round trip run is less than 2500 Kilo Metres, exterior washing is done only at primary maintenance.

(d) Trains running between Chennai-New Delhi/Hazrat Nizamuddin trains are washed and cleaned at the maintenance depots at both ends of journey during primary

and secondary maintenance. There are some instances when washing is not done due to water crisis. However, exteriors of trains gather dust on the way which may give an unclean appearance despite of washing at the beginning of the travel.

**Oil and Gas Discoveries by
Private Oil Companies**

4367. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading private sector oil companies, both Indian and foreign have been making exaggerated claims about their oil and gas discoveries in order to rig up stock market prices;

(b) whether twisted and uncertified reserve claims are giving wrong signals to overseas investors; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to stall such bogus claims and the action taken against the errant companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) signed between the Government of India and companies (both private Indian and foreign companies included) provide for the procedure for announcement of a hydrocarbon discovery, production testing results etc. PSC contracts are obliged to follow the provisions of the PSCs.

Under the PSCs, commercial discoveries (based on the appraised reserves) are decided upon by the Management Committee, which includes representatives from the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) and contractor.

To ensure that all companies follow similar norms/guidelines, the procedure for declaration of the discoveries is being worked out in consultation with the stakeholders concerned.

[Translation]

**Internal Audit System in
Panchayati Raj System**

4368. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce internal audit system at the level of Panchayati Raj System; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to institutionalize the said system as State and Centre level?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is responsible for the work of advocacy for and monitoring of, the implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to ensure that the State Panchayati Raj Acts adhere to the provisions of the Act and to endeavour to secure its implementation in letter and spirit. As per Article 243J of the Constitution "The Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts". Therefore, it is for the State Governments to introduce a system of internal audit and further to identify the agency to get the budget/funds of Panchayats audited. The Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance for the utilization of local bodies grants recommended by the Eleventh Finance Commission (2000-01 to 2004-05) provide that the C&AG shall be responsible for exercising control and supervision over the proper maintenance of accounts and their audit for all the three tiers/levels of PRIs and ULBs. State Governments should send a request under section 20(1) of the CAG(DPC) Act, for this purpose. As per the Guidelines, the format for the preparation of budgets and for keeping accounts for local bodies shall be as prescribed by the C & AG. This subject has discussed further in the Sixth Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj at Guwahati on 27-28 November 2004. Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj of the States/UT Administration and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj, as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the conclusions reached at the meeting. A copy of the conclusions is enclosed as statement.

In para (iv) of the conclusions of the sixth Round Table, under the heading 'Audit' it has been recommended that there is need to establish an internal audit system at every tier of the Panchayati Raj System and to regard C&AG audit (or audit by bodies certified or technically guided by C&AG) as complementary external audit.

Since local bodies are now institutions of local self-government in terms of Article 243G of the Constitution, it is necessary to upgrade the work of the Director of Local Fund Audit (DLFA) and other similar bodies to the level required by Constitutional imperatives and, to this end, for the DLFA and other similar bodies to work in concert with the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) of India, it was resolved that those State Governments which have not yet availed of the arrangements for bringing the CAG into the exercise of accounting and audit, including the C&AG's Technical Guidance and Supervision scheme for the Panchayati Raj Institutions were invited to do so.

Statement

Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj, and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federalism which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India and related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:

Elections

- (i) The Indian voter is one and indivisible. The principle of parity between parliamentary and assembly elections, on the one hand and panchayat elections, on the other, must therefore be maintained, especially as it is noticed that people's participation in panchayat elections is substantial and generally equal to or higher than in parliamentary/assembly elections. Thus, for example, even in States with difficult geographical terrain, 88% of the electorate has participated in panchayat elections in Himachal Pradesh and 83.5% has participated in Sikkim.
- (ii) While all matters relating to panchayat elections have been vested by the Constitution in State legislatures/governments, there is a need to work towards commonality, if not uniformity, in election procedures and provisions. To this end, it would be desirable to vest all responsibilities for the election process in State Election Commissions rather than splitting these up, including:
 - (a) preparation of electoral rolls;
 - (b) delimitation of constituencies;
 - (c) reservations and rotations;
 - (d) qualifications of candidates;
 - (e) conduct of elections; and
 - (f) functioning as the first stage of adjudication in election disputes.
- (iii) The Union Government might consider the preparation of a model code relating to the supervision, direction and conduct of elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- (iv) With a view to evolving a common electoral roll for all levels of elections, consultations between the Chief Election Commissioners (CEC) and the State Election Commission (SECs) might be encouraged with a view to resolving practical problems that might arise in the preparation, maintenance and updating of such electoral rolls

for elections to be held at different times for different levels of Governments. The panchayat and nagarpalika wards should be regarded as the building blocks for electoral rolls for all levels of election.

- (v) Consideration may be given to incorporating in the laws pertaining to PR elections the same provisions of disclosure as apply to Parliament and State Assembly Elections.
- (vi) The Election Commission of India (ECI) might be approached for establishing a forum for institutional interaction between SECs and ECI on issues such as directives being issued by the State Election Commission; the use of radio broadcasting for disseminating election-related information; anomalies arising out of migration; linking delimitation with census operation uniformity in service condition of SECs; and proposals like sealing the electronic chip in the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), and not the machine itself, for evidentiary purposes, thus leaving the machine free for use in panchayat elections.
- (vii) States may consider according the same salary and emoluments to State Election Commissioners as High Court Judges are entitled to.
- (viii) It is recommended that the Delimitation Commission be regularly in contact with the SEC's, who are members of the Commission, to sort out practical difficulties arising out of delimitation process.
- (ix) To facilitate the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in panchayat elections, the Union Government in consultation with Election Commission of India and the SECs, might consider issues relating to the funding of the purpose of EVMs for the use of State Election Commissions.
- (x) Elections to District Planning Committees provided for in Article 243ZD of the Constitution might also be brought within the purview of State Election Commissions to ensure full conformity with Constitutional provisions, which has not always been the case.

Audit

- (i) Since local bodies are now institutions of local self-government, it is necessary to upgrade the work of the Director of Local Fund Audit (DLFA) and other similar bodies to the level required by Constitutional imperatives and, to this end, for

- DLFA and other similar bodies to work in concert with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG).
- (ii) In recognition of PRIs being institutions of local self-government, PRIs themselves should be associated with the preparation of standards and norms and the emphasis should be on fund management and fund tracking, rather than simply on fund flow, to ensure greater accountability.
- (iii) In order to ensure that such audit contributes effectively to capping, reducing and eventually eliminating the scope for corruption in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), it is necessary that audit & accounting standards appropriate to the work of the Panchayats be established and observed. These standards should be elementary, simple and easily comprehensible to the elected representatives, and should focus on:
- when transactions should be looked into;
 - what should be monitored;
 - how the transactions should be documented; and
 - how they should be disclosed.
- (iv) There is need to establish an internal audit system at every tier of the Panchayati Raj system and to regard C&AG audit (or audit by bodies certified or technically guided by C&AG) as complementary external audit.
- (v) Audit, to be effective, might include the establishment of a National Accounting Standards Board (NASB) for local government accounts and be complemented by the establishment of audit commissions or similar such regulatory bodies at the State level.
- (vi) Besides, arrangements may be made in State Legislatures for the establishment of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) specifically for PRIs or for the accounts of PRIs to be submitted to PR Committees of the State Legislatures. State level committees, as in Andhra Pradesh, for the settlement of audit paras may also be considered.
- (vii) It may be useful to complement such institutional arrangements by legislating an appropriate Fiscal Responsibility Act for elected local authorities.
- (viii) Outsourcing of accounting by such measures as village panchayats being authorized to employ certified Chartered Accountants against standard contracts might be considered.
- (ix) The training of both officials and elected representatives in sound accounting and audit practices is a high priority. To this end, State Governments are invited to make full use of the Regional Training Institutes (RTIs) functioning under the aegis of the C & AG, in particular the RTI at Kolkata which has been declared a centre of excellence; as also of the Institute of Public Auditors of India (IPAI). Substantial additional funding from the Union Government to facilitate training is a high priority.
- (x) Those State Governments which have not as yet availed of the arrangements for bringing the C&AG into the exercise of accounting and audit, including the C&AG's Technical Guidance and Supervision (TGS) Scheme for the PRIs, are invited to do so and the attention of all concerned is drawn to the publications of the Indian and Audit Accounts Department, in particular
- (a) Auditing Standards for PRIs and Urban Local Bodies
 - (b) Guidelines for Certification of Audit of Accounts of PRIs
 - (c) Training module of Audit of Gram Panchayats
- (xi) Given the shortage of staff for undertaking formal accounts and audit work in the lakhs of Village Panchayats, thousands of Intermediate Panchayats and hundreds of Zilla Parishads around the country, it is essential that automation and computerization of accounts be undertaken with all deliberate speed and to this end software like the one being prepared by the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar for the Orissa State Government, for maintaining day-to-day accounts, which is expected to be ready by early 2004, be deployed as widely as possible everywhere.
- (xii) Social audit is an important complement to formal audit and for the sound and healthy development of Panchayati Raj, it is essential to establish a symbiotic relationship between social and formal audit.
- (xiii) Social audit is an important complement to formal audit and for the sound and healthy development of Panchayati Raj, it is essential a symbiotic relationship between social and formal audit.
- (xiv) For social audit to be effective and based on the

best practices available in different States, consideration might be given to the preparation of Social Audit Policies for adoption by State Legislatures/Governments so as to provide a framework within which social audit is undertaken. Such Social Audit Policies may be targeted at facilitating popular participation in fighting corruption in Panchayats, as also complementing formal audit processes by quality assessment, ascertainment of preferences and the provision of choices. At the same time, Social Audit Policies may provide for institutional measures to prevent needless harassment.

- (xv) To ensure appropriate follow-up to issues raised through social audit, legislative bodies and regulatory authorities might treat social audit resolutions on par with formal audit paras to ensure consideration and disposal within a time-bound framework.
- (xvi) Given the critical importance of total disclosure of information for effective social audit, States might consider passing Right to Information legislation, taking into account the legislation already on the books in such states as Rajasthan.

[English]

Competition between Indian and Chinese Oil Companies in International Oil Market

4369. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian oil companies have been facing stiff competition from Chinese companies abroad;
- (b) if so, whether due to competition between the Indian and Chinese companies, the prices for acquiring oil and gas properties abroad have gone up manifold; and
- (c) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Acquisition of oil and gas assets is a competitive process. In this process, it is possible that Indian state owned oil companies and Chinese companies may bid for the same assets. The buyers of the assets try to secure the best value from the market at the time of offer.

(b) Participation of Chinese oil and gas companies in the same opportunity results in increased competition, which may, consequently, have some impact on the valuation of the opportunity.

(c) A joint Task Force of the Ministries of External Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas has been established to examine the prospects for Sino-Indian cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector.

Vehicle Care Centres by BPCL

4370. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has launched 'Vehicle Care Centres' as its retail outlets;
- (b) if so, the rationale behind opening of such vehicle care centres; and
- (c) the number of such centres proposed to be opened during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched Vehicle Care Centres as its Retail Outlets under the brand name V-Care with the following objectives:

- (i) To provide greater customer convenience due to the locational advantage of BPCL's Retail Outlets and extended operating hours (Retail Outlet timings).
- (ii) To assure enhanced customer service and genuine products at responsible prices, thereby ensuring higher customer satisfaction and customer loyalty.
- (c) BPCL propose to open 200 Vehicle Care Centres during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Nomadic Community in SC/ST List

4371. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include Nomadic Community in Scheduled Castes/Tribes list by making a third list for them and to provide 10 percent reservation in addition to the reservation available to SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADESAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Damage to Railway Bridges
due to Floods**

4372. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges washed away or damaged by the floods and rains in the country during the last three years and current year, Zone-wise;

(b) the total loss to Railways as a result thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on carrying out repairs of damaged bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Zone-wise details of Railway Bridges washed away/damaged due to floods/rains during last three years are as under :

Railway	No. of Bridges Damaged/ Washed away due to Rains/ Floods during last three years
Central	Nil
Eastern	2
East Central	5
East Coast	Nil
Northern	12
North Central	Nil
North Eastern	Nil
North East Frontier	11
North Western	Nil
Southern	Nil
South Central	1
South Eastern	Nil
South East Central	2
South Western	Nil
Western	2
West Central	Nil
Total	35

There has been no wash away or damage to any Railway Bridge due to rains/floods till date in the current year i.e. 2005-06.

The loss suffered by Indian Railways due to damage/wash away of Railway Bridges during the last three years, including the expenditure incurred on reconstruction/repair of damaged bridges, is approximately Rs. 23 Crore.

[Translation]

Procurement of Defence Materials

4373. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked for any explanation from the Union Government with regard to the CAG objections made in respect of the procurement of defence materials during the Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action so far in this regard after the receipt of the CAG report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Defence had requested the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to conduct a Special Audit of the procurements made for Operation Vijay related to Kargil Operation. The CAG carried out a special audit and its Report (7-A of 2001) was tabled in both houses of Parliament on 11.12.2001.

A Write Petition (c) No. 270 of 2004 – K.G. Dhananjay Chauhan Versus Union of India (UOI) and Others was filed in the Supreme Court and on 25th October, 2004, the Supreme Court issued orders directing UOI to file an affidavit by way of response showing the details of the action, if any, taken on the Report of the CAG, Public Accounts Committee 54th Report and Report of CVC referred to in para 5.11 of 54th Report of Public Accounts Committee".

The C&AG reviewed 123 cases and Report No. 7-A of 2001 contains audit paras pertaining deficiencies noted in 35 cases of procurement.

11 audit paras out of these 35 have been vetted by Office of Directorate General of Audit Defence Services and the remaining paras are at various stages of examination.

The Government has taken a decision to refer 25 cases to the CBI out of 35 cases referred in the C&AG report.

[English]

**Modernisation of Bokajan
Cement Factory**

4374. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bifurcate the Bokajan Cement Factory in Assam from CCI and making it as a separate independent unit;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan to expand and modernize the Bokajan Cement Factory, with a view to increase its productivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e) Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has been declared sick on 8th August, 1996 by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR vide its letter dated 11.11.2004 has directed IFCI, the Operating Agency to prepare and submit a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (DRS) in respect of CCI as a whole.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1921/05]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1922/05]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh for the year 2003-2004.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1923/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables

Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1924/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1925/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1926/05]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

Fifth and Sixth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers : -

- (1) Fifth Reports on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals); and
- (2) Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Fifth and Sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2004-05) :-

- (1) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Power, and
- (2) Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Fourth and Fifth Reports

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:

- (1) Fourth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Fifth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 1st Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2004-2005.

12.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Fifteenth to Eighteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:-

- (1) Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Department of Information Technology.
- (2) Sixteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Department of Posts.
- (3) Seventeenth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Department of Telecommunications.
- (4) Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT**

Seventh and Eighth Reports

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment :-

- (1) Seventh Reports on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; and
- (2) Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

12.04¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Sixth Reports

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2004-2005) on Demands for Grants 2005 of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

12.04½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**One Hundred Fifty Eighth to
One hundred Sixtieth Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development :-

- (1) One Hundred Fifty-eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy;
- (2) One Hundred Fifty-ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education; and
- (3) One Hundred Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Women and Child Development.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER*

**Collision between Sabarmati Express and
Goods Train on Godhra – Vadodara Section
of Western Railway**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I now request the hon. Minister to make a statement.

As a matter of fact, I had instructed the Government to make a statement on the unfortunate railway accident. Mr. Velu may please make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : Sir, it is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate rear end collision that occurred between 9168 Up Varanasi-Ahmedabad Sabarmati Express and Up Goods train at Samlaya station on Godhra - Vadodara section of Western Railway's Vadodara Division at 0310 hours on 21.04.2005.

In this accident, train engine and 8 coaches of 9168 Up Sabarmati Express derailed of which 7 coaches have capsized.

*Also placed in Library, See LT 1927/05

The casualties reported so far, as a result of this unfortunate accident, is killed 12, and injured about 100. The injured have been admitted to Sayaji Rao Hospital, Vadodara and other nearby hospitals. Stranded passengers have been cleared from the site of accident by running a special train.

Accident Relief Medical Vans from Vadodara, Ratlam and Ahmedabad along with teams of doctors have been rushed to the accident site for immediate medical relief of injured passengers. On receipt of information, Shri Lalu Prasad, Minister for Railways has rushed to the site accompanied by Shri Narainbhai J. Rathwa, Minister of State for Railways, Chairman and Member Mechanical, Railway Board. General Manager, Western Railway and other senior officers from Western Railway Headquarters office and Vadodara rushed to site immediately to supervise relief and rescue operation. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle has also reached the site of accident and will be inquiring into this accident.

On behalf of the Railways and myself, I express our deep condolences to the bereaved families and also express sincere sympathies to the injured. I trust the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. All possible help including financial will be extended to the bereaved families and the injured. I assure the House that strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, what happened to the anti-collision compressors installed for avoiding railway accidents? Laluji had said that we have equipments to avoid rail collisions. That equipment will be installed and it will not happen again...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can have a discussion on this. He has just reported this. It was his obligation to make a statement. I have instructed to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can have a discussion. I will permit a discussion. He has said about compensation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. Item No. 12.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Laluji does not have any time...(Interruptions) He does not have any time at all to do the things that he should...(Interruptions) The Government is responsible for this rail accident...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has gone there. You cannot criticize him for going there. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. Item No. 12 please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Laluji should give an explanation here...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir hon'ble Minister had said while speaking on rail demands that they will do this, but they are not doing anything...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this happening? What are you people doing?

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : Do they need a certificate for everything?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening? He is informing what the Central Government Minister and Officers have done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara) : The Gujarat State Government has done a good job. The Chief Minister has himself reached there. There is no mention of this fact here...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I appreciate it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Once I am on my legs, you have to sit down. You have to sit down. I am ordering you to sit down. Listen to me what I am observing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH : But, sometimes, you should listen to us also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will listen when it is to be listened.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I appreciate that the hon. Ministers of Gujarat State Government have reached there. I appreciate that they have done the proper thing. I applaud them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What will he say in this regard? What are you talking?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are all senior Members.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can he talk of the State Government?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not doing justice to yourself or to the House. Hon. Minister has made a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ilyas Azmi, please. Let me conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I thought, you are utilizing the time.

...(Interruptions)

12.09 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 25th of April, 2005 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of the Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Item No. 2. Discussion

and voting on the Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06 under the control of the Ministry of :

- (a) Rural Development;
- (b) Human Resource Development;
- (c) Science and Technology;
- (d) Home Affairs; and
- (e) Labour

...(Interruptions)

3. Submission to the Vote of the House outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2005-06 at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 27th of April, 2005.
4. Consideration and passing of the Finance Bill, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Submissions. Shri Ilyas Azmi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Notice for what?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I have given a 'Zero Hour' notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not come to that 'Hour'. I think it is a most committed hour. I will come to it. But this is the procedure that I am following.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I should also be given an opportunity. You had said...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to that. This is all well-established. You also sit in the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you could utilise the time, you can discuss many more things. Shri Azmi, just mention the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : The following items of public interest may be included in the next week's agenda of Lok Sabha :

1. To start the Labour Development Scheme in Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh. This is an extremely backward district and it has more population than any other district.
2. To make provisions in the budget for a new railway line in my constituency Shahabad from Gola Gokaran Nath upto Shahjahanpur via Mohammadi.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda of Lok Sabha :

1. Need to constitute a National Broadcast Censor Board to exercise control over the obscene programmes being telecast on different private TV Channels.
2. For ensuring and strengthening internal security of the country and keeping in view the national unity and integrity, there is a need to convince the naxalites, extremists and hard liners to leave the path of violence and have faith in the Constitution of India before holding any talks or signing any agreement with them.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The work on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has stopped completely in many states of the country, especially in Uttaranchal, and the roads that have been laid are extremely substandard due to which the roads have broken down thus there is a need to take strict action against the accused officials alongwith the re-laying of broken roads and to lay new roads immediately.
2. Need to convert the Dharchula and Mansayari blocks of Uttaranchal into tribal areas as announced by the Prime Minister in Dehradun on 28.1.2004.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda :

1. There are no sufficient post offices for the 30 lakh population of Surat district in Gujarat. Proposals regarding establishment of post offices and improvement in postal services in Surat according to its population are lying pending with the directorate for long, these should be approved.
2. Merely Rs. 70 lakh have been given for drinking

water schemes in Gujarat. Today there is a shortage of drinking water in Gujarat and in Saurashtra there is a situation of acute water crises. The drinking water level has gone down by 1000 to 1200 meters. The Union Government should provide financial help in resolving this acute problem

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : I would like to submit that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

- (i) With regard to Land Reforms and Land Ceiling, a discussion may be allowed on the floor of the House to assess the exact position as to how many States in our country have implemented this Land Reforms and the total development has to be ascertained.
- (ii) A separate Welfare Board may be constituted to the unemployed youth through a Central Bill within this Budget Session.

[Translation]

SHRI V. K. THUMMAR (Amreli) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the following items of public and common interest may be included in the next week's agenda of Lok Sabha :

1. Two cement factories which are heavily polluting my parliamentary constituency Amreli should be shifted to other places.
2. My Parliamentary constituency Amreli has not been connected with the national highways of the country till now. This district should be connected with national Highways.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda of Lok Sabha :

1. The States should be sanctioned complete grant for the establishment of basic rural structure facilities like drinking water, water conservation, roads, education, health and electricity etc.
2. Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh should be supplied LPG by the HBJ Gas Pipeline.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Lakhs of traditional workers coming under viswakarma, who are engaged in traditional skilled jobs, are in difficulties as they are losing jobs due to modernisation and other reasons.

MR. SPEAKER : Your subject is different. You have to mention only about Viswakarma Day. That is the only submission you have given.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : It is the same. There is need to discuss and decide to have Viswakarma Day – September 17 as a holiday.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The people of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh have been deprived of the telecommunication facilities due to breakage of telephone tower installed at Sohagi mountain of Rewa district. The Telecommunication Minister should issue necessary instructions for immediate repair of this tower.
2. The Agriculture Ministry should take necessary action for leveling the land in Gaddar (revine) area of Theothar tehsil of Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh due to which approximately 20 nearby villages are affected.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Sir, Following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Keeping in view the increasing number of educated unemployed persons in the country and improving their condition to lead a better life there is a need to provide them a loan upto 5 lakh rupees for setting up industries. Rs. 1000 as monthly allowance besides ensuring government job to one member of each family and the employment guarantee scheme needs to be implemented.
2. For improving railway services in Chhattisgarh State and facilitating the public of the said area, the local train from Chirmiri to Bilaspur should be extended to Rajpur Durg so that persons travelling from the capital, Raipur might be benefited.

12.18 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Regulation of raising matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour ('Zero Hour')

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, hon. Members, as you are aware, the matter relating to regulation of, what is called, 'Zero Hour' has been engaging our attention for quite some time. Yesterday, I had convened a meeting of the hon.

Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha to discuss this matter. After deliberations on the issue, it was agreed that the matters of only urgent national and international importance, to be decided by the Speaker, should be allowed to be raised. To enable raising of matters in any orderly manner, it was suggested that such Members who were to be permitted by the Chair will be duly informed before 12 Noon. To facilitate scrutiny of the matters, the notices should be received up to 0930 hours instead of 1000 hours.

It was further agreed that the number of matters to be raised under Rule 377 be increased from 15 to 20 per day to enable more Members to raise their issues.

In pursuance of this decision, it is proposed that with effect from 25 of April, 2005:

- (i) The notices for raising matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour will be given by 0930 hours on the day on which the matter is proposed to be raised instead of 1000 hours as at present.
- (ii) Notices will be scrutinised with reference to the national and international importance of the matter and Members who are to be permitted to raise their issues will be duly intimated before the commencement of the so-called 'Zero Hour';
- (iii) After the aforesaid names are exhausted, time permitting, other Members may be permitted to raise their issues in the order to be decided by the Speaker; and
- (iv) The number of matters under Rule 377 be raised from 15 per day as at present, to 20 per day.

Kind cooperation of the hon. Members is solicited.

[English]

- (i) **Re : Tabling of the Reports of the Justice Phukan Commission and the Central Vigilance Commission**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you kindly permitted me to raise the question of the Phukan Commission Report and the CVC Report. The House is grateful to you for having advised the Government to place the Phukan Commission Report on the Table of the House. I do not know when it will be placed, but I hope that it would be placed before this Session ends.

MR. SPEAKER : That is the direction I have give already.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Yes.

On the second issue, namely the CVC Report, because that too relate to several defence procurement contracts, the hon. Leader of the House, who is also the Defence Minister, referred to the fact that when the PAC had sought the CVC Report the earlier Government had claimed privilege and had not given that report. This is true and it is the Government's right. Even this Government can claim privilege in respect of any matter relating to security. But as one of my colleagues pointed out yesterday itself, in so far as the CVC Report relating to defence contracts is concerned, this Government has made that a part of the affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court. Having done that and allowed that CVC Report to go in the public domain, it cannot deny Parliament the CVC Report. So, there is a basic difference.

Therefore, I plead with you to see that the CVC Report is also placed on the Table of the House before the House takes up the discussion. It is a technical matter. It is in the public domain. So, we can already refer to it by seeing the affidavit. But for Defence Minister to say yesterday that because the earlier Government had claimed privilege in that regard and had not given the CVC Report to the PAC, we also do not propose to lay it on the Table of the House is not a correct stand. This is my plea...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No discussion on this now. If you want to do it, it is entirely for you.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I have to correct two points.

First of all, I did not say that I would not lay it. That is factually not correct. What I said was that the hon. Leader of the Opposition should explain as to what prompted them to claim privilege when it was asked by the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect that the functioning of the Public Accounts Committee is given so much importance that a former Prime Minister of the country was sent to jail by this House for breach of privilege and the breach of privilege was related to obstruction created by the Prime Minister's Office in collecting materials in connection with

the discharge of the functioning of the Public Accounts Committee. Therefore, my respectful submission to the hon. Leader of the Opposition was that it requires a clarification from the Opposition Benches who occupied this side of the House at that point of time.

The second point which I would like to correct is, whatever is available in the affidavit is in the public domain. The hon. Members can use it. There is no harm in it, but it has to be kept in mind that it was not offered *suo motu* by the Ministry of Defence. The highest court of the country asked as to what action you have taken in respect of the C&AG's Report and in respect of the Vigilance Commission's Report. In response to a Public Interest Litigation case when the Supreme Court gave this direction to the Ministry of Defence, we submitted the factual parts, the action taken parts on the CVC Report. Except that nothing has been given. It is in the affidavit itself and it is available to hon. Members ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what was said yesterday was a total...^{*}...^{*}

MR. SPEAKER : No, do not use such expression.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot say that.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : No, Sir, he referred to the CVC Report yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on matters of procedure...*(Interruptions)* This pertains to a matter of procedure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be deleted.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : They did not let the House function for 15 days over the issue of CVC Report...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed the hon. Leader of Opposition. He had his full say and I respect the point that he has made. The Government has made a response. What more can we do now? We have said that there can be a full-fledged discussion on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, why was the CVC report not made available to the PAC?...*(Interruptions)*

... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : No please. I have called Shri Bansal.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, before I make my submission, I would only like to remind the hon. Leader of Opposition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, there is no use scoring points. I made a point and I made a plea that after all the Government has always a right to claim privilege. Now, he is asking me today, why the Government at that time did not do so. It was a different Minister. He claimed privilege. He had already referred to it in the other House. I do not want to raise it. But at the same time, I simply said that you cannot deny to the House something that has been given by the Government to the Supreme Court. That is all. It is a plain simple thing. Let us not score points on that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Both sides are scoring points. I am only the Umpire; I can only try to give opportunities and see what is possible. I wish everybody all the best.

(ii) Re : Reported Pay Off by South African Company in the Procurement of Arms for the Indian Army

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to read out a sentence...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the Government of the day in 2002 then had written a letter with the permission, with the authority of the Raksha Mantri saying "that the Ministry is not in a position to supply a copy of the CVC Report on Defence deal as it would be prejudicial to the interest of the State". This is what they had then felt...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have no objection to their claiming it...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am for transparency ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, what did they say at that time? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have heard him. Let him make his point of view. You are not bound by his statement. He is entitled to make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, at that point of time, I had demanded that it should be laid on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Bansal's submission will go on record.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, further going by what the Leader of the House has said...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not asking a question, I am expressing an opinion of mine with full sense of responsibility. The Government of the day then took this House for a ride. If they did not think that there was anything prejudicial to the security of the State, why did they make a statement like that? That further only strengthens what the hon. Minister of Defence has said this is how flippantly they took this House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, he said that it should be laid...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us come to the main point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please allow me to finish ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Md. Salim, please take your seat. Shri Bansal has not called you for his help.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, while that ~~was~~ the situation in 2002, we come across a very disturbing news now that at almost the same time, the proceedings of the Price Negotiating Committee regarding Defence purchases were perhaps made available – I do not want to believe it, and I hope this is false - to an agency outside the country ...*(Interruptions)* for consideration...*(Interruptions)* Sir, there are allegations of pay off.

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : CVC Report does not mention the name of Shri George Fernandes ...*(Interruptions)* as the Ministers of Congress are involved...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : There are allegations of paying thousands of crores of rupees...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Certainly, we will not allow any allegations to be made against any hon. Member without notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is a baseless allegation ...*(Interruptions)* The people from Denel Company met then...*(Interruptions)* He should give notice before levelling allegations against anyone...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has not mentioned any name as yet.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I assure you that I shall delete any name if that has been mentioned.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : What is the subject of the question? Be it Phukan Commission or any other
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, a company from South Africa from whom we are slated to purchase
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just a minute, Shri Bansal. I had responded to the request of Shri Advani, who is the hon. Leader of Opposition, and I have allowed him. The only thing is that he wanted to move a motion for suspension of Question Hour which I did not permit. I said I would allow him to submit after Question Hour was over. So, you be brief and just mention the matter and no allegatory remarks should be made.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, there are no allegations. If there is anything unparliamentary, that can be removed...(Interruptions) Sir, I say with anguish that the Denel company from whom we are slated to purchase Defence equipment worth thousands of crores of rupees
...(Interruptions)

There are certain payoffs to one company, again abroad, to lay access to our documents here. I would urge the Government to look into this matter with urgency and see that if anybody is found guilty...(Interruptions) I hope, I want this proves to be wrong. But, this is a matter with which the entire country is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav. No names to be used. I will not allow any names to be mentioned.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Therefore, I demand that this Government must look into this matter. This matter must be referred to the CBI, investigation must be carried out. If anybody is found guilty, action should be taken against them...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow this any more.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Leave it before me, I will see. Only Mr. Bansal may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sorry that the thinking of Shri Malhotra is clouded by expediency. It changes with the change of the sides from this side to that side...(Interruptions) Scam after scam is unfolding. Therefore, I demand with all the humility that the Government must investigate into the matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have to decide whom to call.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to defence deals and national interest...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you associating this issue...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I tried to caution you even yesterday but you did not listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : Why does he object...(Interruptions) It is an issue of national interest why is he worried...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I earnestly appeal if you want the House to be conducted properly, raise your issue in a brief way. You can have many issues arising. Yesterday, the hon. Members wanted to speak on this. I have allowed them. But be brief and there should be no allegation without any notice given to me. I will not permit that. Therefore, unnecessarily do not make allegations. I will delete all of them. Therefore, be brief. Let us go to the main issue. There are so many notices. Today also, I have got notices from 39 hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself am a disciplined member. You have imposed several restrictions...(Interruptions) An incident of pay off in the procurement of rifles has come to light. This issue involves national interest. It is a serious as well as a sensitive issue. A sensational incident has taken place. It has come to light that approximately 20 crore rupees have been paid off for giving technical and secret information about defence needs of India. It is clearly mentioned in the CAG's report that there are several drawbacks in the rifles of Danell Company. 6 Rifles were procured in December 1999...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You need not go into such details

[English]

[English]

no name will be included.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : 35 rifles reached India in March, 2000 after operation Vijay. I demand for CBI enquiry in all the incidents of payoffs in defence deals during last six years. The Union Government should clear the scene...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Subbarayan. I am coming to the subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You associate.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the Madras High Court...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can not behave in this manner here...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot) : It is a matter of concern that the people of Punjab...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you like do it, nothing will be recorded. Let the country see.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shameful behaviour. It is absolutely a shameful behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You go to your seats. All of you sit down. You must sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shameful behaviour.

12.36 hrs.

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 600 dyeing factories in Tiruppur area of Tamil Nadu have been indefinitely closed...(Interruptions) Therefore, I request the Government to immediately intervene and provide necessary effluent treatment plant.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Take down the names. Let the names be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice. You are making a noise here without giving any notice. What is the matter.

[English]

You have given no notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shameful behaviour and the entire country is watching you today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Note down the names of those who are in the well. I will see what can be done to all of them. Also take down the names of those who are deliberately disrupting the House. Take down the names of Shri Adhir Chowdhury, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Chaudhary Lal Singh, Shri K.S. Rao and Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will issue the orders today. Take down their names.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your name should be recorded. Mr. Adhir Chowdhury, I will name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Malhotra, I would like to know whether you approve of this. The notice had come after 10 o'clock. Allow me to look into it. I have not even seen it. Do

you approve of this? Kindly request them to go to their seats. I am requesting them to go to their seats. They are suddenly coming here. I am requesting the hon. Leader of the Opposition also to request them to go back to their seats.

[Translation]

You did not give notice before ten o'clock. At least give me notice.

[English]

You have to give me an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Give me the rules. I will name the Members who are deliberately disrupting the proceedings to leave the House. I will do it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Give me an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They should behave in a proper manner.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You did not give me notice before 10 o'clock. At least give me a chance.

[English]

No I would not allow. First go to your seats, and behave in a responsible manner. You are spoiling an important issue by doing this.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : He has given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : He must have given it after ten o'clock, I did not see it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am very sorry today...

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. If you people will aid him, how will things work.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want anybody's help.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is his name? Mr. Anwar Hussain, I will ask you to go out. A scene is being created here. It is very shameful. It applies to all sides.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will you take action against them as well?

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

I am going to name you Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This scene will not go.

[English]

I know that I am not going to adjourn. I am not going to allow anything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Anybody saying anything without my permission will have to face the consequences in this House.

The following names will be recorded as having associated on the issue raised by Shri Bansal:

1. Shri Madhusudan Mistry
2. Shri Ram Kripal V. Yadav
3. Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel
4. Chaudhary Lal Singh
5. Dr. Tushar A Chaudhary
6. Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh
7. Shri Dinsha Patel
8. Shri Adhir Chowdhury

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing of this sort, I would allow.

...(Interruptions)

12.43 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Gurjeet Singh Rana and some other hon. Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow it. Move a no-confidence against me, if you like. Do it. What would you do if you were in my position?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today, you have to face the consequences.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the Madras High Court ruling, more than 600 dyeing factories in Tiruppur area of Tamil Nadu have been indefinitely closed. This will cause closure of more than 5,000 hosiery units, and hundreds of yarn mills...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to give opportunity to everybody, and you think that you can hold the House to ransom.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : More than three lakh workers will lose their jobs. Therefore, I request the Government to immediately intervene to provide effluent treatment plant with the financial assistance of both the Government of India and Tamil Nadu to fulfil the conditions given by the High Court of Madras and save the industries and workers.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : I have to inform the House that today...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It has come from all sides. Please have patience.

[English]

Everybody cannot come number one. This is a matter concerning the Assam Bandh, which is going on. A large number of people have been affected.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I want to inform the House that the entire State of Assam today is in the grip of a general strike. I call it a bandh. But since there is a little allergy on the word of bandh, I do not use it. The total Assam has come to a halt. The bandh has been called by the Oil Field Protection Sangram Samiti of Assam, which consists, I am glad to say, all the political parties. Even the Government of Assam has expressed the solidarity with the demand of the bandh. Therefore, today, a holiday has been declared there. The reason is very simple, and I would like the Government to respond to it. The issue is relating to the

leasing out of Amguri Oil Field to a foreign corporate multinational company by the Minister of the present Government although it is said that the decision was taken by the earlier Government.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : They have done it and now they are blaming us...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, why are you interrupting him?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not bound by his statement.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This Government has done it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not be allergic. You are not bound by his statement.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Whoever is to be blamed should be told directly, how do we come in the picture.

MR. SPEAKER : He is blaming both the sides, it is middle path.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The point is simple. The decision might have been taken by the earlier Government but this Government had its own power to reverse the decision. That was not done. Why? ...*(Interruptions)*

The ONGC had carried out primary exploration.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief. There are many hon. Members who want to raise important issues.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The whole country knows that the ONGC is a cash rich company. It had the resources to explore, develop and expand the Amguri Oil Field. Therefore, there is no reason why when the ONGC had been allowed to do the primary exploration it has been handed over to a private Canadian multinational company. I would like to know the reason from the Government. The Government has the discretion either to respond or not to respond but I have right to demand an explanation.

The Common Minimum Programme on which we stand united to support the Government categorically says that there would be encouragement for profitable public sector enterprises.

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to conclude. This is not a discussion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Why has the Common Minimum Programme been violated? Why is Assam on strike? Is this the way in which the Common Minimum Programme is going to be honoured by the present Government?...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Are they going to bite also?

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is the matter, an honourable Member of your party has given an important notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : An hon. Member has given an important notice about wildlife poaching which is going on in our country. Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to a very serious issue. The Wild Life Protection Act of our country has become so old that amendment needs to be brought therein. Since wild animals in our country and particularly in Rajasthan are almost facing extinction. Particularly in the Bishnoi belt of Rajasthan there is a acute shortage of fauna since the number of incidents of illegal poaching is soaring high. The situation has become so alarming that these tigers are no longer safe even in sanctuaries. Thus, I would requests the Government to ensure that trial of cases relating to wild animals at least under a Session Judge and such cases, where smuggling of animal hides and bones is involved, should be treated as more heinous offence. Death sentence should be given for such cases. If animals do not remain secured on this land how can human beings remain secured? That is why I would

request the Government that an amendment in this age old Act is needed. We had massive wealth of fauna in the past but now their number has diminished, that is why I request that there is an urgent need to amend the Wild Life Protection Act.

MR. SPEAKER : I commend you for raising an important issue.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways through you to the quality of work done by unskilled workers in certain sections of Indian Railways.

There have been frequent accidents, including today's accident, taking place in different parts of India. As you know, on April 10, 2005, there was an accident in which one passenger escaped narrowly...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not give details now.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : On April 10, 2005, a passenger on Howrah-Kalka Mail narrowly escaped and it was found that in the running train iron sheet was not provided the vestibule between two compartments but it was merely covered with cloth. Similarly, this month, the New Jalpaiguri bound Darjeeling Express collided with a truck at Shaktigarh near Burdwan and the driver and *khalassi* were killed on the spot. On April 18, 644 gelatine sticks were found in the Upper Kachar Express. This shows the extreme negligence of duties by the railway authorities concerned. I urge upon the Government through you to take stringent action for negligence of duties against the authorities concerned.

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter. About 3,000 workmen of Hindustan Cables Limited, Bharat Ophthalmic Gas Limited and Burn Standards Wagon Limited have not received their salaries for the last seven months. Their families are in deplorable and terrible conditions. They are facing a lot of problems.

So, I would request the concerned Minister to expedite the payment of their wages. etc. At the same time, the viability of the Hindustan Cables Limited should be expedited within two or three months so that the production of the Hindustan Cables Limited be started at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry towards the fact that the Sindri factory which is now in Jharkhand, established by the First Prime Minister of the country Pt. Jawahar Lal

was closed by the NDA Government. After the formation of the UPA Government, acting in the direction of reviving the above mentioned factory a detailed inquiry report was sought after setting-up an expert committee of PDIL in regard to the factory. PDIL submitted its report in this regard to the Ministry last year but despite that no action has been taken owing to which resentment amongst lakhs of workers of the factory is growing. Thus, I would request the Government to take immediate action on the report given by PDIL by taking an initiative to revive the Sindri factory.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Jayaben Thakker. Absent.

Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[English]

There should not be any allegation against anybody without a notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not level allegations against anyone, but we have to speak the truth.

MR. SPEAKER : But what if the truth comes with an allegation?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, the issue of U.T.I. was raised during the 13th Lok Sabha when you were not in the Chair, but in the opposition, at that time an hon. Member had produced a letter of the Cabinet Secretary in regard to U.T.I. which was challenged for its veracity. Then the issue of inquiry by the CBI into these cases was raised. The hon. Member who had raised the issue was none other than the yester years Member of this House Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi who is a Cabinet Minister today*...* We consider it very serious that no action has been taken against it. I request you to get an inquiry conducted on that fake letter. If that letter is fake then action should be taken in this regard. I want the Government to respond whether action would be taken thereon or not This matter should be probed, it is my request to you.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, since he took my name I would like to make it very clear. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh, a most reputed man of Bihar and a distinguished Member of this House, has just tried to draw your attention towards the proceedings of the 13th Lok Sabha. My question is : in the manner of propriety and right, whether the 14th Lok Sabha could investigate the ruling of the proceedings of the 13th Lok Sabha or not.

Secondly, on the that day, I made abundantly clear about the whole position. These are all on the record of the House. You can check in your Chamber and give me an appropriate advice.

Thirdly, I challenge and challenge and challenge the then Government which manipulated and tampered all the records in influencing the CBI. They influenced the CBI to change the affidavit of Shri L.K. Advani in the Raibareli court...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, please give it to CBI...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

When he has stated that there was manipulation and hon. Member has labelled charges then it should be given to CBI...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I wish I could do anything in this matter. You have placed your demand. You cannot get an answer from me.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, let the whole matter be investigated by the CBI...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is a very senior Member. The first method suggested by him is whether the present Lok Sabha can do anything on the basis of the last Lok Sabha, this I have heard for the first time...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Lok Sabha Speaker had given a ruling on it. If you intend to repeat it I accept your challenge*...* (Interruptions)

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : This is because, this issue has been raised and you have given permission to Shri Prabhunath Singh to raise this issue. He has given its reply as well. He is an hon. Member and Minister also, CBI is under him. So please get an inquiry conducted by the CBI that whether those were forged signatures or not.

[English]

Please see whether it was correct or not. That is all.

..... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

..... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Karunakaran.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : It is an issue of forgery in the House. CBI inquiry should be conducted in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I challenge him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is here at a very high level. I cannot take a decision.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, through you we are requesting the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Chair cannot take a decision.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, let them prove what they are saying...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it. I cannot compel them. You know very well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, let them respond to it, I request you...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, please give me a minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more on this issue. Shri Karunakaran to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, on this very matter, a privilege matter was pending in the Rajya Sabha against Shri Arun Shourie, the then Minister....(Interruptions) The privilege matter is there...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will decide as to how much will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded. Only Shri Karunakaran's submissions will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the House as well as the Government to one most national and international important issue...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, Please allow me to raise the matter of applicability of VAT in Armed Forces canteens...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : So, many issues are important. I have allowed about 12 to 13 hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, this is a matter of great concern...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not denied its importance. You say that matter is only important.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am not saying it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have taken another minute unnecessarily. Probably, I could have come to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not pressurise the Chair. I have respect for you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, 22nd April is the World Earth day which has become a most important aspect in the human life. The World Earth Day is being celebrated for the last 35 years. The organised form of this movement came into existence in 1997 at Kyoto, an important city in Japan. Now, 141 countries have signed the Kyoto Protocol. Unfortunately, big countries like USA and Australia have not yet signed it because of their selfish motive.

I would like to quote here :

"The Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding agreement under which industrialist countries will reduce their collective emissions of Greenhouse gases to 5.2 per cent compared to 1990."

The climatic history of the Earth has been a history of great contrasts. Due to the Carbon Dioxide and other five Greenhouse gases, the environment and atmosphere of the world changed to a great extent. Take for example, the case of India. In India itself, the precious and marvellous monument, the Taj Mahal itself is under threat.

We have thousands of rivers with abundance of water. Very famous rivers like the Ganges, the Yamuna and Cauvery are all polluted. We have a very vast area of forests and mountains. But you can see that these forests are now being encroached and destroyed.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, I find that a meeting was held by our hon. Prime Minister to assess the number of tigers whose number is decreasing just because there is no forest at all.

13.00 hrs.

So, in this context, on this day, I request the Government to have a comprehensive legislation to protect our environment and give strict instructions to the State Governments. The survival of forests, rivers and fresh air is really the prerequisite of human life today. Since we are not having a sitting tomorrow, I have raised this issue today to have a legislation on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : 'Sir-sir' business will not help you. Give up this habit also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, thank you. Union Government and Multinational companies...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called another Member of your party and you are disturbing him. This is very strange.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the way you are Co-operating! Even you are not co-operating when Member of your party is called.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is the matter, why are you interrupting. A Member from your party is speaking. Why have you stood up?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will I call by face?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Government and Multinational companies are promoting Cricket to such an extent in the country that all other games have lost their importance as compared to it. Due to this thousands of players of other sports have started to consider themselves to be number two players. Cricket has become a commercial game. To play cricket has become a business as this game is becoming a sport of businessmen. People from around the world put bet of crores of rupees on this sport. The Cricket players have started to take more interest in advertising in comparison to playing cricket. Due to this other sports players are feeling very disheartened.

Sir, no sport other than cricket is being promoted. There are very few countries which are fond of cricket. Countries like China, Japan, America etc., do not take much interest in this game and these are the countries which win maximum medals in games. Our country is far behind than these countries in the games and wins only a few medals. Through you, I would like to demand the Government that they should give equal importance to other games also so that those games could also be promoted and their players may feel proud of themselves. Only cricket would not add a feather to the country's. Through you, this is my request to the Government.

13.03 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET - 2005-2006
-DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Agriculture

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, yesterday we had decided in the Business Advisory Committee that today the discussion on Agriculture will start at 1 p.m. and there will be no lunch hour.

The House will not take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Members present in the House whose Cut Motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their Cut Motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the Cut Motions they would like to move. Only those Cut Motions will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of Cut Motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

Shri Kailash Joshi to initiate the debate.

*List of Demands for Grants - Budget (General) for 2005-2006 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture
submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 17, 2005		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture				
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	957,53,00,000	72,16,00,000	3374,37,00,000	10,64,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	315,33,00,000	-	1626,67,00,000	-
3. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	150,91,00,000	3,37,00,000	759,56,00,000	16,85,00,000

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, I have given a notice about application of VAT to Armed Forces' canteens. The entire Armed Forces are concerned about it. I am quite surprised that it is not considered an important matter. I humbly submit that ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have never said that this is not an important matter. Do you think that all the matters, which were called, are not important?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am not saying that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfortunate, Maj. Gen. Khanduri.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : What I am also saying is that it is very unfortunate that so far as VAT is concerned, 45 lakh families are affected...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In the meeting, we decided that at one o'clock, discussion on Agriculture will start. You were in that meeting. We are bound by the decision that at one o'clock, we will start discussion on Agriculture. I have called Shri Kailash Joshi.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : It is very sad. I feel sorry as you do not consider it important. It concerns the Armed Forces' personnel...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can only repudiate your allegation against me with all the emphasis at my command.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, you can repudiate it, but I have not raised a single matter during 'Zero Hour' this time. You say that once a week, the chance will be given. I am not given a single chance...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can only appeal to the hon. Leaders to decide how to conduct this.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I have not spoken a single time in this Session. I am sorry that this is the state of affairs. In the normal course, you are not giving me time. I represent the Armed Forces also here ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kailash Joshi, will you please speak?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : It is very regrettable that I have to say like this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can anything be said against the Chair these days? I can only say that I strongly repudiate your insinuations.

...(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : You may repudiate, but the fact is that people are concerned ...(Interruptions) Sir, are you repudiating them? Are the Armed Forces not concerned about VAT?

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, they are concerned. Everybody is concerned of many issues, but you are compelling me to only your matter. Your only plea is that I am against the Armed Forces.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I am not...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is such a serious charge against the Speaker. Is this the behaviour of a senior Member of the Parliament of India?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, we are making a request to you to allow us to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Kailash Joshi to speak. This decision was taken in the Business Advisory Committee, and we are all party to it. I have already called Shri Kailash Joshi to speak on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, we are making a request that we should be allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kailash Joshi, will you start speaking?

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI (Bhopal) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the demand for grants relating to Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon'ble President had mentioned in his address that the Government is going to give top priority to Agriculture. In the 9th para of his address he had made mention about agriculture and other related issues. Thereafter, hon'ble Finance Minister delivered his speech...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please no whispering in the House. If you want to discuss anything amongst yourselves, then please go outside.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI : Hon'ble Finance Minister mentioned agriculture and related issues in the 19th para of his speech. After reading both, we thought that it was very satisfying that the Government's outlook towards agriculture is very positive and this will yield good results. But when the budget was presented here it did not seem so. At the beginning of his speech hon'ble Finance Minister had said in the 39th para that:

[English]

"With about two thirds of the population dependent on agriculture and the sector producing only 21 per cent of GDP in 2003-04, it is imperative that we address the problems of our farmers with a sense of urgency".

[Traslation]

After listening to these words the Indian farmer became extremely happy and thought that this Government would address the problems of the farmers seriously but after the presentation of budget we found that there was nothing in the budget like that.

It is strange that even after elapsing 58 years of independence which class was not paid any attention till now is being referred again and again. With our good luck today we have a Prime Minister who has been a Finance Minister in the past and the present Finance Minister has also been the same in past. They never realized this in their past tenures that the farmer's problems are continuously growing serious and this should be paid attention on priority basis. Anyway, we still believe that its better late than never. After the presentation of this budget we thought that the farmers problems would find an appropriate solution and the Government would come forward to resolve those problems. But as I said earlier, nothing of that sort appears in this budget.

We had great expectations from Agriculture Minister also, because he is a farmer himself and he also has vast agricultural experience. But he also did not bring the poor condition of farmers to the notice of the hon'ble Finance Minister. I have known Agriculture Minister for a long time and I know that a lot could have been done if he had shown a little concern towards this. But I believe that Agriculture Minister has swayed by the sugar lobby and hence he is not able to pay attention towards the basic problems of agriculture. I drew the conclusion from the Budget speech of Finance Minister, that all the announcements that have been made are merely to satisfy their new friends. Nothing seems to become out of them. There is nothing new in this budget, there is no new scheme, no new direction in this budget.

Today everybody is shedding tears in the farmers name, but it seem it is only to add insult to injury. We had a lot of hope from the previous budget of hon'ble Finance Minister but during this time maximum farmers have committed suicide and the maximum number of suicides have occurred in those states where the UPA Government is in power. There have not been so many suicides during the Government of opposition parties. This clearly shows the direction of this Government. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, may god bless, RJD Government who launched some new schemes during their regime to improve the farmer's condition and I thought that those schemes would be implemented in future also. But after going through the entire budget I find that even the names of those schemes are not mentioned anywhere. The names of some schemes have been changed. Funds have been increased for many schemes and these funds have been increasing throughout the previous Government's regime also. This Government have levied new taxes due to which price rise has increased and that is why farmers are not going to get any benefit of it.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I was talking about RJD Government but before that I would like to say that tax has been increased on Steel in this budget. Tax has also been increased on cement also.

13.11 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Shri Kailash Joshi]

Cess has been increased on petrol in this budget. Whether the farmer is going to get any benefit on the basis of all this? This will make tractor costlier, steel costlier. These things are used by the farmer. The Government have made all these things costlier in this budget and is claiming that they are taking new measures for the welfare of farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, similarly, the Government has robbed him of his savings. The farmers deposit their money in the banks set up in villages but the rate of interest has been reduced. Previous Government had launched a farmer-friendly Kisan Credit Card Scheme but the hon. Finance Minister has not mentioned it at all in his speech. He has not said even a word about it. On page 11 in his budget speech it is mentioned.

[English]

"Further the public sector banks would be asked to increase the number of borrowers by another 50 lakhs".

[Translation]

The number of borrowers are proposed to be increased by 50 lakh borrowers. But the question is that how would it be done. Banks are not making payments even where credit cards have been issued which is the department of the Finance Minister. I do not understand that on what basis he is saying that the number of borrowers would be increased by 50 lakh. What would be their condition if banks do not give them money. It has not been mentioned in this budget anywhere.

Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, the NDA Government had decided to fix interest rate at 9 percent for the farmers. It has also implemented in some states and it was about to be implemented in others. It does not find a mention in the budget. Though he is saying that farmers condition is really bad and he is worried about it but we would have believed it if the Government had brought down the interest rate from 9 percent to six percent. It would have been a great benefit for the farmers. But it has not been mentioned anywhere which shows that practical approach has not been adopted in this budget. No such scheme has been launched which could have given succour to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy, Sir, likewise the NDA Government has also launched National Crop Insurance Scheme. The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned it on page 11 in his speech.

[English]

"The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme has been in operation since Rabi 1999-2000. I have received the

recommendations made by the Joint Group constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to suggest and improve farmer-friendly crop insurance schemes. Further consultation with all the stakeholders will be required. I therefore, propose to continue the NAIS in its present form in Kharif and Rabi 2005-06.

[Translation]

This year crops worth crores of rupees have been ruined. Several Members have mentioned it in the House. He has said that National Agriculture Insurance Scheme would continue in its present form and stake holders are being consulted in this regard, a group has been constituted for the purpose which would submit its report and thereafter the Government would consider as to what-steps should be taken in this regard. I want to know from the hon. Minister how this budget has benefited the farmers.

Similarly, hon'ble Finance Minister had said at the beginning of his budget speech last year that National Common Minimum Programme is the guide for our Government. I have also gone through the national common minimum programme. Hon. Finance Minister mentioned it in his budget speech last year and elaborated upon its seven points. Afterwards when the Government published its booklet, "National Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance", we found that only 6 points have been mentioned in it. Infact the points mentioned in the book are contradictory. The steps proposed to be taken by the Government to alleviate poverty and improve the condition of the farmers have not been mentioned anywhere. Today, this is the position of the Government. That is why, I have said that the budget has nothing new to offer. It is my request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should seriously consider the condition of the farmers in this country, bring some amendments in the budget and start new schemes to improve the condition of the farmers.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla) : Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion today with regards the Demands for Grants in respect of Agriculture Ministry for the year 2005-06. I am aware of the time constraint and, therefore, I would restrict myself to issues relating to agriculture and the problems related to it.

We are all very well aware that under the past NDA regime, there has been a drastic reduction in the annual plan outlay for agriculture, irrigation, and the rural sector by about 36 per cent. Under the UPA Government, there has been a large hike of Rs. 1,625 crore to agriculture and its allied activities in Budget 2005-06. Other than focussed attention

on credit flows, expansion of irrigation facilities and also diversification, there has been emphasis on supportive activities like agricultural marketing and also value addition to farm produce through agro-processing.

For the year 2005-06, the Central plan outlay for agriculture is around Rs. 6,425 crore as against the allocation of about Rs. 4,799 crore for the past year, which is 2004-05, which is almost an increase of about 35 per cent. The Finance Minister, through this Budget, has rightly held the olive branch to the rural sector, the negligence of which as we all know, has led to the rout of the NDA Government.

To achieve good agricultural growth it is very imperative, and one of the most basic objectives in agriculture should be to step up agricultural growth by about four per cent if we need to achieve a sustained growth of eight per cent. Secondly, focus should be on diversification. This is so because we need to promote the growth of our non-farming rural sector. Other than this, we need to facilitate the shift of labour force from agriculture to non-agricultural areas like agro-processing. Thirdly, we need to also publicise and popularise cost-reducing technologies in agriculture to make agriculture very competitive because we know that is one of the major problems that we are having today.

Last but not least, degradation of natural resources like soil and water through extensive use of chemicals should be reversed. Therefore, organic manure and organic farming should be published and should be popularised. However, last year our agrarian sector has recorded a very marginal growth of 1.1 per cent. To even think of achieving a GDP growth of eight per cent or to even dream of poverty alleviation is a very distant dream.

In 2005-06 Budget, allocation to agriculture has been linked with reforms with the emphasis on diversification, creation of market with standards and also striding towards creating employment for about one crore people by assuring irrigation to about one crore hectares of land in the coming five years. Our farmers, as we all know, have continued or remained slaves to the monsoon mandate. This year, our country has recorded a deficit rainfall of 13 per cent and the farmers have faced almost four-five years of continuous drought. This has disheartened our farming community thoroughly. Nearly 40 per cent of our irrigation potential remain to be exploited. Many of our irrigation projects at various stages are in the pipeline. This is due to the decline of public investment and thin spread of resources over all these various projects. Public investment in agriculture has come down drastically from 33 per cent - 33 per cent in 1994 to about 24 per cent in 2003. This has not only widened the chasm between the rich and poor but also widened the difference between the urban poor and the rural poor.

Now, Sir, I agree that the Central role in agriculture is very limited because it is a State subject, definitely, the Centre can push the State leaders to take concrete steps to avert future battles. We are all very well aware that the shadows of these water battles are looming large over our State.

The Budget target at irrigating three million hectares of land through micro irrigation under drip and sprinkler irrigation by the year 2007. However, this seems to be a Herculean task because only Rs. 400 crore have been allocated to it as against the standing demand of Rs. 10,500 crore. I think, this should be given a thought because water management - we need to use water very sparingly - has become a major problem for us. In view of the depleting water resources and consecutive years of adverse weather conditions, it is imperative that we turn our attention to crop diversification and rightly, Sir, there has been an emphasis on the horticultural mission in the Budget. However, allocation towards this is a meagre Rs. 650 crore as against a projection by the Agriculture Ministry of about Rs. 2,015 crore. But however, to expect the farmers to diversify immediately is a farfetched dream and to wean away from, say, paddy cultivation or for that matter, any conventional cultivation is a Herculean task. I mean, in view of these sentiments, and also the weather conditions and the depleting water resources, because of which the underground water, the salinity content and the fluorine content is also increasing, there is every necessity to accord research and education in agriculture a top priority.

Sir, we all know, India is endowed with one of the best agricultural research systems when compared to the other developing countries of the world. However, a great deal of restructuring needs to go into this to ensure efficient functioning of this system. Sir, the existing outlay for research and education in agriculture has stagnated at around 0.3 per cent of our agricultural GDP and this needs to go up to at least five per cent if we have to see a good agricultural growth. There is also necessity to shift away from individual crop research and concentrate on crop and crop patterns in dry land areas, hill areas, tribal areas and other marginal areas. Our country also has been great agro climatic zones. Therefore, our research needs to be location-specific. However, the budgetary allocation towards agricultural research has been a paltry Rs. 50 crore. I think that this needs to be hiked. Much of our existing farm research in education suffers from fatigue and needs to be revitalised. Now, delivery of this research outcome to the poor needs to be given top priority. Parliamentary Standing Committee has rightly recommended for about 1,000 crore towards this. This definitely needs to be considered.

Here, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the numerous Krishi Vigyan Kendras that are existing in our country. They have been liberally funded by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and they

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

have been further supported by Rs. 1000 crore aid from World Bank towards Natural Agricultural Technology Project. So, instead of only creating knowledge centres in every village with the expense of about Rs. 100 crore, these *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) could be strengthened by installing modern communication facilities and by also increasing the manpower by which we can ensure that they would serve the rural poor. We also have 35 agricultural universities in our country and numerous research institutions which are headed by the Centre and the States and on top of it we have our ICAR. The Government should concentrate on a very enabling atmosphere in these institutes. The Budget for the food subsidy which also deal with storage, handling and transportation, is marginally up by about 1.6 per cent, that is, Rs. 26,200 crore as against Rs. 25,800 crore last year. Now, the annual rate of population increase is 1.8 per cent and increase in the food production is a little less than 1.5 per cent. It means that our population is overtaking our food production. This has remained a scare to deal with in our country. This definitely needs to be considered and hiked.

Now, the concern has been expressed over and over again over the shortage of pulses and oilseeds cultivation also. Now, the concentration on the output of oilseeds would give our agro processing industry a good push. It would also create unemployment in the rural areas. Other than that, the agro processing has rightly been identified as an employment-generating area.

Steps definitely need to be taken here to diversify into oilseeds by promoting superior seed technology. Just like the horticulture mission, it would be wonderful if the Government comes up with something like an oilseed mission whereby we could encourage our farmers into oilseeds cultivation also.

Turning to credit flow, when we look at Andhra Pradesh, the average rate of interest at which NABARD lends money to the cooperative banks is around six per cent. Now, these cooperative banks in turn lend to the DCCBs at the rate of 6.5 per cent. The DCCBs lend it to the PACS at the rate of 8.5 per cent. Now, these PACS lend it to the farmers at the rate of 11 per cent. However, the State has come forward and said that it would subsidise about six per cent if the farmers pay back their dues in time. However, we have been faced with consecutive years of drought and it has been very difficult for the farmers to do this. They are still stuck with 11 per cent. Unless the NABARD reduces their rate of interest of adequate subsidy is provided by the Government and unless the Government can bear a part of this, it would be very difficult for the State Government to continue with the scheme. Similarly, due to continuous drought for the last five years, the cooperative sector was unable to lend loans to the farmers in an appreciable manner. We have about one core farmers who are members of the PAC. But

the cooperative banks were only able to cater to the 40 lakh farmers because they were unable to raise their own fund. A special line of credit of about Rs. 300 crore should be sanctioned from the NABARD to these banks to cover the farmers who have not been covered here.

Lastly, turning to the insurance scheme, over and over again, many of us have reiterated here that insurance should come down to the village level. So, I would still urge upon the Minister to consider insurance coming down to the village level.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that our Finance Minister has his heart in the right place when it comes to agriculture. Our Budget has all the necessary ingredients included in it like infrastructure, water management, crop diversification and research also. Going beyond the domain of the Finance Ministry, it is now up to the Finance Minister to deliver it and we do assure that we have a very competent and very receptive Agriculture Minister who would listen to our woes and who will definitely deliver what is required.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, agriculture is still the main occupation to millions of people in the country. The poor peasants are still socially and economically backward. They are living under starvation for many reasons. Natural calamities occur every year. Flood during the monsoon seasons cause irreparable loss to crops, but the flood relief measures are not adequate. The rural credit also becomes unavailable. Those who have taken loan from scheduled banks could not repay the installment, as a result huge arrears have occurred. Recovery proceedings including attachment of land results in bankruptcy of poor farmers.

Sir, hundreds of farmers have committed suicide due to arrears in bank loans in Kerala. Kerala Government did not furnish the correct figures. There is also drought resulting in heavy crop loss. Farmers have become bankrupt. This is another reason for committing suicide by farmers.

Sir, I would request the Central Government to take permanent remedial measures against the natural calamities on war footing. Correct weather forecast should be made periodically about natural calamities. Then, cyclone is another reason for heavy loss of crops. This can be prevented, to some extent, by correct weather forecast. Failure of monsoon can be predicted earlier so that preventive measures could be taken to save the farmers.

Sir, another issue is modernization of agriculture. Latest technologies can be employed to improve crop production. There must be strong machinery to market the products in open market. Another reason for decrease in agricultural

production is the non-implementation of Land Reforms. The toiling millions of workers are denied the benefit of ownership of land they cultivate. So, the Government should take the initiative in implementing Land Reforms in the backward States.

Finally, the Central Government should take immediate steps to bring in an All India Agriculture Workers Welfare Scheme. I may just inform the House that in Kerala, there is a very good model Welfare Scheme is going on. So, all the State and Central Governments should take immediate steps for promoting agro-industries. The Government encourage industry in many ways, but agriculture is not given any encouragement in the matter of power supplies and connected issues, which also need to be taken care on top priority.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji, you are not in your seat. You should speak from your seat. Alright, you might speak from there.

[*English*]

But this should not be considered as a precedent by anybody.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on demands for grants in respect of Agriculture Ministry, I have risen to support them. India is a country of villages, farmers and labourers and the entire economy of the country depends on agriculture and I believe that many Members of the House including yourself have a rural background. It is said that India is a country of villages.

The condition of farmers and agriculture labourers is not good even after 57 years of independence. The farmers are getting disinterested in agriculture. They are getting attracted towards jobs in urban areas and urban lifestyle. If this trend continues among rural people then perhaps India would become even weaker economically in the time to come. Agriculture is our base.

Our Minister of Agriculture is himself a farmer. He has continuously fought for the rights of the farmers. We have lots of expectations from him. He has done a lot for the country particularly in Maharashtra. The sugarcane growers are the backbone of Maharashtra and he has worked particularly for their welfare, he knows their condition very minutely. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are also a farmer. You also know their condition quite well.

You can have a look at the economic survey. The data included in it are not given by me or you, rather the Government of India has provided all these data. It says that production has declined this year in comparison to last year. I think it is not a good sign. The situation might worsen if the hon. Minister does not pay attention towards this. The economy of our country depends on agriculture. It seems that it been neglected. Today, poor farmer takes loan and works hard to grow the crops but he does not get remunerative price for his produce when he goes to market to sell it. You yourself can see that price of diesel, fertilizers, seeds etc. and other agriculture inputs have increased but the farmers are not getting proper price for their produce. Farmers are being exploited in such a manner. Farmers are continuously suffering losses. We should ponder over as to for how long it will go on. The condition is such that the farmer takes crop to the market and does not get remunerative price for his crop as a result of which he has to take loan to marry away his daughter or to organise even a small function in his house. Today a large number of the farmers are committing suicide in various parts of the country. They meet the input cost of cultivation by taking loans but they become debt ridden as they fail to get remunerative price for their crops and consequently they are compelled to commit suicide.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to the condition of banks. I would like to thank that UPA Government and hon. Finance Minister for their benevolent attitude towards the farmers in enhancing the budgetary provision for agriculture. Hon. Finance Minister has provided for 36 percent amount for agriculture in this year's budget. It is a good beginning. I would like to cite an example that if a farmer goes to bank for loans he gets it at 12-14 percent of interest. But the affluent people residing in cities get car loan or home loan merely at 6-7 percent rate of interest. This way it can be seen that how injustice is being done to the farmers. Attention should be paid to it. The farmer who is producing foodgrains for us, is being given loan at 14 per cent rate of interest, but the people who are residing in palatial houses in urban areas are given loan at six-seven percent rate of interest. Cooperatives were set up for the farmers but to say the Cooperative system has collapsed. But, today it has failed to meet its said objective of farmers welfare. Cooperative banks should be given more funds so that these can facilitate the farmers with loans so that they are able to maximise their yield. The land of our country is so fecund and farmers and labourers are so industrious that they can feed the entire world if provided with the requisite facilities for production. The farmer can increase his production if adequate irrigation facilities and state of the art implements for agriculture, seeds, water, electricity and loans are provided to him. What is happening today? Power is supplied in the villages by making two-three hours power cut in the urban areas, this is not doing any good to the farmer.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Natural calamity strikes every year and the rainfall is untimely. The banks of rivers have ruptured and the rivers are not desilted. Owing to lack of adequate irrigation facilities farmer is not able to increase his yield. If all the agriculture equipments are made available to the Indian Farmer in right proportion then he can feed the entire world.

The land of Bihar is very fertile but loss to the tune of thousand crore is incurred every year. Hon. Minister must be aware that bridge-culverts-houses and every human being are always affected by flood and drought.

Some 100 sales centres have been set up for farmers and though the Government want to procure their produce at support price, procurement of the paddy and wheat crops in the said centres is declined on the pretext of their being substandard due to which the farmer is compelled to sell his yield at throw away price. If the farmer gets support price for his crops which is the policy of the Government then farmers of Bihar can also be benefitted. The land of Bihar is very fertile and everything including gram, wheat, paddy and vegetables can be grown there.

If the farmers of Jalla and Mukana Tal of my area is provided assistance then he can produce all sorts of foodgrains in addition to paddy, wheat, pulses, gram and toor. But there is an acute shortage of irrigation facilities. There are several cases where attention needs to be paid. Hon. Minister is aware of the problems of agricultural labourers, has been associated with them and has been fighting for their cause as well. Today, there is a need to work for ameliorating their condition. People are migrating from cities towards villages in large number. This migration is owing to lack of all kinds of facilities in villages. There are no schools, colleges, roads, electricity for children. Nobody wants to go in urban areas because it is difficult to breathe there. There is no fresh air. Concrete plans should be formulated and special funds should be made available for this purpose. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to make the funds available through his efforts so that there can be prosperity in villages. Attention being diverted from the villages presage rough weather for them. The economy of the country can only be strengthened if adequate attention is paid to the upliftment of farmers and labourers and not by making tall claims. We are making investments in bigger cities. Attention must be paid to the cities but the biggest money power of the country which is agriculture should not be ignored. We have a huge potential of sugarcane production. The sugar mills are lying closed in Bihar. The condition is similar in Uttar Pradesh. The machines in Government sugar mills are in extremely bad condition. There is a need to modernise the said sugar mills. Outdated machines have been installed there. Capital is invested on them but production is not adequate. The Hon. Minister is

well aware that the condition of the sugarcane farmers has worsened after the closure of sugar mills. I request the hon. Minister to revive the sugar mills. There is a lot of scope in Northern Bihar. Attention needs to be paid towards it. The close sugar mills of Bihar should be revived so that the farmers could become prosperous and their financial condition could improve. Poverty is reigning there in Bihar. The labourers of Bihar migrate to Punjab, Maharashtra, Jammu-Kashmir and Gujarat for work.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sugar Mills in Punjab also are being closed.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is our misfortune. Punjab is a modern State. Punjab and Haryana are role models for others. The condition of Bihar has worsened after division. It was stated that Bihar will be made like Punjab and Haryana. But the NDA people destroyed Bihar after dividing it.

SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL (Erandol) : What did you do in 15 years?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We did so much in 15 years that...*(Interruptions)* there is no feel good factor. They did not make us good in 6 years. Perhaps he is not aware that Bihar has become self-reliant in foodgrains in the last 15 years. It has so much potential ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, please address to the Chair and not to any body else. There should be no running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : There is surplus foodgrain in Bihar. It can feed the entire country. I request the hon. Minister to pay attention to Bihar. Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, my words seem pungent to him. Truth should be faced. It was stated that Bihar will be given a special package to make it like Punjab and Haryana. Minister of Agriculture is farmer's Leader and has sound approach towards Bihar. He has sympathy for farmers and labourers. I believe he will definitely pay attention to it. To improve the condition of farmers and labourers there and in particular providing funds to uplift the sugarcane farmers. The farmers across the country are feeling harassed. They are dying, committing suicide. Their entire family is committing suicide by consuming poison. This is the reason that everybody prefers profit making business hence he should do something in this regard. Hon. Minister of Agriculture might be paying attention to my submission hence I request him to do something for the welfare of farmers so that he earns more fame and the farmer of the country becomes prosperous.

With these few words I rise to support it and express my gratitude to all the Members. I would like that thank Mr. Deputy Speaker for providing me an opportunity to speak. Sir, I am also grateful to all the Members for listening to me patiently. I believe that we will all rise above political lines to give our valuable suggestions to hon. Minister and co-operate with him for the welfare of the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please include Punjab as well.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I on my own and on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party, would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on agriculture. More than 57 years have elapsed since India become independent. Several Governments came to power and voted out of power but nothing has been done except ignoring the interests of 60 crore farmers of the country, I have no hesitation in saying that farmers have always been ignored in the budgets which were presented by the previous Governments. Their economic standard has never been improved. Efforts have not been made to check the price rise of agriculture inputs be it electricity, manure, water or diesel. They have to sell their produce at lower price. Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned in his budget speech that impetus will be given to the cash crops in the agriculture. I on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party welcome this step. It has been stated in the budget speech that impetus will be given to oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton or poultry farms.

I would like to tell to the hon Minister that farmers depict the true picture of India. Maximum number of people live in the villages, whichever Government came to power and presented budgets paid more attention to industrialists instead of farmers. In Indian history, whichever Government came to power after independence have read about the farmers and poverty only in the books but do not have actual knowledge of poverty and the farmer. They do not even know what is agriculture. Unfortunately, the leaders of this country have been those people who do not know whether sugar is sown or sugar cane is sown. They made statement that sowing of sugar had begun, they have no idea whether potato is sown underground or above the ground. Such people have been in power after independence. Bahujan Samaj Party wants that Government should be of the farmers, they should be brought in the main stream and should be strengthened.

Hon. Minister in his budget speech has stated that the people paying more than Rs. Fifty thousand as electricity charges will be brought under income tax net. Bahujan Samaj Party strongly oppose it and hope that the U.P.A. Government is of the farmers hence they would consider it. If this kind of an attack is made on the farmers how agriculture can be encouraged. If an industrialist or a worker goes on strike the Government have option. But if the farmers goes on strike, there will be no option before the Government and the people of the country will die of starvation. As such, we will have to seek assistance from foreign countries so we should help the farmers.

Sir, Just now the issue of farmer loan was raised by

Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji. When a farmer goes for loan he has to pay 14 per cent rate of interest on it and when an industrialist or employee residing in the city takes car loan he has to pay 5-6 per cent of interest. Through you, I would request the Government to formulate a policy to provide loan to the farmers on the interest rate 6-7 per cent so that they can be relieved from this brokerage.

Likewise, I would like to make some other submissions. Issues of farmers and agriculture are constantly discussed here. Today, the farmers is compelled to commit suicide since he is not getting remunerative price of his produce. Hon. Finance Minister has also talked of decentralisation of procurement in his budget speech. It will be a suicidal step, since they will lose their fixed income and their requirement.

I hope that the Government and the House are unanimous on the issues of farmers and on giving impetus to agriculture. The Bahujan Samaj Party is with the Government on every such issue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a point of information. Today in Gujarat hon. Minister of Railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Under which rule you wish to speak?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is only a point of information that I would like to bring to your notice. Hon. Minister of Railways has gone to Godhra where* people have pelted stones on his car. Relief works are being carried out in Gujarat where train accident took place to lay, those works have been obstructed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question is not of a party alone. Twelve people have died in that train accident and 100 injured people are admitted in the hospital. Hon. Minister of Railways is busy in relief operations but pelting stones on his car is a sad incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.
(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ram Kripal ji, please take your seat
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, when I am on my legs, I think, it is not proper that you should make a hue and cry in the House. It is not proper when I am on my legs.

[Translation]

He did not name any particulars party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, I have already told that he did not name any party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : How can he blame anyone like this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Try to understand me, he has not named any party.

[English]

He has only drawn the attention of the Government.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Listen to me, if anything of this kind has gone on record, it will be expunged ... (Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : House should be informed. The Government should know what is the situation. If the Minister has been attacked their... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, you are a senior Member of the House and you are making noise. I cannot compel the Government that they should make a statement. I cannot do that. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Inquiry should be held of the entire matter, such people should be condemned and the criminal elements found to be involved, should be punished... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Hon. Minister has been attacked there... (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : We would like to know about the attack on hon. Minister... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE) : Sir, a statement has already been made. If he has some additional information, he will come back to the House... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : With the permission of the Chair, I made a statement in the morning. I also said that Shri Lalu Prasad has gone there to take stock of the situation as to what is happening there, see that all relief measures are taken, see the victims in the hospital and the site and all that. He will come back in the evening and give a detailed report here... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : What about the incident of the attack on Mr. Lalu Prasad?

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : I will get the information verified and get back to the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prakash Paranjpe may speak now.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, on behalf of Shiv Sena, I want to express my views on the budgetary support for the Ministry of agriculture.

Everybody is narrating the importance of agriculture now. About 65 per cent of the workforce and employment are created in agriculture. In the present Budget, the Finance Minister has announced a number of schemes to increase production and productivity of agriculture. He has allocated Rs. 630 crore for National Horticulture Mission, Rs. 72 crore for agricultural marketing infrastructure, Rs. 100 crore for water resources, Rs. 180 crore for measures for flood management and Rs. 4800 crore for programme relating to acceleration of irrigation. He has also mentioned that because of micro irrigation, one million hectares of land which is under cultivation now will go up to three million hectares by the end of the Tenth Plan and 14 million hectares by the end of the Eleventh Plan, and for that, he has reserved Rs. 400 crores. A number of insurance schemes and credit card facilities are given to the farmers.

We should grow more not only to make our country self-sufficient but also to export our food grains to other countries. When the ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the most learned personality of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Pawar, accepted the Agriculture portfolio, I thought that he

would give a different direction to this entire Ministry. I think that Shri Sharad Pawar, the hon. Minister may be aware of a report which appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, dated 26.2.2002. It says that the loss due to non-preservation of food grains is Rs. 70,000 crore annually. Whatever the farmer is producing, we are not able to preserve that. Everybody is asking for more money for cultivation, more support of farmers and more employment in this industry. But the major issue is the preservation of products which we are producing. Neither the Government nor the Ministry is serious about it. We are making foreign tours. We want to learn from Israel; we want to learn from China; and we want to learn from USA. But scientists of our own country have made some inventions for prevention and protection of food grains. Unfortunately, the Government is not serious about it.

In this connection, I met the hon. Minister also. For the last two and a half years, I have been meeting the officers concerned in the FCI. In my third meeting with him last year, the present Chairman of the FCI told me that our own technicians have got very nice solution for the preservation of the food grains. But he said that our officers will mislead you. I thought that he was making fun of me. But after two and a half years I realised that the inventions of our own scientists are being neglected by the Ministry on only one ground-Who will invest? Earlier I read out the different investments that have been proposed by the Finance Minister for increasing the productivity of food grains. The question was put to the scientists as to who will invest for preservation of food grains. The FCI officer says that the present rules do not allow them to make any investment for preservation of Food Grains. We, the elected Members, who are sitting in this august House are bound to make rules and regulations, or change the rules if the present rules do not permit it. I am sorry to say that even a learned Minister like Shri Sharad Pawar obeys the orders of bureaucrats. I was expecting something very high from him. I thought he would take fresh initiatives for promoting the preservation system which has been developed by our own scientists.

Recently you visited China. We have seen that in China, methyl bromide balloons are crushed on the lands in order to prevent the produce from infection. I do not understand why we cannot have the process which has been developed by our own scientists. Scientists cannot invest. They do not have money with them. When I asked about this, I was given a different proposal that I could go to NABARD or this company or that company and ask them to invest. We should sincerely try to preserve our food grains, because of which we are incurring a loss of Rs. 70,000 crore. Unfortunately, the Ministry is not serious about it. Out of the total investment, the investment for irrigation is said to be Rs. 4,800 crore. I wrote a letter to the Minister concerned asking for an information regarding how many power projects and irrigation projects are pending because of non-issuance of NOC by

the concerned Ministry, that is the Ministry of Environment and Forests. To my surprise, I have received a letter from the Minister saying that he is getting it examined. I do not know what is there to examine.

How many irrigation projects are lying with the Department for want of NOC? You are providing crores of rupees. The Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister feel that irrigation projects should be taken up very fast. At that time also I had suggested that unless and until you change your present Forest Act, the present plan of investment for irrigation projects will not be fulfilled properly. May I request the Agriculture Minister that out of this Rs. 4,800 crore, which has been provided for accelerated irrigation projects, if he can divert a little bit, say, some thousand crores of rupees for the machinery that has been developed, or the technique which has been developed by our two IIT engineers, for preservation of food grains, I shall be thankful to him?

Secondly, Sir, Mr. B.G. Shirke from Maharashtra is an expert in the construction of silos. He is getting orders from foreign countries. He submitted a proposal to the concerned Ministry three years back. He suggested that instead of constructing huge stockage or godowns, we must have small silos at Taluka levels. When Mr. Gokhale was the Chairman of FCI, a plan was prepared for the construction of 2,000 small silos in different areas, which will reduce the transportation cost, and also the delivery of the product or the goods will be more easier. I feel that Mr. Shirke, who is an expert, is constructing silos in other countries, but, in our own nation, his technology, his knowledge is totally neglected. If you can go and see the present situation of FCI godowns, Sir, I really feel that you would realize the importance of construction of small silos. This will save crore of rupees in the transportation cost and leakages in transportation.

Sir, I was going through the Standing Committee's Reports on Food Processing also. I would like to ask how much vegetables and fruits are produced, how much export are we doing and what infrastructure are we going to develop for protecting the vegetables and fruits? In this connection, one article is also there on dairy development. None of the Members of the Standing Committee has asked the concerned Department why our milk and milk products are not getting export orders. The only reason is that the level of bacteria in the raw milk of our country is too high. In India, one litre of milk contains three crores bacteria. In foreign countries, the level is 1:100.

Again, one scientist from our own country developed one chemical. By using that chemical, the milk will remain as it is for 12 hours in the room temperature and 90 per cent bacteria will be killed from the raw milk. The same scientist also visited all the concerned Ministers and Secretaries. His suggestion was that if the Government can force upon these

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

dairies that they should purchase this material, it will increase the standard of their milk. Then, we can increase our export also. But, again, the same experience has been felt here. The scientists of our country are neglected, but, if anybody comes from foreign countries, like Israel, China or USA, then we feel more happy that we have the imported technology. When our own scientists sincerely want to develop quality product, my experience or their experience is totally neglected. So, may I request the Minister concerned sitting here that unless and until they improve the quality of raw milk, they will not be able to export any food products made from milk?

We always say that ours is a number one country in the world producing milk. But, as far as quality of food grains and milk is concerned, we are not at all cautious about producing quality products. I am insisting on the hon. Minister, rather requesting him, to do something in this regard. The point is that these two scientists are tired of meeting the officers.

I am sorry to quote here one incident. One of the retired Secretaries just asked me this question : Have those scientists applied grease to the hands of the people concerned? I do not understand the phrase. The question is this. Applying grease to whom? The scientists are technical persons. They do not know the system how to get an approval. It is only for that reason - the two scientists are not able to grease or oil the palms of the officials concerned - that their technology is not accepted. May I request the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawar to look into this matter very seriously? He should not only think about increasing the productivity but also think about producing qualitative agriculture and horticulture products in our country.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil to speak.

14.16 hrs.

(iii) **Re : Reported improper treatment meted out to Railway Minister In Gujarat**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I have got the information that the vehicle of the hon. Railway Minister was attacked by stone by some miscreants while he went to see some of the injured passengers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Who are the

miscreants? What is their political identity? I would like to know whether the police have identified those people or any arrest has been made...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister himself will come and report the incident, narrate the incident to the hon. Members of this House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : It is the responsibility of the State Government to provide security to a Union Minister when he makes a visit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : When something happens in West Bengal, do they identify the people within one hour?...*(Interruptions)* When something happens in West Bengal, does the West Bengal Government identify the people within two hours? He is asking a very novel question. He want to know from the hon. Minister whether the people were arrested and identified*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West) : Shri Swain, you are not making a correct statement....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Except the statement of the hon. Minister, nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Sir, may, I complete what I want to say? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, please sit down. The hon. Minister wants to say something.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : I understand the concerns of the hon. Members. The hon. Railway Minister Lalu ji is himself coming here. He has already taken off from Gujarat. He is on the way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I agree with you.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : So, I will request him to come here to narrate the incident...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will himself make a statement. Please sit down. Now, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil to speak.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : These are not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil, please start.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Azmi, nothing will be recorded. Except the speech of Shri Patil, nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going to be recorded. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : Sir, the hon. Minister Shri Lalu Prasad has gone on official duty. It is his responsibility to visit any State in this country – whether it is Gujarat or West Bengal or Kerala. It does matter how he has been treated or how he has been attacked...(Interruptions) My friend is also bringing in the communal issue. This is really wrong...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Everybody is required to have some introspection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When the hon. Minister has replied, I think there is no need to make a noise

[English]

Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Patil.

(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : That is true...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is an attack on secularism...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : You should not bring the community. Why did you bring the community?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ilyas Azmiji, nothing is going to be recorded.

[Translation]

When the Minister has given the Statement

[English]

Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mistry, you are going beyond the limits. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

14.23 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET-2005-06
–DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Agriculture - Contd

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASAHAB M. K. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on Demands for Grants on Agriculture over which discussion is going on in the house.

India is known as an agriculture oriented country. In our country 58.5% farmers are such whose size of land holding is less than 1 hectate and 18.5% farmers are such whose size of land holding is less than 2 hectares i.e. a total of 77% farmers of this country have less than 2 hectares of land holdings. In such a situation planning was started in the country. As regards the budget figures at that time, in 1952 agriculture production was 69% of GDP and today it has come down to 21%. It means that the Government have not paid desired attention towards country's planning and the plight of the farmers. Not only this, budget allocations for agriculture have also been gradually decreasing. The situation has come to such a pass that farmers are committing suicide at several places. Let me tell you in figures. In Andhra Pradesh around 2600 farmers have committed suicide over seven months, in Karnataka also ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request the hon'ble Members not to whisper in the house. If at all anybody likes to say something or want to talk with someone then he can go out and talk outside the House.

SHRI ANNASAHAB M. K. PATIL : More than 250 farmers have committed suicide over seven months in Kerala. 22 farmers have committed suicide in a single district. Even in a fertile land like Punjab around 225 farmers have committed suicide over the last six months. All these things are happening just because we are unable to understand the basic issue of our country. The Planning Commission and the Minister of Finance are unable to comprehend and the provisions required are not made. The focus of the budget is drifting away from the farmers and the agriculture sector due to which the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. An allocation of only Rs. 72 crore have been made for the development of market infrastructure where the farmers of our country sell their produce. There are thousands of "Mandis" in our country and for them only Rs. 72 crore have been allocated. Any other Government Department would require even more than this amount to develop any one field. Water is very important. Farmers cannot do anything without water. Every state pays full attention towards water. Wherever water is available in sufficient quantity the agriculture sector is in better condition. For this purposes, a provision of only Rs. 100 crore has been made in the Budget.

[Shri Annasaheb M. K. Patil]

Losses amounting to crores of rupees are incurred due to flood at several places in our country. Many districts get affected due to drought. The proposal of the NDA Government to inter-link all the rivers in the country has been put under the carpet. For flood control, a provision of only Rs. 180 crore has been made. It is difficult to say as to how we can control flood with this much of amount. The farmers, who live in villages, cannot progress unless the villages are developed and benefited by modern science and technology, and market facility is made available to them. The provisions in the budget should have been made considering all these things and I feel that all things have not been considered. A provision of only Rs. 50 crores has been made for research.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : That is not correct. That is a separate fund.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL : Knowledge centres are to be set up in rural areas. The hon'ble Minister of Finance had said that it would build the nation, but how would it be possible? If we do not promote small things then how would it build the nation?

As regard knowledge centres in villages, our country has 11 lakh 22 thousand habitations and 5 lakh 30 thousands villages. A provision of 100 crore rupees has been made for knowledge centres. What can be done with this amount? Only Rs. 1000, Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 would come in the bag of each habitation or village. It means that the Government do not intend that the country should develop and make progress.

The state, to which the hon'ble Minister belongs, is well known as sugar belt area. Sugar package has been declared in this Budget but nothing has been given through this package. The Government have not made any allocation for this, rather it has been stated that the rate of interest on the loan will be lowered by 2%. I would like to ask as to how the rate of interest will be reduced when there is no loan. A Sugar package should have been declared for the sugar industry as its condition is very bad, and there is a need to revive the sugar industry by providing more and more assistance to it. I request the hon'ble Minister that it would be better if the Government provide more and more assistance to the sugar industry.

Though it is said that our's is an agriculture oriented country but I feel that it is not so. If we compare our country with China or other countries we find that the proportion of export of agriculture commodities is 0.75% to 1.5% at the most which is next to nothing. Rather, this percentage is more in case of export of other commodities. Many people were saying that this percentage is even less than that of the export of natural products.

I was thinking about the farmers that it would be better if they adopt diversification of crops instead of always adopting conventional crops. Therefore, I have mentioned that if Ethanol and Bio-diesel are produced, it will help the farmers.

Similarly, medical plants will provide employment to the farmers. No provision has been made in this Budget to help the farmers in adopting crop diversification. I would like to bring to your notice that as long as the Government do not treat agriculture as an industry and consider it as subject of the centre, healthy centre state relations are not possible in our country. We can take the example of water. One state does not release water to the other state. Similarly all the issues related to the farmers should be taken care of by the Central Government. I feel that the subject of agriculture should be included in the concurrent list and it should be the subject of the centre. I request the hon'ble Minister to do so and he can do this.

I have done a bit of home work to know about farmers and their problems. I found that the prices of agricultural inputs like Fertilizers, Labour, Water and Electricity have increased by 38% during the last three years while the produce has increased only by 2% i.e. they are suffering 36% loss be it on account of increased water tariff or on account of cost of fertilizers or on account of Labour cost. It has increased the gap between the market value and the input value of agricultural produce. The Government is not paying desired attention or acumen to understand the condition of farmers. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa) : Thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I stand today in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2005-06.

Sir, before me a, lot of speakers have dwelt upon a lot of issues relating to the Department. I want to emphasise that the present Government's intention and the way forward is less on allocation and less on allotment but more on implementation, more on follow-through, more on transparency and more on accountability.

In the previous year—last nine months or so - the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister have many a time brought this forward that whatever policy we make, whatever framework we develop, whatever money we allocate, whatever budgetary allocation we provide for the Department, that money should be focused and should reach the people and the places it is intended to reach.

Sir, over the last seven to ten years, every year there has been an increase in the Budget for the Ministry of Agriculture. This has become a sort of routine. But since the

UPA Government took charge last year, we have seen that in the working of the Government, in the stance of the Government, there is a commitment, there is a determination and resolve to make the life of the Indian farmer better than what it was before.

There are many reasons why farming has become a non-profitable business. In western countries, like the US, Canada and Australia, there are large land-holdings and fewer people are depending on agriculture. In this country, 60 per cent of our people depend on agriculture directly or indirectly. Land-holdings have become small; families are becoming large; and due to division of land, land-holdings are not becoming viable for agriculture.

Sir, respected Joshiji is sitting here. He, in his speech, has pointed out that the Government has not taken any initiative or new scheme or any creative step. I want to point out that there is a provision of Rs. 782 crore for macro-management agriculture, Rs. 350 crore for micro irrigation agriculture, Rs. 869.5 crore for crop husbandry and animal husbandry, and Rs. 630 crore is earmarked for the National Horticulture Mission. I have no hesitation in saying that the previous Government was not looking after for catering to the needs and aspirations of the farming community, labourers and the working class. I am proud to say that we are in the Government today because of the support of that society and it is a resolve of this Government to fulfill its promises that we made to this nation.

Sir, the Budget, which has been brought by the Agriculture Minister and the Department, has clearly outlined in which direction we are headed. It is a fact that there have been suicides in the past in this country in many States. It has become a chronic problem. But to tackle that problem. I am very happy to state that the Government has earmarked and disbursed Rs. 1,08,500 crore in the form of rural credit. That is the money which is going to farmers on easy terms. But what happens in rural areas, sometimes, is that the farmer is getting trapped by small money-lenders and they charge interest upto 24 per cent or 25 per cent.

The Government has started on this path where they are increasing the net of the rural credit. We can buy a passenger vehicle or a maruti car at the interest rate of 5 or 6 per cent but to buy a tractor, a farmer has to pay interest at the rate of 14 or 15 per cent.

[Translation]

I want to submit that we will have to provide facilities to the farmers who work hard, plough the land and grow food for us so that they can also look after their families. A small entrepreneur sets up a factory of shoes and chappals sells his products after adding Rs. 20 to the cost price of Rs. 80 that goes into making it including the expenditure on thread,

leather, rubber and labour but we fix the MSP in advance for agricultural produce regardless of what the farmers would have to spend on growing crops be it on seeds, fertilizers, water or labour charges. The burden on the farmers has increased over the years though the Government has taken many important steps in the field of irrigation. Sir, I want to submit

[English]

90 per cent of all public investment in irrigation is in the major and medium irrigation schemes. The private sector is only investing in minor irrigation such as tubewells or hand pumps or borewells, which is not a very efficient form of investment. I would request the hon. Minister to solicit more private investments in the areas of irrigation and also in food processing. Today, we are only processing 2 per cent of our food produce. To raise this to 10 per cent we will require an estimated of Rs. 1,40,000 crore.

[Translation]

India is an agriculture dominated country and two-third of the population depends on agriculture. We would have to evolve a public private partnership if we want development and the Government has taken many steps in this direction.

Sir, we find that non productive assets are lesser regarding rural loans and farm loans than in any other area of the society. The farmers should get loans easily. We have noticed that if a big industrialist wants to take a loan of Rs. 100 crores then he only has to make two phone calls to the bank manager and a cheque is delivered at his place but if a farmer wants to take a loan of Rs. ten thousand for buying a cow, he has to approach Lekhpal, Sarpanch and the District Collector several times and get the verification done. Despite this at times he has to give bribes too. The Government has taken many steps to change this scenario and I thank the Minister of Agriculture for his decisions.

As far as insurance is concerned, today we have only got insurance for the block or the tehsil level. This issue has already been raised by an hon. Member. 17-18 districts of Rajasthan were hit by destructive hailstorm last month. I had visited almost 100 affected villages of my constituency Dausa. I found that the small farmers could not get the benefit of insurance in the present set up. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to formulate a scheme so that the scope of insurance might be expanded and the small farmers could get its benefits.

[English]

I can also say with all the authority at my command that this Party and this Government are fully committed in helping the farming community not just of a particular State but the entire nation, it could be in fishery, in horticulture, in

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

sheep rearing, in cow-breeding and in agriculture. The Government has invested and earmarked money to make policies for crop diversification, for food processing and for investing more money in research so that we can develop our farming techniques and also the implements that go into farming. It is important that we take a holistic view. I am very happy to state that the Government is very realistically approaching this problem. I think, all of us should rise above all our ideological or political differences that we may have inside the House. The farming community today needs the help of every single Member of Parliament. So, I would request everyone to support the Government in its endeavour to really strengthen the farming community. This is the need of the hour. I can safely assure you that the Government is very practical and the Government is very thoughtful about all the needs and aspirations of the farming community.

I can assure you that in the four or five years.

[Translation]

We would have to work hard to catapult our farmers among the best. I hope we would succeed in doing so.

With these words, I conclude and I thank the hon. Deputy Speaker for giving me opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho)* : Sir, I would like to say that keeping in view the condition of the farmers and agriculture, I can not support the demands for agriculture. It would not be fair to agriculture to talk about it regardless of certain issues. Those issues are the presence of the farmers in Lok Sabha, insurance, rural loans, irrigation facilities availability of electricity and remunerative prices of crops.

Sir, the farmers have to face two types of calamities. One is perpetrated by nature and another by the Government. Natural calamities include hailstorms, cyclones, floods, drought and fire. Then there are problems created by the wrong policies of the Government which results in destroying the crops. The compensation given is quite insufficient. The farmers are compelled to commit suicide reeling under the burden of credit.

There is no provision to combat natural calamities in the budget. Crop Insurance Scheme amounts to robbing the farmers. The farmers pays the premium. The farmer would not get any benefit unless compensation is paid to him by taking that farm as a unit where loss has occurred.

Similarly, the farmers can get loans at the interest rate of 14-15 percent from the nationalised banks and at the rate of 16 percent from the cooperatives. It is an injustice. The mediator bank between the farmers and the Reserve Bank

and NABARD bank is not different from a private moneylender.

Therefore, Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Government had decided that the farmers should be given loan at the interest rate of 9 percent and it should be implemented.

Sir Irrigation facility is not complete without electricity and rural loan facility. There are rivers in the country whose water should be channelised to irrigate the farms. The farms may begin to bloom. Lakhs of acres of land is lying unirrigated. No attention has been paid towards it.

Lakhs of acres of land is lying unused in Chambal ravines there should be a scheme to level this area. On one hand it would help in irrigating the land on the other hand it would help in solving the problem of dacoits and generate opportunities of jobs. It would stop migration. But the hon. Minister of Finance has not said anything in this regard.

Electricity is much needed for agriculture. Sir, there is shortage of electricity even after 50 years of independence. The crops worth thousands of acres of land has ruined due to non-availability of electricity. This year the present Government has given the electricity to Maharashtra and Bihar from Madhya Pradesh's quota. It was done keeping in view the elections. How can the country and the agriculture develop if things are done with such a feeling of vengeance.

No provision has been made in the budget to retrieve the submerged land. Moreover problems have been created for the farmers by increasing the price of cement, iron as well as the electricity rates. There is no special scheme to promote organic and medicinal farming, there was a scheme earlier but it does not find mention in the budget.

The NDA had started a scheme to construct rural godowns but it has been scrapped. There is a need to help the sugarcane farmers and sugar industry needs to be promoted.

In the end, I would like to say that agriculture might make a move on the path of progress if farmers get electricity, water and fertilizers on time and if they also get remunerative prices and their crops are insured and are safeguarded from the natural calamities. The facilities given by the NDA government to farmers like credit cards, loan at low interest rates should be restored and if agriculture is given encouragement like an industry then it would definitely prove to be a boon and enable the country to become stronger.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, we are discussing here a very important subject. I must thank the Government that at least in this Session a discussion on the demands for Grants in respect of agriculture has been

*Speech was laid on the Table.

brought. It is rightly said that the UPA Government is committed to the farmers' community and it correctly emphasised that agriculture is the most important sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wait a minute. Those hon. Members who want to lay their speech, can lay on the Table of the House and their speech will form part of the Proceedings of the House.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : We cannot deny that neglecting this agriculture sector was seen as the prime reason why the NDA was routed. Overall, this time agriculture and its allied sectors have got Rs. 6,425 crore. It is a 34 per cent increase from the previous year. It might be seen as a very impressive increase. But if we critically come to the break-up figure, it will not be very impressive as has been committed and as has been talked about. The Budget, which has been placed by the hon. Finance Minister, has been perceived as a rural-oriented and farmer-friendly Budget. But it has not matched the words and the targets laid down in the Budget with appropriate sanctions and financial allocations. So, I must say that there are many a slip between the cup and the lip.

Sir, the issues like irrigation, diversification of crops, rural credit and farm research are the points. I may refer to the Nobel Prize Laureate, economist, Prof. Amartya Sen who outlined four basic areas which need to be addressed. One is health care system. This is a different thing. Second is, land reforms and its compilation. It is totally neglected by the successive Governments. Even the Government of the day is not giving proper emphasis on that, though I do admit undoubtedly that both agriculture and land are the State subjects. But the Union Government has the right to efficiently orient the State Government to go in a proper way. Thirdly, he talked about basic education. I am not raising this point. And the fourth one is availability of micro credit.

Sir, let me come to the point of irrigation. Without irrigation, the agriculture subject is not complete and it cannot be discussed fully. Under Bharat Nirman project, 10 million hectares of more land has to be irrigated. This is the target that has been fixed. It seems to be a utopian task considering that the growth of irrigation has decelerated because no medium and major projects have been launched since the Seventh Plan.

Sir, it has talked about three million hectares under micro irrigation system, like drip irrigation and sprinkling irrigation system by 2007. This is a tall order because only Rs. 400 crore has been set apart for this purpose against the estimated requirement of Rs. 10,500 crore for running two years of the project. Moreover, such micro irrigation systems cannot help the crops like rice and wheat. They can

at least help horticulture and vegetable crops. The major crops of our country are rice and wheat and they are suffering from irrigation problems. There is no attempt to address these problems. What about the food subsidy bill? The food subsidy bill for storage; handling and transportation of food grains is budgeted at Rs. 26,200 crore as against Rs. 25,800 crore last year. This is a very marginal increase. I must say that the food procurement scenario of our country is very dismal. Even they have failed to arrest the distress sale in large parts of our country.

Sir, the minimum support price is neither remunerative nor supportive. So far as paddy is concerned, this year it has been increased only by Rs. 10. While the inflation rate has gone above 6 per cent to 7 per cent, the minimum support price has gone up only by 1.8 per cent. It is not more than that. This is neither remunerative nor supportive. Farmers do not mean only farm owners. Most of the farmers in our country are small and marginal farmers. The form at least 65 per cent of the population of the farmers community. Most of them are forced to go to the market for distress sale. There is no concrete proposal for arresting distress sale and for giving remunerative price to the poor marginal farmers.

Sir, the micro irrigation does not help paddy and wheat crops. I have already mentioned it. Even then food security is in problem. Although there is a huge stock in our granary, yet a large section of our people is hungry. This has already come out in a recently released India Development Report, which spells out the State of food insecurity of the poor. This is a very paltry figure.

The per capita availability of cereals has come down a full 20 per cent from 1999 to 2003; pulses availability has come down from 36.5 grams to 28.2 grams in the same period. As of now, 47 per cent children of India are malnourished, 74 per cent anaemic, 34 per cent of married women in the age group 15-49 in rural areas suffer chronic energy deficiency; 54 per cent in the same age group have no access to education and about 50 per cent pregnant women suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. So, the main concern should not be only about diversification. I am not against diversification but what would be the fate of the poor farmers who are engaged in producing principal crops like paddy, wheat and cereals?

The scenario in our country is that farmers are committing suicides in different parts of our country. They are suffering because they have fallen into debt trap. What is the concrete proposal of the Government? They are not only getting institutional credit by they are also getting credit from the non-institutional financial agencies. So, is there any proposal to bring these non-institutional financial

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

agencies to the network of the institutional financial agencies? There is no such proposal this year.

I appreciate the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawar in a general way. He is an experienced Minister and an experienced leader of our country. He knows the problems. But I think the problem is not in his Ministry, the problem is in the Ministry of Finance. The amount of money that is required is not being allocated by the Ministry of Finance. All the talk and rhetoric about full commitment to the farming community are not being reflected in the Budget itself. That is why I must say that it is merely rhetoric and there is many a slip between the cut and the lip. I hope, the hon. Minister would be bold enough to solve the problems and I am hopeful that the UPA Government, which has come out with a commitment to the farming community would take necessary steps for the betterment of the farmers and also the agriculture sector.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura West) : *Sir, I support the Budget on Agriculture for the year 2005-06. Our party, CPI (M) is lending support to the UPA Government from outside on the basis of some 'Common Minimum Programme'.

We have been consistently demanding to follow CMP strictly where thrust has been given to uplift the economic condition of the poor peasants of our country.

The current Budget on Agriculture has reflected that policy to some extent and we hope that the Government would implement various schemes to develop agriculture sector.

Over the years, the agriculture has played a very vital role in the Indian economy and would continue to be the most crucial sector in the future also.

The need of the hour is to ensure that a very conducive atmosphere is developed to provide healthy growth of the agriculture sector.

Although agriculture is the backbone of the nation's economy, unfortunately the contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic product has declined to as low as 22%.

Worker dependent on agriculture are still very high (about 58%).

The availability of foodgrains in terms of quantity as well as quality is erratic and uneven among different section of the society.

Besides, incidence of malnutrition, thousand of people living in rural and remote areas are not able to get two square meal a day. In fact, we have still not achieved food security in the sense.

The concept of food security adopted in 'World Food Summit' held in Rome in 1996 as I quote, "Food security exists when all people, at all time, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life".

In this context, it is very important for India to initiate long-term policy measures for making our farming sector viable and sustainable.

The most visible symptoms of the agrarian rural distress among the rural poor is the drastic curtailment of their per capita food availability.

The number of farmers' suicides has reached levels unheard of since Independence.

The 'targeted public distribution system' actually led to the dismantling of the existing 'public distribution system - which itself was inadequate.

This dismantling of the public distribution system has hit the poor, the hardest with the worst affected being the tribal areas where hunger and starvation deaths have become a regular feature.

More than 26% of our population is below poverty line.

Unemployment has become the single largest problem for the people.

This is the result of liberalisation and privatisation policies pursued over the years.

Large sections of the peasantry caught in a pincer between higher input prices and lower output prices.

The withdrawal of subsidiaries on a host of inputs, the rising cost of electricity, irrigation have forced peasants to go to moneylenders to borrow at exorbitant interest rates which has resulted in increased cost of production.

The role of commercial and regional rural banks is not upto the mark for lending loans to the farmers.

In spite of all above, the Budget for 2005-06 attempted to create several favourable conditions for the development of agriculture marketing, horticulture, agriculture infrastructure, credit flow, etc. deserve commendation though not without some doubts and reservations.

The 2005-06 Budget has fixed a target of extending assured irrigation to 10 million hectares in 4 years under the Bharat Nirman Project.

This sounds almost utopian, considering that the growth of irrigation has decelerated, partly because the easily irrigable areas have been exhausted.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

But more importantly because no new medium or major project has been launched since the Seventh Five Year Plan.

The Budget also talks about covering 3 million hectares under micro-irrigation system by 2007.

This, too, seems a tall order because only Rs. 400 crores has been set apart for this purpose against the estimated requirement of Rs. 10,000 crore for the remaining two years of this Plan.

The Budget also talked about the need for revamping the co-operative credit infrastructure but has not proposed any concrete measure to do so.

Agriculture Research and Education has also not got much from the Budget. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture in its recent report recommended a one-time catch-up grant of Rs. 1000 crore for this network. But this has been overlooked in the Budget.

As for the proposed 'National Horticulture Mission', the funding requirement for 2005-06 has been projected by the Agriculture Ministry at Rs. 2,015 crore.

The Budget has allocated Rs. 630 crore.

Animal Husbandry being potential sector has been neglected.

India is the world leader in fruit and vegetables production and not in foodgrains such as wheat and rice or in pulses or oilseeds.

Diversification of Agriculture should not be at the expense of food crops.

India's food economy should continue to be grain-centred.

The Budget should have focussed more on providing adequate nutrition to the rural poor.

We are now in the 4th year of the Tenth Plan. Experts have already expressed that the targeted growth rate of 8% could not be achieved during the Tenth Plan Period.

Growth of agriculture sector has key to our overall economic growth.

For achieving the desired growth, we have to complete the Land Reform Process throughout the country within a specific time.

Surplus land and cultivable wasteland has to be distributed to the landless.

In spite of limitation, the Agriculture Budget for 2005-06 has been framed keeping the interest of all class people in mind which is welcome.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): *
The only culture of India is agriculture. Budget for 2005 holds out an olive branch to the rural sector. The neglect of this sector was one of the reasons for the root of the political doom. The rural sector must be examined.

Budget should have focussed more on providing adequate nutrition to the rural poor.

Horticulture which received Rs. 630 crore is not a priority for the country unlike pulses and oilseeds. India is the world leader in fruit and vegetable production and not in foodgrains such as wheat and rice.

It is found to be far worse than in sub Saharan Africa where there was no Green Revolution.

India's agricultural scientists, in particular the plant breeders of rice and wheat have not able to break the yield barrier for a number of years. The soil scientist and the agronomist have failed to show vision in this direction.

Small dams, anicuts and overall watershed management are the need of the hour. The rural idiom of Mr. Chidambaram's Budget will make sense only if the funds are effectively used.

Purveying Government money to the rural areas is hardly efficient given the experiments of the last several decades. Krishi Vigyan Kendras should have modern I.C.T. facilities to cater to rural communities.

The only State in the country, Orissa, the divine State of agriculture is highly neglected by the Centre. The Central Government must pay proper attention and allot more grants to promote my Orissa State which is below poverty line. I pray the Central Government for immediate allocation of funds to save the State out of drought.

There should be agricultural oriented industries to promote the State. The farmers are very poor compare to other States. I draw the attention of the Central Government for immediate grants to be included in the current Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): *Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture has made neither any effort nor any provision in the current year's Budget for improving the economic condition of the farmers in the country.

The UPA Government which has given the slogan of Bharat Nirman has made no provision in the Budget for providing remunerative prices to the farmers for agro-products in this predominantly agriculture based country. The Government will have to consider providing cost-based price

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

to the farmers or it will have to take steps to bring down the cost of agri-inputs then only the farmers can become economically strong.

A provision should be made whereby the subsidy on fertilizers, seeds etc. should directly go to the farmers. Clearance under Forest Conservation Act is creating hurdles in completion of irrigation projects covering one crore hectare land involving several states. There is no mention of transferring forest land under the relevant act for execution of irrigation projects in forest major states such as Assam, Nagaland, other North-Eastern States, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Vidharbh area of Maharashtra. A policy should be framed for covering this area under irrigation project. The Ministry of Agriculture should have a clear policy in this regard for this area and take the responsibility of executing the pending irrigation projects covering my Constituency Gadchirole and district Chandrapur.

The use of bio-diesel and ethanol has been permitted. Bio-diesel is being produced from several agri-products such as Jatropa, Karanji, Ratanjot and it has been successfully tested as auto-fuel. Bio-diesel is being used in Germany, Brazil and many other countries. The hon. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh is driving his car on bio-diesel only.

Mixing of ethanol with petrol was permitted during the NDA regime. Mixing of 5 percent ethanol was made mandatory. But the UPA Government announced that such a mixture is not mandatory which resulted in great loss to sugar companies and the sugarcane growers as well. The policy of mixing bio-diesel and ethanol would make the farmers prosperous. We can bridge the shortage of petro-products through farmers in place of importing them and cane save foreign exchange. Mixing of 30% ethanol has been a success in Brazil.

The Government should encourage farmers to switch over to Jatropa, Karanji etc. Further, the rate of interest on agriculture loan should be lowered. This is what I intend to submit with regard to these demands.

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : *Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2004-05. On behalf of my party Janata Dal (S). I support the demands.

At the outset I wish to thank the hon. Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia ji for approving a large sum of Rs. 13556 crore of rupees annual plan outlay to my State for 2004-05. My thanks to Shri Sharad Pawarji, a

veteran revolutionary leader who is working hard for ameliorating the living conditions of farmers of our country. Similarly, Karnataka Government has also given top priority for agriculture especially this year. The annual Budgetary allocation for agriculture for 2004-05 has been increased from Rs. 412 crore to Rs. 840 crore. In fact the farmers deserve such encouragement because agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Sir, Karnataka Government is facing severe drought situation for the fourth successive year. The percentage of irrigated land is very less and most farmers are dependent upon rain god. The drinking water problem is persisting in many districts including Chamaraajanagar, Kolar and Belgaum. The State Government has requested the Centre to release a substantial amount to Karnataka for drought relief works. The State has asked for Rs. 1147.71 crore. The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has informed us that Rs. 49.14 crore will be released. I urge upon the Centre to increase this amount as the financial condition of Karnataka is very poor.

I consider marketing and storage as most important aspects in the field of agriculture. Due to faulty storage a substantial quantity of food grain is swallowed by rodents. Food grain becomes rotten due to heavy rain and flow of water inside the storeroom and godown. In some other cases the food grain is lost because there are no storage facilities at all. Food Corporation of India do not have sufficient number of godowns. I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to construct sufficient number of FCI godowns in Karnataka. The price of onion, tomato and potato has gone down in the recent times. In fact during the last two to three years this condition is prevailing. Sugarcane growers and cotton growers are also on the streets as they are not getting support price for their produce. The Government of India should come forward to help the States to provide marketing facilities. For example research studies have found out that coffee cures cancer. If that is so, what steps have been taken by the Centre to boost the sale of coffee here and in the international market? Coconut growers are in great trouble in Karnataka. NUSI disease and root wilt disease have destroyed lakhs of coconut trees in Karnataka. Black headed worms and white worms have attacked coconut trees in most parts of the State. These disease-affected coconut trees have to be removed. The Centre was giving financial assistance for cutting and removal of such dead coconut trees. Now, at present the assistance from the Government of India has been stopped. The State is not in a position to pay more than Rs. 25/- per coconut tree. This amount has to be enhanced at least upto Rs. 200/- per tree otherwise the condition of farmers will deteriorate further. Several cotton growers in Karnataka have committed suicide after burning their cotton crop in Northern Karnataka. I am eager to know from the hon. Minister the steps that his Ministry has taken to tackle such crucial situations.

*Translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Kannada.

Food processing industries must be set up throughout the State of Karnataka. In addition to this cold storage and chilling centres should be provided to farmers throughout the State of Karnataka. This will enable the farmers to produce ketch up, sauces, etc. Variety of juices can be produced from fruits like mangoes, oranges, grapes, sapota, etc. Hence cold storage facility is a must to the farmers and it is the responsibility of the Centre to help them in this matter.

I am keen to know about some projects which are hanging fire till today. There is no progress regarding Kapini II stage project. An amount of Rs. 120 crore was released for the Markandeya project and no one knows as to what has happened to this project. Similarly Rs. 8 crore was released for Bylahengala project to provide drinking water to the poor villagers in the Kittur Rani Chennamma area. All these projects have disappeared and I hope the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji would reply to all these questions while replying to the debate.

There is a boom in the export of roses from Bangalore (Karnataka) and Hosur (Tamil Nadu). This export can increase manifold particularly during festival season like Christmas. There is abundant production of tulip flowers in Germany. India can easily overtake Germany in the production and export of these beautiful flowers provided the Union Ministry of Agriculture provides proper encouragement to floriculture. This still will also provide a boon to Indian economy by earning the valuable foreign exchange.

There are a number of agricultural research centres in our country. Efforts are on get hybrid variety of cows, bison and to improve the quality and quantity of milk. This effort should go on. Tender coconut water can find a prime place in the national and international market if it is processed, preserved, packed in a scientific way. We have so many campa colas and coca colas. Why don't we have coconut cola, Sir?

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would speak in Hindi on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I would try to speak in Hindi, but in between I may have to take recourse to English words such as Globalisation, Liberalisation, WTO, Agreement on Agriculture, TRIPS etc.

15.00 hrs.

It is our fortune that Shri Sharad Pawar ji is heading the Ministry of Agriculture. 57 year have passed since our country's independence and during this period agriculture sector has faced many crises. Now it is difficult to tackle it. We supported formation of the UPA Government. Had the

issue relating to rural areas included in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA been implemented, the condition of farmers, agricultural labourers and the poor would have improved. But it is unfortunate that major issues selected at the time of framing the CMP have not been reflected in current year's Budget.

Sir, the projected target for GDP's growth for 2004-2005 was 7.85 percent which has declined to 7 percent. It declined because of downward growth in agriculture sector during the second quarter of 2004-2005. Starting from the third quarter of 2003 GDP registered a negative growth in 2004, i.e. to 0.8 percent. It is a reflection of ongoing crisis in the agriculture sector.

Sir, 90 percent of our population reside in villages and most of them are farmers, agricultural labourers and other poor people. There is a saying, "They are born in debt, they live in debt-and they die in debt". The Royal Commission of Agriculture was constituted during the British rule. And this is written in the report of the said Commission. Today, the family of a farmer gets trapped in debt after his death.

15.04 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

The Royal Commission of Agriculture was constituted during the British rule and what has been stated in its report is true even today. I would like to ask why it is so. During the ninties agriculture production declined from 3.17 percent to 1.73 percent in comparison to the eighties.

Our population grew by 1.9 percent during the ninties in comparison to 1.73 percent increase in agriculture production. Thus agricultural growth fell below population growth. Such a situation is quite dangerous.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 25 thousand farmers committed suicide in our country between 1997 and 2004 and during the last three years of the NDA 10 thousand farmers committed suicide. They committed suicide out of compelling situation. During NDA's six years, no attention was paid towards agricultural development, less funds were allocated and qualitative restrictions were removed under the pressure of WTO within two years. Which adversely affected the Agriculture sector. Prices of agro-products crashed. And it forced the farmers to end their lives..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Shri Anil Basu, can you yield to me for a minute?

SHRI ANIL BASU : Why not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt the Member.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, I just want to seek a clarification. The hon. Member has yielded...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can seek clarification from the hon. Minister later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, I am not in the list of speakers. I just want to record my point and seek a clarification....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : We can discuss in private ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no discussion between you two members, Shri Anil Basu, you continue your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, you are trying to bulldoze the proceedings. Please do not bulldoze the proceedings...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Sir, the main speaker has conceded. You should allow the hon. Member to make his point.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, this is a matter concerning the farmers. The hon. Member has levelled an allegation against the NDA Government. He said that they had done nothing for the farmers. Here, I want to give a clarification that the WTO was signed in 1993 by the present Leader of the House. They left the agreement on Agriculture blank. He has left it blank. Till today your Commerce Minister has not come forward with details and he has also failed in Cancun to resolve the Agreement on Agriculture and for the developing countries to reduce their agricultural subsidies...*(Interruptions)* You cannot squarely blame the NDA Government ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, you are making a speech now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ): Sir, let there be no cross-taking. A lot of speakers are there to speak on the subject.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, on whatever harm they have done to the country, I am going to reply to each and every point. There is no problem...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Basu, you address the Chair. Why do you address him? You need not address him. You address the Chair

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU : Mr. Chairman Sir, during the 20 years's period between 1981-2001 the number of agri-labourers in the rural areas increased by 22 percent whereas that of farmers declined by 13 percent.

Before taking up the main issue, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Sharad Pawarji towards two important points. Potato is grown in my state West Bengal. It is surplus by 35 lakh tonne in the state. We want to export it.

Hon. Sharadji encouraged us and he gave us two hours in the Ministry. All the officers and MPs from West Bengal were present there. Everything was discussed there. Jyoti Pukhraj quality of our potatoes has been accepted in the markets of South Asian countries. It is a very good quality and is in great demand. WE can sell this potato in thousands of tonne but the problem in this that the potatoes were never exported and now it is being said that it cannot be exported, in normal container. Refer containers are required for its export and those refer containers are not manufactured in our country. These containers are imported. In this way the problem of refer containers makes our export non-viable as we have big competitors like Australia, Holland and U.S.A. in the market, we should compete with them and double our export market. Our quality is very good that is why it is in great demand but we need assistance for export. Sharadji discussed this question. But unfortunately we did not get the minimum assistance which we were expecting. I have fax from the Chairman and General Manager of APEDA. The decision and the order of APEDA is so complicated that it will not provide any help in export.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, how much time do you require to complete your speech?

SHRI ANIL BASU : I think, so long as you allow me to continue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That cannot be. You must have some time-limit.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Agriculture sector is a vast sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you must have some time-limit so that others can also participate.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, I have not consumed any time at all. Our party has a definite time. I have not consumed that. Other speaker has laid his speech on the Table of the House. So, I may kindly be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please co-operate so that can also participate.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU : After having a discussion with the Chairman of APEDA a copy of Fax from its General Manager has been sent. It says that F.O.B. is Rs. 1.5 per kg. We will not make it Rs. 3 since packaging is important in export marketing. We have to compete with the packaging of Australia, Holland and U.S.A. and it should be on the same lines. Our quality is very good but packaging is also an important factor. Besides, shipment fare and freight fare are also important. We demanded Rs. 3 per kg. assistance in transport subsidy and other facilities. But they made it so complicated that nothing can be done in it. That is why, it is my humble request to Shri Sharad to make it Rs. 3/- directly. Three options have been given in it.

[English]

(a) Rs. 1.5 per kg - 10 per cent of FOB;

(b) Rs. 1.5 per kg - 25 per cent of ocean freight in case of non-refer container and Rs. 1.88 per kg-33 per cent of ocean freight in case of refer container.

(c) Rs. 3 per kg.-specific rate per kg.

They have decided it is Rs. 1.5 because Rs. 1.5 is the least of the three parameters. What is the logic for doing it? How do they decide it?

[Translation]

I humbly request Sharadji to pay attention to it and help us. We are ready to export 25,000 metric tonne potatoes this year. A meeting was held and Shri Sharadji was also present there. NAFED had stated there that they would provide 100 refer containers. If we get those containers at Kolkata port, we will not have to import them.

I would like to make another submission in regard to Mango Festival which is organised in Singapore. It seems that it has been decided that it would be organised there only. I am aware that 30 varieties of mango from Malasia and Thailand are found in Singapore. That is why our mango does not have a big market there. There are chances of market in Shanghai and Beijing where the population is 7.1 million and 1.4 million respectively. They have a very high purchasing power also. The Chinese like Indian mangoes very much. If we extend this Festival from Singapore to Shanghai or Beijing then the mangoes produced in our country will find a big market there. I would like to bring these two issues to your notice.

It is true that there has been 33 per cent increase in expenditure incurred by the Agriculture Ministry this year in comparison to that of last year. If you look at the budget, you would find that high budget allocation has been made for

four areas, namely crop, animal husbandry, fisheries, food storage and warehousing but low allocation has been made for the financial institutions working in soil conservation, water conservation and agriculture sector. Irrigation sector has been completely ignored. Hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech stated in the House that the UPA Government would provide additional one crore hectare irrigation facility that is, assured irrigation facility which will facilitate employment to unemployed and growth to agriculture sector. But no provision has been made for this purpose, it is very unfortunate. Our per capita food grain availability was 174 kilogram in the year 1994-95, which has been reduced to 142 kilogram. There was 4.82 million tonne foodgrain in Government godowns in 2002-2003. Out of which 1.72 million tonne was exported at PDS price. When this foodgrain was being exported at PDS price, the country was facing the problem of starvation and the farmers were committing suicide. All these incidents are unfortunate towards which the Government should pay attention. As per the Government records 26 crore people are living below poverty line in our country. The number of people suffering from malnutrition was 19.5 crore in 1996-97 which has increased to 21 crore. 53.5 per cent children below five years of age are suffering from malnutrition in our country. This number is not so high even in African countries. This is the condition of our country even after 57 years of independence.

Now WTO has come into force. Now the question is this how shall we face its free-trade policy. Agreement of Agriculture is in issue of WTO. It will create a crisis in our rural areas. Multinational corporate bodies take advantage of TRIPS. Our bio-diversity is being pirated. We will have to tackle it. Land and water have been commercialized. Soil, water and land everything has become commercial. Poor agriculture labourer does not get land. The Tamil Nadu Government has given 50 lakh acre land to multinational corporations and private firms which was to be given to the poor people. A solution of this problem should be found out and credit should also be given in agriculture sector
...(Interruptions)

15.22 hrs.

(iii) **Re : Reported improper treatment meted out to Railway Minister in Gujarat- Contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, it is a matter of giving an information. Our Hon'ble Deputy leader Shri D.P. Yadav ji had raised the issue of rail accident in Gujarat. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has gone there to provide relief. According to the information that we have got, fatal attack has been made on him there. Bullets were shot and petrol

was also thrown at him. A murderous attack was made on him. An effort has been made to kill him. *We have received the information.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, do you have any information.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : At present our Hon'ble Minister is not able to provide any information in this regard. Therefore, I would like to request that...*efforts should be made to save democracy. Sir, this is an important issue.* An attempt have been made on the life of hon'ble Minister...(Interruptions)

Sir, democracy has been attacked. This is a serious issue...(Interruptions) Until a complete statement comes, there is no point in running the House. Innocent people were killed in Gujarat...(Interruptions) * ... It is completely serious matter...(Interruptions)* It is clear matter of smothering the democracy ...* It is an issue of serious concern. If such things happen then whether the democracy will be saved or not like this...(Interruptions)

15.25 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, please speak one by one.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please go back to your seat, speak from there and tell me what is the matter.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as you know there has been a train accident in Gujarat today morning. As our State Railway Minister has told us 12 people have lost their lives and more than 100 have been injured in this rail accident. Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad had gone to Gujarat to view the relief work being done at the accident site, meet the relief workers and the families of those who died and the persons who got injured. When he was inspecting the accident site...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should not take names.

[English]

The name will not be taken. Even before you said, I said no.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir; an attack was made on the Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : That is not correct ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed any names to be taken.

...(Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : Just because Members were agitating. I have come here.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Petrol was thrown at him, an attempt on his life was made. The collector and administration there did not do anything. Is this the way the democracy would survive. If this is the condition of Railway Minister, then how can the common man be safe in that State? Whether a common man cannot visit that palace?..*

An attack was made on Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House has heard you. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call one of you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalu Prasad ji had raised the issue regarding killing of innocent people in Gujarat.* I demand that Home Minister should take steps to dismiss the Government of Gujarat...* We will not let the house run until this is done...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us go on with it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened to this. You have raised it. We shall see to that. Let me see to it and ask for a report. I am asking for a report.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please cooperate with me. Give up your habit.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, petrol was thrown upon the Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji and bullets were also shot at him

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Go to your seat. I am very sorry, Kunwar Manvendra Singh. Your habit is not to cooperate with the Chair. Go there and keep quite.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We are trying. You please cooperate with me, listen.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI (Bhopal) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, It is my request that we cannot accuse any person who is not present in the house...

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Joshiji, I have told them, they will not level any allegation. I have told them in your presence. I have spoken before your protest. Have some faith in the Chair. I have already told them.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please keep quiet. I am requesting you Kunwar Manvendra Singh to keep quiet. You sit down Mr. Goyal.

You see, the House is a very important place. Some sections of the hon. Members felt agitated. Before I came, you have mentioned that. Now, you have raised it. There is some objection to that. Let us do it in a manner that your issue is also raised and if you want to say anything, I would like to hear that and shall ask the Government to look into it. If necessary, if they want to make a statement, they can make a statement. Now, let me hear Mr. Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will not listen to you. Discussion is going on such an important issue like agriculture.

[English]

We will continue it after this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, this is very wrong.

[Translation]

We have co-operated with you and listened to your speech. Discussion is going on such an important issue, let everyone listen to the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I request you to please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us conduct the proceedings of the House in a good manner.

Kanwar Manvendra Singh, you have this bad habit, I will rectify your bad habit.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : This serious incident took place this morning. Several people were killed in that incident. However a charge is being levelled here and it is being said that when Luluji went there attack was made or any such untoward thing happened. Just now when we tried to ascertain the fact, the Gujarat Government has stated that no such incident took place there, this is totally wrong... (Interruptions) However, the passengers who were present there had certainly pelted stones

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It's over now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Both the statements have gone on record.

Now, Shri Anil Basu will continue. Only his statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It cannot be decided here.

[Translation]

Your speech has already been recorded. Even his

speech has been recorded. No decision can be taken over this at present.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Anil Basu's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please take your seats. Nothing is being recorded. Leave it, nothing is being recorded, all of you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Leader of the House is present here and he should inform us.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel him to make a statement.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up Private Members' Business. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have come to the Private Members' Business. I will not allow anything else.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want, tell me? You please take your seat. What do you want in the House? I have already told you that they have listened to your demand. It will not be decided in the House. Hon'ble members please understand that there would not be any tie over this issue. I am not saying anything whether your demand is right or not. The government is here, it has heard your demand. Whatever we have spoken has also been recorded. Now we will take up Private Member's Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : This is very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER : This will not be decided here. It will be decided by the these people. Why are they asking us to decided.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : A Central Minister is attacked and we keep mute, is it justified?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, let us hear the leader of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You leave it. You are not bound. I am telling every hon'ble Member that

[English]

Nobody is bound by anybody else' statement.

[Translation]

Whosoever would like to speak, should speak as per the rules and maintain propriety.

[English]

It has to be decided finally in a manner which is open. Now, the hon. Leader of the House wants to speak. Nothing, except Shri Pranab Mukherjee's statement, will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I understand that when the hon. Railway Minister went to the hospital to see the persons injured in the railway accident, certain incident took place and his caravan was attacked...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, this point was raised before also.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goyal, I have called him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to control Shri Manvendra Singh, otherwise he will be in trouble one day. I will suspend him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, this point was raised when the hon. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair and the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs,

who was sitting on the other side, gave a reply. You can go through the record. He said that after visiting the site of the accident when the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad was going to the hospital, a miscreant threw a stone. That is what he had said and now the Members are saying that it is the...*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you please sit down. Nothing except Shri Pranab Mukherjee's statement, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER : Let us show respect to the Leader of the House at least.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please go to your seat.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I would like to most respectfully submit only one thing, that is the attention of the Government has been drawn to this fact. We will ascertain the facts. I understand that the hon. Railway Minister himself is coming around 4.00 o'clock. We will ascertain the facts from him as well as from other sources and definitely at the earliest opportunity we will make an observation, a statement and inform the House. Whatever action is called for will be taken.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is a matter of great concern. If an attack is made even on an ordinary Member even then you should express your concern and the entire House should also express its concern. But an attempt has been made on the life of Railway Minister, he was under fire, petrol was thrown - is this not a big incident? Will the House still remain engaged in debate?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a matter of serious concern.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Leader of the house has made a Statement on behalf of the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, it is very painful
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Should we not express our concern? These people are saying that nothing has happened.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripalji, its enough. The House will not be adjourned, it will run. The hon'ble Minister has already spoken. Now he will not speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have debated enough. You all know that nothing will be decided right now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. The hon'ble Minister has said that he will decide after ascertaining the fact as to what has to be done in this regard. We will conduct the business of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Let him come
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, the House will not be adjourned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded except what I am saying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever action you want to take, you can take it, we are ready for everything... (Interruptions) If you want to suspend me, you can suspend ... (Interruptions). The politics of murder will not be allowed, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you are saying, has it any sense? You are saying for the sake of saying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not minimising the importance of any incident like that, if it has happened. But we have to

proceed on the basis of authoritative information. The hon. Leader of the House has responded to what has happened. He is saying that he will find out the position from the Railway Minister himself. Then, the Government will be doing what the Government thinks proper to do.

I can only express my disagreement and disapproval if any hon. Member on any side of this House is manhandled or improperly treated. It is most condemnable. I will condemn it. But we must proceed on the basis of authoritative information. That is what I think, the hon. Leader of the house has said very appropriately. He has not minimised the importance. He has said that the hon. Minister is himself coming within a few minutes. He will find out from the Minister. Thereafter, the Government will make its response. I have nothing to say. My appeal to all the hon. Members is that you have sufficiently expressed your concern in this matter. It is being taken note of on all sides including the Chair.

Therefore, let the business of the House be conducted. Nobody is minimising the importance. Ram Kripalji, we have respect for each hon. Member, I have respect for everyone. Therefore, it is painful to me if any hon. Member of this House is manhandled or badly treated. We should not sit quietly on this. I can assure you that proper investigation, inquiry, etc. will be made. Therefore, I would say that your wish to ventilate will not be served by further continuance of this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we don't know the condition of Laluji. Whether he is safe or not, is also a matter of concern...(Interruptions) Has anyone talked to him?...(Interruptions) Whether bullets were fired or not, whether any arms were used, correct information should be provided in this regard...(Interruptions) Will the Government inform as to whether Laluji is safe or not...(Interruptions) Whether petrol was thrown or not?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that the hon. Minister will be coming soon.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure the hon. Members on all sides are concerned if an hon. Member of the House is treated in a manner which causes concern.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Ok you have raised this issue in a proper manner. We all respect Shri Laluji very much.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We are not like other people. We respect you. Whatever order you issue in the House we obey that. I humbly request you to pay attention towards this. Has the Government have any information as regards the condition of Laluji, is he alive or not?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am also humbly requesting you to please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have condemned any incident if it has happened. But I also should know the facts.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I will ascertain the facts. I have requested the Home Minister to ascertain the facts. As soon as the facts will be made available, I will share the facts with the House at the earliest. Unless I get the full facts, it is difficult for me to just respond right now. Let us ascertain the facts. After ascertaining the facts I will inform the House. I share your concern. All of us are deeply anguished that this incident has taken place. But unless we ascertain the facts authoritatively. I cannot just simply respond either this way or that way....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We have heard the views of the hon'ble Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, all are concerned about Laluji. Has the Government have any information about Laluji's condition ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, thank you for your co-operation.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji thank you for your cooperation.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Shri Laluji is safe or not. If the Government have any information then we may be apprised of the same...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Once again let me tell you very frankly that I am not going to adjourn the House.

[Translation]

I have only made a request, you may like it or not.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We will keep standing, you may expel us from the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I do not want to expel anyone from the House. This is what I have been telling you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is already enough trouble here. You do not add to the trouble. I am requesting hon. Members that your concern has been noted. It is being shared by the Chair, shared by all these Members. The hon. Leader of the House has twice responded. He has said that he is highly concerned. Any incident like that shall be condemned by the House, I am sure, by all sections, if any hon. Member of the House, far less a Minister, is manhandled or improperly treated.

Secondly, today we cannot solve it here and now. The hon. Leader of the House has said that he will come and make a statement after ascertaining the facts. Let us wait for that. I shall certainly take appropriate steps at that time, if necessary. Therefore, I am requesting that till then co-operate with the Chair in running of the House.

I am sure that the hon. Minister will want the House to continue to function.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me speak for a minute

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The Gujarat Government should be dismissed.

MR. SPEAKER : You will also be dismissed from here.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a serious matter. I am not minimising its importance. But it seems that it is not possible to get the actual position immediately. Both sides are very much concerned about this matter from different points of view. Considering the suggestions which have come from both sides, I think, we shall meet on Monday.

15.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 25, 2005/Vaisakha 5, 1927 (Saka)

ANNEXURE - I

Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	388
2	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	392
3	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	387
4	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	397
5	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	386
6	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	383
7	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	389
8	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	398
9	Shir Gohain, Rajen	391
10	Shrimati Jayaprada	391
11	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	386
12	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	394
13	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	383
14	Shri Kumar, Nitish	393
15	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	387
16	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	385
17	Shri Oram, Jual	396
18	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	384
19	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	395
20	Shri Pingle, Devidas	398
21	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	389
22	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	382
23	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	396
24	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	390
25	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	399
26	Shri Sethi, Arjun	382
27	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	381
28	Shri Singh, Ganesh	395
29	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	394
30	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	388
31	Shri Singh, Uday	381
32	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	393
33	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	384
34	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	400
35	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	392
36	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	399

Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	4239, 4305
2	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	4256, 4334 4356, 4369
3	Shri Ahamad, Atiq	4214, 4294
4	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	4152, 4291
5	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	4186, 4188
6	Shri Appadurai, M.	4169
7	Shri Argal, Ashok	4168, 4255 4345
8	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	4154, 4263, 4336, 4358, 4371
9	Shri Azmi, Ilyas	4331
10	Shri Barman, Hiten	4165
11	Shri Barman, Ranen	4201, 4331
12	Shri Baxla, Joachim	4201
13	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	4189
14	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	4193, 4349
15	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	4193, 4221, 4297, 4331, 4332
16	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	4232, 4301
17	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	4167, 4257
18	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	4201, 4292
19	Shri Chandel, Suresh	4184
20	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	4192, 4276 4321
21	Shri Charenamei, Mani	4283
22	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	4261, 4331 4364, 4368
23	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	4292
24	Dr. Chinta Mohan	4274
25	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	4269
26	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	4234
27	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	4173, 4174 4267
28	Shrimati Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	4205
29	Shri Deora, Milind	4179, 4203
30	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchand	4185

1	2	3
31	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	4170, 4285 4326, 4352 4366
32	Shri Fanthome, Francis	4151
33	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	4266, 4277
34	Shri Gandhi, Pradeep	4228
35	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	4264, 4282 4316, 4355
36	Shri Gehlot, Thwarchand	4204, 4283
37	Shri Gohain, Rajen	4302
38	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	4211
39	Shrimati Gulshan, Paramjit Kaur	4158, 4201
40	Shrimati Gupta, Shyama Charan	4198
41	Shri Harsha Kumar, G.V.	4215, 4295
42	Shri Hassan, Munawar	4247
43	Dr. Jagannath, M.	4173, 4265 4328, 4353 4367
44	Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	4157
45	Smt. Jayaprada	4200, 4274
46	Shri Jha, Raghunath	4230, 4275 4314, 4347 4364
47.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	4180
48.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	4178, 4237 4308, 4342
49.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	4145, 4210
50	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	4309, 4343 4362
51	Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	4209
52	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	4266
53	Shri Khan, Sunil	4156, 4273
54	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	4235
55	Shri Khanna, Avihash Rai	4225
56	Sri Kharventhan, S.K.	4229, 4286
57	Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh	4148, 4193 4254
58	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	4266, 4277
59	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	4227
60	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	4188, 4270 4320, 4349, 4350

1	2	3
61	Sr. Libra, Sukhdev Singh	4242
62	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	4201
63	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	4205, 4239 4311
64	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	4153
65	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	4237
66	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	4277
67	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	4149, 4193 4249, 4269 4319
68	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	4243
69	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	4236
70	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	4207, 4287
71	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	4235
72	Shri Mohan, P.	4208, 4288
73	Mohd., Mukeem	4164, 4277 4299
74	Shri Mohd., Tahir	4323
75	Shri Mohite, Subodh	4159, 4252
76	Shri Munshi Ram	4188, 4203 4224, 4323
77	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	4268, 4318, 4348
78	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	4182, 4299, 4338, 4360, 4372
79	Shri Naik, Venkatesh A.	4284, 4325
80	Shri Nayak, Ananta	4237, 4245
81	Shri Oram, Jual	4219, 4296
82	Shri Osmani, A.F.G.	4174
83	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	4272, 4286 4327
84	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	4160, 4188 4193, 4259 4305
85	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	4235
86	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	4292
87	Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	4244
88	Shri Patel, Harilal Madhavji Bhai	4240
89	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	4162, 4205 4278, 4334, 43
90	Shrimati Pateriya, Neeta	4280
91	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	4324, 4351 4365, 4373

1	2	3
92	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	4179, 4246 4310
93	Shri Patil, D.B.	4202
94	Shri Pingle, Devidas	4303, 4340
95	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	4188, 4203 4217
96	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	4197
97	Shri Prakash, Jai	4155
98	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	4331
99	Shri Rai, Nakul Das	4272
100	Shri Rajender Kumar	4188, 4241 4270
101	Shri Rajendran, P.	4276
102	Prof. Ramadass, M.	4205, 4248 4313, 4314
103	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	4188, 4217
104	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	4181, 4217
105	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	4212, 4278 4293, 4330
106	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	4179, 4225 4262
107	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	4150, 4250, 4315
108	Shri Rawale, Mohan	4162
109	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	4251, 4322
110	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	4272
111	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	4216, 4233
112	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	4188, 4203
113	Shri Saroj, Tufani	4199
114	Shri Satyanarayana, Sarvey	4200
115	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	4203, 4218 4266, 4369
116	Shrimati Sen, Minati	4213
117	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	4222, 4298, 4333
118	Mohd. Shahid	4146, 4279 4323, 4349 4350
119	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	4172
120	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	4163
121	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	4147, 4203 4260, 4337 4359
122	Shri Shivanna, M	4206, 4284 4325
123	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	4203, 4224 4270, 4320 4323

1	2	3
124	Shrimati Shukla, Karuna	4180
125	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	4196
126	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	4194, 4278 4346
127	Shri Singh, Brijbhushan Sharan	4161, 4306 4307
128	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	4282
129	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	4231
130	Shri Singh, Dushyant	4193, 4203, 4241, 4320, 432
131	Shri Singh, Ganesh	4281
132	Shri Singh, Ganesh Prasad	4183
133	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	4266, 4277
134	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	4210, 4270 4290, 4329
135	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	4191, 4275 4314, 4344 4363
136	Shri Singh, Rakesh	4238, 4304 4341, 4361
137	Shri Singh, Sugrib	4177, 4205 4278, 4312 4334
138	Shri Singh, Suraj	4187
139	Shri Singh, Uday	4266
140	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	4185
141	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	4176, 4223
142	Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	4226, 4335, 4374
143	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	4185, 4200
144	Shri Surendran, Chengara	4216
145	Shri Thomas, P.C.	4195
146	Shri Thummar, V.K.	4220, 4311
147	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	4235
148	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	4168, 4258, 4319, 4349
149	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	4300, 4339
150	Shri Veerendra Kumar, M.P.	4171
151	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	4253, 4317, 4357, 4370
152	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	4283
153	Shri Yadav, Sita Ram	4183
154	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	4218
155	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	4175, 4289, 4329
156	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	4153

ANNEXURE - II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

Civil Aviation	
Culture	
Defence	381, 389, 390, 394, 398
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	
Information and Broadcasting	383, 386, 391
Panchayati Raj	399
Petroleum and Natural Gas	382, 387, 388, 392, 393, 396, 397, 400
Railways	384, 385
Social Justice and Empowerment	395

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Civil Aviation	4145, 4148, 4158, 4162, 4163, 4168, 4184, 4215 4218, 4219, 4228, 4230, 4235, 4236, 4246, 4253 4272, 4292, 4294, 4295, 4333, 4345, 4353, 4354
Culture	4149, 4151, 4182, 4212, 4214, 4220, 4229, 4247 4262, 4317, 4342, 4356
Defence	4190, 4203, 4209, 4210, 4224, 4232, 4233, 4237, 4238, 4249, 4251, 4260, 4266, 4270, 4275, 4278, 4320, 4335, 4341, 4344, 4373
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	4155, 4205, 4274, 4337, 4346, 4374
Information and Broadcasting	: 4154, 4169, 4202, 4217, 4226, 4239, 4254, 4257, 4282, 4288, 4289, 4291, 4296, 4297, 4300, 4301, 4313, 4314, 4340, 4351, 4360, 4363
Panchayati Raj	4368
Petroleum and Natural Gas	4150, 4171, 4172, 4173, 4174, 4175, 4187, 4188, 4193, 4199, 4213, 4234, 4241, 4243, 4244, 4261, 4264, 4267, 4271, 4279, 4283, 4286, 4302, 4310, 4312, 4315, 4316, 4319, 4322, 4327, 4331, 4347, 4349, 4357, 4362, 4367, 4369, 4370
Railways	4146, 4152, 4153, 4156, 4159, 4160, 4161, 4164, 4165, 4166, 4167, 4170, 4176, 4177, 4179, 4180, 4185, 4186, 4189, 4191, 4192, 4194, 4196, 4197,

4198, 4200, 4204, 4206, 4207, 4208, 4211, 4216,
4221, 4223, 4227, 4231, 4240, 4242, 4245, 4250,
4252, 4255, 4256, 4258, 4259, 4268, 4273, 4276,
4277, 4281, 4285, 4287, 4290, 4298, 4299, 4303,
4304, 4305, 4306, 4307, 4308, 4311, 4318, 4321,
4323, 4325, 4326, 4328, 4330, 4339, 4348, 4352,
4355, 4361, 4364, 4365, 4366, 4372

Social Justice and Empowerment

4147, 4157, 4178, 4181, 4183, 4195, 4201, 4222,
4225, 4248, 4263, 4265, 4269, 4280, 4284, 4293,
4309, 4324, 4329, 4332, 4334, 4336, 4338, 4350,
4358, 4359, 4371

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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 Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
