

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

[English]

Thursday, December 08, 2005/Agrahayana 17, 1927 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government has decided to reduce the interest rate on EPF by one per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I make a request to hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have got your notice. I would allow you to raise it immediately after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please allow it to be raised in the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, the workers are suffering because of the Government's unilateral decision to reduce the rate of interest on Provident Fund. This is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The EPF is the only social security we have in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Crores of labourers of the country have been let down by resorting to the reduction in the rate of interest on EPF from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. No other issue can be more important than the reduction in rate of interest from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. In spite of the promises made by the UPA Government the poor labourers have been exploited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, nobody is allowed to stand up. I would allow you to raise it immediately after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Their Government had reduced the same from 12 per cent to 8.5 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): You should accept his plea. This is a very important issue. We support him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the questions raised here are important but what is important for the people, it is they who will decide properly.

[English]

SHRI GURU DAS DASGUPTA: Would you allow us immediately after the Question Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: 'After the Question Hour' means immediately after the Question Hour. Even if I do not allow, would you stop!

...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' Q.No. 222

[Translation]

### FDI In Oil and Gas Sector

\*222. <sup>+</sup>SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the oil and gas sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign funds invested in the oil and gas sector during each of the last three years; and

(d) the percentage of foreign investments made in the oil and gas sector out of the total foreign investments made in the country during the above period?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the present Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector are as under:

- i. Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and the Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM), FDI up to 100% has been allowed.
- ii. In Petroleum Refining sector, in case of Private Indian companies, FDI is permitted up to 100%. In case of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), up to 26% FDI is allowed with PSU holdings at 26% and Public holdings at 48%.
- iii. For Petroleum Product Pipeline sector, FDI is permitted up to 100%.
- iv. FDI upto 100% is permitted for Natural Gas/LNG Pipelines.
- v. FDI is permitted up to 74% in infrastructure related to marketing of petroleum products.
- vi. 100% Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) is permitted for the purpose of market study and formulation.
- vii. 100% WOS is permitted for investment/financing.
- viii. For actual trading and marketing, minimum 26% Indian equity is required over 5 years.

The FDI policy is subject to existing sectoral guidelines.

(c) and (d) As per the data compiled by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the details of FDI inflows, by way of equity capital only in the Oil and Natural Gas sector vis-a-vis the total FDI inflow in the country are given below:

(In Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Inflow in Oil & Natural Gas Sector	Total FDI Inflow in the country	Column (2) as %age of Column (3)
1	2	3	4
2002-03	245.85	14,932.00	1.65
2003-04	378.93	12,117.00	3.13
2004-05	518.29	17,138.00	3.02

Note: The above FDI data includes inflows received through FIPB/SIA route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH, 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government has accepted in its reply that upto 100 per cent and 74 per cent Foreign Direct Investment have been permitted in various areas of Petroleum and Natural Gas sector and the policy has been formulated in this regard. I would like to say that it is the petroleum industry where in spite of low production, huge profit is earned. We may take the example of ONGC alone, where the production was 13.284 million metric tonnes in 2004 whereas in 2005 the production came down to 12.291 million metric tonnes. Thus, there was a decline in the production in 2005 as compared to that of 2004. But the profit which was Rs.5697.04 crore in 2004 increased to Rs. 7457.13 crore in 2005 despite the decline in production. In such a situation where the profit is increasing despite the decline in production whether the Government want to make the foreign companies their partners in the profit by permitting foreign direct investment in this sector? This is what I want to know from the Government.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the original question related to the foreign investment and the question which has been asked by the honourable member is about the amount of profit earned by the domestic companies. I completely agree with the honourable member that the profit is continuously increasing and the

production however is not increasing at the same speed. The figures mentioned by him are correct and he is very much right, but switching over to foreign investment policy by skipping this issue has, to my mind, created some misunderstanding. We want an increase in our domestic production and to increase the domestic production not only the efforts at national level are required but the assistance that we may get in this sector from abroad is also required. I do not think that a moratorium should be put on the foreign investment only because the profit has increased. If we do so, we will be doubly entangled and it will not be in the interest of the country.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, I have not put this question to the honourable Minister. I referred to this merely as an example that the profit is increasing and hence, we have money and my question is what is the requirement of foreign direct investment under such circumstances? But the honourable Minister, in his reply, said that foreign direct investment is also required in domestic production. I want to cite just one example that during the last three years an investment of Rs.20000 crore was made in crude oil sector, in ONGC alone, but our domestic production could not increase. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': We cannot increase investment anywhere else. He talked about surplus money. We have fifty such industrial institutions that have surplus funds to the tune of Rs. 3,50,000 crore. There is a surplus fund of Rs. One Lac Crore in petroleum industry itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH, 'LALAN': That is what I am asking. When we have surplus funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why is there a need for FDI?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH, 'LALAN': Why was the foreign direct investment required under such circu-

stances and whether the Government intends to invite overseas companies in the country?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, oil is a bounty of nature. If water is regularly drawn from a well and it is not amply replenished, the water keeps on depleting in the well. But oil is such a commodity which cannot be refilled. We can only draw whatever oil is left there in the well. Whatever be the number of the oil-wells explored and the production of oil started from them we arrive at a certain level when the production of oil automatically starts decreasing. Now the ONGC has considerably checked this trend of decline. I want to convey my congratulations to them for increasing the production to the earlier level by checking the decline in production which was on the wane during the last three years. But the ONGC says that the production from the existing oil fields and oil wells is likely to fall in the next five or six years. The production which is at present, about 27 million tonnes will come down to 19-20 million tonnes in the coming five or six years. In such circumstances, on the one hand it is necessary that the ONGC, itself should increase investment in the exploration and production sector and the same is being done, but negotiations are on between me and them on whether any other measures can be adopted to boost up the investment. On the other hand, our domestic production is going up; and the basic reason therefor is. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, If the honourable Minister responds in this manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So, that you should not put too many supplementaries.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In this manner, not even a question will be replied to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you ignore this 'interjection.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Prof. Vijay Kumar

Malhotra is unhappy that I am giving a detailed answer instead of fumbling. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I was telling you that this major oil exploration in Rajasthan has been possible only because of Foreign Investment and these newly found reserves are likely to increase our oil production by eight million tonnes approximately in the next five-six years. There is a confirmed probability about six places and Cayern has found oil there and we will have oil supply from there. Similar is the position with Gas. The explorations are being carried out by two companies Reliance and one Canadian company, Naico. Consequent upon exploration made by these two companies gas production is likely to increase in our country. I think, in this scenario, shunning foreign investment just because we already have enough funds, is not in the interest of our country.

*[English]*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much of Foreign Direct Investment is likely to come to Krishna-Godavari Basin and the Bay of Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is on FDI.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, this is on FDI.

MR. SPEAKER: You connect it to FDI.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: How much of Foreign Direct Investment is likely to come to Krishna-Godavari Basin and Bay of Bengal; how are you going to use this gas and what are your immediate plans and the plans for another ten years?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am afraid, I do not have, at the moment, the figures, the break up for different foreign companies who are offering equity in India. Also, insofar as the Krishna-Godavari Basin is concerned, there is a lot of on-going expenditure and companies who are involved are making their investments in that area and these figures, sector-wise, are not separately available with the DPIP or with the Reserve Bank of India. Nevertheless, I will attempt to get these figures and supply them to the hon. Member. What I can assure him is that where we have the finds and the finds have been largely off-shore in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Andhra Pradesh, it is only to be expected, since

that is where we have found gas, discovered gas that there is going to be a great deal of investment over there.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: Sir, recently the hon. Minister had gone to the North-East and made certain promises for the oil exploration in North-East. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what kind of incentives and support the Government is going to give to attract more Foreign Direct Investment in difficult areas, in unexplored areas specially in my State of Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we have put blocks in Arunachal Pradesh under NELP-V and earlier NELP-IV. I am glad to say that there has been a response to this. I also believe that the oil shale that is likely to be available in the Changlong area of Arunachal Pradesh holds a considerable potential provided we can establish both its technical feasibility as well as its economic feasibility. So, we are undertaking an expeditious investigation of these possibilities through the Director General of Hydrocarbons. I have told the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh during a recent visit that I made there, that I am hoping to bring a number of experts and possibly even companies that are interested to the North-East region, perhaps to the Changlong area itself, if not, perhaps, in Dibrugarh or somewhere more convenient where we can discuss these matters and try to see whether the potential for oil shale which is considerable at present international oil prices can be further exploited both technically and commercially.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state that to safeguard the economic sovereignty of our country whether the Government will review its FDI policy so far as this sector is concerned?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, there is a review already being undertaken by a Group of Ministers that was notified on the 3rd of November. We will consider all questions relating to FDI including both the need to preserve our sovereignty as well as the need to step up our rate of growth without which there can be no eradication of poverty.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there will be FDI for production of gas and oil that has been found in the Bay of Bengal, especially in the outer reach of Orissa Coast.



SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, there is certainly every desire to exploit the possibilities of gas in the Bay of Bengal, not just off the Orissa Coast but stretching all the way from the Palk Straits in the South that divide Southern India from Sri Lanka right up to the northern arc of the Bay of Bengal off the coast of West Bengal. The prospects are so attractive that I have taken the liberty of describing the Bay of Bengal as possibly the North Sea of South Asia and we have made successful discoveries and some finds along the coast already. I am hoping that 2006 will be a year in which we might celebrate discoveries elsewhere than only in the Krishna-Godavari Basin, that we may be able to announce something for the Mahanadi as well as off the Sunderbans.

MR. SPEAKER: Very Good. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small question. I want to submit that there is a great possibility of availability of oil and gas reserves in Purnea and Kishanganj. I want to know what progress has been made there and what is the status of exploration operations there? What is the outcome of recent exploration.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am sorry that this is not really related, but since hon. Railway Minister is so keen on discovering what it is - I wish he had been a little more patient and I could have told him - he kept asking me in the middle of my attempt to hear my friend what he was saying.

MR. SPEAKER: This is all right.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I would like to inform Shri Laluji as well as incidently Shri Yadavji also that. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Really to Shri Lalu Prasad and incidently to Shri devendra Prasad Yadav!

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Efforts made for oil exploration in Kishanganj failed at that time. However, it does not mean that with modern technology and its application cost today, which is far less than that in the past, there remains no possibility for exploration of oil. We have asked ONGC to reconsider this and see that under these circumstances and with the new technology in their hand or from what they can arrange for, we can start oil exploration in Kishanganj. Along with this with your kind permission, I would like to inform Shri Laluji that not only Kishanganj, the entire sub-Himalayan area which extends from Shivalik in Uttaranchal to Kishanganj, Purnea region between India and Nepal there is a political boundary, oil exploration work is being undertaken. Therefore, to complete the integrity of the geographic basin now. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: That itself is a basin.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes it is. But it is another country and 'Cayern Energy' have recently got some blocks from the Government of Nepal in the northern part of boundary in tarai region and our ONGC blocks which are on the southern side of this boundary. Since long time we have entered into an agreement between 'Cayern' and ONGC. Further, I would like to assure this House that if some oil or gas is found in this region from Shivalik to Dehradun upto Purnea, I would start addressing Laluji as Sheikh Saheb. ... (Interruptions)

#### ONGC Project for Rural Areas

223. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) launched a Project for providing urban amenities in rural areas in order to bridge the rural-urban gap through achieving balanced socio-economic development;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those States where this project has been launched so far and the achievements made therefrom; and;

(d) the details of those States where this Project is likely to be launched in the near future?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has launched the ONGC-PURA Project in the Maichara cluster of villages at East Kalabaria in Tripura state. ONGC would provide idle gas from isolated wells to generate power in the rural areas as a seed activity.

(c) The project has been launched in Tripura. The services running successfully include:

Randhan Seva (Community Kitchen)

Gyan Kendra (School Library): IT education is being imparted.

(d) ONGC would consider similar projects in areas where similar idle and isolated gas wells are available.

[Translation]

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has launched a project for providing urban amenities in rural areas in order to bridge the rural-urban gap through balanced socio-economic development? If so, the details in this regard?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, as far as I know, this has already been announced but ONGC's preparations in this regard have been too less. Now that he has asked a question we have got to know that only some minor work has been started in Maichara region of Tripura. They intend to do some work near their isolated and marginal fields, which are about 25 in number. From there they also intend to generate electricity for those areas and alongwith that under their corporate Social Responsibility Programme they should work with the permission of the Panchayat's for the development of that area. So far this work has actually started in Tripura only. I feel it is very important that in the coming days ONGC should increase its activities in other states also. It should start 'PURA' programme near such places where isolated wells of this type are there. This is also particularly important because 'PURA' name has been

given by our hon'ble President. It is his thought and vision. Therefore, we should pay special attention towards such projects.

SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the details of those states where this project has been launched so far and the achievements made and the details of those states where this project is likely to be launched in the near future?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, as I have already informed except Maichara in Tripura so far nothing has been done anywhere. That is what is hurting me also, as they have announced that they would be doing all this but no concrete measures have been taken in this regard. They had started ONGC-PURA Trust in April, 2004 and today even after passage of one and a half year work has only been started in Maichara. Although they have identified the wells but have not taken any concrete measures in this regard. Thankfully he has asked this question and I hope that by next year we will be able to announce what we are going to do in other states and how much expenditure can be made in this regard.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Thank you, Sir. It appeared to me — as I read the Question and the subsequent reply given for it — that there is a mismatch between the reply given and the question asked. I understand that this Question pertains to the social responsibility of ONGC with regard to rural amenities and rural development vis-a-vis the urban facilities. But the reply given is that does not cover this aspect. ONGC is the biggest Public Sector Undertaking, and it is expected from ONGC that it will also carry out certain social obligations, as it is one of the aspects of their duties. I thought that this Question pertains to this issue.

However, parts (a) and (c) of the answer limit the reply to places where idle and isolated gas wells are available. I do not think that this answers the question completely. The question pertains to providing amenities to rural areas vis-a-vis urban areas. Therefore, I think that the reply given is not comprehensive.

Now, I would ask my question from the hon. Minister with regard to the social obligation. ONGC is located at Dehra Dun, and hon. Minister has a very long association with Dehra Dun. Uttaranchal is one of the backward States

in the country. In reply to the first Question also the hon. Minister had mentioned about the type of profits being made by ONGC. Would the hon. Minister consider examining and giving some instructions to ONGC to do some developmental activities in the backward districts of Uttaranchal? I am saying this because they are located there, and they have certain social obligations.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, protecting myself from the charge that the answer does not respond fully to the question, might I point out that in the question itself there is a reference in (a) to a project for undertaking urban facilities in rural areas which is why one limited oneself.

Coming to the more substantial point that the hon. Member has made, let me give him the information that insofar as Uttaranchal is concerned, Dehradun is really the focal centre of all the activity that ONGC is undertaking for socioeconomic development in Uttaranchal. In the year 2001-02 — they mixed up Delhi and Dehradun for that year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Most of the times they are at Delhi. They do not stay at Dehradun. You must remember that also.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I know. In 2002-03, the expenditure was limited to Rs.132 lakh. In 2003-04, it fell from Rs.132 lakh to Rs.25.66 lakh. It has gone down even further in the year 2004-05 to Rs.20 lakh. The total expenditure that they have incurred in the year 2004-05 on socioeconomic development programme — I do not have the figure for the corporate social responsibility programme which is a slightly different programme — is limited to Rs.16.5 crore at the State level. Of that, as much as nearly Rs.12 crore has been spent in Delhi. At the corporate level... *(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: At Delhi

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: At Delhi, yes. I know. I share with you your distress. At the corporate level they have spent Rs.28 crore. Even if you put both of these together and add in whatever else they may have done — the policy of the ONGC is to spend 0.75 per cent of the previous year's profit on this kind of programmes — it should have amounted to Rs.90 crore. So, obviously ONGC is falling behind its responsibilities. But you will appreciate that they have corporate autonomy and all one can do is to go down on bended knees. I intend to polish my knees

in order to go down before them immediately after Question Hour in the hope that at least now, since you all have expressed such keen interest, they will rise to their responsibility in the sphere of corporate social responsibility.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI: They should not think of not just Delhi and Dehradun, they should think of rural areas also.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I agree with that.

MR. SPEAKER: He is sharing your views.

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ONGC is searching for gas and oil in rural areas and also in the Bay of Bengal. In West Bengal, in Bhagwanpur of my constituency, ONGC has taken up a project. I want to know whether it is possible to get gas or oil in that project.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In West Bengal, we have had greater success offshore. Onshore in West Bengal has not been very happy. But, you know it is not the ONGC that puts the oil or gas there; it is nature that puts it there. What I am happy to say is that offshore there is joint venture between GAIL and the Russians, where the spudding of the well has begun or is just about to begin. The signs so far are that it is going to be quite successful. ONGC has placed a rig in one of their blocks offshore Sunderbans where also they are full of hope. In this business you can be full of hope or full of despair, and your hope or despair may be belied. I can only hope that in the year 2005-06 West Bengal will come on our hydrocarbons map, at least as far as offshore West Bengal is concerned. In respect of onshore West Bengal, prospects are very encouraging for coal bed methane. Methane, whether it comes from coal or whether it comes from the sea, has its own advantages. West Bengal is very much part of our proposals for the future. Even though the past does not inspire too much confidence for the future, we will do our best.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to note that the Minister is likely to look into it. Socioeconomic responsibility programme is a very old programme of all the public sector undertakings.

What I would like to know from the Minister is this. When the public sector companies are owning the social responsibilities, private companies are looking for profits. The same rules should be applied to the private companies also. I would request the Minister that if the social

responsibility is not there with the private companies, he may kindly see that the private companies take up the social obligation.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: His suggestion is noted.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav do not threaten. Threatening will not help. Do not threaten me.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Very sorry Sir, I was not giving any threat.

MR. SPEAKER: It would also cause me pain. If I ask you to go out of the House. The purpose of people who have elected you will not be served if you are asked to leave the House. We want peace. All right, you speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Programme they have launched for socio economic development and to bridge the rural-urban gap as has also been mentioned in the reply that they are planning to include other States also in this. I want to know is he planning to include a backward state like Bihar also in this programme because there is a huge rural-urban gap. Further, I would like to know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already asked that as I have more power.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the entire programme of ONGC is being executed in the isolated villages of Assam, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. But under the basic responsibilities, we will work in Bihar also and I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that he should not threaten you.

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Karnataka should also be included. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the states are included.

### Television Rating for DD

\*224. <sup>+</sup>SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether Television Rating Points (TRP) of Doordarshan are very low in comparison to other T.V. channels;

(b) if so, the details of ratings given by the agencies during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to popularize the programmes telecast by Doordarshan and enhance the TRP?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan enjoys the highest TRP in all homes. The details of TRP ratings projected by Television Audience Measurement Ltd. (TAM) engaged by Doordarshan for the purpose, are given in the enclosed Annexure. It has been the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to enhance the quality of its programmes through innovative and attractive formats so as to sustain the interest of the viewers and thereby increase the TRP ratings of its programmes.

### ANNEXURE

#### TVR and Share of DD and Competitive Private Channels

*(among All 4+ years)*

30th Oct. - 5th Nov. 05

Channels	0600-2400 hrs.			2100-2300 hrs.		
	OCOs	TVR%	Share%	OCOs	TVR%	Share%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DD1	4429	3.07	21.16	9411	6.52	21.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DD News	340	0.24	1.62	513	0.36	1.51
Sony Entertainment TV	317	0.22	1.52	966	0.67	2.84
Star Plus	1296	0.9	6.19	5111	3.54	15.05
Zee TV	310	0.21	1.48	508	0.35	1.49
Sun TV	1051	0.73	5.02	1477	1.02	4.35
SAB TV	65	0.05	0.31	122	0.08	0.36
Sahara One	186	0.13	0.89	400	0.28	1.18
MAX	379	0.26	1.81	662	0.46	1.95
Star Gold	402	0.28	1.92	426	0.29	1.26
Watching Other Channels	12159	8.42	58.08	14366	9.95	42.3
Watching Any Channel	20934	14.5	100	33963	23.52	100
universe in 000'				144376		

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: In India, there are about 10 to 11 crore television homes that view either Doordarshan or satellite or cable channels. The company, TAM, measures the TRP ratings in India from the samples of a meagre 4,500 houses as against 10 crore homes before awarding the TRP ratings to these channels. Given the size of our country, it is impossible for one companies or it is rather difficult for a company to measure the TRP ratings in India. In India, we do have companies that are capable of doing the same job with the same efficiency, if not with better efficiency and better transparency. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government consider engaging the services of these companies also for measuring the TRP ratings in India.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, that the TRP issue was taken up in 2000. At that time, the most renowned company, not only in India alone but also in the rest of the world, came into it. The Doordarshan, through the Prasar Bharati, used to sign an understanding year to year with them for the TRP rating management. The TRP rating management is a very unique exclusive sample survey of selected homes with the meter. It is true that a few more companies are stepping into this line for gauging the TRP arrangements for various channels, including terrestrial and satellite channels.

As the hon. Member has stated, I am also looking into it so that more coverage, detection and sample survey could be worked out, engaging a few more companies. But it requires a lot of money. At present, yearly, we are paying more than Rs.2 crore for the TRP rating assessment. Insofar as future engagements are concerned, I would look into the matter objectively.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: If I am right, around Rs.5,000 crore is the revenue that these channels churn out through advertisements that come to these channels. There have been many channels that have been falsely claiming that their TRP rating is much higher as against the statement just laid on the Table of the House which says that Doordarshan has the higher TRP rating. This leads to a loss of revenue for our own Doordarshan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the measures taken against such channels that have been doing such misleading propaganda which is resulting in a loss of revenue to our own channels.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Actually, the position is that it is a market for competition. In this competition world and competitive market in India, there are two kinds of channels - satellite channels and the channels that operate through Cable TV Network and the terrestrial one. I must say with all respect and humility that

till today Doordarshan is commanding the highest TRP rating. It is the only channel which goes to the people at the least cost. Yes, some satellite channels do have better TRP in comparison to the satellite channel of the Prasar Bharati. I do not deny that.

So far as terrestrial and some other national channels are concerned, it is the Doordarshan that is having the commanding heights. We are not suffering on account of advertisement. On the other hand, we are increasing the number every year.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister has claimed just now that the TRP of Doordarshan is the highest but it is also a fact that all the private channels do also make such claims. Since the hon'ble Minister has to say good things about his Ministry therefore, he has claimed this. Further, my submission is that he is claiming maximum TRP and also saying that Doordarshan is most popular in the rural areas. However, I would particularly like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards those places.

I would like to know from the Minister about the plans chalked out with regard to those areas which are remote and not covered by Doordarshan.

Secondly, so far as the setting up of D.D. Kendras are concerned Rajasthan is the most backward state. I represent the Udaipur Parliamentary Constituency. The proposal for opening a D.D. Kendra at Udaipur has been in the pipeline since 1984 but unfortunately D.D. Kendra has not been set till now at Udaipur. I would like to know this much only from the Hon. Minister by when they likely to accomplish the above task?

MR. SPEAKER: Only this one is your original question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to tell in the reply to the question of the hon. Member that the D.D.-I channel whom we consider a flagship channel and which is considered so even by the Private Channels covers more than 90% of the population and 79% of the area of the country our Government have been making efforts at the far end of the Tenth Five Year Plan to ensure that the D.D. covers the whole country. We shall certainly

succeeds in this endeavour if we get some more funds from the Ministry of Finance with the support from the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON'BLE MEMBER: We fully support.

MR. SPEAKER: That much cooperation is a must.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: By now, we have reached Andamans. Through our D.T.H. Service which has been commissioned since December, 16, 2004, we have today reached the Andamans which was earlier out of the coverage.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, I have received many letters from a many Members of Parliament and I will look into these immediately after the prorogation of this session on 23rd of this month.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made some progress. My best wishes for that.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Minister is right that this is a very competitive market when we look at the T.R.P. we cannot turn a blind eye to a Tam. As Shrimati Purandeshwariji stated that in terms of Rs. Five thousand crore, the market is quite enormous. All are competing for that. The Minister had also been asked to what were the T.R.P. figures as to of the past three year. He has given figures for the last over four and a half years. If we look at the figures for the last three years, particularly there are some channels. Since there is a lot of manipulation, I am saying frankly as the figures are quite enormous. The interests of the company which itself works out the figures relating to the T.R.P. on basis of which the revenue generated by the advertisement will be shared are linked to it. While we have competitive market, there people are fighting for competition. There should also be competition for working out its rating. Why will you assign this job to a particular company which has been working out ratings for years? It is not quite transparent and not in favour of public interest and not in favour of public interest and the Government cannot afford to keep shut its eyes on this.

SHRI LALMUNI CHOUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figure of 90.10% should be expunged from the records as it has no relevance, otherwise it will cause confusion in the minds of people.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot put words in the Minister mouth.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, My obvious demand in that the foreign company through which the foreign Television channels were taking out advertisement revenue abroad till the other day and were at an advantage thereby putting the regional, local and national channels at disadvantage in the competition. Will the Government take concrete steps in this regard to decide who will work out the T.R.P. rating? There should be competition for this also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell with reference to the first question of respected Shri Salim and I am glad to tell that the T.R.P. rating takes place every week. It is not done monthly or yearly, but it is done on weekly basis. I would like to explain the position on the weekly basis for the last four years. The market share in respect of the 'D.D. News', 'Aaj Tak', 'N.D.T.V. India', 'India T.V.', 'Star News' and 'Zee-News' is 2.18, 0.17, 0.48, 0.04, 0.38 and 0.35 respectively. It shows that the 'D.D. News' tops the list with the market share of 2.18. As regards the Mass Hindi Channels, the market shares of the 'D.D.-I', 'Zee-News', 'Star Plus' and 'Soni Entertainment' are 1998, 1.79, 8.27, and 2.53 respectively. Further, I would like to point out that taking whole of India together the T.R.P. of D.D. is the highest. As far as the T.R.P. company is concerned, it is true that in 2000 when the setting up of a T.R.P. company began, this company emerged as the most powerful company in India. There was nobody in the market except it and services of this company were utilized.

MD. SALIM: Please come out with name of the company.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That company is T.M.M. which has an international link with the I.P.P. That is an America based company. As regards the entry of new companies, I myself had taken up this matter in my Ministry before raising this question that why not to provide opportunity to all? Why not to give an opportunity to those who can do more work in the competitive environment? I shall take steps in this regard after the Session is over.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister regarding Prasar Bharati. Prasar Bharati has already mentioned that it has a number of modules, the TVRs and share of Doordarshan compared to the private channels. I am confining myself to the news channels.

Is it not a fact that because of large terrestrial reach today, Doordarshan is enjoying high rating? There is no doubt about it. If that be so, is it not true that DD News Channel is trailing in comparison to other private News Channels? What steps that are being taken to increase the TRP of DD News Channel?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As I told, there is a difference between terrestrial channels and satellite channels. In the domain of terrestrial channels, we are leading, but so far as the satellite channel is concerned, in a few channels, we are lagging behind including DD News Channel. We have to improve the production quality in the whole news projection. Moreover, when it is put up through the satellite channel, the reception on the screen is not superior compared to many private channels. So, 'technical upgradation and improvement' is one of the criteria which we are going to focus on, very soon.

[Translation]

#### Flights of Foreign Airlines to Small Cities

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\*225. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant permission to certain foreign airlines to introduce flights to the small cities in the country under bilateral air service agreements;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of such proposals on air traffic and airlines in the public sector?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (c) Government do not entertain requests directly from the foreign airlines for introduction of flights. Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in Our bilateral air services agreements concluded with various countries and are reviewed from

time to time during bilateral air services consultation at the Government level, depending on traffic demand, balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interest of national economy, airport capacity, diplomatic/political considerations etc. Actual operations are however a matter of commercial judgement of the airlines designated for utilizing these rights. There is no request at present from foreign Government for traffic entitlements to any small city in India.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently the Government of India have concluded aviation agreements with various countries under which the Airlines of these countries can launch their services in our country. Having been impressed by this, a large number of overseas airlines companies have made efforts in our country and they are willing to come here. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any other country has made any contact in this regard? Since the market of development exists in India and the air services are available here, I would, therefore, like to know from the hon'ble Minister which at countries have requested our Government to launch air services in our country and what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: For which place the hon'ble Member is asking. Whether he wants to ask regarding a specific place.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: I am asking with regard to the entire country.

MR. SPEAKER: You shall get the full reply.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very general question about the international aviation services but I will. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can reply very briefly and you need not explain the whole policy.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to give an outline that we have agreements for air services with various countries and we have different agreements with different countries under which the number of air services to be introduced are decided by the two countries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that in the agreements on air services we have had for the last several years with a number of countries we have adopted a policy of ample liberalisation for the last one year. It is good for us that people come in great numbers from both sides whether they come for business purpose or for the purpose of tourism. Similarly, it is the aspiration of our Indian people to go abroad for either business or tourism purposes. This is a growing sector. We have concluded agreements afresh with many countries during the last one year keeping in view the growing demand. Last time we made an agreement with USA in 1956 which has been given a new shape. Likewise it has been done with England, Germany and Nether Land. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to 'small cities'.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: The question was very general and so, I have to answer in a general way. There is a growing demand for air services, both domestic and international. The Government is responding to those needs in the best possible way.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Singh Kaswan, you may put your second Supplementary. You may please confine your Supplementary to the Main Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur Airport in Rajasthan fulfills the international criteria. Hon'ble Minister has not only visited Jaipur but Ajmer also. My question is whether Government will consider Jaipur to declare it as an airport of international standard?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jaipur, Ajmer and Udaipur in Rajasthan are very big cities where tourists from every part of the world arrive. I would like to know from the Government whether any agreement is being made for these cities.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the about Jaipur. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Member that Jaipur is an important city with the viewpoint of international tourism, keeping that in view international flights are receiving Jaipur without according international status to Jaipur airport, but Government wants that first of all an airport of international standard should be built there, for that the process is going on and I assure that by



the next year, 2006 Jaipur will be duly declared an internal airport.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haribhau Rathod. – Not present.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to help all of you. In the last Session also a question came up on this subject and a large number of supplementaries were very properly intended to be raised because even small cities are expecting an airport these days. I had promised that during this Session I will allow almost one whole day for a discussion on this. He has to be ready for that. I shall do it in this Session itself. Therefore, instead of putting again a supplementary, we shall have a full discussion from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. one day. So, be ready for the onslaught.

Therefore, with your kind permission, can I go to the next question? I would give you full time. It shows our country's development because you are all asking for air services.

#### Oil Refineries

+  
\*226. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) the details of oil refineries functioning at present in the country;

(b) the annual installed capacity vis-a-vis actual production of each refinery during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the revenue earned by each refinery during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to improve their refining capacities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) There are 18 refineries operating in the country, 17 in the Public Sector and one in the Private

Sector, with a total installed capacity of 127.37 million metric tonnes Per annum (MMTPA). The location and capacities of these refineries are given in enclosed Annexure-I.

(b) The details of annual installed capacity vis-a-vis actual production by Public Sector Oil Refineries during the last three years are given in enclosed Annexure-II.

(c) The details of Profit After Tax (PAT) of downstream Public Sector Companies, during the last three years, year-wise, are given in enclosed Annexure-III.

(d) The overall capacity utilization of Public Sector refineries during 2004-05 was 98%, though it varied from refinery to refinery. The steps taken by the refineries to improve their capacity utilization inter alia include debottlenecking, reduction in fuel and losses etc.

The following expansions have been planned by the Public Sector Refineries:-

(MMTPA)

S.No.	Name of the Refinery	Present Capacity	Expansion planned
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Panipat	6	12 (Further additional expansion from 12 to 15)
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Haldia	6	7.5
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Visakh	7.5	8.3
4.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai	5.5	7.9
5.	Kochi Refinery Ltd., Kochi	7.5	9.5
6.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Mumbai	6.9	12

**ANNEXURE-I****Location and Capacities of Refineries in India**

S. No.	Name of the company	Location of Refineries	Capacity (MMTPA)*
<b>Public Sector</b>			
1.	Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	Guwahati	1.00
2.	IOCL	Barauni	6.00
3.	IOCL	Koyali	13.70
4.	IOCL	Haldia	6.00
5.	IOCL	Mathura	8.00
6.	IOCL	Digboi	0.65
7.	IOCL	Panipat	6.00
	IOCL-Total		41.35
8.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Mumbai	5.50
9.	HPCL	Visakhapatnam	7.50
	HPCL-Total		13.00
10.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)	Manali	9.50
11.	CPCL	Nagapattanam	1.00
	CPCL-Total		10.50
12.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	Mumbai	6.90
13.	Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL)	Kochi	7.50
14.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	Bongaigaon	2.35
15.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL)	Numaligarh	3.00
16.	Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL)	Mangalore	9.69
17.	Tatipaka Refinery (ONGC)	Andhra Pradesh	0.078
<b>Private Sector</b>			
18.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL)	Jamnagar	33.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>127.37</b>

\* Million Metric Tonne Per Annum

**ANNEXURE-II*****Installed Capacity vis-a-vis Actual Production*****Fig. in Million Metric Tonnes per Annum (MMTPA)**

Name of refinery	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Installed capacity	Actual production	Installed capacity	Actual production	Installed capacity	Actual production
Digboi, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)	0.65	0.58	0.65	0.60	0.65	0.65
Guwahati, IOCL	1.0	0.46	1.0	0.89	1.0	1.0
Barauni, IOCL	4.2	2.99	6.0	4.30	6.0	5.08
Gujarat, IOCL	13.7	12.43	13.7	12.76	13.7	11.70
Haldia IOCL	6.0	4.51	6.0	4.52	6.0	5.42
Mathura, IOCL	8.0	8.21	8.0	8.25	8.0	6.39
Panipat, IOCL	6.0	6.10	6.0	6.34	6.0	6.39
Mumbai, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)	5.5	6.0*	5.5	6.1*	5.5	6.1*
Visakh, HPCL	7.5	6.8*	7.5	7.5*	7.5	7.8*
Mumbai, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)	6.9	8.71	6.9	8.76	6.9	9.14
Manali + Cauvery Basin, Chennai, Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (CPCL)	7.0	6.82	10.5	7.04	10.5	8.93
Kochi Refinery Ltd. (KRL)	7.5	7.57*	7.5	7.85*	7.5	7.92*
Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	2.35	1.46*	2.35	2.12*	2.35	2.31*
Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL)	3.0	1.8*	3.0	2.2*	3.0	2.0*
Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	9.69	6.69	9.69	9.35	9.69	11.07
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	0.078	0.091	0.078	0.090	0.078	0.091

\* Crude Throughout

**ANNEXURE-III****Profit After Tax of Downstream Public Sector  
Companies during the last three years**

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Company	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	6115	7005	4891
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	1250	1695	966
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	303	400	597
Kochi Refineries Ltd.	456	555	842
Bongaigaon Refinery Petrochemicals Ltd.	179	304	478
Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	175	215	409
Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Ltd.	-412	459	880
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	1537	1904	1277

\* Source: Annual Report

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know their next plant with regard to the operational private refineries. There is a plan to issue licences to there and to go for their further expansion. There are six main companies – Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Panipat, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Haldia, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Vizaq, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Mumabi, Kochhi Refineries Ltd., Kochhi and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Mumabi, out of these Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Mumbai produces 12 million metric tone per annum. Likewise remaining figures are given in this. I would like to ask when their expansion programme is likely to be computed and by what time they will start functioning? Besides this I want to ask next question also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Next question next time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, expansion only and work on all these sites is in progress. I don't have such details as to by which date their job will be finished, but I am ready to send them details to the hon'ble Member. Besides this I am ready to give one explanation regarding expansion therein and the new refineries we are going to set up; we are working at Bhatinda, we are working at Bina, talks are going on in Paradeep and we are expecting about all these things that in next refineries will start functioning in our country and now we are discussing whether we should set up export oriented refineries; whether it can be beneficial or not as long as this deliberation ends; may be we get more attached to it.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, expansion programme is okay and good but the date presented by him regarding actual production, after perusal it seems that those refineries of the country are producing even lesser than their own capacity. As in the case with Indian Oil Corporation at Barauni, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. in Gujarat. Haldia, Mathura, Chennai and Numaligarh etc. I think we should find out reasons for under production thereto.

Besides, I would like to ask that profit after tax of companies thus presented; the data for the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004; after their perusal it seems that there is a good profit in the year 2003-2004 in comparison with the year 2002-2003 but the profit made in the year 2004-2005, for example profit made by Indian Oil for the year 2003-2004 is Rs. 7005 crore; which has come down to Rs. 2328 crore now. Besides this the profit of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is Rs. 1695 crore. What is the reason behind this loss?

MR. SPEAKER: We all know the reasons.

SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE: We have to search if a company like HPCL makes loss, it will be disinvested and handed over to private sector; this is my allegation.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that wrong data in black and have been presented to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Who gave it?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I myself, I want to correct them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is making a confession. Let us hear him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have made a mistake, so I am submitting that these data have been given and as everyone is aware that I don't prepare these data. Today early in the morning I caught hold of them and it was found out that wrong data have been presented. I want to present the correct data.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is not a data have been presented in the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is something very serious. It is highly objectionable. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, may I correct the figures? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has found out that there is some mistake and he is admitting that.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, mistake is something, but a false information has been given. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure we cannot refer to officers. Nobody in this country should have the courage to mislead the House. I am sure, if it is done deliberately, then he will suffer, otherwise innocent mistakes can be made.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is a Minister here. It is his responsibility, not of his officials.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking any note of the officials. Officials have nothing to do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would like to correct the answer. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is admitting something.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: For Bharat Petroleum, the correct figure is Rs. 965.80 crore; for Chennai Petroleum, the correct figure is Rs. 596.97 crore; for Kochi Refinery, the correct figure is Rs. 842 crore; for Bongaigaon Refinery, the correct figure is Rs. 478.30 crore; for Numaligarh, the correct figure is Rs. 409.15 crore; for Mangalore, the correct figure is Rs. 879.76 crore and for Hindustan Petroleum, the correct figure is Rs. 1277.33 crore.

Sir, I will, in written form, submit this to you. The correct figures came to me after the Question Hour started.

MR. SPEAKER: So, are these figures for the year 2004-05?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, yes. These figures are for the year 2004-05.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE: Yet, it is a loss. He has not told the reason. ...(Interruptions) These, three companies are yet in a loss.

MR. SPEAKER: Profit has come down.

[English]

He wants to know as to why has the profit come down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The profits, I am glad of this question, have significantly declined because while international prices have been rising steeply without relenting and reaching levels that have not been reached before. We have done our best to control prices at which the petroleum products are made available to the general masses. In the process of doing so, a very substantial share of the burden has fallen on the shoulders of the oil marketing companies and to give just an example, when last raised the price, which was in September, the consequences of that was that 51 per cent of the burden of the rise of the international prices was taken by the oil sector companies themselves. Thirty-six per cent was taken on the Government Budget and only 13 per cent was passed on to the consumers. So, when we are attempting to protect the consumers in this manner, clearly profits will come down. That is the basic reason. So, it is not inefficiency. It is our pricing system. We are looking into that pricing system on a regular basis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Expansion of A.I.R. and DD Coverage

\*227. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the coverage of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) to uncovered and underserved areas including backward and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the uncovered and underserved areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) All India Radio (AIR) has informed that the expansion of its coverage to hitherto uncovered and under-served places [including backward and rural areas] in the country is proposed to be carried out through the setting-up of stations/installation of transmitters in the various States and U.T. as contained in the Statement enclosed. During the Tenth Five Year Plan period for which a provision of Rs.13,290 lakh (capital cost) has been earmarked. Besides, a number of radio stations are also proposed to be set up in the tribal and backward districts of various States during the Tenth Plan period, subject to approval and availability of funds. As of date, the existing radio coverage is 91.42% by area and 99.13% by population. After completion of the Tenth Plan

schemes, this will further go up to 92.92% by area and 99.49% by population. Besides, the whole of the country is covered through short-wave signals.

Further, with the launch of the Doordarshan's Ku band (Free-to-air Direct-to-Home) transmission service from 16th Dec. 2004, its bouquet comprising, thirty-three T.V. (19 Doordarshan and 14 private channels) besides twelve A.I.R. channels are also available to the viewers/listeners throughout the country (except A&N Islands) which can be received with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. The approved cost of this project is estimated to be Rs.163.50 crore (figures provisional). While A.I.R. covers the whole Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Doordarshan's coverage, in its terrestrial mode, is estimated to be available to about 97% of the population of the Islands. As part of the expansion of radio services, a 10 kW FM A.I.R. transmitter at Port Blair has recently been commissioned.

Besides, the implementation of Phase II of Special Package for the North-East region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories, at an estimated total cost of Rs.393.95 crore (A.I.R. Rs.145.75 crore and Doordarshan Rs.248.20 crore) which is yet to be approved, would lead to increased coverage of DD and A.I.R. both in terms of area and population and also improve the quality of the programmes. This will also help cater to the information and entertainment needs of the linguistically and culturally rich and diverse region. Moreover, sixteen numbers of 10 kW Medium Wave Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs.) of Doordarshan are proposed to be installed in addition to the upgradation of six numbers of VLPTs. in A&N Islands. The N.E. Special Package also contemplates upgradation of the extant LPTs. of Doordarshan in Port Blair and Car Nicobar into High Power Transmitters.

In addition, under the J&K Special Package (Phase II) schemes, the Ku band transmission service of Doordarshan besides strengthening the Kashir channel is also envisaged at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore.

Statement

*List of Stations/Transmitters Proposed in X Plan which are expected to extend coverage to uncovered areas*

State	Sl.No.	Place	Power
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh			
	1.	Anini	1 kW FM

1	2	3	4
	2.	Bomdila	1 kW FM
Assam	3.	Lumding	1 kW FM
Chhattisgarh	4.	Dantewara	5 kW FM
	5.	Baikunthpur	5 kW FM
Himachal Pradesh	6.	Shimla	10 kW FM - (Interim set up with 1 kW FM Tr. Commissioned).
Jammu & Kashmir	7.	Kargil	200 kW MW - Technical Ready
	8.	Diskit	1 kW MW - Technical Ready
	9.	Padum	1 kW MW - Technical Ready
	10.	Nyomarap	1 kW MW - Technical Ready
Karnataka	11.	Sringeri	10 kW FM
L & M Island	12.	Kavaratti	10 kW MW (Replacement of 1 kW MW Tr.)
Maharashtra	13.	Oras	5 kW FM
Mizoram	14.	Champhai	1/5 kW FM
	15.	Tulpang	1/5 kW FM
	16.	Kolasib/Sarchip	1/5 kW FM
Nagaland	17.	Kohima	10 kW FM
	18.	Tuensang	5 kW FM -(Replacement of 1 kW M'W Tr.)
Orissa	19.	Deogarh	5 kW FM
	20.	Parlakimidi	5 kW FM
Rajasthan	21.	Ramgarh	20 kW FM
	22.	Chautan Hill	20 kW FM
Tripura	23.	Longtherai	5 kW FM
	24.	Udaipur	1/5 kW FM
	25.	Nutan Bazar	1/5 kW FM
Uttar Pradesh	26.	Najibabad	200 kW MW - (Replacement of 100 kW MW Tr.)
Uttaranchal	27.	Bhageshwar	5 kW FM
	28.	Champwat	1 kW FM
	29.	Gairsen	1 kW FM
	30.	Rudraprayag	1 kW FM
	31.	Dharchula	1 kW MW
	32.	Haldwani	10 kW FM
West Bengal	33.	Darjeeling	10 kWFM

And 150 numbers of Low Power FM Transmitters (of these 100 would be in North-East States)

**Outstanding Amount Against  
Power Houses/SEBs**

\*228. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Railways outstanding against the various Power Houses and State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as on date;

(b) whether the Railways are reeling under financial crisis due to non-recovery of these amounts;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to recover these amounts from them;

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce any concessional scheme whereby the Power Houses and State Electricity Boards (SEBs) would be encouraged to adopt pre-payment of rates of carriage of coal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The amount of Railways outstanding against the various Power Houses/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as on 30.09.2005 is indicated below:

(Rs.in Crore)

S.No.	Name of State Electricity Board/P.H.	Outstanding as on 30.9.05
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	3.41
2	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	618.55
3	Biher State Electricity Board	1.25
4	Damodar Valley Corporation	3.70
5	Delhi Vidyut Board	177.12
6	Gujarat State Electricity Board	13.93
7	Haryana State Electricity Board	23.95
8	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	1.57
9	Karnataka State Electricity Board	2.65
10	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	3.53

1	2	3
11	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	30.99
12	National Thermal Power Corporation	23.32
13	Private Power House - Sabarnati	4.48
14	Punjab State Electricity Board	442.40
15	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	75.74
16	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.51
17	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	41.34
18	West Bengal State Electricity Board	15.80
Total		1485.24

(b) No Sir, Railways is not reeling under financial crisis; the financial position of the Railways, which was adverse in the past due to revision of pay and pension, decrease in traffic receipts and considerable accretion in traffic outstandings, has improved in the last couple of years mainly due to growth in freight and passenger earning. However, recovery of outstanding dues, including those pertaining to Power Houses/State Electricity Boards, amounting to Rs.1485 crore up to September 2005, is very essential for providing the requisite funds necessary for Railway's operations.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to recover these amounts from Power House/State Electricity Boards are:

- (i) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues is done at all levels by holding meetings with the representatives of Power Houses(PHs)/State Electricity Boards (SEBs). Special drives for clearance of outstanding dues are launched from time to time.
- (ii) Meetings are also held with Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time.
- (iii) Pre-payment scheme of freight for carriage of coal has been made applicable to all Power Houses/State Electricity Boards.



(iv) Introduction of the Electronic Payment Gateway scheme for electronic clearance of dues of Badarpur Thermal Power Station(BTPS) which owes the maximum amount to Indian Railways and extension of facility of to all other Power Houses/SEBs, after successful implementation of the scheme for BTPS.

(v) Adjustment of outstanding dues from Power Houses/ State Electricity Boards against traction bills payable to them by the Railways.

(vi) Adjustment of dues pertaining to State Electricity Boards and Power Houses as on 31.12.1996 from the Central Plan Assistance of the State Governments, subject to certain limits. Pursuant to Government's decision on 07.02.1997, an amount of Rs.159 crore had been received till 2002-03 from Central Plan Assistance.

As a result of the above steps, the position of outstanding has improved from Rs.1762 crore as on 30.9.2004 to Rs.1485 crore as on 30.09.2005, showing a reduction of Rs.276 crore(16%), as indicated below:

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Name of State Electricity Board/P.H.	30.09.2004	30.9.2005	Variation
1	Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	9.75	3.41	-6.34
2	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	865.04	618.55	-246.49
3	Bihar State Electricity Board	1.59	1.25	-0.34
4	Damodar Valley Corporation	8.69	3.70	-4.99
5	Delhi Vidyut Board	183.97	177.12	-6.85
6	Gujarat State Electricity Board	36.34	13.93	-22.41
7	Haryana State Electricity Board	12.83	23.95	11.12
8	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	1.48	1.57	0.09
9	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.54	2.65	2.11
10	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board	1.71	3.53	1.82
11	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	16.22	30.99	14.77
12	National Thermal Power Corporation	49.02	23.32	-25.70
13	Private Power House - Sabarmati	1.18	4.48	3.30
14	Punjab State Electricity Board	439.82	442.40	2.58
15	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	69.85	75.74	5.89
16	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.89	1.51	-0.18
17	Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	46.99	41.34	-5.65
18	West Bengal State Electricity Board	14.87	15.80	0.93
Total		1761.58	1485.24	-276.34

(d) No, Sir. Prepayment of freight for coal was made applicable to all State Electricity Boards/Power Houses w.e.f 1.10.96 with the exception of BTPS, in whose case the scheme was implemented from 1-1-1997.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Fire in Bombay High North Platform**

229. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a High Level Inquiry Committee to look into the circumstances that led to the recent fire in the Bombay High North Platform of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, the Government has set up an Independent Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.N.R. Rao, former Secretary (P&NG), to look into the circumstances leading to the accident and the adequacy of the response thereto.

The composition of the Inquiry Committee is as follows:-

i)	Shri T.N.R. Rao	Chairman
ii)	Maj. Gen.(Retd.) S.C.N. Jatar, former C&MD, ONGC Videsh Ltd.	Member
iii)	DG, Coast Guard or a Senior Level Nominee	Member

(c) and (d) Committee is yet to submit its report in this regard.

(e) Committee has been given time of six months upto 15th March, 2006 to submit the report.

[Translation]

#### **Advertising Policy for Newspapers**

\*230. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated an advertisement policy for small and medium newspapers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken by the Government to provide advertisements to small and medium newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Government has formulated an advertisement policy for the newspapers. As per the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for empanelment of newspapers, the small and medium newspapers/journals are given priority for empanelment with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for release of Government Advertisements. This is to ensure fairness to these categories of newspapers/journals, in pursuance of the broad social objectives of the Government.

#### **Cargo Handling Facilities**

\*231. MOHD. MUKEEM:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports in the country which are having cargo handling facilities at present;

(b) the details of cargo handled by them during each of the last three years; and

(c) the airports where cargo complexes are proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan with a view to improving the infrastructure of those airports and also for accelerating the pace of development of those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has established Air Cargo

Complexes to handle international cargo at the following airports: (i) Kolkata (ii) Mumbai (iii) Chennai (iv) Delhi (v) Guwahati (vi) Lucknow (vii) Nagpur and (viii) Coimbatore.

(b) These airports handled 556660.96 metric tonnes, 1143031.86 metric tonnes and 1833290.46 metric tonnes during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(c) AAI has plans to develop cargo handling facilities at Amritsar, Jammu, Indore, Jaipur, Goa, Patna and Bagdogra Airports.

#### **Action Plan for Bio-Diesel**

\*232. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for bio-diesel for which a workshop was organised recently in view of the successful efforts in production of bio-diesel and increasing interest shown by some States;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prescribed any parameters for acceptance of bio-diesel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry to implement the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel, which, inter alia, envisages large scale plantation of *Jatropha Curcus* (Ratan Jyot). The Detailed Project Report for the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel, which has been referred to the Planning Commission by the Ministry of Rural Development, has not yet received all the clearances and approvals which are a prerequisite for deciding upon any action plan for bio-diesel.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has issued a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy which will come into effect on 1.1.2006. Moreover, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj jointly organized a Bio-diesel Conclave on 5.11.2005 and it was inter alia decided that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in association with other stakeholder Ministries like the

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Planning Commission and various other Government organizations, will explore the prospectus and possibilities of involving Panchayati Raj Institutions in promoting the cultivation of *Jatropha* and other oil bearing trees which can be used for the production of bio-diesel. To this end, a joint Committee co-chaired by Secretary (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas), Secretary (Panchayati Raj) and Adviser (Planning Commission) is being constituted.

(c) and (d) In terms of the Statement on Bio-diesel Purchase Policy which will come into effect on 1.1.2006, inter alia, the following have been prescribed:

- (i) Bio-diesel manufacturers interested in supplying bio-diesel to public sector oil marketing companies should approach the state level coordinator (SLC) pertaining to the state, and after assessment of production capacity and credibility of the prospective supplier by joint evaluation/certification by the industry team, samples would be tested and if these meet the prescribed Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specifications, the supplier shall be registered as an authorized supplier.
- (ii) In normal course, the registration shall be re-validated after a year. However if either the feedstock used or the process of manufacturing bio-diesel is altered, re-validation of registration shall be necessary immediately.
- (iii) In registering authorized suppliers of bio-diesel, priority shall be given to such bio-diesel producers who propose to use non-edible tree borne oils as feedstock for producing bio-diesel, and have undertaken or have committed themselves to support farming of oil bearing plants with a view to using only tree-borne non-edible oil for manufacture of bio-diesel in future.
- (iv) The oil marketing companies shall buy bio-diesel (B100) which meets the prescribed BIS standard, at a uniform price, as may be decided by the oil marketing companies from time to time, depending on market conditions. Such a uniform price shall be inclusive of any taxes and duties and transportation cost for delivery of bio-diesel at the purchase centre. The uniform price once fixed shall be in

operation for six months, at the end of which it would be reviewed. The initial purchase price of bio-diesel by the oil marketing companies will be Rs 25 per litre. The registered authorised bio-diesel manufacturers shall be required to deliver B 100 at the notified purchase centres in calibrated tank trucks of capacity not less than 10 KL. In case the suppliers envisage any deviation, they should inform the concerned oil company and supply as per mutual convenience.

- (v) All expenses related to testing of the bio-diesel for acceptance of the consignment shall be borne by the oil marketing companies. Every consignment shall be tested for the following specifications:

- \* Density @15 degree C
- \* Kinematic Viscosity @40 degree C
- \* Flash Point
- \* Water Content
- \* Copper corrosion, and
- \* Acid value

#### Telecasting through D.T.H.

\*233. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan telecast the channels through DTH to TV channel operators free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these operators are charging money from public for viewing these channels;

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing them to use DTH free of cost; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The list of channels included in the bouquet of

Doordarshan's D.T.H. service, free of cost at the moment, is enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. They are not charging money from the public for showing these channels in as much as they are free-to-air channels on the DTH platform of Doordarshan. The carriage of private TV channels free of cost is only an interim measure to boost the popularity of Doordarshan's DTH service, permitted only for a period of two years.

#### Statement

##### List of channels Included in the bouquet of DD Direct Plus

DD Channels	Private Channels	Radio Channels
1. DD National	1. Aaj Tak	1. Vividh Bharati
2. DD News	2. Headlines Today	2. AIR FM Rainbow
3. DD Sports	3. BBC World	3. AIR FM Gold
4. DD India	4. Jain TV	4. AIR Hindi
5. DD Bharati	5. Star Utsav	5. AIR Bangla
6. DD Kashmir	6. Zee Music	6. AIR North East
7. DD Punjabi	7. Smile TV	7. AIR Oriya
8. DD North East	8. ETV Marathi	8. AIR Gujarati
9. DD Bangla	9. Sun TV	9. AIR Marathi
10. DD Oriya	10. Kairali TV	10. AIR Telugu
11. DD Gujarati	11. Aakash Bangla	11. AIR Tamil
12. DD Sahyadri (Marathi)	12. ETC Punjabi	12. AIR Kannada
13. DD Saptagiri (Telugu)	13. MH-1	
14. DD Chandana (Kannada)	14. TV-9	
15. DD Podhigai (Tamil)		
16. DD Malayalam		
17. DD LS (Lok Sabha)		
18. DD RS (Rajya Sabha)		
Educational Channel		
19. Gyan Darshan		

[English]

### Pilferage of Coal from Railway Wagons

\*234. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that coal from the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. is being transported to various Power Houses through the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints of coal pilferage during transportation;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received during the current year so far; and

(d) the action taken against the officials/persons found guilty?

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

(c) One.

(d) None found guilty.

### Drug Addiction among Children

\*235. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a considerable percentage of children between the age of 12 and 18 years are drug addicts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government to control this serious menace;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints against NGOs/VOs for misutilisation of funds provided to them for drug abuse prevention during 2005 till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring NGOs/VOs; and

(e) the mechanism available with the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds released to NGOs/VOs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EM-

POWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) As per the National Survey on Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug abuse in India conducted by the Government of India in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime the current prevalence rates in a sample size of 8587 children within the age group of 12-18 years was as follows:

Alcohol	21.4%
Cannabis	3.0%
Opiates	0.1%

Prevalence refers to "used within the last one month". It could even mean that the drug was used only once in the month or more than once in the month. It does not mean that the 'current users' are addicts. The Survey itself states as a general proposition for all ages that not all of the current users are dependent users and between 17% and 26% of current users i.e. between 17-26% of 24% can be classified as dependent users. Therefore, around 1 % can be considered as dependent users of alcohol or drugs. While using these figures it should also be noted that the sample size of 8587 is too small for a reliable extrapolation for all children in the age group of 12-18, in the country.

(b) The Government is implementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse to deal with the problem of drug abuse/addiction for the victims of substance abuse as part of its drug demand reduction programme. The Government has taken initiatives that include imparting knowledge on drugs to the students through inclusion of appropriate material in the school curriculum and Training of Teachers (TOT) module for the sensitization of the teachers and parents in school environment with the participation of NGOs, so that the number of youth succumbing to the drug addiction get reduced. The Government also recognizes that the students at the secondary/higher secondary level are particularly vulnerable and slipping into the habit of drug abusing behaviour due to stress, peer influence and hormonal changes etc. In addition to the above, Government has taken steps to curb sale of drugs in the vicinity of any school/educational institution by imposing higher than the minimum punishment in such offences as per Section 32B of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. Government supports 52 counselling Centres and 377 De-addiction Centres all over the country for carrying out awareness building, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of persons who are victims of substance abuse and alcoholism in varied settings such as community, workplaces, educational institutions etc.

(c) Yes Sir. Very few complaints have been received.

(d) A list is enclosed as Statement.

(e) The performance of NGO is reviewed on half-yearly basis and officers authorized by Central and State

Government conduct periodical inspections. Besides, detailed report, which includes audited accounts, utilization certificates, annual reports, list of beneficiaries, list of staff etc. are also obtained by the Ministry. Instalments of grant-in-aid are released after evaluation of their performance and satisfactory inspection reports.

#### Statement

S.No.	Details of the complaints	Action taken
1.	Staff and house owner of the NGO named Navjyoti Education Society, Rangareddy District, Andhra Pradesh have made complaints against Shri Sanyasi Rao, who runs the NGO	An Officer of the Ministry has been deputed for verification and further investigation into the complaint.
2.	The landlady of the house, in which the NGO namely St. Paul's Educational and Medical Trust, Chennai, Tamilnadu runs the Drug De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre, has made complaints against the NGO	An enquiry has been conducted through Regional Resource Training Centre [RRTC], South Zone in the matter. But the findings of the enquiry officer not having been found conclusive, it has been further decided to depute an Officer of the Ministry for detailed enquiry into the allegations.
3.	Rajasthan State Youth Congress has complained against Natural Health Home, Drug De-addiction Centre functioning at D Block, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur.	The Centre was run by an NGO namely Prani Sewa Sansthan. The release of grant-in-aid to this organisation for running the Centre namely Natural Health Home-Drug De-addiction Centre at D Block, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur has already been stopped.

#### Merger of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for PRIs

\*236. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to merge some of the centrally sponsored schemes for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has sought the views of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development

Council held on 27-28 June, 2005, an Expert Group has been set up by the Planning Commission on 13-10-05 to develop concrete proposals for restructuring Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned. The terms of reference of the Expert Group include, inter-alia, the amalgamation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes into four or five broad heads with the freedom to develop locally relevant programmes; to examine the feasibility of the transfer of CSSs to States/UTs and the modalities thereof; to suggest restructuring and rationalization of CSS with a focus on the Millennium Development Goals; to suggest restructuring of CSS with a view to transferring some of the resources allocated to them directly to the authorities/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies at the district level or below; and to examine the feasibility of introducing a system of social audit in the CSS.

The Expert Group is required to submit its report within six months from the date of issue of the Order for consideration of the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The Expert Group includes representatives of four States, namely, Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tripura as members and their views would be taken into consideration while finalizing the recommendations.

#### **Study on Panchayati Raj Institutions**

\*237. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study regarding performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning to make any changes/modifications in the existing Panchayati Raj system based on the findings of the study;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions are being conducted regularly in each State and Union Territory;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) While various facets of the performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions are studied by the Union Government from time to time, no single Study on a nation-wide basis has been conducted regarding the performance and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Information which is made available with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj indicates that the Panchayati Raj system is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories to which Part IX of the Constitution applies except for Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections are still to be held and NCT Delhi where the Panchayati Raj Act was suspended several years back. With a view to ensuring the efficient functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized seven Round Tables around the country between July and December, 2004. The consensus reached at these Round

Tables comprises around 150 action points on which effective devolution hinges. The implementation programme involves extensive and close coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments/UT administrations. Sustained efforts continue to be taken in this regard. Particular mention may be made of adoption and preparation of a Devolution Index, based on a recommendations made during Fifth Round Table, regarding the preparation of a 'State of the Panchayats' report every year by all States and Union Government so as to ensure credible monitoring and evolution of the panchayati raj system in each State of the Union. Among other initiatives taken in this regard is the convening of a Conference of Academics and Specialists, based in India and abroad, scheduled to take place during December 2005, to discuss and deliberate on different aspects of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country and to suggest a way forward.

(e) to (g) All the States/UTs except Jharkhand and Pondicherry have held Panchayat elections after the enactment of the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act 1992. NCT Delhi had suspended the State Panchayati Raj Act several years back and therefore elections have not been held in NCT Delhi. Elections in Jharkhand were scheduled to have been held in September 2005 but were not held due to litigation. The Pondicherry Government have said their preparations for elections got disrupted owing to the Tsunami and now they are preparing for, and are committed to, holding Panchayat elections at the earliest.

#### **Establishment of Rural Business Hubs**

\*238. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 179 dated August 4, 2005 regarding Rural Business Hubs and state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of States for setting up of Rural Business Hubs;

(b) the response received from those States which have been selected therefore;

(c) the progress made so far regarding setting up of the Rural Business Hubs;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated for

public-private-Panchayat partnership to establish Rural Business Hubs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) The financial and technical support provided/ proposed to be provided to the States for setting up of Rural Business Hubs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Prime Minister in his inaugural address to the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on 'Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj' held on 29-30 June, 2004 emphasized the importance of economic development through PRIs in rural areas and to evolve Rural Business Hubs, drawing on China's experience of Town and Village Enterprises that add value to agricultural produce in rural areas. Thereafter a National-level Presentation on "Economic Empowerment through Panchayats" was held on the 5th November, 2004 in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in which more than 1000 elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from States and Union Territories and about 200 members of the CII participated. Based on the deliberations there, the concept of Rural Business Hubs (RBH) has been evolved in consultation with CII.

This initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj was initially limited to nine States, to start with, as the newly formed Ministry of Panchayati Raj was taking shape and there was a shortage of officers and staff to follow up. These States were selected on the basis of initial response and interest shown by the States. The initiative has since been extended to all the States/UTs covered by Part IX of the Constitution.

(b) A number of States have identified products and blocks for RBHs. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttaranchal have forwarded a 'key product list' whose commercial viability is currently under examination of the CII. Efforts continue to be made to set up RBHs in different States. Nodal officers at senior levels have been nominated to follow up the progress in respect of each State. Minister of Panchayati Raj has also visited a number of States with a view to pushing the RBH initiative forward. Detailed brief of responses received are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) A Rural Business Hub Council has also been set up, chaired by the Minister, Panchayati Raj and co-chaired by Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, immediate past President of CII, to promote Public-Private-Panchayat Partnerships to foster RBHs. Awareness programmes have been organized in several States which include Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. An RBH Executive Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to chalk out an action plan in accordance with the directions given by the RBH Council. The Committee has held its first meeting and has identified a number of modalities for pursuing development of RBHs in various States.

The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the RBH initiative was signed in Dehra Dun (Uttaranchal) for setting up a rural business hub for processing fruit grown in the Ramgarh block and other few other Blocks of Nainital District. Thereafter, two more MOUs have been finalized and signed in Haryana to set up RBHs for Jatropha plantation and production of bio-diesel in the Faridabad and Mewat districts of the State.

Subsequent to an advertisement in certain leading newspapers, over 150 responses have been received from PRIs and individuals. A conclave of all the stakeholders involved in the development of bio-diesel from Jatropha through Panchayats under the RBH initiative of the Ministry was held on 5 November 2005, which was attended by 100 PRI representatives from all over the country at which it was decided to set up a joint committee of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Planning Commission along with the stakeholders including Scientists and other corporates, on the development of Bio-Fuels through Panchayats under the RBH initiative.

The RBH initiative is also scheduled to be discussed in the next meeting of the Council of State Ministers on Panchayati Raj.

(d) and (e) Public-Private-Panchayat-Partnership (PPPP) constitutes the basic and distinguishing strategic underpinning to enable better market access for locally available resources and skills by encouraging entrepreneurs, identified by CII in finding markets for products and skills by involving panchayats at all levels as promoters and facilitators so as to catalyze tie-ups between farmers and skilled artisans/craftsmen as to one hand and entrepreneurs, or the other. Panchayats are also to provide a variety of facilitatory support including identifying land,



providing common work-sheds and other infrastructural support and organizing appropriate training. The PPPP concept aims at utilizing the synergies of different stakeholders in a given area to stimulate economic development of the area concerned through panchayats based on a self-sustained, self-supporting commercial models.

(f) The financing of Rural Business Hubs is envisaged as a business proposition on the public-private-panchayat-partnership principle but will be supported by such 'Top-up' funds as may be available for the purpose. Assistance is also envisaged from specialized institutions like Nabard, Sidbi, the Institution of Engineers to provide financing and professional and technical guidance to panchayats for identifying and setting up RBHs.

### **Statement**

#### *Update on RBH Initiative*

#### **Responses from the State Governments**

1. **Andhra Pradesh:** A meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. T R Raghunandan, Joint Secretary with Department of Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh and CII was held on 21 October 2005 at Hyderabad. In Andhra Pradesh initial step will be to issue an advertisement in vernacular newspapers inviting applications from mandal panchayats and simultaneously has to form a state level RBH Council.
2. **Assam:** A meeting was organised with Mr. S.L. Mewara, Commissioner, Department of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Government of Assam on 25 July 2005. Primary information on potential RBHs is still awaited. However, the ministry has already identified potential RBH in the North Eastern States with the assistance NEDFI and initiated the work on RBHs.
3. **Bihar:** Rural Development Department of Bihar has suggested to compile the list of potential RBHs. There is a possibility of RBH initiative in Samastipur district. The district is a large producer of vegetables and spices like ginger, turmeric, chilly and garlic. NABARD has a special scheme to promote cultivation of these spices, specifically for this district. CII has already started working on this project.
4. **Chhattisgarh:** A meeting on Rural Business Hubs was organised with senior officials of the Govern-

ment of Chhattisgarh on 27 July 2005 at Raipur. Primary inputs for setting up of RBHs are still awaited from Chhattisgarh.

5. **Haryana:** In Haryana two MoUs were signed on 9 October 2005. Rural Business Hubs for Jatropha plantation and Bio-Diesel product will be set up in Hodal and Hasanpur Blocks of District Faridabad and Pinagwan Village Block Punhana of District Mewat of Haryana. A follow up meeting with the Panchayats and the intermediary is being held.
6. **Jammu and Kashmir:** Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, Shri Wajahat Habibulla Chaired a meeting in the Secretariat, Srinagar on 26 August 2005 to explore the possibilities of establishing Rural Business Hubs under the system of Panchayati Raj in Jammu and Kashmir. The Secretary RD, J&K was supposed to send a list of 136 Blocks in the State, which is still awaited.
7. **Karnataka:** A meeting of the Rural Business Hubs under the Chairmanship of Mr. T R Raghunandan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India was held on 23 July 2005 at Bangalore. Following MoUs are proposed:
  - \* The Malavalli Power Company proposes to sign a MOU with three Gram Panchayats in Periyapatna on setting up a briquetting plant for briquetting of tobacco stems, so as to generate power. The waste heat would be used to cure tobacco.
  - \* The Malavalli Power Company and BERI project are jointly setting up a biomass gasification plant for 3 Panchayats in Sira, Tumkur for generating power.
  - \* The KPTCL/BESCOM proposes to sign an agreement with around 20 Gram Panchayats for franchising of distribution of power.
8. **Kerala:** An interactive session on Setting up of Rural Business Hubs in Kerala with participation of senior officials from the State Government of Kerala, NGOs, Industry, Panchayati Leaders and Financial Institutions was organised on 11 August 2005 at Thiruvananthapuram under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Smt. Sudha Pillay. Primary inputs for setting up of RHBs are still awaited from the

Government of Kerala. A letter has been sent to the Secretary Panchayati Raj Kerala to expediate the process.

9. Maharashtra: Government of Maharashtra organised a State Level Conference on Rural Business Hubs on 8 October 2005 at the Sant Eknath Rangmandir, Aurangabad. Detailed presentation on Rural Business Hubs. Detailed Literature was sent from the Ministry. Three areas have been identified for setting up RBHs.
10. Punjab: Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, Co-Chairman, MoPR - CII RBH Council had a meeting with Chief Minister of Punjab on in August 2005. The Government of Punjab has forwarded a Block Panchayat-wise list of Product for consideration of the Rural Business Hubs Council for setting up of RBH in Punjab. CII is in the process of finalising the product in consultation with industry.
11. Rajasthan: The progress on the establishment of the Rural Business Hubs (RBH) was discussed in a one-day workshop organised on 29 August 2005 at 1100 Hrs under the chairmanship of Mr. M.K. Khanna, Principal Secretary, Rural development & Panchayati Raj. Subsequently the Government of Rajasthan has provided an indicative list of items for consideration of setting up of RBHs. CII is in the process of finalising the potential RBHs based on the inputs provided by the Government. A follow up meeting was also held by Joint Secretary Smt Aditi Mehta with the State Govt. officials. One MoU has been signed by Government of Rajasthan with CII member corportate for Jatorpha based RBH in Dungarpur District further proposals are being formulated.
12. Uttar Pradesh: CII organised an interactive session on Setting up of Rural Business Hubs in Uttar Pradesh on 22 August 2005 at Lucknow. On 18 and 19 September 2005, Dr. Navneet Sehgal, Director, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India and Senior officials of CII visited Baikuan District - Lakimpur, Gauri Ganj in Sultanpur District, Amethi and Bahadurpur Block of Raibareli District. The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) offered working with groups involved in sewing and stitching and then providing forward linkages for marketing their produce through SEWA's showrooms. For food products, a representatives M/s Goldy Masala offered to get the products examined and to take up

marketing of these products. Further products and areas have been identified like organic farming and processing of aromatic and medicinal plants in Sultanpur, Pottery in Azamgarh and Gorakhpur, handlooms in Sitapur, Allgarh, Lucknow, Bhadohi and wood products in Saharanpur and Bahraich. Patato Based process in and around Farrukhabad.

A meeting was also held with Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj UP by Joint Secretary Sh. PD Sudhakar and Director Sh. Navneet Sehgal on 21st Sept. and the concept was explained to the officials. Due to election process in the State progress has been slow. However things will move faster now.

13. Uttaranchal: A meeting with State Government held on 14 July 2005. Smt Sudha Pillai, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India addressed the participants. An MoU between Ramgarh Block Panchayat, 12 Entrepreneurs and ITC was signed in Dehradun on 13 August 2005 for setting up RBH for processing fruits grown in the area. Subsequently a meeting with the entrepreneurs and farmers held on 12 September 2005 at Nainital. At the meeting it was decided to form a local level Task Force to identify the champion product of Ramgarh block as many of the entrepreneurs had more than 30 products range. A seminar has been proposed in near future.
14. West Bengal: A meeting was organised with Shri Amalender Ghosh, Commissioner & Special Secretary, Government of West Bengal on 13 August 2005 to initiate activities in West Bengal.

#### **RBH Advertisement in Regional Newspapers for wider Publicity**

In accordance with the decision of the RBH Council, the MoPR and CII had jointly released advertisement in the regional newspapers. The advertisement released on 8 October 2005 is well received and the response from the Panchayats are very encouraging. A copy of the Advertisements are being sent to the States to issue similar advertisements in the News papers at their end.

#### **Core Groups**

Three Core groups have been formed. The progress on these core groups are as given below :

1. Core Group on Power: Core Group on Power had 4 meetings since its inception in July 2005. The Group is expected to submit its report in December 2005.
2. Core Group on Agriproducts: Core Group had one meeting.
3. Core Group on Textiles: Core group had two meetings.

#### Action Plan

1. MOPR and CII have identified 23 potential RBHs in various States based on the inputs provided by NABARD and State Governments. A joint action plan will be worked out with NABARD to develop these clusters as Rural Business Hubs through Public - Private - Panchayat - Partnership Mode before the National Presentation on Rural Business Hubs scheduled for early 2006. Discussions with leading corporates have already begun to take this initiative forward.
2. A questionnaire to work out the Profile of the Panchayats for setting up of the RBH has been worked out. In response to the expression of interest by the Panchayats, this questionnaire in regional languages will be forwarded. On receipt of the duly filled in questionnaire CII will compile profile of each Panchayat and circulate amongst its corporate membership. The information will also be published in the RBH website.
3. Simultaneously, several seminars/workshops will be organised across the country to create awareness about the initiatives to showcase the seriousness of the Government of India and CII to set up RBHs. These events, while enable the Council to pool the necessary resources and information, no doubt will give the added benefit of establishing the RBH brand while bringing together the stakeholders at a single platform.

#### Requirement of Coaches

\*239. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the requirement of coaches is not met indigenously;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to improve/enhance the capacities of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala to meet the requirement;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the schemes formulated in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allow some workshops which were manufacturing wagons to manufacture coaches; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A work has been sanctioned in 2005-06 for augmentation of capacity for manufacture of 1250 shells per year at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai at a total cost of Rs. 9.0 crores. A work has also been sanctioned for enhancement of coach production capacity at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala to 1400 coaches per year, at a total cost of Rs. 35.0 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Ground Handling System at Airports

\*240. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has fixed any criteria/rules for ground handling system;

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

(c) whether some airlines have started barter system for ground handling by them;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to change the existing criteria/rules fixed for ground handling system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the changes are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

**CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Airports Authority of India (General Management Entry for Ground Handling Services), Regulations 2000, an operator or carrier may either carry out ground handling services at any airport by itself or engage the services of any of the following:

- Airports Authority of India;
- The two national carriers Air India and Indian Airlines; and
- Any other handling agency licenced by the Airports Authority of India.

(c) A majority of private scheduled airlines provide their own ground handling equipment.

(d) and (e) A proposal has been initiated to set up subsidiary companies for ground handling by Air India Limited, Indian Airlines Limited and Airports Authority of India. However, no final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

#### **Dual Pricing Policy for LPG**

**241. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:**

**SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:**

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Public Sector Oil Companies for permission to sell Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) at unsubsidised prices to the rich and the middle class households;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Governments reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI**

**SHANKAR AIYAR):** (a) to (c) At present, subsidised domestic LPG is marketed by the distributors of the four public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and IBP Company Limited. Domestic LPG is partly subsidized by the Government and partly by the oil companies. During the year 2004-05, the total subsidy burden was Rs. 9830 crores. This Ministry has recently written to the State Governments seeking views on restricting the subsidy on domestic LPG to only BPL families.

The Government has also allowed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and GAIL India Limited (GAIL) to market LPG produced by their fractionators subject to certain terms and conditions. With a view to operationalizing the mechanism, the matter was recently reviewed in the Ministry and ONGC and GAIL were asked to give their proposals. The proposals received from them are under examination in the Ministry.

[English]

#### **Scholarship to Children**

**2284. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start any scholarship scheme to the children of those soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broad details of the scheme are as under:-

	Armed Forces	Para-military Forces	Total
	1	2	3
(i) No. of Scholarships	4000	1000	5000
(ii) Amount of Scholarship	Rs. 1250/- per month for Boys and Rs. 1500/- per month for Girls.		

	1	2	3
(iii)	Purpose	To pursue various courses recognized by All India Technical Education Council (AITEC)/Medical Council of India etc. in the field of medical/technical education at graduate level.	
(iv)	Eligibility	(a) Wards of ex-servicemen and their widows (Below Officers Rank) and  (b) Wards of widows of ex-servicemen died in harness due to causes attributable to military service (irrespective of rank).	
(v)	Duration of Scholarship	2 to 5 years as approved by the concerned regulatory body for individual course.	

(c) The scheme is proposed to be implemented from the academic year 2006-2007.

#### **Express Train between Guwahati-Pune**

2285. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from Members of Parliament for introduction of a direct express train between Guwahati and Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations including that from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, were received in this regard. These were examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **Procurement of UAVs from Israel**

2286. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to procure Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No decision has yet been taken, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Extension of Catering Facilities**

2287. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend its catering facility in some more mail/express trains;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of trains selected for provision of such facility;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in selected trains;

(d) whether the railway catering service is incurring losses during the last three years;

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

(f) the steps taken to make railway catering service profitable?

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

(b) and (c) All Mail Express trains needing catering services will be considered as per priority for provision of catering services either through Pantry Cars or Train Side Vending. In total 252 trains have been provided with Pantry Car services and further Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been advised to provide Pantry Car/Train Side Vending in remaining trains in phases.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Year-wise details of losses incurred by Indian Railways on catering services based on costing methodology are as under:-

Year	Amount in Crores of Rs.
2000-01	366.89
2001-02	378.48
2002-03	410.81

(f) The Catering licences are being awarded through two packet open tender on competitive bidding basis.

A minimum of 12% of sales turnover is being levied as licence fee and the sales are being assessed realistically. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has been set up to upgrade and manage catering services with professionalism. Refreshment rooms, Automatic Vending Machines, Food Plazas and Stalls have been established through reputed and experienced caterers.

#### **Indo-Romania Cooperation In Oil and Gas Sector**

2288. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and Romania has decided to further enhance cooperation in the oil and natural gas sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and projects identified for cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A delegation led by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had visited Romania between the 1st-4th July, 2005.

Discussions were held on the following specific areas for bilateral cooperation:

- (i) Cooperation in the area of research and development;
- (ii) Invitation to Romanian companies to invest in India's new refinery projects and vice-versa;
- (iii) Cooperation in third countries.

The following MOUs/Cooperation Agreements were signed during the Minister's visit:-

- (i) MOU between the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Romania to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship and encourage and promote bilateral cooperation on oil and natural gas development issues.
- (ii) Cooperation Agreement between the Keshav Deo Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, ONGC, and Petroleum-Gas University (PGU) of Ploiesti, Romania, to undertake to identify problems related to upstream activities in Indian sedimentary basins and prepare time bound programmes for research and development leading to resolution of the problems.
- (iii) Cooperation Agreement between the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun and PGU of Ploiesti, Romania, to identify, develop, promote and exchange of information in the areas of common interest in petroleum industry education and training.
- (iv) MOU between Confederation of Indian Industry and Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prahova, Romania, to encourage bilateral activities to facilitate Romania-India business partnership.

During the visit, there was a proposal from Romania to supply turbo jet fire fighting equipment. The proposal is being examined by ONGC.

Romania also offered cooperation in providing services in crisis management in oilfield operations. Oil India Limited (OIL) have requested the Romanian Government to intimate details of expertise in this regard available in Romania.

Further, GAIL (India) Limited are pursuing participation in Nabucco Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

Later, the Romanian Minister for Economy and Commerce, with senior officers and captains of the Romanian petroleum industry, visited India between the 22nd-24th October, 2005, to pursue the areas of bilateral cooperation that had emerged from Petroleum Minister's visit earlier. During this visit, besides delegation-level talks, company-level discussions were also held.

### **Russian Cooperation in Underground Coal Gasification**

**2289. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has signed any agreement with Skochinsky Institute of Mining, Russia for Underground Coal Gasification Project in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team from Russia arrived in India in October, 2005 to help Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in pursuing the Underground Coal Gasification Project.

(d) if so, whether any location to take up the exploration has been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action plan chalked out to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AOC) on the 25th November, 2004 with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining – National Mining Research Institute (SIM-NMRC) Moscow, Russia for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG).

The AOC envisages cooperation in the following areas:-

- Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
- Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
- Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
- Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot project.

(c) Yes, Sir. Dr. A. A. Kuznestov visited India from October 27-30, 2005.

(d) and (e) The basic data in the format prescribed by SIM-NMRC from the coal fields of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC), Gujarat Industrial Power Corporation Ltd. (GIPCL), Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLCL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) have been sent to SIM, Russia for site selection.

(f) The action plan chalked out to implement the project is as follows:-

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| (i) site selection                               | - 7 months  |
| (ii) geological and hydrogeological              | - 6 months  |
| (iii) permission for use of land                 | - 6 months  |
| (iv) project design and techno economic analysis | - 17 months |
| (v) construction                                 | - 24 months |

Thus the project is envisaged to be implemented in 60 months.

### **Cess on Petrol**

**2290. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected as cess on petrol during each of last two years;

(b) the total amount provided to each State out of this collection during the said period;

(c) whether some States including Gujarat have been deprived of their share; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to provide the share to the States?

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

[Translation]

### **Air Service for Sholapur**

**2291. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to start air service from Sholapur;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also received any representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra to start air service to Sholapur.

(d) Indian Airlines currently does not have any plans to introduce air services to Sholapur due to lack of traffic potential, non-availability of aircrafts capacity and non-operational airfield at Sholapur.

#### Establishment of De-addiction Centres

2292. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received some proposals for the establishment of de-addiction centres from the NGOs working in the field of de-addiction through the Madhya Pradesh Government during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) List is enclosed as Statement.

#### Statement

##### *Establishment of De-addiction centres by Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan*

S. No.	Name of the NGO	Name of the district where the project has been proposed to be set up	Decision taken
1.	Saraswati Sahitya Sangatan, Khargon	Khargon	Rejected as the NGO does not have adequate experience in this field.
2.	Medicare Evam Research Foundation, Bhopal	Bhopal	-do-
3.	Shri Parswanath Bal Mandir Samiti, Indore	Indore	-do-
4.	Red Swastik Society, Bhopal	Bhopal	Rejected as already two centres are functioning in this district. As per guidelines for sanctioning projects, under one scheme only two projects are to be sanctioned in a district. This is to encourage NGOs to work in uncovered and unserved areas.
5.	Gurukul Sanskrit Shikshan Samiti, Seedhi	Seedhi	Rejected as the NGO does not have adequate experience in this field.
6.	Matra Seva Sangh, Chhindwara, M.P.	Chhindwara	The proposal has been received in the month of September 2005.



**52nd National Film Festival Award**

2293. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 52nd National Film Festival Award was held recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the persons awarded the National Film Award?

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

(b) A statement giving the details of the 52nd National Film Award winners is enclosed.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of Award	Name of Film/Award Winner/Book	Details of Award
1	2	3	4
I.	Dada Saheb Phalke Award		
1.	Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Swarna Kamal, Cash prize of Rs. 2,00,000/- and a Shawl to Adoor Gopalakrishnan.
II.	Feature Film Awards		
1.	Best Feature Film	Page 3 (Hindi)	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 50,000/- to the Producer Bobby Pushkarna  Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 50,000/- to the Director: Madhur Bhandarkar
2.	Indira Gandhi Award for the Best First Film of a Director	Grahanam (Telugu)	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000/- to the Producer Kanakadhara Creations  Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000/- to the Director Mohan Krishna Indraganti
3.	Best Popular film providing Wholesome Entertainment	Veer Zara (Hindi) & Auto Graph (Tamil)	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Yashraj Films Pvt. Ltd.  Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Yash Chopra & Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Cheran, Dream Theaters  Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Cheran, Dreams Theatres

1	2	3	4
4.	<b>Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration</b>	<b>Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose - The Forgotten Hero (Hindi)</b>	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Producer Sahara India Media Communication Ltd.</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Director Shyam Benegal</p>
5.	<b>Best Film on Family Welfare</b>	<b>Hasina (Kannada)</b>	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Producer Chiguru Chitra</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Director Girish Kasarvalli</p>
6.	<b>Best Film on other Social issues such as prohibition, women and child welfare, anti-dowry, drug abuse, welfare of the handicapped etc.</b>	<b>Perumazhakkalam (Malayalam)</b>	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Producer Salim Padiyath</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Director Kamal</p>
7.	<b>Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation</b>	<b>Devrai (Marathi)</b>	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Producer Y.N. Oak, President Schizophrenia Awareness Association</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000/- each to the Directors Sumitra Bhawe and Sunil Sukthankar</p>
8.	<b>Best Children's Film</b>	<b>Chhutkan Ki Mahabharat (Hindi)</b>	<p>Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Producer Children's Film Society of India</p> <p>Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 30,000/- to the Director Sankalp Meshram</p>
9.	<b>Best Direction</b>	<b>Buddhdeb Dasgupta (Swapner Din/Benali)</b>	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 50,000/- to the Director Buddhadeb Dasgupta
10.	<b>Best Actor</b>	<b>Saif Ali Khan (Hum Tum/ Hindi)</b>	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Actor Saif Ali Khan
11.	<b>Best Actress</b>	<b>Tara (Hasina/ Kannada)</b>	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Actress Tara

1	2	3	4
12.	Best Supporting Actor	Haradhan Banerjee (Krantikaal/ Bengali)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Supporting Actor Haradhan Banerjee
13.	Best Supporting Actress	N. Sheela Devi (Akale/ Malayalam)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Supporting Actress N. Sheela Devi
14.	Best Child Artist	Om Bhutkar (Chhota Sipahi/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Child Artist Om Bhutkar
15.	Best Male Playback Singer	Udit Narayan (Swades/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Best Playback Singer Udit Narayan Jha
16.	Best Female Playback Singer	Chithra (Autograph/ Tamil)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Female Playback Singer Chithra
17.	Best Cinematography	Mahesh Aney (Swades/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Cameraman Mahesh Aney
18.	Best Screenplay	Manoj Tyagi and Nina Arora (Page 3/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Screenplaywriter Manoj Tyagi & Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Screenplaywriter Nina Arora
19.	Best Audiography	Anup Mukherjee & Alok Dey (ITI Srikanta/ Bengali)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Audiographer Anup Mukherjee
20.	Best Editing	S. Suresh Pai (Page 3/Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Audiographer Alok Dey
21.	Best Art Direction	Samir Chanda (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Editor Suresh Pai Subramanya
22.	Best Costume Designer	Ishrath Nissar & M.N. Swamy (Hasina/ Kannada)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Art Director Samir Chanda
			Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Costume Designer Ishrath Nissar & Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 5,000/- to the Costume Designer M.N. Swamy

1	2	3	4
23.	<b>Best Music Direction</b>	Vidya Sagar- (Swarabhisheka M./ Telugu)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Music Director Vidya Sagar
24.	<b>Best Lyrics</b>	Balakrishnan Vijay (Autograph/ Tamil)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Lyricist Balakrishnan Vijay
25.	<b>Special Jury Award</b>	Dancer (Tamil)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 25,000/- to the J Philip (B.M. Koshy)
26.	<b>Best Special Effects</b>	Sanath (Pelleri Chelleri) (Anji/ Telugu)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Creator Sanath, Firefly Creatives Studio Pvt. Ltd.
27.	<b>Best Choreography</b>	Prabhu Deva (Lakshya/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Choreographer Prabhu Deva
28.	<b>Best Feature Film in Assamese</b>	Dinabandhoo	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Krishna Roy  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Munin Barua
29.	<b>Best Feature Film in Benali</b>	Krantikaal	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Sampa Bhattacharjee  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Sekhar Das
30.	<b>Best Feature Film in Hindi</b>	Raincoat	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Shree Venkatesh Films  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Rituparno Ghosh
31.	<b>Best Feature Film in Kannada</b>	Beru	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Mitrachitra  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director P. Sheshadri
32.	<b>Best Feature Film in Malayalam</b>	Akale	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Tom George Kolath  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Shyamaprasad

1	2	3	4
33.	Best Feature Film in Marathi	Uttarayan	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Opticus Films</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Bipin Nadkarni</p>
34.	Best Feature Film in Punjabi	Des Hoya Pardes	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Manjeet Maan</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Manog Punj</p>
35.	Best Feature Film in Tamil	Navarasa	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Sunil Doshi</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Santosh Sivan</p>
36.	Best Feature Film in Telugu	Swarabhishekam	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer C.K. Rao</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director K.</p>
37.	Best Feature Film in English	Amu	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Shonali Bose</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Shonali Bose</p>
38.	Best Feature Film in Konkani	Aleesha	<p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Rajendra Talak Creations</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Rajendra Talak</p>
39.	Special Mention	Gurdas Maan (Des Hoya Pardes/ Punjabi)	Special Mention to the Actor Gurdas Maan
40.	Special Mention	Pradeep Nair (Oridam/ Malayalam)	Special Mention to the Director Pradeep Nair
<b>Non-Feature Films</b>			
1.	Best Non-Feature Film	Gimi (Marathi)	<p>Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Producer Film and Television Institute of India</p> <p>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni</p>

1	2	3	4
2.	<b>Best First Non-Feature Film of a Director</b>	<b>Ek Sagar Kinaree... A Seaside Story (Marathi/ English)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Gomantar Marathi Academy, ENT Network of Goa</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Laxmikanth Shetgaonkar</b>
3.	<b>Best Anthropological/ Ethnographic Film</b>	<b>The Legend of Fat Mama (English)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to Producer Rafeeq Ellias</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Rafeeq Ellias</b>
4.	<b>Best Biographical/Historical Reconstruction/ Compilation Film</b>	<b>IT's Prabhat (Marathi)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer M/s A.V. Damle</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Dr. Mrs. Madhavi Vaidya, Janardan</b>
5.	<b>Best Scientific Film/ Environment Conservation/ Preservation Film</b>	<b>Timeless Traveller-The Horseshoe Crab (English)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer M/s Riverbank Studio</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Gautam Pandey</b>
6.	<b>Best Film on Social Issues</b>	<b>Dwijaa (Marathi)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer: Film and Television Institute of India</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Pankaj Purandare</b>
7.	<b>Best Exploration/ Adventure Film (to include Sports)</b>	<b>Shores of Silence - Whale Sharks in India (English)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Gautam Pandey</b>  <b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Ranjana Pandey</b>
8.	<b>Best Investigative Film</b>	<b>Harvest of Hunger (English/ Oriya)</b>	<b>Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Action Aid India</b>

1	2	3	4
			Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Rupashree Nanda
9.	Best Animation Film	Raju & I (English/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Aseema Charitable Trust  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Gayatri Rao, Animagic Special, Effects Pvt. Ltd.  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Animator Chetan Sharma, Animagic Special Effects Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Special Jury Award	Amit Dutta (Ksha Tragya/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Amit Dutta, C/o Film and Television Institute of India
11.	Best Short Fiction Film	Cradle Song (Hindi/ English)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Film and Television Institute of India  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Nimisha Pandey
12.	Best Film on Family Welfare	Saanjh (Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Producer Film and Television Institute of India  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Director Jasmine Kaur
13.	Best Direction	Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni (Gimi/ Marathi)	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 20,000/- to the Director Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni
14.	Best Cinematography	Manoj Raymond Lobo (Gimi/ Marathi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Cameraman Manoj Raymond Lobo  Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Laboratory Adlabs
15.	Best Audiography	Vivek (Kshatra Ghya/ Hindi)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Audiographer Vivek)
16.	Best Editor	Prashant Naik (Harvest of Hunger/ English)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Editor Prashant Naik

1	2	3	4
17.	Best Music Direction	Eka Sagar Kinaree... A Seaside Story (Marathi/ English)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Music Director Dhwani, C/o Gomantar Marathi Academy, ENT Network of Goa
18.	Best Narration /Voice Over	Yang Yenthaw (The Legend of Fat Mama/ English)	Rajat Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 10,000/- to the Narrator: Yang Yen-Thaw
IV	But Writing on Cinema		
19.	Best Book on Cinema	Stardust-Vignettes from the Fringes of the Film Industry	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000/- to the Author Ms. Roopa Swaminathan  Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000/- to the Publisher Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd.
20.	Best Film Critic	Namrata Joshi	Swarna Kamal and a Cash Prize of Rs. 15,000/- to the Film Critic Namrata Joshi

#### Railway Proposals from Rajasthan

2294. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Government of Rajasthan regarding introduction, extension and frequency increase of trains along with electrification of railway lines during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the number of the proposals accepted, rejected and lying pending with the Union Government out of them;

(c) the reasons for their rejection; and

(d) the time by which the decision on pending proposals is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A representation from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan regarding introduction of trains, extension of trains and increase in the frequency of trains along with electrification has been received.

Following trains facilities have been provided in Rajasthan during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006:

#### 2004-2005

##### Introduction of new trains:

- 2463/2464 Delhi-Jodhpur Rajasthan Sampark Kranti Express (tri-weekly)
- 5269/5270 Muzaffarpur-Ahmedabad Jan Sadharan Express (weekly)

- 303/304 Bandikui-Bharatpur Passenger

- 305/306 Bandikui-Bharatpur Passenger

##### Extension of trains:

- 199/200 Jaipur-Bikaner Passenger upto Suratgarh.

##### Increase in the frequency:

- 6507/6508 Jodhpur-Bangalore Express from weekly to bi-weekly
- 2957/2958 New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express from 3 days to 6 days in a week.

#### 2005-2006

##### Introduction of new trains:

- 2965/2966 Udaipur-Jaipur Express
- 307/308 - 309/310 Udaipur-Chittaurgarh Passenger (2 pairs)
- 163/164 Ajmer-Rewari Passenger (MG)
- 499/500 Jaipur-Rewari Passenger (MG)
- 2963/2964 Udaipur-Nizamuddin Express
- 1/2 Mathura-Bandikui Passenger via Awar
- 9777/9778 Jaipur-Agra Fort Express



**Extension of trains:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 133/134 Neemuch-Chittaurgarh Passenger upto Udaipur</li> <li>2. 9149/9150 Ahmedabad Dhanbad Express (weekly) upto Asansol</li> <li>3. 8477/8478 Puri-Nizamuddin Express upto Haridwar</li> <li>4. 9775/9778 Jaipur-Bangalore Express (bi-weekly) upto Mysore</li> <li>5. 2983/2984 Jaipur-Bilaspur Express (weekly) upto Puri</li> <li>6. 4059/4060 Jaisalmer/Barmer-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Exp. upto Delhi Jn.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. 303/304 Bandikui-Bharatpur Passenger upto Ajmer</li> <li>8. 355/356 Bareilly-Agra Fort Passenger upto Bandikui</li> <li>9. 294/151 Yamuna Bridge-Bayana-Mathura Passenger upto Sawai Madhopur</li> <li>10. 5609/5610 Guwahti-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Avadh Assam Express upto Bikaner</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

Suggestions for introduction of trains between Jaipur-Bhopal/Jammu Tawi/Bangalore/Pune, Jodhpur-Guwahati, Delhi-Anoopgarh, Ajmer-Kanniyakumari, Jodhpur-Coimbatore, Ajmer-Kota etc., increase the frequency of 6311/6312 Jodhpur-Trivandrum Express (weekly), 2973/2974 Indore-Jaipur Express (bi-weekly) and extension of 6613/6614 Coimbatore-Rajkot Express (weekly) etc. have been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

**Electrification of Railway lines:**

S.No.	Section	Year	Status
1.	Kota-Baran-Chhabra-Bina	2004-2005	The proposal for electrification of Bina-Kota section has been submitted to planning Commission for approval
		2005-2006	
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	2004-2005	Rejected
		2005-2006	
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittaurgarh	2005-2006	Rejected

*[English]***Financial Powers to Panchayats**

2295. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of powers the Government has provided at Panchayat level;

(b) whether any policy decision has been taken not to vest the financial powers at Panchayat level and to keep the same under the control of District Administrator;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to allow the Panchayats to raise their own resources to meet the needs of Panchayats on themselves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Article 243G of the Constitution provides for endowment by State legislatures of powers and authority to Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels to function as institutions of self-government for (i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and (ii) implementing programmes of economic development and social justice in their respective areas, in respect of those matters devolved to them as the State may, by law, specify, including those listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, subject to such conditions as they may specify. As the Constitution provides that it is legislatures of States that will endow the Panchayati Raj Institutions with powers

and authority, States have devolved powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats in varying measure.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Article 243H of the Constitution provides that the legislature of State may, by law, authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees in accordance with such procedure and subject to such limits as may be specified in law. The First Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj and the Union Minister held at Kolkata in July 2004 recommended that State Government might attempt to prepare a road map, which would, inter-alia, include taking steps to encourage PRI to raise their own resources, especially through the provision to "appropriate" revenues raised by them for their own purposes, as enunciated in Article 243-H of the Constitution. A copy of the relevant conclusions of the Kolkata Round Table is enclosed as statement.

Article 243I further provides for the constitution of Finance Commissions by States to make recommendations, inter-alia, as to the principles which should govern the distribution between the State and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, which may be divided between them under this Part and the allocation between the Panchayats at all levels of their respective shares of such proceeds; the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the Panchayats; the grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State; the measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats; and any other matter referred to the Finance Commission by the Governor in the interests of sound finance of the Panchayats.

#### **Statement**

##### **Effective Devolution of Finances:**

- I) The "sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 243-1. In pursuance of this Constitutional obligation, the States and the Centre, in a true spirit of fiscal federalism, should work together to strengthen the finances of the elected local bodies;
- II) To this end, the devolution of finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System should be patterned on activity mapping for the devolution of

functions and functionaries, thus securing effective devolution of powers to the PRIs through the linking of the devolution of finances to the devolution of functions and functionaries;

III) On the basis of the principles adumbrated above, the State Governments might attempt to prepare a road map, to be made effective as soon as possible, and, in any case, by the end of the next fiscal year 2005-06, which might include the following components:

- (i) Devolution, tier-wise and based on activity mapping of:
  - (a) Planning;
  - (b) Budgeting;
  - (c) Provisioning of finances.
- (ii) Inclusion of a PRI component in the budget of each State/Central Government department based on activity mapping;
- (iii) Provision of progressively larger untied funds, tier-wise, to the Panchayats by State/Central governments;
- (iv) Provision of untied grants from the Planning Commission to the PRIs, tier-wise, based on activity mapping;
- (v) Tier-wise allocations, based on activity mapping of the PRIs, of hitherto unallocated grants, if any, made by previous Finance Commissions, and a pre-determined pattern for the tier-wise allocation within a time bound framework of grants from the 12th and future Finance Commissions;
- (vi) A schedule, to be determined by each State Government/UT Administration, of the time-frames within which State Finance Commissions should prepare their reports; for the submission of State Finance Commission recommendations, along with Action Taken Reports (ATRs), to the Legislature; and for the executive to act on recommendations/ATRs endorsed by the State Legislature;
- (vii) Steps to encourage PRIs to raise their own resources, especially through the provision to "appropriate" revenues raised by them for their own purposes (Article 243-H).

### Reduction in Train Fare

2296. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

- (a) whether the Railways are earning huge profits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have reduced/propose to reduce the fares of all classes of passengers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways for providing efficient services to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Operating Ratio, which is the ratio of working expenses to traffic revenues and the efficiency indicator of the Railways, stood at 91.0% in 2004-05 and for 2005-06 is budgeted at 90.8%.

(c) and (d) Only the second class fares for ordinary passenger trains (including suburban) and mail express trains were reduced by Re.1 from 12.8.2005.

(e) In order to provide efficient services to passengers, railways have taken a number of steps which include, generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains, introduction of computerized Unreserved Ticketing system, starting of reservation on Internet and through mobile phone, introduction of scheme of e-ticketing, opening of more and more computerized Passenger Reservation Systems etc.

### Conversion of MG Lines into B.G. Lines

2297. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of Meter Gauge (MG) railway lines in Karnataka as on October, 2005;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to convert these MG lines into BG;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which these MG lines are likely to be converted into BG lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The data on Railway network is maintained as on 31st March of each year. As such, the total length of Metre Gauge railway line (route kilo metres) in Karnataka as on 31.3.2005 (latest available) is 408 kilometres.

(b) to (d) The gauge conversion of metre gauge lines, as existing on 31.03.2005, taken up in Karnataka with their date of completion, wherever fixed, is indicated as under:

Section	Date of completion wherever fixed
Bellary-Hagari	2005-06
Mysore-Chamarajanagar	-
Shimoga-Talguppa	-
Bijapur-Gadag	Bijapur-Basavanabagewadi completed.
	Basavanabagewadi - Bagalkot during 2005-06.
Sakleshpur-Subramania Road	Recently completed.

[Translation]

### Re-examination of Accounts Books of Oil PSUs

2298. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken a decision to get re-examined the accounts books of Public Sector Oil Companies by Statutory Auditors;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any irregularities have been detected; and
- (d) if so, the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### DD Relay Centres

**2299. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new relay centres of Doordarshan in Chhattisgarh State in the near future;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof; and

(c) the time which these centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) A High Power Transmitter is envisaged to be set up in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh in replacement of existing Low Power Transmitter, the completion of which would take about three years.

[English]

### Drug Addiction among Women

**2300. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether report released by United Nations Organisation of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has revealed that 90 per cent of drug users across nine cities in India are women as reported in the 'Times of India' dated September 18, 2005;

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

(c) the names of such cities where there are large number of women among drug users;

(d) whether the Government has found out the factors behind it;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check growing menace of drug addiction among women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) The National Survey on the Extent, Pattern and Trends of Drug Abuse in India indicates the prevalence of drug abuse among 371 women out of the sample size of 4848 persons which is only 8%. The Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse is being implemented through 350 NGOs for running 377 De-addiction Centres and 52 Counselling Centres all over the country for providing facilities like treatment, rehabilitation services and conducting awareness programmes for victims of substance addiction.

### Agreement with USA and Qatar

**2301. SHRI GANESH SINGH:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approached USA to allow Air India to pick up passengers from London en-route to USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government also proposes to have any first set of landing right agreements with the Government of Qatar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the details of additional frequencies and additional passenger capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the Air Services Agreement signed between India and USA on 14th April, 2005, the designated airlines of both sides could utilize unlimited traffic rights from all intermediate and to all beyond points. Air India is operating on London/New York and London/Chicago route by operating 7 and 3 services/week respectively by utilizing traffic rights in London.

(c) and (d) As per the existing Air Services Agreement between India and Qatar, two new routes viz. Delhi and Nagpur have been granted to the designated airlines of Qatar. Also, an additional capacity of 2500 seats/week has been agreed to for the designated airlines of both sides.

### Reorganisation of Railway Zones

**2302. SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to reorganize the existing railway zones;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Divisions which are proposed to be kept under each Zone on reorganization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to reorganize the railway zones.

**Implementation of NREGS by  
Panchayat Raj Institutions**

2303. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently written to all the State Governments to gear up the Panchayat Raj institutions for implementing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared for implementing the scheme; and

(d) if so, the funds provided/proposed to be provided to the State Governments to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7-9-2005. Under the Act, Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes are to be formulated by the State Governments while the Panchayati Raj Institutions are to be the "principal authorities" for planning and implementation. The Ministry of Rural Development has addressed all the State Governments on 17-11-2005 regarding undertaking several activities relating to the implementation of the Act, including detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Panchayats in planning and implementation and to initiate preparatory activities that includes the sensitization of Panchayati Raj Institutions about the provisions of the Act and their roles and responsibilities under the Act. It has been stated that this would be a large scale exercise on a recurrent basis and a training calendar should be drawn up immediately by

States. Activities to be completed by the State Govts. before the notification of NREGA in their States has also been annexed to the letter.

The Act is likely to be implemented in 200 districts of the country in the first phase of its implementation. The estimated expenditure for the first phase of implementation of the Act is of the order of Rs.17,103 crores.

**Bridge on East-West Corridor**

2304. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the Government of Assam and also the public representatives for construction of a road-cum-rail bridge over Brahmaputra river near Saraighat connecting the East-west corridor;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Request has been received from Hon'ble M.P. of the region for rail-cum-road bridge at Saraighat.

(c) Railway has been advised to conduct a survey to assess the need for second bridge i.e. doubling in the section.

[Translation]

**Regulatory Body for Petroleum,  
Transport and Mines Sector**

2305. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a regulatory body to regulate the legal framework with regard to the Petroleum, Transport and Mines sectors; and

(b) If so, the time by which the regulatory body is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Government are proposing to set up a Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board

(PNGRB) under a Statute to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas, to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The draft PNGRB Bill is under the consideration of the Government. The Transport and Mines sector are not covered in the draft PNGRB Bill.

### **Special Grants for Railway Projects**

2306. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has demanded special grants to accelerate the pace of completion of some important projects;

(b) If so, the details of those projects; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Due to the large number of projects on hand with the Railways, the budgetary support received this year is considered inadequate. Ministry of Railways has approached Ministry of Finance for additional budgetary support to accelerate the pace of completion of a number of these projects, which include projects targeted for completion as announced in the Budget. It has also sought funds for projects identified as 'National Projects' which are to be funded outside the Railway plan.

(c) Supplementary Grant, 2005-06 obtained in August, 2005 includes Rs. 300 cr. under Capital for Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla National Project.

[English]

### **Withdrawal of Train Service**

2307. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the withdrawal of train service between Andal-Palasthali of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is committed to provide train service even in remote areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider to re-start the said train service; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Pandabeswar-Palasthali section is 30 Kms. long branch line section of Asansol Division. Two pairs of trains used to run on this section. Due to large scale illegal mining in the areas under the track, the portion of the track has been declared unsafe and running of passengers' carrying train has since been suspended from 26.09.2002 for safety of passengers. This issue has been taken up with State Government and ECL (Eastern Coalfield Ltd.) official for appropriate action at their end for restoration of train services but no concrete action has yet been taken at their end. In this situation it may not be safe to restore passenger services on the section for safety of passengers.

### **PNG Facilities**

2308. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations/requests from various Resident Welfare Associations of Delhi/New Delhi for providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) facilities in their areas;

(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) to (c) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), is providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) facilities in Delhi/New Delhi. IGL have been receiving representations/requests from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) of Delhi/New Delhi such as Chittaranjan Park, Vasant Vihar, Preet Vihar, Anand Vihar, AGCR Enclave, Vivekanand Puri, Greater Kailash-II, Munirka, Ghazipur, Kalkaji, Anand Lok,

Uday Park, Pandav Nagar, etc. for providing PNG connection, based on techno economic feasibility, IGL will take up expansion of PNG network to these areas in phased manner.

#### **Hutments around Mumbai Airport**

2309. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that loads of garbage generated from over 65,000 hutments around the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at Mumbai is causing various problems for operation of flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide safety to Airport and its runways?

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

(b) Garbage in the vicinity of airport attract birds and pose threat to aviation safety. It also promotes proliferation of dogs around airport increasing possibility of their entry into operational area.

(c) Various measures have been taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to reduce bird activity at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at Mumbai. AAI also coordinates with Bombay Municipal Corporation for removal of dogs from airport. AAI has rehabilitated about 1900 hutment-dwellers from Rafique Nagar of Jari Mari area.

#### **Fake Travel Agents**

2310. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of several fake airlines travel agents operating in the country;

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

(c) whether such unauthorised travel agents continue to fleece gullible youths on the pretext of sending them abroad by using illegal means;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There are over 2000 accredited International Air Transport Association (IATA) agents and several thousand agents who are non IATA but conduct business by ticketing through IATA agents. No data is maintained by the Government about such travel agents.

(c) to (e) Specific cases of cheating, if any are to be dealt by the local police authorities. However, Immigration Authorities and Airlines step up vigilance at the airports to thoroughly check the travel documents.

#### **Air Services to U.K.**

2311. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Airways is going to enhance its services to India substantially in near future;

(b) if so, whether the Air India (AI) would also enhance its operations to United Kingdom;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of flights out of these are proposed to be operated from Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last round of bilateral air services talks with UK held in April, 2005, the capacity entitlement for the designated airlines of both sides have been increased substantially. However, the actual operations by an airline is based on its commercial judgement. Recently, British Airways have increased their services to India from 19 Services/week to 35 Services/week, which includes 7 services to Mumbai, 4 services to Chennai and 5 services to Bangalore.

(b) and (c) At present, Air India is operating 24 services/week to the United Kingdom and is planning to add 8 frequencies/week more on India-UK route.

(d) Air India has recently commenced operations on the Kolkata/London Sector by operating 3 services/week effective 15th June, 2005.

**Permission to Private Airlines for  
Purchase of Aircraft**

2312. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is encouraging the existing private domestic airlines to purchase aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of the permissions granted to the existing private domestic airlines for purchase of aircraft during the last one year, airlines-wise; and

(c) the details of pending applications for clearance for new schedule airlines and the reasons for delay in granting NoCs to new players in the aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last one year approval has been granted to the following private airlines for purchase of aircraft:

S.No.	Airlines	No. of Aircraft.
1	M/s Jet Airways	10
2	M/s Air Sahara	12
3	M/s Deccan Airlines	11
4	M/s Kingfisher Airlines	09
5	M/s Spice Jet	05
6.	M/s Paramount Airways	01
7.	M/s Go Airlines	03

(c) Requests from M/s Magic Airlines, M/s Mukti Airways, M/s Skyking Aviation and M/s Mega Airways are pending for issue of NOC to operate Scheduled Air Transport Services. These requests are pending for want of Security clearnace and decision on Status of investment by PIO in FDI.

**Cancellation/Diversion of Trains**

2313. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains cancelled/diverted due to recent heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coastal areas;

(b) whether the Government proposes to run special trains to clear the rush due to cancellation of such trains;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the period October-November 2005, 1740 trains have been cancelled and 335 trains have been diverted due to heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational problems.

**Benefit to Heart Patients**

2314. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Government to give benefits, available to handicapped persons, to heart patients also in the matter of Government jobs; and

(b) If so, the steps taken to treat heart patients at par with physically handicapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The matter is sub-judice as the Airports Authority of India, who are respondent in the case, have filed an application before a Division of Bench of the Delhi High Court against the order of the single judge.

*[Translation]*

**DTH Licence**

2315. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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



(a) the number of companies having Direct to Home (DTH) licence at present;

(b) whether some companies have applied for DTH licence;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these companies are likely to be given licences?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Government has issued license to one company, M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd., only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following companies have applied for DTH license so far—

(i) M/s Noida Software Technology Park Ltd.

(ii) M/s Sun Direct TV Pvt. Ltd.

(iii) M/s Space TV Pvt. Ltd.

(iv) M/s Reliance Blue Magic Pvt. Ltd.; and

(v) M/s Essel Shyam Communications Ltd.

(d) The issue of licenses under the guidelines of DTH service is an ongoing process. Licenses are issued to all such applicants who fulfil the criteria given in the guidelines for DTH service. As such no time frame can be given.

*[English]*

#### **Adulteration in Petrol and Diesel**

2316. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that adulteration in petrol and diesel is a big scam that involves an annual recurring loss of at least Rs 10,000 crores to the exchequer;

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the 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) and (b) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

While, as per a recent study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research to assess the genuine demand and requirement of kerosene, siphoning off of kerosene from PDS to non-household use is estimated as 18.1 per cent of total sale of PDS kerosene, no estimation of loss to the exchequer on account of adulteration in petrol and diesel is available.

(c) The Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken the following steps to contain the menace of adulteration:-

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/surprise checks to ensure that adulteration-related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and

operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

- (iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.
- (v) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- (vi) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.
- (vii) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.
- (viii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and desirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

#### **Direct Flights from Bhubaneswar to South East Asian Countries**

2317. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to convert the Bhubaneswar airport into an international airport and also introduce direct flights from Bhubaneswar to South East Asian countries;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The State Government of Orissa has requested to declare Bhubaneswar airport as an International airport. Further, under the policy initiative to liberalise air services with ASEAN countries, their designated airlines have been offered unlimited access to 18 tourist destinations in the country including Bhubaneswar. However, there is no request from any national or foreign airline to introduce direct international flights from Bhubaneswar airport at present. Therefore, there is no proposal to declare Bhubaneswar airport as an International airport, at present.

[Translation]

#### **Selling of Crude Oil to Refineries**

2318. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether ONGC sells extracted crude oil to the refineries;

(b) If so, the quantum and price of crude oil sold during each of the last three years;

(c) the rate at which refineries sell the oil after making it refined; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the difference between consumer price and the refinery price of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The quantity of crude oil sold by ONGC to the refineries, and the average price realized, during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity sold* (in MMT)	Average Price** (Rs./MT)
2002-03	22.36	10382.86
2003-04	22.26	9347.82
2004-05	22.46	13309.12

\* Does not include ONGC's share in JV quantities

\*\* Prices are inclusive of levies. Average price from 2003-04 onwards is net of discount on account of subsidy. The prices are of ONGC crude only excluding ONGC' share in JVs.

(c) and (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) pay to refineries, on an import parity basis, the prices of sensitive petroleum products, namely, petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene, taking into account the prevalent international prices of these products. With effect from April 2005, the refineries have been providing discounts to OMCs on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene and from September 2005, on petrol and diesel also. It may also be noted that nearly a quarter of India's LPG requirements are met by imports. Yet, notwithstanding the steep rise in international prices of sensitive petroleum products, OMCs have been modulating the price increase in petrol & diesel besides maintaining the prices of subsidized products like domestic LPG & PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government.

In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy for petroleum products, the Government have constituted an inter-ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

The Committee is mandated to look into various aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices, keeping in view the financial position of the oil companies, the investment needed in the sector, the need to conserve petroleum products, and establishing a transparent mechanism for the autonomous adjustment of prices by the oil companies. Taking into consideration the interests of all stakeholders concerned, the Committee will suggest a comprehensive mechanism for pricing and taxation of sensitive petroleum products, and other allied issues.

[English]

#### TV Serials

2319. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that quality of TV serials are not entertaining and lack quality in respect of poor scripts, direction and other technical parameters and programming contents;

(b) If so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of TV serials?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There are more than 200 TV Channels available over the Indian skies. In respect of private TV channels the Government does not have a role to play in their programming content, except for insisting on adherence to the Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned it constantly endeavours to telecast serials that are of a high professional standard both in terms of technical parameters as well as content and which provide wholesome entertainment to its viewers.

[Translation]

#### Attack at Mau Station

2320. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a passenger train was targeted by an unruly mob at the Mau railway station of Uttar Pradesh on October 14, 2005;

(b) If so, the details of the incident;

(c) the number of passengers injured and the details of the loss of lives and properties in the incident; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 14-10-2005, at about 17.00 hrs., an unruly mob of around 1000 persons attempted to enter the platform of Mau Railway Station shouting slogans and pelting stones from Old Loco Shed end in the West. This caused panic amongst the passengers who began to run about. At the time of the incident, Train No.533 Up reached Mau Station at 1705 hrs. and was taken on Line No.2 for security reasons. On seeing the mob, Government Railway Police (GRP), Civil Police, Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) present at the station tried to stop them. The unruly mob opened fire repeatedly. Police personnel also opened fire in the air to disperse the mob. But the mob forcibly entered the station premises

and reached platform No.4 and No.2. However, the Police and RPF personnel, by making another attempt, controlled the situation and cleared the station of the rowdy mob before it could reach and cause any harm to the passengers of the train. The mob had damaged Railway Platform Roof, Stalls and West Panel by pelting stones.

(c) During this incident, two persons sustained injuries and one of them (aged 70 years) died at the Hospital. The total loss suffered by Railway was estimated at Rs.64,058/- approximately.

(d) In this connection Government Railway Police (GRP)/ Mau registered a case on crime No.35/05 under section 147, 148, 149, 323, 302, 307, 427 & 435 of Indian Penal Code, 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act, 3/4 Public Property (Prevention of Destruction) Act and sections 151 & 152 of the Railways Act, 1989 against unruly mob of 1000 persons. During investigation, 40 persons were identified for involvement in the incident out of which 34 persons have been arrested and sent to judicial custody. 6 persons are absconding.

*[English]*

**National Advisory Council for  
Rail Freight Corridor**

2321. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a National Advisory Council for the dedicated rail freight corridor;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Dilapidated Condition of  
Railway Workshop**

2322. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dilapidated condition of Railway workshop situated in Nizamuddin as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated September 18, 2005;

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

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

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken so far by the Government for repairing the workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There is no Railway Workshop situated in Nizamuddin area of Delhi. However, a coaching maintenance depot is available at Nizamuddin. Repair & maintenance of assets such as office buildings, pit lines and sick line shed is a continuous process. Some of the assets of coaching depot at Nizamuddin like pillars and catwalk stabs are presently broken and need repairs. A few representations to this effect have also been received. Approximately 350 metres of catwalk length has already been repaired. Repairs to the remaining 400 metres catwalk is targeted for completion by 31.03.2006.

*[Translation]*

**Defence Cooperation with Russia**

2323. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been held between India and Russia for co-operation in Defence sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) 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 five meetings so far. The Fifth meeting was held in Russia on November 15-16, 2005. Raksha Mantri Co-Chaired the meeting. During the meeting both sides reviewed progress of the on-going bilateral defence cooperation and discussed various issues of mutual interest in the areas of defence and security. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the on-going level of defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

[English]

#### Opening of Retail Outlets/Dealerships

2324. SHRI A. SAI PRATAP:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have allotted any retail outlets/dealerships of petrol pumps, LPG or Kerosene during 2004-05;

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

(c) the details of the new petrol pumps/gas agencies/kerosene dealerships proposed to be opened in each State during the current year; and

(d) the time by which these outlets are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) yes, sir. During the year 2004-05, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), have allotted 4,993 retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps), 484 LPG distributorships and 16 SKO-LDO (Kerosene) dealerships in different States/Union Territories in the country. OMC-wise position is as under:-

OMC	Number of allotments made during 2004-05		
	RO	LPG	SKO-LDO
IOCL	1,905	328	10
HPCL	1,367	30	5
BPCL	1,218	119	1
IBP	503	7	0
Total	4,993	484	16

State-wise details of above allotments are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

(c) and (d) During the current year, i.e., 2005-06, OMCs tentatively plan to set up around 3,460 retail outlets, 907 LPG distributorships and 19 SKO-LDO dealerships in the country. State-wise details of the proposals are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned. However, it is not possible to indicate the time-frame for the commissioning of dealerships/distributorships as the exercise involves various steps like scrutiny of applications and documents, conduct of interviews of the eligible candidates for selection of dealers/distributors, release of merit panels, field investigation in respect of selected candidates, obtaining land/statutory approvals/licences, construction, etc.

[Translation]

#### Train Accident at Jhansi

2325. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an accident due to collision of Andhra Express and shunting engine had occurred at Jhansi Railway Station on September 9, 2005;

(b) If so, the details of the accident and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of loss of lives and properties suffered therein and compensation given to the victims and their family;

(d) whether any high level inquiry into the above accident has been conducted;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the outcome of the inquiry and follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At about 2355 hours on 8.11.2005, coupled Light Engine side collided with four coaches of 2724 Up A.P. Express at Jhansi Railway station resulting in derailment of front trolley of Light Engine.

(c) No person suffered injury in this accident and, therefore, compensation is not payable in this case. The loss of property due to this accident was approximately Rs.2.22 lakhs.

(d) to (f) A Committee of Officers conducting inquiry into this accident has concluded that coupled light engine passed the shunt signal in 'ON' position resulting into this accident. Staff held responsible has been placed under suspension and action under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules has been initiated.

[English]

#### Internet Booking of Railway Reservation

2326. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started E-ticketing i.e. reservation booking through internet;

(b) if so, whether the said facility is applicable for all trains;

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government for extension of said facility in all trains;

(d) whether the foreign tourists and NRIs are also eligible to avail the said facility;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the reservation booking through internet has gained the estimated momentum;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government for easy availability of reservation through internet with lesser charges and for popularisation of the scheme?

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

(b) Reservation of tickets through Internet is available for all such trains which are covered through computerized reservation.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. At present, any customer can book tickets through the Internet, provided he can make payment online.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The sale of ticket through Internet has shown increasing trend since its beginning in August 2002, as shown under:

Financial Year	No. of Tickets sold
Aug 20 to Mar 03	1,99,133
2003-04	7,28,404
2004-05	12,81,033
Apr 05 to Nov 05	12,89,328

(h) To popularize the booking through Internet, the delivery of tickets has been extended to 181 cities. Payment options have been liberalized by introducing the facility of direct Debit through internet and Prepaid Cash Cards in addition to Credit Cards. The booking hours have been extended from 4.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. on all week days and from 4.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on Sundays. In addition, facility of booking through mobile phones has been introduced alongwith booking of tickets through e-ticketing where conventional ticket is dispensed with.

[Translation]

#### Construction of ROB on NH-3 Agra-Mumbai Highway

2327. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge on railway crossing of NH-3 (Agra-Mumbai Highway) near Maksi Railway Station under Western Railway Zone, Ratlam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Railways have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The proposal is regarding construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing level crossing no.51/A at kms. 94/25-27 between Tarana Road & Makshi station on Western Railway. The traffic density at this level crossing is 7,01,444 Train Vehicle Units (TVUs). The State Government had proposed for construction of ROB in lieu of this level crossing on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) concept in 2001. General Arrangement Drawing was also approved by Railway in October 2001. Thereafter, no further details were provided by State Government.

However, recently a proposal has been received from State Govt. regarding construction of ROB at above level crossing on cost sharing basis. The feasibility, estimated cost of work submitted by State Government is being examined by Railway.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Embezzlement of Funds by NGO

2328. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of embezzlement of funds by NGOs running special schools for disabled students in the State of Andhra Pradesh have recently come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government has instituted an inquiry to unearth the fraud;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the immediate action initiated against the alleged NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Uniform Rate

2329. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to fix uniform rate to be charged from customers by the cable operators in metros and rural areas to safeguard the interest of T.V. viewers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) After 9.1.2004, the charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators, and, in turn, by cable operators to multi system operators/broadcasters are regulated by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and not by the Government. TRAI has frozen the different rates that were prevalent in different parts of India, as on 26.12.2003 and has only allowed periodic escalations based upon a number of factors including inflation. Cable operators are required to comply with the Tariff Orders issued by TRAI, from time to time, which are available on its website [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in).

#### Investments in Civil Aviation Sector

2330. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the investments made in the civil aviation sector during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds, required for execution of approved development plans and the resources mobilised so far;

(d) the details of packages of incentives finalised/ under consideration to attract the required private/foreign direct investment in this sector; and

(e) the details of major projects proposed to be taken/completed during the next plan period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the funds utilized by various organisations under the Ministry of Civil Aviation for various schemes is as under:

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Investment made (Rs. in crores)
1	Air India Ltd.	1580.71
2	Indian Airlines Ltd.	889.41
3	Airports Authority of India	1618.37
4	Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.	133.53
5	Hotel Corporation of India	10.27
6	Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi	4.48
7	Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) (Including Aero Club of India)	10.46
8	Bureau of Civil Aviation Security	8.39
Total		4255.62

(d) The Government has taken the following steps in this direction:

- (i) Foreign Direct Investment limits for air transport services (domestic airlines) have been raised to 49%. The policy also permits 100% NRI investment. However, equity participation by foreign airlines is not permitted, either directly or indirectly.
- (ii) In the airport infrastructure sector, FDI upto 74% is permitted through automatic route.
- (iii) The sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to the Indian carriers for their international operations is now treated as deemed exports thereby exempting such sale from levy of Sales Tax.

(iv) The ATF sold to turbo prop aircraft is treated as declared goods under the Central Sales Tax Act thereby capping the sales tax thereon @ 4%.

(v) AAI have waived off the landing charges on aircraft below 80-seat capacity being operated by domestic scheduled operators and helicopters. The navigation and communication charges have also been rationalized.

(e) Air India has proposed a total outlay of Rs. 486.70 crores during the next Annual Plan period 2006-07 which includes an outlay of Rs. 113.14 crores for repayment of aircraft loans, a token provision for new aircraft of Rs. 123.56 crores and Rs. 250.00 crores for non-aircraft projects. Indian Airlines has proposed an outlay of Rs. 706.00 crores for 2006-07 which includes Rs. 652.48 crores for continuing aircraft projects, 32.65 crores for continuing other projects and Rs. 20.87 crores for new schemes/ projects namely corporate computerization, ground support facilities etc. Airports Authority of India has proposed an outlay of Rs.1565.19 crores for 2006-07, which includes Rs. 865.73 crores for non-metro airports viz. aerodrome works, aeronautical communication services, information technology and ground safety services and Rs.699.46 for Metro airports viz. improvement of existing facilities, new projects, acquisition and development of land and operational and office equipment. DGCA has proposed a total outlay of Rs. 29.00 crores for 2006-07, which includes Rs. 25.60 crores for major construction work of offices & residential complexes and setting up of new flying training Academy at Gondia, Maharashtra.

#### Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions

2331. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had organized conferences/seminars of States Panchayati Raj Ministers in order to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;



(b) if so, the conclusions reached in these conferences/seminars;

(c) whether the recommendations made in these conferences/seminars for funding panchayats are under the consideration of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) To provide an impetus to the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in letter and spirit, by States, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Tables of State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points for action, which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. Inter-alia, the joint programme of action seeks to ensure that, on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government.

(c) to (e) Devolution of finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System patterned on Activity Mapping for the devolution of functions and functionaries is one of the resolutions of the First Round Table of State Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj held at Kolkata on 24-25th July, 2004. In order to achieve this, the State Governments had been exhorted to prepare a road map including a number of components such as inclusion of a Panchayat component in the budget of each State/Central Government Departments; provision of untied grants to the PRIs and tier-wise allocations from the Twelfth and future Finance Commissions. The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of Rs. 20,000 crore as grants in aid to augment the consolidated fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats. These grants are mandated to be released in two equal instalments in July and January every year.

[Translation]

### Attracticide Test

2332. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (D.R.D.O.) has conducted a test on the insecticide compound named Attracticide to eradicate the mosquitoes spreading dengue;

(b) if so, whether this test has been successful;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme formulated for the development of insecticide compound; and

(d) the time by which the said insecticide compound is likely to come for public use?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Trials on attracticide to eradicate the mosquitoes spreading dengue are in progress.

(b) and (c) The trials have started since September 2005 and will be continued till February 2006.

(d) The public use will depend on the outcome of trials.

### On-going Projects/Surveys

2333. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of ongoing projects/surveys for laying new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the time schedule for completing each project/survey;

(c) the amount allocated for each of the projects and the amount utilised so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects/surveys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) (i) The details of the on-going new rail line projects falling partly/fully in Uttar Pradesh, the progress made so far, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2005, outlay provided during 2005-06 and target dates wherever fixed are given as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of new line project	Expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2005	Budget outlay during 2005-06	Overall physical progress and target wherever fixed
1.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	39.04	8.00	28%.
2.	Etawah-Mainpuri	24.68	10.00	22%.
3.	Guna-Etawah	356.95	25.00	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior-Bhind sections have already been completed and commissioned. On last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah 93% of the work has been completed.
4.	Hathua-Deoria Sadar	0	4.00	New work included in the Budget 2005-06.
5	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba-Khajuraho	51.00	25.00	37%.

(ii) The details of ongoing surveys falling partly/fully in Uttar Pradesh for laying new rail lines are given as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Km.	Status/Target date wherever fixed.
1.	Aligarh-Chhata	65	Survey sanctioned in 2005-06.
2.	Barhaj Bazar to Faizabad via Dohrighat	190	Included in the Budget 2005-06.
3.	Padrauna-Kushinagar	28	Field survey work completed.
4.	Amethi to Sahaganj via Sultanpur/Qadipur	110	Included in the Budget 2005-06.
5.	Rewa-Mirzapur	175	Included in the Budget 2005-06.

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.

[English]

**Deployment of Police Force/Escort parties in trains**

2334. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for the deployment of police force in escort parties in passenger, mail and express trains:

(b) the number of trains having no police force/ escort parties to ensure safety to the passengers in each Zonal Railways; and

(c) the corrective measures taken for the deployment of police force/escort parties in such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The criteria adopted for deployment of escorting each Mail/Express train is 1 Assistant Sub-Inspector + 3 Head Constables/Constables in an escorting party. Passenger trains generally are not escorted.

(b) 2159 passenger/mail/express trains have no police force/escort parties.

(c) This exercise would require additional manpower. Further deployment would be made after Railway Board takes a decision on increased manpower.

**New Rail line at Vallarpadam International Container Terminal**

2335. SHRI P.C.THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for laying a new rail line to the proposed Vallarpadam International Container Terminal at Kochi has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The study conducted by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for new line from Idapally to Valarpadam (8.5 Km) has revealed that the cost of construction of the line would be about Rs.102 crore. The line will be financially unviable and non-bankable. However, the project can be executed entirely by private participation if the line is considered a necessary infrastructure by Cochin Port Trust Authority for which they have been advised.

[Translation]

**Mobile Charging Facility in Trains**

2336. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2605 dated December 16, 2004 regarding mobile recharging facilities in trains and state:

(a) whether the Government has made any progress in regard to provision of charging facility for mobile phones and laptop in trains;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far along with the names of trains selected for provision of such facility;

(c) the expenditure incurred/to be incurred on provision of such facility;

(d) the time by which such facility is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in introduction of such facility?

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

(b) About 450 Air conditioned (AC) coaches have already been provided with such facility. These coaches are attached in Rajdhani, Shatabadi & Mail/Express trains.

(c) Expenditure of approximately Rs. 90 lakh has been incurred. The total expenditure would be about Rs. 13.42 crore for fleet of 14466 coaches.

(d) Integral Coach Factory (ICF) & Rail Coach Factory (RCF) have already put in this facility in new AC coaches. Railways have planned to provide this facility in all Air conditioned coaches in a phased manner and this facility is also planned to be provided in 3 tier sleeper coaches (non AC).

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Use of Defence Airfields**

2337. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Defence airfields are being used for civil flights;

(b) If so, the reasons for allowing the use of defence airfields for civil flights; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the use of these airfields for civil flights?

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

(b) Use of defence airfields are permitted by the Government on the specific requests of the civilian airlines keeping in view non-availability of the civil airfields.

(c) There is no proposal to stop the use of these defence airfields for civilian use.

[Translation]

**AIR Centres**

2338. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up All India Radio (AIR) centres particularly in the tribal districts;

(b) if so, whether any surveys have been conducted or proposed to be conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. While planning setting up of radio stations, A.I.R. is motivated by (i) coverage analysis (including feed-back reports); (ii) population density; (iii) people's representation; and (iv) availability of resources. During the Tenth Five Year Plan period, three radio stations viz. (i) Himatnagar (Gujarat), (ii) Saraipalli (Chhattisgarh), and (iii) Mandla (Madhya Pradesh), have been commissioned in tribal areas. Two more radio stations in the tribal districts of Soro (Orissa) and Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu) are technically ready; but have not been commissioned due to non-sanction of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff. One radio station in the tribal district of Churachandpur in Manipur is also technically ready, but could not be commissioned as a decision about link language is yet to be taken by the State Government.

Besides, another forty-one Radio Stations spread-over in the tribal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been proposed during the 10th Plan.

#### **Introduction of Chartered Trains**

2339. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to

introduce chartered trains as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated August 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the routes on which these chartered trains are to be introduced; and

(d) the time by which these trains are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The running of the chartered trains on the Hill Sections of the Indian Railways are already in vogue. These trains are available in the Kalka-Shimla Railway, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and Matheran Light Railway on fixed charges.

*[English]*

#### **Growth In Air Traffic**

2340. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expected growth in air traffic both domestic and international at metro airports following permission granted to foreign airlines to operate from India;

(b) whether airports have adequate landing systems and other facilities to handle the growth in air traffic;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the arrangements in place at different airports in the country to handle landing and take off operations during the foggy conditions;

(e) whether the Government has taken adequate and appropriate steps to ensure that pilots operating domestic and foreign airlines are fully trained for using landing systems at the airports especially during foggy conditions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Currently the rate of growth in air traffic is about 23% for domestic sector and about 18% for international sector. A long term growth of 5% has been projected in both domestic and international sector.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has provided state-of-the-art Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) at most of the operational airports. Besides, at Delhi airport, Cat-III A ILS has been provided to operate flights in foggy conditions with a visibility range upto 200 meters. Its up gradation to Cat-IIIB is underway so as to facilitate operation of flights in a visibility range upto 100 meters. Action is in hand for provision of additional taxiways, rapid exit taxiways and parking stands at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai International airports.

(d) Various arrangements provided at Delhi airport to handle landing/take off of operations inter-alia, include supply of additional foodstuff, mineral water, tea, coffee and beverages, forecasting of Meteorological Information regularly at an interval of six hours, provision of special counters to disseminate flight information, provision of additional chairs in all the terminals, prompt display of flight delays, positioning of additional personal for toilet cleaning, deployment of additional man power to look after congestion and Customs Immigration, X-ray machines and security. Besides, Airport Directors of Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar and Vadodara have been advised to gear up existing facilities like parking bays, safety services and increased watch hours for air traffic services to handle diverted air traffic from Delhi airport.

(e) and (f) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prescribed qualification/experience and training for pilots operating domestic airlines to undergo training for Cat-II/III operations. Only DGCA approved pilots are authorised to use ILS during fog. Various airlines are coordinated from time to time for expeditious training of their pilots for use of Cat-II/III ILS. Number of pilots as on 5-12-2005 trained for Cat-III A & B operations are as under:

Air India - 24, 06 for A-310 and 16,15 for B-747;

Indian Airlines - 48, 39 for A-320 only. Jet. Airways & Sahara Airlines have trained 153 and 10 pilots respectively for Cat-II operations only.

#### **Incidents of Fire**

2341. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the public sector oil companies to take necessary steps to reduce

the incident of fire in storage and distribution of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of fire in storage and distribution of petroleum products happened in each oil company during the last three years;

(c) the losses suffered by each companies as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of safety measures being adopted by the oil companies in the storage and distribution of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has issued various statutory regulations i.e. Petroleum Rules, 2002, Gas Cylinder Rules, 2004, Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) Rules, 1981, Factory Rules, 1987, etc. for compliance by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to reduce the fire incidents. Compliance of these norms by OMCs is monitored/checked by statutory bodies like Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (Formerly Department of Explosives), Factory Inspectorates, etc.

Further, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), a technical directorate has been set up by this Ministry for developing various Standards and Guidelines for storage & distribution of petroleum products to enhance safety. OISD oversees implementation of these standards and the compliance is checked through Pre-commissioning Safety Inspection of new facilities, conducting Surprise Safety Inspections and periodic External Safety Audits by teams constituted with experts from Oil and Gas industry. Recommendations of these audits are monitored by OISD for earliest implementation. OISD also carries out incident investigations and suggests remedial measures to Oil companies to take steps to prevent recurrence. OISD also shares the knowledge and information through training programmes/workshops where the technological developments, case studies, industry experience are discussed and shared with Oil Industry to enhance the safety.

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

(d) OMCs have adopted safety measures for Fire prevention and protection in storage & distribution of petroleum products in POL Terminal/Depots, Port Oil Terminals & LPG Bottling Plants, which cover the water/foam requirements, network design, detection aids,

sprinklers, foam applications and Fire tenders and also in transportation of petroleum products including LPG in which the relevant OISD standards are used for protection of facilities. The details of the standards used for safety measures by OMCs to minimize the incidents are as under:-

- OISD STD 116 : Fire protection facilities for Petroleum depots and terminals and pipeline installations.
- OISD STD 118 : Lay out for Oil and Gas Installations.
- OISD STD 144 : Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Bottling plant operations.
- OISD RP 157 : Recommended practices for Transportation of Bulk Petroleum Products.
- OISD RP 158 : Recommended practices on storage and Handling of Bulk Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- OISD RP 159 : LPG tank trucks: Requirements of safety on design/fabrication and fittings.
- OISD RP 167 : POL tank lorry design and safety.

*[Translation]*

**Passenger Train between  
Kanpur-Rishikesh**

2342. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any request from the peoples' representatives to run a passenger train between Kanpur Central and Rishikesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The demand for a passenger train between Kanpur and Rishikesh has been examined but has not been found feasible for implementation due to operational and resource constraints.

**Railway Projects**

2343. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there are number of railway projects which were started long ago but have not been completed till date;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has identified those projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to wind up those projects;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) if not, the steps taken to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) As per Budget 2005-06, there are 240 on-going Railway Projects under Planheads New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport having throwforward of Rs.47,354 Crore. Out of these, 26 projects are more than 10 years old and are progressing as per availability of resources on year to year basis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and National Rail Vikas Yojana.

*[English]*

**Rail Booking Services**

2344. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted permission to accredited travel agents to provide rail booking services; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which the Government has given this permission to only a few selected agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Rail Tourist Agents (RTAs) authorized to stock and purchase tickets for Indian Nationals and Foreign tourists and Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) authorized to purchase tickets from the Railway reservation offices on behalf of passengers are functioning in various cities. These agents have been appointed in terms of Rail Tourist Agents Rules, 1980 and Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985. The number of these agents to be appointed at any location is estimated keeping in view the reservation related demand in a particular area.

#### **Handing Over of Railway Projects to NTPC**

2345. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects handed over to NTPC during the last one year;

(b) whether any MoU has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Performance of Oil PSUs**

2346. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil PSUs are lagging behind Private Sector Oil Industries in all vital parameters right from sourcing of crude to marketing tactics;

(b) if so, whether the refining capacity of private oil sector has grown phenomenally while that of oil PSUs recorded only a marginal growth;

(c) if so, whether the Public Sector Oil Companies are burdened with old refineries for which no provision of investment for expansion/modernization has been made over the last decade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Oil PSUs are not lagging behind private sector oil industries in any vital parameters from sourcing of crude to marketing tactics. In spite of competition from new private players the overall performance of major oil PSUs, including their refining capacity, quality upgradation of products, augmentation of crude oil and product pipelines, laying of new pipelines is on the increase. The net profits of all the major oil PSUs have been affected due to higher crude prices and higher under-recoveries on account of sales of motor-spirit (Petrol), High Speed Diesel, Kerosene (PDS), LPG (Domestic) and non-revision of retail selling prices in line with international oil prices. The refining capacity of all major refining PSUs has been substantially expanded. The comparative refining capacity for the Private Sector and PSUs as on 1.4.1999 and 1.4.2005 is as below:

(Figs. in MMTpa)

Year/Date	PSUs	Private Sector	Total
1.4.1999	66.30	0.00	66.30
1.4.2005	94.37	33.00	127.37

#### **Birds around Airports**

2347. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the areas around many airports are crowded with birds;

(b) whether there is any proposal to use Global Positioning System (GPS) for making safe approaches for landing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said system is likely to be installed?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is working on a Global Positioning System (GPS) Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) project to provide seamless navigation over Indian Airspace including oceanic region which when implemented will provide precision/near precision approaches at all airports in India with requisite accuracy, reliability and integrity.

(d) The Technological Demonstration System (TDS), a part of the project is expected to be ready by June, 2006.

#### **Refinery Projects of HPCL**

2348. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is considering a proposal for partnering British Petroleum for its grassroots refinery projects at Bhatinda in Punjab and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other companies where similar possibilities are being explored?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have signed a Letter of Intent with British Petroleum for jointly promoting a 9.0 million metric tonnes per annum capacity refinery at Bathinda in Punjab.

HPCL is also evaluating the possibility of setting up a condensate splitter-cum-aromatic project near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary discussions are in progress with Total SA, France for participation in this project.

[Translation]

#### **Sky Bus Metro**

2349. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any approval to Sky Bus Metro developed by the Konkan Railway;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to start; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The prototype system is still under technical development by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL). An Expert Committee appointed by Ministry of Urban Development to evaluate the Sky Bus system developed by KRCL to examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspects has recommended continuing trials to establish this technology on a firm footing. Technical safety certification can be issued after carrying out recommendations of Expert Committee and necessary movement trials.

(b) to (d) Does not arise. However, based on the offer of Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of Sky Bus system on 'Build Own Transfer' (BOT) basis, Ministry of Urban Development has advised Government of Andhra Pradesh to come up with legislation for operation and maintenance including the mechanism for safety certification. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has also been advised that negotiations with the private BOT operators may be held with them to first establish the safety of the system before allowing any commercial operation. The project will start after these issues are resolved by Government of Andhra Pradesh and the project cost shall accordingly be estimated.

#### **Railway Stations/Building declared World Heritage**

2350. MOHD. SHAHID:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Stations/Railway Buildings which have been declared as World Heritage sites by UNESCO;



(b) whether the Government has taken any steps for renovation of those Railway Stations/Railway Buildings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be renovated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (including its stations) and Nilgiri Mountain Railway (including its stations); have been declared as World Heritage sites by United Nations Educational Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

(b) Yes Sir, except in the case of Nilgiri Mountain Railway which has been inscribed recently in 2005.

(c) to (e) (i) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus conservation works are sanctioned at a cost of Rs 4.85 crore. Award of tender is in process.

(ii) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway stations as below: -

- Siliguri - Development of Station building and surroundings at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs. Target for completion is by March 2006;
- Kurseong - refurbishment of Elysia building & development of its surrounding areas has been completed at a cost of Rs.29.15 lakhs. Modification of circulating area around Elysia building and provision of boundary wall to prevent encroachment, at a cost of Rs. 29 lakhs. Target for completion is by March 2006;
- Sonada - Work is in progress for development of the station building and surroundings at a cost of Rs 50 lakhs. Target for completion is by March 2006.

#### DMU on Saharanpur-Delhi Route

2351. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run more DMUs on Saharanpur-Delhi route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for discontinuation of DMUs that had been started on Saharanpur-Delhi route via Shamli;

(d) whether it is proposed to restart DMUs on Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur route; and

(e) If so, the time by which the same is likely to be restarted?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No DMU service has been discontinued on Delhi-Shamli section.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Merger of MRPL with HPCL

2352. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge the Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. instead of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC); 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

#### Zero Coupon Oil Bonds

2353. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to issue

Zero-Coupon Oil Bonds to cover the subsidy burden of Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) With the declared intention of moving towards market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1.4.2002. However, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices, particularly since late 2003, combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. Therefore, Government, in June 2004, elucidated the principles which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of sensitive petroleum products. It was decided that the burden should be equitably shared by consumers, the Government and the oil companies. Therefore, the full impact of the international price increase has not been passed on to consumers of sensitive products and OMCs have been modulating the price increase in petrol & diesel besides maintaining the prices of subsidized products like domestic LPG & PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government. In consequence they have suffered huge under-recoveries.

In order to partially compensate the public sector OMCs on account of past under-recoveries suffered on the above products, Government, in principle, has approved the issue of oil bonds. The modalities are being worked out.

#### **Rail Connectivity between Bhagalpur and Southern States**

2354. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that silk industries in Bihar are facing problems due to non-availability of railway line with the Southern States;

(b) if so, whether the industrialists of Bhagalpur

in Bihar have been demanding to connect Bhagalpur with Southern States by Railways;

(c) if so, whether the Government would consider to connect Bhagalpur by rail with the Southern States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d): Bhagalpur is already an existing station on Kiul-Sahebganj broad gauge line on Eastern Railway which is connected with the Southern States through railway network.

#### **Railway Network in Karnataka**

2355. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Union Government with the Government of Karnataka for improving the Railways network in the State;

(b) the details of the projects to be executed under this arrangement and the status of the same; and

(c) the details of funds released by both the Governments for the projects to be executed under MoU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Government of Karnataka for formation of a Joint Venture for expediting project development by resorting to resource mobilization; securing traffic guarantees; securing the involvement of strategic partners in project funding, etc. for speedy implementation of the following rail infrastructure projects:-

- (1) Hubli-Ankola new line,
- (2) Solapur-Gadag gauge conversion,
- (3) Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion and
- (4) Guntakal-Hospet doubling. Ministry of Railways and Government of Karnataka have already converted this MoU into a Joint Venture Company called Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) in 2002.

(b) and (c)

Project	Cost released by Railway (Rs. in crores)	Funds released by State Government	Funds	Status
Hubli-Akola New line	997.58	28.26	Not applicable	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress in 33 kms on Hubli-Kirvatti section. Land acquisition for remaining length of this section has been taken up. Proposal for diversion of forest land for this project has been taken up with the State Govt. There is no cost sharing arrangements with State Government till now.
Solapur-Gadag gauge conversion	318.66	118.25	69	On this project, gauge conversion of Solapur-Bijapur (110 kms) has already been completed and commissioned. The balance work i.e. gauge conversion of Bijapur-Gadag (190 kms) is being executed on cost sharing basis (50:50) with the Government of Karnataka. On Bijapur-Basavana-bagewadi (45 kms) track linking has been completed. Work on the balance section has also been taken up.
Hassan-Mangalore gauge conversion	357.43 (for Arsikere- Mangalore)	45 (equity) + 141 (subordinated debt)	45	Work completed by Hassan Manglore Rail Development Company Limited. State Government and Railways have paid their respective shares in full.
Guntakal-Hospet doubling	227	171 (RVNL) cable		Not Doubling of Tornagallu Appli-Hospet and track linking on Guntakal-Hagari has been completed. Work on Hagari-Bellary (14 kms) and Bellary-Tornagallu is targeted for completion during 2005- 06. This work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, (RVNL). There is no cost sharing arrangements with State Government.

**LNG Storage Facilities**

2356. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.606, dated March 3, 2005 regarding "Storage of Natural Gas"

and state the steps taken by the Government to develop underground natural gas storage facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): The Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) have been entrusted with the task of building

Strategic Natural Gas Storage. They have been asked to engage consultants to prepare the pre-feasibility report and detailed feasibility report for the project. The proposal is at a preliminary stage.

#### **Strategy to Counter Terrorism**

2357. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army has worked out a doctrine and a comprehensive strategy to counter and eliminate terrorism in joint operations with neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Counter terrorist operations with neighbouring countries are carried out on a 'case to case' basis, covering a wide spectrum of activities, which are operation oriented. As such, no standard doctrine has been evolved for such operations.

#### **Programme on Doordarshan**

2358. DR. P.P. KOVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any daily or weekly programme exclusively on Union Territory of Lakshadweep telecast by the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to allot at least a weekly time slot for an exclusive programme on Lakshadweep incorporating social, cultural, economical and historical aspects on Malayalam channel of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that DDK, Thiruvananthapuram will telecast a half an hour fortnightly programme on Lakshadweep w.e.f. April 2006.

[Translation]

#### **Stoppage of Trains**

2359. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of importance of Nifad and Lasalgaon Railway Stations with regard to carriage of agro products, the proposal for providing stoppage of Pawan Express, Kamayani Express and Nandigram Express at said stations is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Four Lane Railway Lines on Metropolitan Cities**

2360. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision in regard to laying of four lane railway lines for connecting four metropolitan cities of country i.e. Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi by rail;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the proposed funds for this project would be mobilized through its own resources or whether the said funds would be mobilized from the foreign sources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Railways is exploring the possibility of constructing Dedicated Freight Corridors between Mumbai-Delhi and Delhi-Hawrah.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Purchase of Coal

2361. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence is purchasing coal from the Dankuni Coal Complex, subsidiary of the South East Coal Fields Limited (SECL);

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the quantity of coal likely to purchase from the said company during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Defence is not purchasing coal from Dankuni Coal Complex, subsidiary of the South East Coal Fields Limited (SECL).

#### Community Radio Stations

2362. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to allow Community Radio Station to generate revenue through advertisements and sponsored programmes;

(b) if so, whether the Government also proposes to make some changes in the guidelines for community radio stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The policy is under consideration of a Group of Ministers constituted for the purpose.

#### Railway Vendors

2363. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Catering/Vending units in Railways have been handed over or being handed over to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) if so, the status of Commission Vendors who are working under the old policy i.e. If the vendor dies, or

becomes handicapped, his legal heir is appointed as Commission Vendor to support the family;

(c) whether the Government has not enhanced commission for the Railways Commission Vendors for the last five decades;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review their commission;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total number of Commission Vendors working in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Transfer of catering units along with staff to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is being done phase wise. As per extant policy, railways are progressively absorbing the Commission Bearers/Vendors against regular vacancies in Group 'D' categories. Direct compassionate appointment to the widow/ward is permissible in case of death or medical incapacitation on absorption in regular employment.

(c) No, Sir. The need to enhance commission is not felt in view of fact that commission is based on a certain percentage of sales depending on the prevailing rates of catering items, taking into account viz. importance of stations, volume of passenger traffic and price of commodities at that station etc.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

(g) The total number of Commission Vendors/Bearers working on railways till date are 1044.

[Translation]

#### Upgradation of Anti-Aircraft Gun

2364. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a test has been conducted for upgrading the L-70 Anti-aircraft Gun manufactured at Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur as per the requirement of the Army;

(b) if so, whether the said test has been successful; and

(c) If so, the time by which manufacturing of the said Anti-aircraft Gun is likely to be started in the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Manufacturing of the gun will commence after successful conduct of trials and placement of orders by the Army.

[English]

#### **Maintenance of Aircraft**

2365. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) is not maintaining aircraft as per laid down norms/standards resulting in increase in air crash incidents; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the IAF to maintain aircrafts as per the laid down norms/standards?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) is maintaining aircraft as per schedules/standards of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). Additional checks are also introduced by the IAF/OEM, based on malfunction or failures noticed during the service life of these aircraft.

#### **Indo-USA Defence Pact**

2366. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to depute some Indian Naval Officials to United States of America to serve under the global military command of that country;

(b) if so, whether it is a part of Indo-US Defence Cooperation Pact; and

(c) if so, the modalities work out therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken by Government to post an officer of the Indian Navy to serve under the global command of the United States of America.

#### **Shortage of Pilots**

2367. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, whether IAF has requested the Government to permit Short Service Commission (SSC) male officers to become pilots in order to overcome the present shortage;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) While there is an overall shortage of pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF), the shortage does not affect the operational status of the squadrons. The IAF have submitted a proposal to the Government for approval, inter-alia, for introduction of the Short Service Commission Scheme for men in Flying branch of the IAF. Sustained efforts are made to review and augment the manpower requirements of the IAF on a continuous basis.

#### **Railway Projects In Gujarat**

2368. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of new/on-going and pending railway projects in Gujarat, alongwith target fixed for completion, project-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far, project-wise;

(c) the time schedule for completion of these projects;

(d) whether the Union Government has also received requests from various quarters for new railway projects in Gujarat;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Details of new/ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat, funds allocated, expenditure incurred thereon and target date for completion wherever fixed is as under:-

**1. Gujarat**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Year of inclusion in Budget	Cost	Expenditure upto March 2005	Budget Outlay 2005-06	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Lines</b>						
1	Gandhinagar-Kalol	2000-01	49.96	24.82	15	On this project, 42.20 hectare out of 51.19 hectare land has been acquired and earthwork, bridgeworks and ballasting has been taken up. Work on Gandhinagar-Kalol section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
2	Godhra-Indore via Dahod, Sardarpur, Dhar & Dewas-Maksi	1989-90	946.16	58.62	15	On this project, work on Dewas-Maksi (36 Km) has been completed and commissioned. Necessary action to obtain requisite clearances to take up work on the remaining section i.e. Godhra-Indore has also been initiated.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>						
1.	Gandhidham-Palanpur	1998-99	344.62	152.88	100	This project is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named "Kutch Rail Company". On this project, earthwork, bridges and ballasting has been taken up. Work on Palanpur-Samakhiali section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
2.	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalia to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	1994-95	359.8	227.99	5	Work on Rajkot-Veraval section (186 km) has been completed. Works on gauge conversion of Wansjalia- Jetalsar and new line from Veraval to Somnath have also been taken up.
3.	Bhildi-Viramgam	1990-91	199.75	98.27	5	The project consists of gauge conversion from Viramgam to

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Patan and construction of new line of 52.64 kms between Patan and Bhildi. Work on Viramgam-Mahesana (65 kms) has been completed and commissioned.
4.	Phulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad & Delhi-Rewari 2nd line	1993-94	621.85	467.92	3	The work on main line has been completed and commissioned except residual works of Sabarmati-Khodiyar and Ahmedabad Yard remodeling. Gauge conversion of Rewari-Delhi (82.5 kms) is also a part of this work where formation works have been completed and is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
5.	Bhildi-Samdari	1990-91	244.74	2.77	30	This work was sanctioned in 1990-91 as a part of Kandla-Bhatinda rail link. The work was earlier given lower priority in view of gauge conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad. The project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana by RVNL. Earthwork & bridge works on Samdari-Bhinmal section has been taken up.
6.	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur	2005-06	148.61		4	Final location survey has been taken up.
7.	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension to Pipavav	1996-97	440.18	433.98	4.50	Work completed except Surendranagar-Dharangdhara.
<b>Doubling</b>						
1.	Surat-Kosamba (Phase-I)	2000-01	49	0.39	8.62	Project is being regulated as per low operational priority.

(d) to (f) Record of each and every demand for taking up new project is not maintained. However, some of the proposals received by the Government in the last few

years for construction of new lines, gauge conversion and doubling in the State of Gujarat and action taken thereon is as under:



S.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1	2	3
<b>I. Gujarat</b>		
<b>New line</b>		
1.	Veraval-Somnath-Kodinar	This new line work from Veraval to Somnath was included as part of Rajkot- Veraval gauge conversion project. Somnath- Kodinar survey has been completed.
2.	Surendranagar-Limbdi-Loliya-Wadgaon-Khambat-Kavi-Jambusar-Bharuch and Surendranagar-Limbdi-Bagodara-Khambat-Bharuch	Work on Surendranagar-Limbdi has been completed. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider remaining portion of this proposal.
3.	Extension of rail line from Modasa to Titoi	Survey has recently been completed.
4.	Khargoda-Santalpur	Survey has been sanctioned.
5.	Bhavnagar Port-Dholera Port-Tarapur	Survey from Bhavnagar to Tarapur via Dholera has been sanctioned.
6.	Extension upto Hazira Port new line	It is one of the identified Port Connectivity projects entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.(RVNL). Bankability study have been done and project found bankable. Memorandum of Understanding for this project has been signed.
7.	Jaisalmer-Kandla	Survey has been taken up.
8.	Ningala-Khijadia	Survey has been taken up.
9.	Jambusar-Bhavnagar	In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it is not feasible to consider this proposal.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>		
1.	Bharuch-Dahej	It is one of the identified Port Connectivity projects entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.(RVNL). Memorandum of Understanding for this project has been signed.
2.	Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar/Palitana	Work on gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Botad-Dhola-Sihor-Bhavnagar and Sihor-Palitana has been completed. Survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Botad has been sanctioned.
3.	Surendranagar-Joravarnagar-Sayla	Gauge conversion work on Surendranagar-Joravarnagar has been completed. Joravarnagar-Sayla rail line has been dismantled long back.

1	2	3
4.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma	Survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Umra has been sanctioned.
5.	Wansjalia-Jetalsar	This line was included as part of Rajkot-Veraval gauge conversion project.
6.	Dhasa-Jetalsar	Survey has been sanctioned.
7.	Mahesana-Taranga Hill and its extension upto Abu Road and Ambaji	Updating survey for gauge conversion of Mahesana-Taranga Hill with extension upto Ambaji is included in the Budget 2005-06.
8.	Bhuj-Naliya	Updating survey for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya with extension to Baranda/Koteswar is included in the Budget 2005-06.
<b>Doubling</b>		
1.	Surat-Bhusawal	Double BG line already exists on Surat-Udhna and Bhusawal-Jalgaon sections. A survey for doubling of Udhna-Jalgaon section has been completed recently.
2.	Virar-Dahanu Road	On this section, augmentation of the line capacity has been taken up.
3.	Ahmedabad-Mumbai 3rd line	An updating survey for construction of 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad has been completed. In view of saturation on this section, it has been decided to augment the line capacity of the route by adopting automatic signaling. However, in phase-I, the work of 3rd line from Surat to Kosamba has already been taken up.
4.	Godhra-Vadodara 3rd line	Survey for 3rd line on Ratlam-Godhra-Vadodara section included in the Budget 2005-06.

**Withdrawal of Navratna Status of ONGC**

2369. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review ONGC's navaratna status;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government is aware that withdrawal of autonomy will adversely affect functioning of this oil company?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line Project**

2370. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line project;

(b) the funds provided for the project during each of the last three years;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the project, till date; and

(d) the target set for completion of various rail sections of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) The details of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line project are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name of Project	Expenditure during the year			Approximate Expenditure incurred upto November, 2005	Present Status and the target set for completion of the project.
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
1.	Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla	344.91	502.37	697.50	2424.2	<p>The overall progress of this section is about 40%. The work has been taken up in phases and the progress is given as under:-</p> <p>i) Udhampur-Katra (km. 0-25): 35.82 lakh cum. of earthwork, 10300 metres of tunneling, 6 major bridges and 27 minor bridges completed. This section is targeted for completion during 2006-07.</p> <p>ii) Katra-Qazigund (km. 25-173): For km. 25-30, land acquisition, 2.26 lakh cum. of earthwork and 1923 metres of tunneling completed. For Km. 30-62 alignment survey, land acquisition, 3.5 lakh cum. of earthwork and 2153 metres of tunneling completed. This section is targeted for completion during 2008-09.</p> <p>iii) Qazigund-Baramulla (km. 173-292): 145.18 lakh cum. metres of earthwork, 39 major bridges and 409 minor bridges completed. The target set for completion of Qazigund-Badgam section is 2006-07 and Badgam-Baramulla section during 2007-08.</p>

#### Running of Trains from Kanyakumari

2371. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to operate all the trains departing from TVM Tirunelveli and Tuticorin at present from Kanyakumari to facilitate the travelling

public and the tourists to reach Kanyakumari without breaking the journey; 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]

**Scandal in Purchase of Meat  
and Poultry**

2372. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a scandal in the purchase of meat and poultry for supply to Northern Command as reported in the Times of India, dated November 11, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has ordered an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which inquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Court of Inquiry has been instituted to enquire into the alleged irregularities in the supply of meat and poultry in the Ladakh Sector of the Northern Command. Necessary action against the officials found guilty would be initiated, if needed, on finalization of the report of the Court of Inquiry.

[English]

**Radio Programme for Tribals**

2373. SHRI MANI CHARENAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of broadcasting channels and the time slots allotted to each programme, channel-wise in respect of All India Radio (AIR), Imphal;

(b) the criteria for allotment of radio programme to the tribal communities in various AIR stations in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to install FM radio station in all District Headquarters of Manipur;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati, AIR has informed that at present, AIR, Imphal has two broadcasting channels viz. Primary Channel and FM Channel.

The timing of transmissions of these channels are as follows:

I. Primary channel has three transmissions

i) 0600 - 0930 hrs. : Transmission-I (on Sundays upto 1010 hrs.)

ii) 1215 - 1530 hrs. : Transmission-II

iii) 1600 - 2230 hrs. : Transmission-III (2300 hrs. on Saturday)

II. FM Channel relaying Vividh Bharati from 1100 hrs. to 1600 hrs. as an entertainment channel.

AIR, Imphal broadcast News, Music and spoken word programmes daily mainly in Manipuri language in six major dialects viz. Hmar, Pite, Kabui, Thadoi, Mao and Tangkhu of the State. Music programmes are broadcast for 22 minor dialects for 15 minutes each on rotation basis.

Details of the programmes broadcast per month from AIR, Imphal are:

1. Spoken Word	-	170 hrs 25 mts.
2. News	-	88 hrs. 40 mts.
3. Music	-	384 hrs. 11 mts.
4. Drama/feature	-	7 hrs.

(b) AIR broadcasts programmes proportionate to linguistic composition of the listening audience in the broadcast zone.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All India Radio has informed that there is a proposal to set-up some more new radio stations in Manipur during the Xth Plan period.

### National Oil Museum

2374. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Oil Museum is being set up on the outskirts of Guwahati;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the estimated cost thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up alongwith the progress made therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Oil Museum is planned to be established at Jawahar Nagar, Guwahati, Assam.

(b) The project comprises a state-of-the art structure with about 9800 square metres of built up area with a 37x22m glass pyramid. In addition, an outdoor space is contemplated for exhibits and a theme park. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.31.35 crore.

(c) The Museum is scheduled to be completed by the year 2008. Land measuring 3.3 acres has been allotted by the Government of Assam and all building plans finalized. Tenders for the civil engineering works and basic services have been invited.

[Translation]

### Construction of ROB's

2375. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposals for construction of Railway overbridges in Azamgarh, Gonda, Basti Siddhartha Nagar in U.P. are under the consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railway construct the Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROB/RUB) in lieu of existing busy level crossing on cost sharing basis where traffic density is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle

Units (TVUs) otherwise on deposit terms. In both the cases proposal has to be sponsored by State Govt./local bodies duly fulfilling the certain preliminary requisites as per extant rules.

Status for demanded ROB's is given as under:

ROB in Azamgarh:- No specific level crossing No. and Kms. is mentioned. However, a proposal for construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 29/A between Azamgarh-Sarai Station on cost sharing basis has been received by North Eastern Railway.

ROB's in Gonda, Basti & Sidhartha Nagar:- No such proposals have been received by Railway from State Government so far.

(c) Proposals received from State Governments are examined by Railway in respect of feasibility of work, requisite undertaking given by State Government as per extant rule such as sharing of cost of work, closure of Level Crossing after commissioning of ROB/RUB, availability of land for approaches, priority of work in State Government Annual Plan etc. On fulfillment of these criteria work is processed by Railway in their Works Programme. Works are considered depending upon the meeting of above pre-requisites as well as throwforward of works, progress on already sanctioned works as well as other works under consideration/due for sanction.

[English]

### Return of Land

2376. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States provided land to the Railways free of cost for laying railway lines, establishing production units and other operational requirements;
- (b) if so, whether such land is still lying unused or not required for operational purposes by Railways;
- (c) if so, whether Railways have identified such land;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether concerned States have demanded return of such land;
- (f) If so, whether the Government propose to

return the said land to the concerned States for utilization; and

(g) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. In some cases, land has been provided free of cost for Railway projects depending upon its importance to the State concerned. The details of such land is not maintained separately. The vacant land, either released from a project or otherwise, is kept to meet the future operational needs of Railways. Wherever any piece of land is requested by State Government, the same is considered on case to case basis, on merits taking into account the future Railway's requirement. As per extant policy, land if required by Railways or eligible for disposal is acquired/disposed off on prevailing market value of land.

*[Translation]*

#### **Training to Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

2377. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Schemes launched by the Union Government to bring awareness among the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabhas and to impart training to them;

(b) whether the Union Government is sharing the expenditure incurred on imparting the training to representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabhas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to increase its share; and

(e) if so, the time by which the decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The name of the scheme being run by the Central Government to create awareness among the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Members of the Standing Committees of the Panchayats and the

Gram Sabhas is "Panchayat Development & Training". The budget provision for Panchayat Development and Training for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 24.40 crore. This is in addition to the State-run Schemes.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Under the scheme the total approved cost of the proposal received from the states is shared in the ratio of 75:25 between Central and State Government.

(d) and (e) In the Round Table Conference with the State Ministers Incharge of Panchayati Raj held in Jaipur in December, 2004 the following recommendations on Training and Capacity Building were adopted:

- (i) Training and Communication ought to reach all PRI Functionaries.
- (ii) Special efforts to be made for sensitizing Media, Political Parties and Civil Society organizations.
- (iii) Special Training for Women, SC/ST representatives as well as first time entrants into the Panchayat System.
- (iv) Training and Communication should be continuous and ongoing process.
- (v) There should be a minimum core curriculum that is common across the states to adapt to local context.
- (vi) Training strategy should be inclusive, participative and interactive.
- (vii) There should be a national perspective plan on Decentralized Training and Capacity Building.

Government is inviting proposals to enhance provision for Training and Capacity Building in consultation with all concerned.

*[English]*

#### **Automatic Upgradation of Railway Tickets**

2378. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided for automatic upgradation of Railway tickets against the vacant accommodation available in Upper Class;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far and the time by which the said scheme is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Software for the scheme for upgradation of passengers to the next higher class to the extent of clearance of waiting list is under development.

(b) The details of the scheme will be finalized after the software has been developed.

(c) The required software for upgradation scheme of passengers is under development and the scheme will be implemented as and when the software is ready.

[Translation]

#### Subsidy on LPG

2379. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has asked the Oil and Gas Marketing Companies to bear the cost of subsidies on LPG themselves;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that these companies have stopped providing new gas connection;

(d) if so, whether these companies have also reduced the supply of gas to the dealers;

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

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

(g) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Domestic LPG is a

subsidized product. After the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism effective 1.4.2002, the subsidy on this product is being partly borne by the Government budget and partly by the Oil Companies. During the year 2003-04, the Government had put in place a mechanism of sharing of under-recoveries of oil marketing companies (OMCs) on this account with the upstream oil companies.

Since the end of 2003, there has been unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. Accordingly, since June 2004, Government elucidated the principles, which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of sensitive petroleum products including LPG. It has been decided that the burden should be equitably shared by the oil companies, the Government and consumers. The Government has reduced the excise duty and custom duty on domestic LPG to nil effective 1.3.2005. Despite a tremendous increase in international LPG prices, the price of domestic LPG has been increased only twice during the period April' 2002 till date i.e. on 16th June 2004 & 5th November 2004 by Rs.20/cylinder on each occasion. The upstream oil companies continue to share the under-recoveries of OMCs on domestic LPG.

(c) to (g) LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. A temporary shortage of LPG emerged in September 2005 on account of various factors. PSU production in the period April-September, 2005 was 303 (Thousand Metric Tonne) TMT less than planned; Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) production was 190 TMT less than planned. In consequence, physical inventories with oil marketing companies (OMCs) declined from 333 TMT at the beginning of April, 2005 to 190 TMT at the beginning of October, 2005. Then, with effect from 4th October, 2005, RIL, the single largest domestic supplier of LPG, shut down their Fluidized Catalytic Cracker (FCC) unit at Jamnagar for maintenance work. Moreover, at just about the same time, as RIL confirmed its shutdown effective October, 2005, domestic production prospects were seriously impacted by the fire in Mumbai High North and global LPG supplies became tight, largely on account of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on US refineries. All these factors put together upset the plans made by OMCs to effect imports in time to offset the anticipated shortage in supplies. This fed rumours in the market that OMCs would not be able to meet the demand, leading to a sudden spurt in demand. There was also a strike in bottling

plants in the National Capital Territory (NCT) area towards the end of September 2005 which aggravated the situation.

The Ministry took matters in hand early in October, 2005 when it was decided that through a combination of inventory management and imports, directly handled by a composite task force of the OMCs under the close supervision of the Government, physical shortages of supply would be overcome as quickly as possible. It was also decided that bottling plants in the NCT area would work on Sunday, 9th October 2005 and other holidays. On the basis of these decisions, it was announced that the physical shortage in the NCT area would end by Dusshera and substantively in the rest of the country by Deepavali. These objectives have been largely achieved. In addition to the arrangements made earlier by OMCs to import 642 TMT of LPG during the period October-December 2005, arrangements have been made to import an additional quantity of 237.9 TMT during this period, 138 TMT of which has already reached the country. Thus, the overall physical shortage in the country at present has been reduced to only about 1.5% of the average monthly consumption of LPG. However, the backlog at the micro-level may vary from market to market on account of operational reasons.

The production of LPG in RIL's refinery has been restored from 1st December 2005 and the supply situation is expected to substantively improve and normalize in the coming few weeks.

[English]

#### **ROBs and RUBs in Karnataka**

2380. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of construction of on-going ROB/RUBs in Karnataka as on October, 2005;
- (b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and
- (c) the target fixed for completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUB) in lieu of existing busy level crossings on cost sharing basis where traffic density is more than one lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) other-

wise on deposit terms. At present there are 37 ROB works sanctioned on cost sharing basis in State of Karnataka, out of which seven works are in progress, one work already completed and twenty nine works are at various stages of planning and design.

(b) The funds allocated for cost sharing works during 2005-06 is Rs. 26.71 crore and upto Oct. 2005 expenditure of Rs. 1.75 crore has been incurred.

(c) Railways execute its portion of work i.e. bridge proper (bridge across the track) and approaches by State Govt. All efforts shall be made by Railways to complete their portion of work alongwith approach work done by the State Govt.

#### **Gauge Conversion of Nagpur-Chindwara Railway Line**

2381. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to undertake gauge conversion of Nagpur-Chindwara Railway line and development of Sawner Railway Station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to provide computerised railway reservation facility at Sawner Railway Station;
- (d) if so, the details thereto; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The work of Nagpur-Chindwara (149.522 Kms) gauge conversion has been included in the Budget 2005-06 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 383.79 crore. An outlay of Rs. 4 crore has been provided for the work during 2005-06. Preparation of plans & estimates has been taken up. No target date of completion of the project has yet been fixed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The reservation related workload is not sufficient for the provision of Computerised Reservation facility at Sawner Railway Station.



**Reservation for Economically Backward  
Classes (EBCs)**

2382. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Commission to provide reservation quota in education and employment for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) people;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the composition thereof;

(c) whether the said Commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission and the follow-up action taken by the Government for their implementation;

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(f) the progress made by the Commission so far and the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

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

(b) The terms of reference of the Commission includes recommending welfare measures and quantum of reservation in education & Government employment in consultation with the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities. The Commission comprises of a Chairperson, a Member and a Member-Secretary.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The Commission is to submit its report within six months from the date of appointment of the Chairperson. Hence, there is no delay.

**International Hub near Delhi**

2383. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up international hub near Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Train between Durgapur-Howrah**

2384. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the train service between Durgapur and Howrah had been discontinued/suspended;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to restore the train service between Durgapur and Howrah;

(c) if so, the time by which the train service from Durgapur to Howrah is likely to be restored; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Electrification of Railway Line  
in Karnataka**

2385. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of railway lines (in Kms) in Karnataka electrified during the last three years;

(b) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out for electrification of all Railway lines in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No rail lines (in kms) have been electrified during the last three years in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, electrification of rail lines of Bangalore area is being taken up and targeted for completion by March 2007.

**Profit Disbursed as Dividend by Oil PSUs**

2386. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of profit disbursed as dividend and volume thereof in absolute term and portions of profit transferred to reserve fund by Oil PSUs during the last three years;

(b) the identities of the top ten recipients of dividends indicating percentage of total dividend received by each and its volume on each occasion during each of the last three years; and

(c) The details of reserve fund as on October 31, 2005, Corporation-wise?

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 will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Operation Cost of I.A. and A.I.

2387. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an overlapping of operations of Indian Airlines (I.A.) and Air India (A.I.) on some international routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its justification thereof;

(c) the recommendations of the Committee set up to rationalize the routes between the two carriers; and

(d) the details of the action taken to minimize operational cost and make these Corporations competitive and operate on commercial basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. There is an overlapping of operations of Indian Airlines and Air India on India-Gulf and South-East countries routes. The overlap between the international operations of both the carriers, however, complement each other's operations on common sectors increasing the Indian presence and the market share in the international market to/from India.

(c) In the year 2003, a Committee was set up in this Ministry to examine the issue of route rationalization between Air India and Indian Airlines. The Committee took note of a Memorandum of Understanding between Air India and Indian Airlines on rationalization of routes.

(d) Both the airlines have been introducing various

sales and marketing measures to improve its market share and overall performance like Fleet augmentation/renewals, marketing initiatives, in-flight activities, service upgrades on ground, comprehensive budgetary control system, cost control and economy measures etc.

#### Publicity of E-Ticketing System

2388. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have a proposal to go for e-ticketing system;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) whether due publicity has been given to e-ticketing systems; and

(d) if so, the response of the consumers to the e-ticketing system?

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

(b) The process has been initiated for upgrading the Indian Airlines Passenger Service System to enable integration with an external E-ticketing server provided by an outside vendor.

(c) and (d) Due publicity would be given before launch of the project.

#### Extension of Railway Line

2389. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation for extension of BG line from Dangri to Saikhowa under NF Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Request has been received for railway line from Dangri to Saikhowaghat.

(c) A survey for a new broad gauge line from Dangri to Saikhowaghat (Dhola) had been conducted in 2000-01. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 5.683 Km long line had been assessed as Rs. 15.37 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of

unremunerative nature of the line, heavy throwforward and constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered.

[Translation]

#### Discovery of Sedimentary Basins

2390. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether some new sedimentary basins have been found in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the quantity of crude oil in these basins;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the basins allotted for production of crude oil, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No Sir, No new sedimentary basins have been found in the country. 26 sedimentary basins are categorized as hydrocarbon bearing basin measuring an area of approximately 3.14 million sq. kms. including deepwater area.

(c) and (d) The prognosticated resources in these basins are estimated at about 28 billion tonnes (O+OEG), out of which, as on 1.4.2005, initial in-place reserves of 8.28 billion tonnes(O+OEG) have been established.

(e) The details of companies engaged in oil and gas production in Indian sedimentary basins are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Basin	Operating Companies
1	2	3
1.	Assam-Arakan	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)
	Fold belt	Canoro Resources Ltd.

1	2	3
2.	KG Offshore	ONGC Cairn Energy
3.	Mumbai Offshore	ONGC British Gas Exploration & Production India Ltd. (BGEIL)
4.	Cambay	ONGC Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd.(HOEC) Solan Exploration Technologies Ltd. Joshi Exploration Technologies Ltd. Interlink Petroleum Ltd. Niko Resources Ltd., Canada Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. Australia HeraMac Ltd., U.K. Hydrocarbon Resources Development Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Rajasthan Jaisalmer	Oil India Ltd.(OIL) ONGC
6.	Upper Assam	OIL ONGC Geo-Ennpro Petroleum Ltd.
7.	Cauvery	ONGC HOEC

[English]

#### Flights for Haj Pilgrims

2391. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the flights for the Haj Pilgrims during 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also received any demands in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of additional aircraft proposed

to be included by Air India to meet the requirements of haj Pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) In view of the increase in quota of pilgrims for Haj 2006 from 82,000 to 1,00,000 the number of flights has been increased to meet the demand.

(d) Air India proposes to induct additional aircraft on wet lease besides A310 aircraft from its own fleet for Haj operations 2006.

#### **Agreement with Belgium for LNG Transportation**

2392. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state:

(a) the percentage of LNG demand shared by GAIL (India) Ltd. as on date;

(b) whether recently GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with a Belgium firm for LNG import;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which its share will increase thereby?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Out of the 5 MMTPA LNG being sourced and processed at Dahej terminal of PLL, GAIL have at present a share of 60%.

(b) and (c) GAIL (India) Limited have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with M/s EXMAR MARINE NV, a Belgian shipping firm, for utilization of the on-board regasification technology being provided by EXMAR and its LNG/CNG Logistical Services. The MoA was signed on 9th November, 2005 for a duration of 5 years

(d) This would depend upon the extent to which GAIL is able to put to use this technology.

#### **Allocation of LNG to Gujarat**

2393. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) being supplied to various industries in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any requests from various quarters to increase the allocation of LNG to the industries for Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) IOC, GAIL and BPCL are jointly supplying about 9.2 MMSCMD LNG to the different consumers in Gujarat. Besides this, M/s Shell, Hazira is also supplying some small quantities of LNG within Gujarat.

(b) to (d) The demand of gas in the country is much higher than the supplies, including LNG supplies. The Gujarat State Government has taken up the issue of allocation of additional gas to the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation from the expanded facilities at Dahej terminal of PLL.

LNG imports are under Open General License (OGL). LNG is marketed by the companies on commercial considerations. The consumers have to tie-up their requirements with the LNG marketers.

#### **Gauge Conversion**

2394. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail sections/routes in West Bengal and Assam where gauge conversion works are going on at present;

(b) the details of financial allocations made for the purpose during each of the last three years;

(c) the total expenditure incurred so far on the respective routes and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time scheduled for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d): The details of these projects are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	Name	Anticipated cost	Actual Expenditure during 2002-2003	Actual Expenditure during 2003-2004	Actual Expenditure during 2004-2005	Outlay 2005-06	Balance Expenditure to be incurred	Status/target date for completion, wherever fixed.
<b>West Bengal</b>								
1.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon including linked branch lines. (Partly in Assam)	891	139.35	182	99.67	10	469.81	New Jalpaiguri-Fakiragram completed, while Fakiragram-New Bongaigaon is nearing completion. The conversion of branch line from Alipurduar-Bamanhat has also been taken up.
2.	Bankura-Damodar River Project GC, Bowalchand-Khanna NL, Rainagar-Chanchal NL & Bankura-Mukutmanipur NL	158.16	11.27	25.24	32.63	23	89.02	Bankura-Sonamukhi completed, while work on rest of the section has been taken up.
3.	Katihar-Jogbani and Katihar-Barsol-Radhikapur (Suppl.)	402.98	33.5	63.85	89.71	20.5	215.96	Barsol-Radhikapur targeted for completion in 2005-06. Work on rest of the section has been taken up.
<b>Assam</b>								
4.	Katakhal-Bairabhi (Suppl.)	88.7	-	-	-	-	-	Work would be taken up once Lumding-Silchar is completed.
5.	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers, Halbargaon-Mairabari (44.8 kms.) and Senchoa Jn.-Silghat Town (81.85 kms.)	882.12	23.12	6.12		2	852.88	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers completed and commissioned.
6.	Lumding-Silchar including alignment between Migrendia-Dittockchera and extension from Baderpur to Bhariagram	1823	70.62	79.75	74.65	70	1597.98	Work targeted for completion by March, 2009.
7.	Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers (Suppl.)	915.7	-	-	-	7.96	915.7	Preliminary works are on hand.

### Merger of IBP with IOC

2395. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding merger of Indo-Burma Petroleum Corporation Limited (IBP) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) While Government have approved the proposal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) for the merger of its subsidiary company, IBP Co. Limited (IBP), with itself, the swap ratio of the equity shares of the two companies, as proposed for the merger, has not been finalized. It has been decided that the swap ratio may be finalized by a Committee of Secretaries after taking into account all relevant factors. It may not be possible to indicate the time frame by which it will be finalized.

[Translation]

### Recovery of Outstanding Dues

2396. SHRIMATI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.836 on dated July 28, 2005 regarding land for commercial use and state:

(a) the details of the private Parties to whom the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has given its land on lease basis in Delhi;

(b) the amounts received from these parties during each of the last three years;

(c) the amounts outstanding against the private parties as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the AAI to recover the outstanding dues from the concerned parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has given land on lease basis in Delhi to the following: (i) M/s A.B. Hotel (Radisson), (ii) M/s Ambassador Sky Chef, (iii) M/s Taj Air SATS, (iv) M/s Oberoi Flight Kitchen and (v) M/s Grover Leasing.

(b) Amounts received by AAI from the above Parties during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 are viz. M/s A.B. Hotel (Rs.352.34 lakhs; Rs.389.88 lakhs and Rs.431.46 lakhs), M/s Ambassador Sky Chef (Rs.88.53 lakhs, Rs.88.31 lakhs and Rs.109.92 lakhs), M/s Taj AIR SATS (Rs.137.84 lakhs, Rs.152.82 lakhs and Rs.157.22 lakhs and M/s Oberoi Flight Kitchen (Rs.89.57 lakhs, Rs.97.14 lakhs and Rs.98.50 lakhs). No amount was received from M/s Grover Leasing.

(c) As on 30th November, 2005 no dues are outstanding against M/s Ambassador Sky Chef and M/s Taj AIR SATS. In case of M/s A.B. Hotel (Radisson), M/s Grover Leasing and M/s Oberoi Flight Kitchen, the outstanding dues are Rs.1007.74 lakhs, Rs.582.55 lakhs and Rs.6.64 lakhs respectively.

(d) AAI regularly monitors the outstandings from the private parties and actions have been initiated through legal means (M/s A.B. Hotel and M/s Grover Leasing) arbitration proceedings and by enacting Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1972, wherever required.

### Refund of Rail Tickets

2397. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have come to the notice of the Government regarding claiming refund on the railway tickets on which journeys have already been performed;

(b) if so, the details of cases reported in this regard during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the number of railway officials found guilty and the action taken against them; and

(d) the corrective measures taken to curb such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Few cases of

fraudulent refund on fake Passenger Reservation System (PRS) tickets were detected at Bharuch station in Vadodara Division of Western Railway in December 2004. An amount of Rs. 84380 (Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty only) has been granted as a refund on 53 forged tickets from Bharuch reservation office.

(c) Four Railway officials were apparently found guilty and were arrested. Later they were released on BAIL. At present they are placed under suspension and the case is subjudice.

(d) The measures taken to avoid recurrence of such cases are as under:

- i) Regular checks are conducted and monitored by the Accounts, Commercial and Vigilance Departments.
- ii) The Ticket issuing staff and the ticket checking staff have been instructed to keep vigil while issuing the tickets and granting refund.
- iii) Inspection are conducted at different levels by officers and supervisors of Accounts, Commercial and Vigilance Departments.
- iv) Special drives are also carried out for this purpose.

[English]

#### **Working Hours of Loco Running Staff**

2398. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce the working hours of Loco Running Staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **FDI In Domestic Public Airlines**

2399. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that competition from private airlines has increased;

(b) if so, the names of such airlines and the effect of competition on the domestic public airlines;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the domestic public airlines to counter the competition from private airlines;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the amount of ceiling fixed by the Government; and

(e) the time by which FDI would be allowed in domestic public airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from Indian Airlines and Alliance Air, Jet Airways, Air Sahara, Air Deccan, Spice Jet, Kingfisher Airlines, Paramount Airways and Go Air are also operating scheduled services on domestic routes. Though the increase in competition has affected Indian Airlines market share, the passengers have benefited from this increased competition through increased connectivity, better standards of services and lower tariffs.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Down-Grading of Railway Stations**

2400. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities are considering to down-grade the status of two stations, namely Malatipur and Taki Road stations, on Barasat-Hasnabad section under Eastern Railway to halt stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railway authorities have conducted any survey in this regard and suggest measures which would not affect the local life; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Malatipur and Taki Road flag stations are located on the uneconomic branch line over Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway and have been running at heavy recurring loss. In order to reduce expenses, the modalities of sale of tickets has been changed from departmental staff to contractor after conducting a review of these sections. There has been no reduction in the amenities provided at these stations.

**Gauge Conversion of Kanpur  
M.G. Line**

2401. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the project of gauge conversion of Kanpur metre gauge line is under consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the projects envisages Hathras Road Railway Station as an ideal place for an alternative route to Delhi-Kanpur and Delhi-Agra and vice-versa by inter-linking both the proposed and already existing lines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to inter-link the same gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The gauge conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkuan (544.50 Kms) is already a sanctioned project at an estimated cost of Rs. 661.72 crore. On the project section, Kanpur-Farrukhabad section (140 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The surface crossing with Kanpur-Aligarh main line has not been considered desirable from operational considerations.
- (f) Does not arise.

**Participation by Foreign Organisation in  
Print and Visual Media**

2402. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to allow direct participation by foreign organisations in the domestic print media as well as visual media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the precautionary steps taken by the Government to protect the national interests while allowing participation to the foreign organisations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*The foreign investment policy of the Government  
in the print and visual media is as under:*

**Print Media**

- (i) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) [which includes FDI by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)] and portfolio investments by recognised Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), together up to a ceiling of 26% of paid up equity capital, in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs is allowed. Such investment would be permissible by foreign entities having sound credentials and international standing, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) Facsimile edition, in whole or in part(s), of foreign newspapers, by Indian entities, with or without foreign investment, and also by foreign companies owning the original newspaper, provided they get incorporated and registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.
- (iii) Publication of Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals; and
- (iv) Foreign investment up to 100% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.



**Film Sector**

In the film sector 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permissible on the automatic approval route without any qualifying conditions.

**Broadcasting Sector**

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in the field of Television software production on the Foreign Investment Promotion Board route on a case to case basis subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) For obtaining Direct To Home (DTH) service, the guidelines provide for total foreign equity holding including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)/Non-Resident Indian(NRI)/Overseas Corporate Body (OCB)/Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) in the applicant company not to exceed 49%, with a cap of 20% on FDI. The eligibility criteria under DTH guidelines, inter-alia, lays down that the Applicant Company must have Indian Management control with majority representatives on the Board as well as the Chief Executive of the company being a resident Indian.

Adequate safeguards have been provided for in the guidelines in these sectors to ensure that management and editorial control remains in Indian hands and to protect the national interests.

**ROB in Orissa**

2403. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal to construct a railway overbridge near Bandpur-Radia of Bhadrak in Orissa is under the consideration of the Government;
- (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) to (c) There is no Railway Station named Bandpur-Radia on East Coast Railway. However, there is sanctioned work of construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 121 at Railway Kms. 298/16-17 near Baudpur between Baudpur-Bhadrak

stations. This work was sanctioned in the year 2003-04 on cost sharing basis with Government of Orissa. Railway shall construct bridge proper i.e. bridge across the railway track and approaches by State Government. The General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) is still awaited from State Government. Railway shall take up its portion of work. All efforts shall be made by Railway to complete its portion of work alongwith approaches by State Government.

[Translation]

**Fire in ONGC Production Units**

2404. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

- (a) whether incidents of fire have taken place in many production units of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);
- (b) if so, the number of such incidents took place during the last three years, incident-wise;
- (c) the total loss of lives and properties therefrom;
- (d) whether enquires have been conducted in each of the above incidents;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof, incident-wise; and
- (f) the precautionary measures taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There have been a few incidents of fire in production units of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

(b) During the last three years, the following three incidents of fire have occurred. The details in this regard are as follows:

1. **The BHN Fire Incident on 27.07.2005**
2. **Fire Incident in 8th gas pipeline from Jotana GGS to Sobhasan CTF (Ambassan Village) - Mehasana Asset, on 31.01.2005**
3. **Fire Incident at Uran Plant on 24.07.2004**

(c) The details in this regard are as follows:

**Incident - BHN**

Loss of lives: 22 (includes 11 persons missing - presumed dead)

Preliminary estimates place the loss at US \$ 350 Million.

**Incident - Mehsana**

Loss of lives: 2 Security personnel

There has been no significant financial loss.

**Incident - URAN**

Loss of lives: 1

Loss of property - Rs.2.68 Crores.

(d) Yes, Sir. Enquiries have been made or being conducted into each of the above incidents.

(e) The details in this regard are as follows:

**BHN - Incident**

An enquiry committee has been constituted by C&MD, ONGC. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has also constituted a hi-powered Independent Inquiry Committee headed by Mr. T.N.R. Rao, Ex Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Reports are awaited.

**Mehsana - Incident:** Enquiry completed

**Finding:**

Non-adherence to proper procedures in cordoning off the remote leakage area.

**URAN- Incident**

**Finding:**

The root cause, was analysed as the failure on the

part of operators in not following laid down operating procedures.

(f) ONGC have taken the following measures to prevent such incidents:

- i) Conduct third Party Health Safety & Environment Audit by Internationally reputed company every 2 years to suggest improvements in the system.
- ii) Obtain Quality Health Safety & Environment certification based on ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and Occupation Health & Safety Assessment Series 18001 for all operating units of ONGC.
- iii) Strengthen working procedures through Institutionalizing Integrated Permit to Work System (PTW), Management of Change (MOC), Simultaneous Operations (SIMOPS), Lockout Tagout, Job Safety Analysis (JSA), etc.
- iv) Conduct Regular Mock Drills for all emergencies as per Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
- v) Strengthen training for ensuring follow up of all standard operating procedures by the operators.

**Gauge Conversion Projects**

2405. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the gauge conversion projects being undertaken at present in North Eastern Railways, Gorakhpur;

(b) the progress made so far on each project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing Gauge Conversion projects under North Eastern Railway indicating the anticipated cost, expenditure incurred upto March, 2005, outlay provided during 2005-06 and status alongwith target date for completion wherever fixed is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2005	Outlay 2005-06	Status along with target date for completion wherever fixed
1.	Kaptanganj - Thawe-Siwan - Chhapra (233.50 Kms)	320.10	31.09	18.00	The overall physical progress is about 33%. Earthwork and bridge works etc. have been taken up. Out of this, Thawe- Siwan Section is targeted for opening during 2005-06.
2.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura -Bareilly including material modification for extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan on Kanpur-Farrukhabad section (544.5 Kms).	661.72	207.25	43.35	The overall physical progress is 42%. Kanpur-Farrukhabad section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
3.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow Ph-I (479.9 Kms)	73.42	2.27	0.01	The overall physical progress is 5% Earthwork and bridges taken up.
4.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anandnagar-Nautanwa (260 Kms)	381.17	44.11	0.10	The overall physical progress is 13% Earthwork and bridges taken up.
5.	Aunrihar-Jaunpur (50.60 Kms)	85.92	0.02	2.00	Earthwork & minor bridges taken up.

[English]

**Private Participation in Commercial Plantation**

2406. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to encourage private participation in commercial plantation on its vacant land;

(b) if so, whether Railways propose to enter into the joint-ventures with private parties to promote plantation of various commercial trees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether earlier the Railways used to lease out land to the Forest Department for plantation; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not providing land to the Forest Department for plantation now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have taken up commercial plantation on its land as one of the non-tariff measures to raise internal resources while at the same time protecting its valuable land from encroachment. Under the scheme, Joint Venture (JV) partner is allowed to undertake plantation on railway land at its own cost and the revenue so earned is shared by Railway with JV partner on 50: 50 basis.

(d) and (e) Railway land in between the mid-Sections has been entrusted to the Forest Departments of respective State Governments on various locations. No such decision has been taken for giving 'no land' to forest department. However Railways has been experiencing many problems

viz non-execution of agreements, declaration of railway land as Protected/Reserve Forests, non-payment of nominal licence fee etc. with forest departments especially in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh etc.

**Development of New Online Material Management Information System**

2407. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have developed a new online Material Management Information System (MMIS);
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the name of the Zones where the new MMIS has been installed;
- (d) the expenditure incurred by the Railways on said system;
- (e) whether serious defects/deficiencies in the system/programme have come to the notice of the Railways;
- (f) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) The application has been developed by in-house System Development Team on Central Railway in association with M/s CMC Limited. It is an on-line real time application, using Client Server technique. The scope covers activities of Purchase Office viz. demand registration, tenders, purchase orders, vendors bill passing, inventory control etc. and Depot Management covering receipt, stocking ledger, local purchase, stock verification, sales and auction information and Accounting systems,

(c) Material Management Information System (MMIS) is under implementation in 12 Zonal Railways viz. Eastern Railway, Metro Railway, Kolkata, Northeast Frontier Railway, East Coast Railway, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, Northern Railway, South Central Railway, South East Central Railway, Southern Railway, West Central Railway Western Railway and one Production Unit viz. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works.

(d) Total fund of Rs.13.29 crores has been allocated to 12 Railways and 1 Production Unit for implementation of MMIS.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

**Underground Coal Gasification Projects**

2408. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Neyveli Lignite Corporation for undertaking underground coal gasification in lignite;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the sites short-listed for underground coal gasification projects; and
- (d) the steps taken to implement the projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) on 24.09.2005 for taking up a Joint Project on Underground Coal/Lignite Gasification. As per the MOU, ONGC and NLC will be jointly working in the States where NLC is operating and where lignite deposits are available for this purpose. Both the companies will be participating in R&D in Underground Coal Gasification/Underground Lignite Gasification technology, including experiments and pilots at suitable sites in lignite areas. In case of successful pilot experiments, ONGC and NLC will cooperate in the separation of flue gases generated from UCG/ULG for possible production and marketing of synthetic gas and/or crude and/or synthetic fuels.

(c) The sites short listed for Underground Coal Gasification Projects are Mannargudi, Kullanchavadi, Veranam in Tamilnadu and Sindhari in Rajasthan.

(d) Data collected from the respective sites has been sent to the consultant Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM-Russia) for study and analysis.

### **Concession Tickets to Orthopaedically Handicapped Persons**

2409. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in various railway reservation counters the concession tickets are not easily issued to the orthopaedically handicapped persons by the reservation clerks even through the original concession certificate issued by a Government hospital is attached with the reservation application form;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any new scheme for orthopaedically handicapped persons to avail the train travel concessions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/to be taken by the Government to make the procedure friendly to avail the concessions easily and travel freely throughout the country by the orthopaedically handicapped commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Few complaints about non-issue of concession tickets to orthopaedically handicapped persons are received. In most cases, it is found that the certificates issued by Government doctors were either not correctly filled or stamp of the hospital was not affixed. In genuine complaints, concerned staff are suitably taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The procedure for availing concession by handicapped persons is already simple and travel on concession is freely available throughout the country.

### **Rail Link between Delhi-Surat**

2410. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the persistent demand to introduce direct railway link between Delhi and Surat to meet the requirement of the people visiting Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At present, 7 pairs of Express trains are serving the Delhi- Surat sector. These are considered adequate for the present level of traffic offering between these two cities. Introduction of additional trains between Delhi and Surat is not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

### **Crime In Railways**

2411. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to share the intelligence among various security agencies on crime prone states for tackling crime in railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to increase the strength of existing protection force of railways to augment the security of passengers of railways and its properties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the security of the travelling passengers and railways?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Two Battalions of Railway Protection Special Force with their Headquarters at Garhara (Barauni-Bihar) and Thakurani near Mumbai, Maharashtra have been created to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways and protection of Railway Property.

(e) To provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989, have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort

many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) by amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. This has been done so that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws.

#### **KU-Band Signals**

2412. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to permit private cable operators to receive Ku-band signals and distribute through their own network for educational and non-commercial purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c)) In the year 2001, Government of Andhra Pradesh was permitted to uplink its TV channel for development communications purpose, within a closed user group only. Later, a request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to permit private cable operators to receive Ku-band signals and distribute through their own network for educational and non-commercial purposes.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed that it would be extremely difficult for Society for Andhra Pradesh Network (SAPNET), an autonomous Society set up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, to ensure the carriage of TV channel by cable operators in view of ever-increasing demand for carriage space by other private TV channels. Moreover, the distribution of the channel over cable networks is not permissible under the present permission. Therefore, the AP Government has been advised that SAPNET could consider approaching Prasar

Bharati for carriage of MANA TV channel on its free to Air DTH platform on an experimental basis.

#### **Growth of Air Cargo Traffic**

2413. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the anticipated annual growth rate of air cargo traffic in the country in the coming decade;

(b) whether sea freight industry is increasingly turning out to be a serious threat to air cargo; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make air cargo more attractive and efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The anticipated growth rate of international and domestic cargo traffic is 10% for 11th Five Year Plan and 8% for 12th Five Year Plan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Devolution of Powers to Panchayats**

2414. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all States and Union Territories have implemented the provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India regarding devolution of powers to the Panchayats under the three tier administration system;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) All States/UTs to which the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 applies, except Jharkhand and Pondicherry have held elections and constituted Panchayats in accordance with the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution. However, as the Constitution provides that it is legislatures of States that will endow the Panchayati Raj Institutions with powers and authority,

States have devolved powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats in varying measure. The Union Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for devolution to Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territories that do not have a legislature. NCT Delhi has only urban local government in accordance with Part IX A of the Constitution.

Implementation of Article 243ZD under the 74th Amendment relating to constitution of District Planning Committees has been uneven. A letter has been sent by the Planning Commission on 24-10-05 to the Planning Secretaries of all States/UTs conveying the guidelines for the preparation of District Plans and their incorporation into the Annual Plans. These guidelines stipulate that constitution of DPCs in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution is one of the points to be taken into consideration before approval of the Annual Plan Proposals for 2006-07.

(b) and (c) To provide an impetus to the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in letter and spirit by States, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Tables of State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points for action, which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. The joint programme of action seeks to ensure that on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government.

A Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been constituted to review the implementation of the recommendations. The first meeting of the Council was held on 5th-6th August, 2005 at Kochi, Kerala. A Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and State Panchayati Raj Secretaries has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to monitor the progress on the implementation of the 150 recommendations of the Seven Round Tables and the decisions of the Council of States Ministers of Panchayati Raj. Four review meetings of the Committee have so far been held in April, 2005, June, 2005, September, 2005, and November 2005.

With a view to interacting with Panchayats and carrying out a review with the authorities concerned of the progress in implementing the points for action mutually

agreed upon in the Round Tables, a process of visiting the States and UTs at the level of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been initiated. Eight States have been covered so far, including Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. Each visit is concluded with a Statement of Conclusions jointly signed with the Chief Minister of the State concerned, highlighting the key points of action on which the State would move to operationalise the recommendations of the Round Tables.

An exercise is also underway to review different statutes with a view to harmonise them with the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution. Similarly, the guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being reviewed to ensure the centrality of Panchayats in planning and implementation. As regards new Centrally Sponsored Schemes, wherever relevant, it is proposed to provide for a central role for Panchayats. Thus, for example, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides for the Panchayats to be the "principal authorities" for the planning and implementation of schemes under the Act. Steps are also being taken to fill in critical gaps in infrastructure and capacity so that Panchayats can effectively fulfil their constitutional role.

[Translation]

#### **Non-Stop Flights of I.A.**

2415. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines (I.A.) has recently introduced new non-stop domestic and international flights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Airlines has conducted any survey with regard to various profitable and non-profitable routes in the country; and
- (d) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The following non-stop flights were introduced by Indian Airlines in the summer and winter schedule, 2005:-

#### **Summer Schedule:**

Mumbai-Kolkata-Mumbai, Mumbai-Sharjah-Mumbai,  
Mumbai-Bangkok-Mumbai, Hyderabad-Singapore-

Hyderabad, Bangalore-Bangkok-Bangalore,  
Hyderabad-Bangkok-Hyderabad and Chennai-  
Bangkok-Chennai.

**Winter Schedule:**

Bangalore-Goa-Bangalore, Bangalore-Pune-  
Bangalore, Bangalore-Puttaparthi-Bangalore and  
Delhi-Singapore-Delhi sectors.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has conducted market surveys to determine the air traffic potential to new destinations such as Surat, Nashik, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Vijayawada, Dhanbad, Cooch Behar, Nanded, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Pathankot. As per their assessment, the traffic potential to the above destinations is not sufficient to sustain commercially viable operations with the jet type of aircraft in Indian Airlines' fleet.

**Involvement of Panchayats in  
Promotion of Bio-Diesel**

2416. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to involve Panchayati Raj institutions in promoting bio-fuels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to implement/assist the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under its Rural Business Hubs initiative, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been working to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the promotion of the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesel.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is acting as a facilitator between the State Government, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Corporate Sector with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). The PRIs are being

invited to identify through their Gram Sabhas farmers who wish to take up Jatropha cultivation, and to then associate such farmers with corporate entities involved in bio-diesel with the intermediation of the PRIs. The Government in association with State Governments, PRIs and the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) is planning to conduct mass awareness programmes on the plantation of Jatropha, collection of seeds and extraction of oil for the production of bio-diesel. A joint Committee of the Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj and the Planning Commission has been formed with the representative of several stakeholders and specialist technical agencies to pursue the involvement of the panchayats and corporate entities in public-private-panchayat-partnerships to promote the cultivation of Jatropha for bio-diesel.

[English]

**Modernisation of Airports in  
Western States**

2417. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going projects of modernisation of airports in the Western States, Airport-wise;

(b) how much amount has been allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the present status of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of on-going projects of modernization of airports in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa, the Western States, alongwith the funds involved and their status are as follows:

Gujarat—At Ahmedabad airport, construction of new domestic arrival block for 800 passengers at a cost of Rs.56.94 crores already initiated with a completion target of March, 2007. Action is in hand for construction of new international terminal complex for 1000 passengers alongwith associated facilities at a cost of Rs.291 crores. At Surat airport, strengthening and extension of runway and associated works has been initiated at a cost of Rs.49.50 crores in two phases. The completion target of phase I work is March, 2006. At Porbandar airport, action has been initiated for construction of new terminal building and other works at a cost of Rs.10 crores with a completion target of March, 2006.



Maharashtra — At Mumbai airport, action has been initiated for extension and modification of terminal building has been initiated at a cost of Rs.85.66 crores and upgradation and construction of parallel rapid and exit taxi-track, additional Domestic and International Parking bays and resurfacing of runway etc. in operational area at a cost of Rs.111.92 crores. At Aurangabad airport, action is in hand for construction of new integrated international terminal building complex, apron and allied works at a cost of Rs.90.00 crores & strengthening and extension of runway at a cost of Rs.25 crores.

At Goa airport, action is in hand for construction of new international terminal building complex and expansion of apron and associated works at a cost of Rs.90 crores.

[Translation]

#### Bio-diesel Policy

2418. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to constitute a panel to formulate a policy on bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry to implement the proposed National Mission on Bio-Diesel, which, interalia, envisages large scale plantation of *Jatropha Curcus* (Ratan Jot). The detailed Project Report for the proposed National Mission on Bio-Diesel, which was referred by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Planning Commission, has not yet received all clearances and approvals which are prerequisites for deciding upon any policy regarding bio-diesel.

[English]

#### Ferry Service at Delhi Airport

2419. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether transport facilities for ferrying passengers from domestic to international airport by bus is not available within the premises of Delhi airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate facilities of ferry service to passengers at Delhi airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India provides free coach services to transit passengers from international terminal to domestic terminal and vice-versa. Indian Airlines and Jet Airways are also providing such services to the passengers free of cost.

#### Gauge Conversion from Secunderabad to Nizamabad

2420. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on gauge conversion of railway line from Secunderabad to Nizamabad;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the project, till date; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work forms a part of Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankampet-Bodhan gauge conversion project. Mudkhed-Nizamabad-Bolarum and Jankampet-Bodhan sections have been completed and commissioned. An expenditure of Rs.283.77 crore has been incurred on the project upto 31.3.2005. The remaining section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.

[Translation]

#### Serials on Freedom Fighters

2421. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to produce or telecast any serial based on the biographies of the freedom fighters belonging to tribal communities of the States including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any serials based on the biographies of the leading freedom fighters of tribal communities of various States telecast or produced by Doordarshan Kendras during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that presently Doordarshan is not producing or telecasting any serials based on the biographies of the freedom fighters belonging to tribal communities of the States including Maharashtra. However, from time to time Doordarshan has been telecasting programmes on the contribution of freedom fighters on special occasions.

(c) and (d) The details of serials/programmes based on the lives of prominent freedom fighters including tribals produced and telecast by Doordarshan during the last three years till date are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

State	Doordarshan Kendra	Details of Programmes
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Role of Telugu women in freedom struggle (4 episodes) Freedom struggle- personalities (8 episodes) Prjanayakudu Prakasham Mutnuri Krishna Rao Raghupati Venkat Ratnam Naidu Telengana Kesari Sardar Jamalapuram Kesava Rao Kodi Ram Murthy Naidu Suravaram Pratap Reddy Pingali Venkaiah Vavilala Gopala Krishnaiah
Assam	Guwahati	Anyanya Angana (2 episodes)
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Maha Koshal Gatha (play) (4 episodes)
Delhi	Delhi	Babu Kanwar Singh (7 episodes) Subhash Chandra Bose (6 episodes) Aruna Asaf Ali (Documentary) Birsa Munda Lal Bahadur Shastri (2 episodes) Lachit Burphokan (3 episodes)
Karnataka	Bangalore	British Virodhi Dandaya (13 programme) Tribal communities also covered like Surapruada Venkatappa Nayaka Helagaliya Badaru etc. (4 programmes) (tribals)
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Interview with Shri Ram Ugaonkar, writer, lyricist and freedom fighter in interview based programme titled "Ajache Pahune".

1	2	3
		Interview with Shri Narayan Vannam, Freedom fighter in interview based programme titled "Swatantryacha Uddhghosh" Recorded interview with Shri Shankar Mali, freedom fighter in the field based programme titled "Aika Ho Aika" for future use.
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	Life adn achievements of Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab (6 episodes) A documentary titled Kranti Bajjayanti on the life and works of freedom fighter Sh. Raghu Dibakar. Tribal committee two episodes serial on Sh. Birsha Mundha (2 episodes) tribals. Two episode serial on Sahid Laxman Naik a tribal of Koraput (2 episodes) tirbal.
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Chandra Shekhar Azad (2 episodes) Bhagat Singh (4 episodes)

#### Pension to Widows of Former Members

2422. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for granting pension to the widows of deceased former Members of Parliament for sustenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the proposal stands as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While considering a proposal for grant of pension and rail travel facility to the spouse of a deceased former Member of Parliament, the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament recommended that the spouse of the deceased ex-Members may be provided with same facilities as were available to the ex-MPs before his/her death. This proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### LPG Cylinders

2423. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 25 per cent of LPG cylinders used in the country are illegal;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies have failed to check the use of spurious LPG cylinders in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to curb such unfair practices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) 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 India 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 inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 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.

*[Translation]*

#### **Change in Train Route**

2424. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the routes of Kanpur-Rai Bareilly special train presently being run on Delhi-Lucknow-Rai Bareilly route to Rai Bareilly via Aligarh-Kanpur-Unnao-Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The demand in this regard was examined but not found feasible for implementation due to operational constraints.

*[English]*

#### **Religion based Reservation**

2425. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide religion based reservation in education and Government employment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The

Government has set up a National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Ranganath Misra to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic Minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment. The term of the Commission is up to 30th April 2006.

#### **Carriage Fee**

2426. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has proposed to levy a carriage fee of Rs.1.00 crore each on private channels seeking platform under DTH bouquet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of private channels in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati had earlier proposed a carriage fee of Rs.75.00 lakh each from the private channels seeking inclusion in DTH bouquet. Prasar Bharati is currently hosting private T.V. channels free of charge for a period of two years from its launch. A number of private T.V. channels have expressed their willingness to join the DTH platform of Doordarshan.

*[Translation]*

#### **Train Accident at Dhanbad**

2427. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a collision between passenger train and goods train at Barwadih station under Dhanbad division in November 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the accident;

(c) the prima-facie cause of the accident and responsibility fixed therefor;

(d) the details of loss of lives and properties therein and compensation provided to them;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 09.11.2005, 619 Up Passenger left-Barwadih station from loop line and in the meantime Goods train Up LHM Special also left Chhipadohar station on way to Barwadih station. The goods train was supposed to stop at the Home Signal of Barwadih station. However, it disregarded the Home Signal and Starter Signal of Up main line and side collided with 619 passenger train which had left from loop line of Barwadih station. As a result of this, 4 coaches of 619 Up Passenger train got derailed and capsized and engine with 31 wagons of Goods train derailed blocking through communication of Up and Dn lines both.

(c) and (d) Prima facie cause of this accident is the Disregard of Signal by the Goods train. As a result of this accident, 9 persons lost their lives, 8 got grievously injured and 18 sustained minor/simple injuries. The cost of damage to Railway property in this accident is estimated as Rs.9,23,43,960/- approximately.

Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. However, no compensation claim has yet been filed by the victims or their families. But exgratia relief of 9.29 lakhs has been provided to the kith and kin of the deceased and to the injured passengers.

(e) and (f) No report has been received from the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, who is conducting statutory inquiry into this accident.

However, the officials who are prima facie responsible for the accident have been placed under suspension.

[English]

#### **Investment in Electronic and Print Media**

2428. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

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

(a) the details of proposals received for investment in electronic and print media after allowing FDI therein;

(b) the details of investment proposals approved and rejected so far; and

(c) the details of proposals pending for clearance and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is only a recommendatory department and proposals of Foreign Direct Investment are processed by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) under Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The details of proposals received by this Ministry for its recommendations in respect of Print and Broadcast Sector are as per the enclosed Statement, which includes proposals recommended for approval, for rejection and those under process. No specific time limit can be stated as it depends on a case-to-case basis.

#### **Statement**

##### **Cases in Print Media:**

##### **Statement of cases in print media recommended for approval**

Sl. No.	Name of the Applicant Company	Name of Magazine	Date of Approval Letter
1	2	3	4
<i>1. Indian edition of foreign scientific/technical/speciality magazines/journals/periodicals</i>			
1.	M/s IBS Publishing Pvt. Ltd. FDI- 50% (Rs 50,000/-)	International Banking Systems	14th February 2005
2.	M/s. Facpresse Publishers Pvt. Ltd. Ltd. (FDI 74%)	Printcom India	16th March 2005

1	2	3	4
<i>II. Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/specialty magazines/journals/periodicals</i>			
1.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Better Photography	7th April 2003
2.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Search	3rd June 2003
3.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Overdrive	3rd June 2003
4.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Auto Monitor	3rd June 2003
5.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Overdrive Grandprix	3rd June 2003
6.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	AV Max	7th May 2003
7.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Khana Pina	20th November 2003
8.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Yellow Line Office Guide	20th November 2003
9.	M/s. Sorabjee Automotive Communications Private Limited (Foreign Investment - 50%)	Autocar India	19th February 2004
10.	M/s. Tata Infomedia Limited (Foreign Investment - 4.35%)	Photo Imaging	19th February 2004
11.	M/s. Sage Publications India Limited (Foreign Investment - 40%)	Insage	1st March 2004
12.	M/s. TBW Publishing & Media Private Limited No foreign investment (technical collaboration)	Intelligent Computing Chip	1st March 2004
13.	M/s Banyan Netfaqs Pvt. Ltd. (NRI Investment - 4.16%)	The Brand Reporter	1st March 2004
14.	M/s Magz International Limited (Foreign Investment - 74%)	Non-news and Non-current affairs publications.	29th September 2004
15.	M/s Infomedia India Limited (Foreign Investment - 0.1341 % as on date)	Industry Watch	27th October 2004
16.	M/s Infomedia India Limited (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Modern Machine Tools	27th October 2004

1	2	3	4
17.	M/s Infomedia India Limited (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Yellow Line City Guide	28th October 2004
18.	M/s. Quantum Information Services Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 7.12%)	Money Simplified	11th November 2004
19.	M/s Infomedia India Limited (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Infomedia Yellow Pages	19th November 2004
20.	M/s Infomedia India Limited (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Indian Exporters Guide	19th November 2004
21.	M/s Birla Sun Life Distribution Company Limited. (Foreign Investment - 50%)	"Investime"	22nd November 2004
22.	M/s. Quantum Information Services Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 7.12%)	Stock Market Yearbook	23rd November 2004
23.	M/s. Infomedia India Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Infomedia Home Guide	16th December 2004
24.	M/s. Infomedia India Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Infomedia City Guide	16th December 2004
25.	M/s. Haymarket SACPL (Foreign Investment - 50%)	Autocar Professional	16th December 2004
26.	M/s Indiacom Limited (Foreign Investment - 53%)	Indiacom Yellow Pages	16th February 2005
27.	M/s Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited	Birla Sun Life Life Line	14th March 2005 and 24th May 2005
28.	M/s Infomedia India Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Infomedia Office Guide	14th March 2005
29.	M/s Infomedia India Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 0.1341%)	Modern Medicare	16th March 2005
30.	M/s Infomedia India Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 0.1341 %)	Better Interiors	13th June 2005
31.	M/s Haymarket SAC Publishing (India) Pvt Ltd.	WhatCar	18th July 2005
32.	M/s Worldwide Media Ltd.	Filmfare Travel	18th July 2005
33.	M/s. IDG Media Private Limited	Outsourcing World	24th August 2005

1	2	3	4
34.	M/s Worldwide Media Limited	The Femina Book of Good Parenting	30th August 2005
35.	M/s Haymarket SAC Publishing (India) Pvt. Ltd.	What HiFi	30th August 2005
36.	M/s. Sage Publication Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 40%)	Global Business Review	30th August 2005
37.	M/s. Sage Publication Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 40%)	Gender Technology & Development	6th September 2005
38.	M/s. Sage Publication Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 40%)	The Indian Economic & Social History Review	6th September 2005
39.	M/s. Sage Publication Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 40%)	Contribution to Indian Sociology	6th September 2005
40.	M/s. Sage Publication Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 40%)	China Report	6th September 2005
41.	M/s Cosmic Printmedia Pvt. Ltd. (Foreign Investment - Rs.24 Lakhs)	TV Media	14th November 2005
42.	M/s Worldwide Media Ltd.	Femina The Beauty Professional's Book	18th November 2005
43.	M/s Saint Life Media Pvt Ltd. (Foreign Investment - 74%)	Publishing of speciality magazines/periodicals/journals	23rd November 2005

*III. Foreign Direct Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs*

S.No.	Name of the Applicant	Name of Magazine	Date of Approval Letter
1.	M/s. HT Media Limited (FDI - 24.64%) (Rs.1,93,99,96,638/-)	News and Current Affairs publications.	3rd December 2003, 7th October 2004 and 15th October 2004.
2.	M/s. Business Standard Limited (FDI-13.85%) (Rs.8,37,36,380/-)	News and Current Affairs publications	9th March 2004, 29th March 2004 and 5th April 2004
3.	M/s Jagran Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. (FDI - 26%) (Rs.3,21,24,860/-)	News and Current Affairs publications	21st March 2005



*Statement of Cases under consideration as on 5th December 2005*

*II. Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/ technical/speciality magazines/journals/periodicals*

S.No.	Name of Applicant Company	Name of Magazine	Date of Receipt of Application
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Media Transasia India Ltd.	Publication of Speciality magazines/periodicals/journals	05.7.2005
2.	M/s Infomedia India Ltd.	Cricinfo Magazine	05.10.05
3.	M/s ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd.	ICICI Pru Quarterly Review	17.10.05
4.	M/s Worldwide Media Ltd.	Filmfare Classic	23.11.05
5.	M/s Worldwide Media Ltd.	Filmfare Starhomes	23.11.05

*III. Foreign Direct Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs*

1.	M/s. Sandesh Limited (NRI holding of 0.10%)	News and current affairs publications.	13.09.04
2.	M/s. Times Journal India Pvt. Ltd. (FDI- 26%)	News and current affairs publications. (Wall Street Journal)	12.10.04
3.	M/s Mathrubhumi Printing & Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	29.3.05
4.	M/s Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	25.8.05
5.	M/s Sambhav Media Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	31.8.05
6.	M/s Dhara Prakashan Pvt. Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	12.9.05
7.	M/s Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	15.9.05
8.	M/s Business India Publications Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	20.9.05
9.	M/s Writers & Publishers Ltd.	News and current affairs publications	18.11.05
10.	M/s Midram Publications Pvt. Ltd	Publication of facsimile edition of International Herald Tribune	30.11.05

1	2	3	4
11.	M/s Financial Times (India) Pvt Ltd.	Publication of facsimile edition of "South Asian Financial Times"	02.12.05

**Statement of Cases Rejected**

*Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/ speciality magazines/journals/periodicals.*

S.No.	Name of the Company	Name of Publication
1.	M/s Prudential ICICI Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Prudent Investor
2.	M/s Infomedia India Ltd.	Tata Press Neighbourhood Guide

**Statement of cases in respect of Electronic Media**

Sl. No.	Name of the applicant company (whether existing or fresh company)	Name of Foreign collaborator	Proposal	Main activities	Action taken by Ministry
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s Angel Foundation, U.K (fresh)	M/s Angel Foundation, U.K	To set up a 100% subsidiary in India.	Production/sourcing of audio-video software, marketing and consultancy, research, distribution in this field.	Conveyed on 20.2.2003.
2.	M/s Mogae Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai (existing)	M/s DENTSU Inc. Japan	To set up a joint venture company	Production and marketing of audio video software	Conveyed NOC on 4.9.2003
3.	The Walt Disney India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi (existing company)	M/s Disney Enterprises, INC, USA (DEI)	1. Permission for investment of 100% by DEI.  2. Remittance of royalty payment.	Production of TV software and distribution of channel	Conveyed NOC on 29.9.2003
4.	M/s Total Sports & Entertainment India Pvt. Ltd (existing company)	Total Sports Asia Ltd., Cayman Islands, BVI	Transfer of initial subscription shares from resident to non-resident company.	Distribution and marketing of all types of sports, media and entertainment rights sales, distribution of cinematographic films, TV serials, ad-films.	We communicated to D/O Eco. Affairs that this Ministry has no comments to offer.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Set India Pvt. Ltd. (existing)	M/s Sony Picture Entertainment, USA	Acquisition of 100% shares of M/s Set Satellite Singapore Ltd. Through a share swap transaction.	Exports, sales and distribution of Indian language audio-visual productions,	Conveyed on 2.1.2004.
6.	M/s Balaji Telefilms Limited (existing)	M/s Asian Broadcasting FZ-LLC, UAE	Acquisition of equity of Indian company	Television software production	Conveyed NOC on 29.12.2004
7.	M/s B4U Television, Mumbai (existing)	Oversees Corporate Bodies	Transfer of shares to oversees corporate bodies	Production of TV software, distribution of B4U channel and marketing of film rights	NOC not granted However, FIPB recommended the application
8.	M/s Turner International India Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Turner Broadcasting Sys. Asia Pacific, Inc. USA	Amendment in activities to include production of TV software	Marketing of copy rights of films of Time Warner Group films	NOC Conveyed on 8.2.2004
9.	M/s Bloomberg L.P. of USA	M/s Bloomberg L.P. of USA	Setting up a 100% owned subsidiary in India for carrying out TV software production activity.	Business of TV programming and software production (TV software production) etc.	NOC Conveyed on 27.5.2005
10.	M/s News Television (India) Pvt. Ltd. now STAR India Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Buzzer Investments Ltd., Mauritius (an affiliate of M/s Satellite Television Asia Region Ltd.)	Amendment in the scope of its activities to include acquisition of media space on various platforms, from entities both inside and outside India including those engaged in TV broadcasting, radio broadcasting etc.	Various activities related to the media industry.	Pending for want of comments of MRTP Commission to whom the matter has been sent on 26th September 2005 to know whether the action of the company to expand its activities may lead to vertical integration and monopolistic tendencies in the advertisement market will violate the MRTP Act.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	M/s Americorp Ventures Limited Mauritius	M/s Americorp Ventures Limited, Mauritius	Acquisition of shares in the share capital of Nimbus Communication Ltd. (NCL) from Transatlantic Corporation Ltd (an overseas corporate body holding shares of NCL).	Business of media and entertainment including advertising, publicity, marketing consultancy and mass communication.	FIPB recommended the proposal in its meeting on 27.4.2005
12.	M/s Nishan Media (India) Ltd.	Mr. Ranjit Singh, 3-A, The Avenue, A Cocks Green Birmingham West Midlands, United Kingdom	NRI Investment	Television and Radio Broadcasting and production.	The proposal was not supported by the Ministry and FIPB was informed about this decision on 26.5.2005.
13.	M/s CBN Multimedia Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., USA	Conversion of existing DTA unit into 100% EOU for production of television programmes	Production of stories and TV programmes.	The FIPB recommended the proposal for approval on 14.6.2005
14.	M/s Mitsui & Co. India Pvt. Ltd.	M/s Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Japan	Widening the scope of activities and to undertake certain other additional activities.	Import, export, off-shore trade and wholesale trade, capital goods leasing and technology transfer.	NOC Conveyed on 10.10.2005
15.	Media Content & Communications Services (India) Ltd. (MCCS)	M/s. Star News Broadcast Limited	Proposal to invest 26% of the paid up equity in M/s. MCCS	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channel	NOC issued on 17.10.2003
16.	New Delhi Television Ltd.	Standard Chartered Private Equity (Mauritius) Limited	Proposal for approval for foreign equity investment of Rs.52,87,50,000 against issued of 34,28,387 equity shares of Rs.10	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channel	NOC issued in 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
			face value aggregating to 14.35% of post issue paid up capital of the company by Standard Chartered Private Equity (Mauritius) Limited		
17.	i.News.com Ltd.	Business News Asia (BNA)	Proposal for investment by Business News (Asia) (BNA) in the equity share capital of iNews. Com Ltd. to the extent up to 15%, a subsidiary of Television Eighteen India Ltd.	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channel	The Proposal was not supported by the Ministry as it did not meet the requirements under Uplinking guidelines
18.	TV Today Network Ltd.		Through IPO, fresh issue of equity shares up to a max. of 10,000,000 equity shares and an Offer for Sale by the Offering Shareholders up to a max of 4,500,000 equity shares of the pre-IPO issued Capital to the Public under a Prospectus issued for such purpose. Out of the Offer for Sale, Living Media will be offering a max. of 1700,000 equity shares representing 3.54% of the pre-IPO issued Capital offered, a max. of 2,400,000 equity shares representing 5% of the pre-IPO issued Capital offered by Bharati and a max. of 400,000 equity shares representing 0.83% of the pre-IPO issued Capital offered by Anika.	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channel	NOC issued on 20.11.2003

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Asianet Communications Ltd.	M/s. Americorp Ventures Ltd., Mauritius	Transfer of 7,00,000 equity shares of Rs.10 each to M/s. Americorp Ventures Ltd., Mauritius	Uplinking of news & current Affairs channel	NOC issued on 19.1.2005
20.	Measat International (South Asia)		100%	Set up a 100% Subsidiary Company in India	NOC issued on 14.7.2004
21.	Jagran TV Pvt. Ltd. Ltd.	M/s. New Vernon Bharat Ltd., Mauritius	Allotment of 34,58,950 shares of Rs. 10 each to a foreign company M/s. New Vernon Bharat Ltd.	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channel	NOC issued on 27.5.2005
22.	New Delhi Television Ltd.	M/s. GA European	(i) Transfer of 7.95% shares held by Shyam Cellular to M/s. GA European. (ii) Another proposal of NDTV for permission to gift 4580198 equity shares each by Dr. Prannoy Roy & Mrs. Radhika Roy held in the company to their daughter, who is an NRI, amounting to 15% of the issued and paid up share capital of the company is still under examination in the Ministry	Uplinking of news & current affairs TV channels	NOC issued on 25.8.2005  Proposal kept in abeyance on company's request
23.	Value Vision Broadcasting Pvt. Ltd.	Mr. Wilson Joseph, Mr. Virkey Abraham, Mr. Joy Kallumkal, Mr. Phillip George	23% NRI investment by way of issue of 4600 equity shares of Rs.1000 each to Mr. Wilson Joseph (100 shares), Mr. Virkey Abraham (1500 shares), Mr. Joy Kallumkal (1500 shares) and Mr. Phillip George (1500 shares)	Proposal for uplinking of an entertainment channel under examination in the Ministry	NOC issued on 19.8.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	M/s Radio Mid Day (West) India Pvt. Ltd.	BBC Worldwide Limited	To invest equity within the prescribed limit of 20 per cent	FM Radio Broadcast	NOC given on 30.11.2005
25.	M/s Space TV Private Limited	Star Group	To set up a Joint venture with TATA	DTH services	Letter of Intent Issued on 17.05.2005

#### **Air Services on Kochi-Agatti Sector**

2429. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dornier aircraft now used by Indian Airlines in the Kochi-Agatti sector is getting grounded frequently resulting in cancellation of services without notice;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider other alternatives including introduction of 46 seater ATR plane on this sector;

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

(d) whether any private airline has expressed interest to operate in this sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. During the period August, 2005 to October, 2005, out of 156 flights, there were only 13 cancellations of Dornier flights. Of these, only 4 cancellations were due to technical problems of the Dornier aircraft.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines' subsidiary, Alliance Air is in the process of acquiring smaller capacity ATR aircraft on lease. These aircraft are planned to be based at Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Services between Kochi and Agatti with ATR aircraft could then be considered subject to commercial viability.

(d) and (e) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services to different regions of the country. As such, all airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. Government would accord necessary clearances to private

airlines in case they file their schedule for operating on this sector.

#### **Surveillance Capabilities**

2430. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surveillance capabilities of our Defence forces are inadequate; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to strengthen the surveillance of the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The surveillance capabilities of Defence services are commensurate to their mandated operational role. These capabilities are reviewed, planned and upgraded continuously.

#### **Abolition of Anti-Adulteration Cell**

2431. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has abolished the anti-adulteration cell in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has asked the Public Sector Oil Companies to check malpractice under marketing discipline guidelines;

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

(e) if so, whether the Government is aware that the oil mafia threatened the sales officers when they detected any malpractices;

(f) if so, the number of incidents which have come to the notice of the Government regarding killing of sales officers during the recent past; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to provide protection of the sales officers from the oil mafia to enable them to check malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC), was set up in March 2001 under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG). It was found to be ineffective in its functioning on account of the possible involvement of some of its officers who are under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for undesirable activities. Therefore, a one-man committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was set up in April, 2004 to conduct an extensive review of the working of the AAC. The report showed that the AAC, with its existing structure and functions, could not play a meaningful role in the Ministry's efforts to curb the menace of adulteration. Accordingly, the Cell was wound up in July 2004.

The Government/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken the following steps to contain the menace of adulteration:

- (i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have taken up this matter with all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to step up inspections/ surprise checks to ensure that adulteration-related activities are minimized and to exercise vigil/conduct inspections at various private firms, factories, processing units, etc., under their jurisdictions so as to identify the perpetrators of adulteration and take stringent action against them within the available legal framework.
- (ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.
- (iii) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and

operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

- (iv) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.
- (v) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en route adulteration by transporters.
- (vi) Information Technology (IT) solutions like monitoring movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS) and monitoring level of fuel tanks in Retail Outlets through retail automation are being introduced.
- (vii) Branding of Retail Outlets and third party certification of Retail Outlets have been initiated by the OMCs.
- (viii) Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and desirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country.

Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

(e) to (g) OMCs have reported that there have been certain instances when their inspection teams were threatened during the course of inspections. In a recent case, a sales officer of IOC was allegedly murdered in U.P. while conducting an inspection. The State Governments have been requested to provide adequate police protection/security to the OMCs officials as per the requirement, for carrying out inspections.

#### **Additional Platform at Jamnagar and Happa Railway Stations**

2432. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government has any proposal to construct additional platforms at Jamnagar and Happa railway stations;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there are two platforms at Jamnagar and three platforms at Hapa railway station which are considered adequate to deal with the present volume of traffic handled at these stations.

#### **Encroachment of Railway Land**

2433. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated areas of railway land under encroachment, zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or being taken by the Railways to get the land vacated from encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The estimated areas of railway land under encroachment, zone-wise, is given as under:

Railway	Area in Hectares
1	2
Central	82.1
Eastern	56.388
East Central	28.533
East Coast	24.905
Northern	1152.41
North Central	48.004
North Eastern	40.250
Northeast Frontier	181.764

1	2
North Western	19.008
Southern	63.42
South Central	32.419
South Eastern	198.399
Southeast Central	57.032
South Western	19.5
Western	65.486
West Central	06.303
Total	2075.92

(b) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and the Railways Act, 1989.

#### **Coverage of Doordarshan Programmes in Karnataka**

2434. SHRI. G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding poor reception in Bellary Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka where programmes are being telecast from the Doordarshan Centre;

(b) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the arrangements made to improve the coverage of Doordarshan programmes in all the cities of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Sixty eight T.V. transmitters of Doordarshan provide coverage to about 82.4% of the population of Karnataka. Besides, the multi-channel T.V. coverage by Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service DD Direct+ can be

received in the entire State with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

#### **Helicopter Service for N.E. Region**

2435. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the helicopter services in operation in the North East region;

(b) whether any ceiling has been fixed on the monthly flying hours;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the subsidy on air travel to North-East region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) In the North East region, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has provided helicopters on long term lease to Government of Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. The regular passenger services are being run under the aegis of the respective State Governments as per their requirements.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has fixed the ceiling of flying hours for each state, which are 180 hours per month for Arunachal Pradesh, 60 hours per month for Meghalaya, 50 hours per month for Sikkim and 40 hours per month for Tripura.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Doordarshan Transmitters in Karnataka**

2436. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Doordarshan Transmitters in Karnataka likely to become operational during the current year alongwith their locations thereof;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether required staff has been provided for operation and maintenance of these transmitters;

(d) if not, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(f) the annual estimated expenditure to be incurred on the maintenance and operation of these transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Besides the 2 LPTs commissioned at Mudhol and Sidhanur at a cost of Rs.1.38 crores, no other transmitter is planned to be set up in Karnataka.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. In the absence of sanction of posts, the operation and maintenance of these transmitters is being done by redeployment of staff from other stations.

(f) The annual estimated expenditure on the maintenance and operation of these transmitters is approx. Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

#### **Withdrawal of Funds in Container Corporation**

2437. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to withdraw some benefits it had earlier extended to Container Corporation of India; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Replacement of Ageing Aircraft**

2438. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ageing aircraft in Indian Air Force;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to replace the ageing aircraft;

(c) if so, the programmes drawn-up in this regard; and

(d) the funds required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Replacement of ageing aircraft is an on-going process. Programmes are drawn up and implemented from time to time for replacement of ageing aircraft. Adequate funds required for the purpose are made available by the Government. It would not be in the interest of national security to give further details of the programmes of phasing out and replacements.

#### Import by Oil PSUs

2439. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total imports made in terms of quantity and value, by each public sector oil company during each of the last three years.

(b) the details of expenses incurred by each of them on account of Customs Duty, Excise Duty, various Cess levied by Central and State Governments on refining and transportation; and

(c) the share of profits earned by each company from refining and marketing operations respectively during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of crude oil, petroleum product imports made by oil PSUs in terms of quantity and value during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of expenses incurred by the above oil PSUs on account of custom duty, excise duty, various cess levied by Central and State Government during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The above oil PSUs, barring MRPL which is a refining company, are integrated oil refining and marketing companies and net profit from the refinery/marketing operation is not maintained separately but is included in the overall profit of the company. The Profit After Tax (PAT) earned by these companies during the last three years is given below:-

(Rs crore)			
Oil PSU	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
HPCL	1,537	1,904	1,277
IOCL	6,115	7,005	4,891
BPCL	1,250	1,695	966
MRPL	(412)	459	880

#### Statement-I

##### Imports by PSU oil companies

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Qty. TMT	Value Rs Crore	Qty. TMT	Value Rs Crore	Qty. TMT	Value Rs Crore
IOC	32412	31600	34566	33338	38394	50851
BPC	7712	7311	10379	9889	11360	14710
HPC	8012	7894	9243	8813	10226	13258
MRPL	7210	6756	7989	7408	8335	10170

#### Statement-II

Contribution to the exchequer for the year 2002-03	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	MRPL
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Central</b>				
Custom duty	3407.92	811.81	873.00	694.00
Excise duty	17171.62	6939.19	5661.00	518.00

1	2	3	4	5
Cess	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others	119.89	206.65	2.00	Nil
<b>State</b>				
Sales Tax	12996.74	6457.97	6168.00	261.00
Dividend to State Government	1.44	8.08	Nil	Nil
Octroi & duties	870.93	0.55	113.00	Nil
Others	0.25	Nil	Nil	Nil
Contribution to the exchequer for the year 2003-04	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	MRPL
<b>Central</b>				
Custom duty	3948.63	1145.47	1139.70	826.00
Excise duty	18017.43	7024.15	6128.99	1221.00
Cess	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others (including service tax)	95.55	134.25	4.21	Nil
<b>State</b>				
Sales Tax	14331.90	7334.64	6986.11	233.00
Dividend to State Government	2.84	14.99	Nil	Nil
Octroi & duties	614.26	0.46	132.31	Nil
Others	305.01	42.19	Nil	57.00
Contribution to the exchequer for the year 2004-05	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	MRPL
<b>Central</b>				
Custom duty	5703.81	1534.82	1397.73	396.00
Excise duty	16918.95	7431.98	6189.05	2180.00
Cess	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Others (including service tax)	141.85	145.49	6.74	Nil
<b>State</b>				
Sales Tax	18209.11	9450.76	7977.27	196.00
Dividend to State Government	2.77	17.99	Nil	Nil
Octroi & duties	594.19	0.55	149.20	Nil
Others	551.78	39.18	Nil	118.00

### TV Channels

2440. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TV channels being run in the public and private sectors in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether any rules have been framed for operating a TV channel privately;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints that some TV channels are being run illegally in various parts of the country;

(e) if so the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government has till date permitted 63 companies to uplink 166 private satellite TV channels from India. Besides, Doordarshan is presently operating 27 TV channels. These channels can be received in the footprint area of the satellite, to which these are uplinked.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The permission to uplink a private TV Channel is governed by Guidelines for Uplinking from India. These guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (<http://www.mib.nic.in>).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Radio and TV Station in Uttar Pradesh

2441. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a radio/T.V. station in Siddharth Nagar and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) All India Radio has informed that Azamgarh and Siddharth Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh are fully covered by the 100 kW MW transmitters at Gorakhpur and Varanasi. In addition, while most parts of Azamgarh district are covered by 100 kW MW transmitter at Patna, the western part of Siddharth Nagar district is receiving coverage through 300 kW MW transmitter at Lucknow. Keeping in view the adequate coverage, there is no proposal to set up new radio station in Siddharth Nagar and Azamgarh districts.

Further, with the launch of the Doordarshan's Ku band Free-to-Air (Direct-to-Home) transmission service from 16th Dec. 2004, its bouquet comprising, thirty-three T.V. (19 Doordarshan and 14 private channels) besides twelve A.I.R. channels are also available to the viewers/listeners throughout the country (except A&N Islands) which can be received with the help of a small sized dish receive unit including the aforesaid districts of Uttar Pradesh. There is as such no proposal to set up TV transmitters in the aforesaid two districts.

### Cooperation with USA in Aviation Sector

2442. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are contemplating to make investment for Technical Cooperation to facilitate 25 per cent growth rate in Indian Aviation sector in the country during the next five years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Federal Aviation Administration of America (F.A.A.) is going to open its first office in India;

(d) if so, whether the companies like Boeing Rathiyeen, Pret and Whitney and Honeywell participated in the meeting of America-India Trade Council;

(e) If so, the details and outcome of the meeting thereof; and

(f) the final decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in civil aviation has been proposed by the US Government, which provides for assistances in the following fields:-

- \* Providing technical and managerial expertise in developing, improving and operation of civil aviation infrastructure, standards, procedures, policies, training and equipment.
- \* Providing training for Civil aviation personnel.
- \* Inspection and calibration of our civil aviation equipment and air navigation facility.
- \* Assistance in airport certification in India.
- \* Assistance in the field of Helicopter Operational Safety initiative.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Renaming of Cochin Airport

2443. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to rename the Cochin International Airport in the name of former President late Shri K.R. Narayanan;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Bird Flu Infection

2444. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned 'finally, Army wakes up

to bird flu' appearing in the Times of India dated November 14, 2005;

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

(c) whether any case of Bird flu related disease among the defence forces have been reported;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Times of India news item of November 14, 2005 that the Army had not received instructions on precautions regarding bird flu is incorrect. The Army had issued instructions on October 27, 2005 regarding the precautionary measures to be taken in the light of the spread of the bird flu epidemic. This was further followed by detailed instructions on the bird flu epidemic which was disseminated to the Army, Navy and Air Force.

There has been no reported case of bird flu related disease among the Armed Forces personnel till date.

#### Competition from Low Cost Airlines

2445. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some private airlines have introduced low cost routes, the fares of which are less than the fares of superfast trains;

(b) If so, whether the Government has formulated any strategy to face the increasing competition from low cost airlines;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) to (d) Railways are aware of the competition from the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. No visible impact is, however, seen on railways passenger earnings which have shown an encouraging growth of over 8% during the first seven months of the current financial year. Railways have taken following steps to increase its passenger earnings:

- (i) By generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.
- (ii) By enhancing load of patronised trains to the maximum.
- (iii) By attaching additional coaches to clear waiting list.
- (iv) By improving utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.

#### **Concrete Sleeper Plants**

2446. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced in the Railway Budget (2005-06) regarding setting up new concrete railway sleeper plants at different places of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the implementation of such projects so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) While introducing the last Railway Budget, Minister for Railways had mentioned that Railway has decided to set up 12 new concrete sleeper plants in the country to remove mismatch between the production capacity and the requirement and to avoid long-distance transportation of concrete sleepers. Chak Sikander, Dauram Madhepura, Sitamarhi, Palghat and Harihar are the five locations specifically mentioned in the Budget Speech where new sleeper plants are planned to be set up.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Open tenders for setting up new concrete sleeper plants as planned including those at Chak Sikander (East Central Railway), Dauram Madhepura (East Central Railway), Sitamarhi (East Central Railway), Palghat (Southern Railway), Harihar (South Western Railway), Sultanpur (Northern Railway), Dhillwan (Northern Railway),

Kathua (Northern Railway), Aunrihar (North Eastern Railway), Mandagere (South Western Railway), Yelahanka (South Western Railway), Bhanga (North East Frontier Railway), Wena (East Central Railway), Bitragunta (South Central Railway) and Roza (Northern Railway) have been invited. Total two tenders have been invited for this purpose. One was opened on 14-3-2005 and the other on 29-11-2005. Tenders are under consideration of Ministry of Railways.

(e) Not applicable.

#### **Expansion of Mancheswar Maintenance Yard**

2447. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to expand Mancheswar maintenance yard in East Coast Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expand the capacity of Cuttack Railway station in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no maintenance yard at Mancheswar. However, at Mancheswar there is a Workshop for Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Coaches. Work for expansion of this workshop is under progress.

(b) The following works are under progress at present for capacity expansion of Mancheswar workshop:

Work's Name	Cost	Remark
i) Creation of facility for AC coach Periodic Overhaul.	3.34 crore	Work sanctioned in 1999-2000, likely to be completed by March' 06.
ii) Augumentation of Periodic Overhaul capacity of coaches.	6.5 crore	Work sanctioned in 2003-04 and Rs. 3 crore outlay has been provided for 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken to expand the capacity of Cuttack Railway station:

- (i) Goods Shed is being renovated at a cost of Rs. 2.5 crore as an improvement to terminal facility.
- (ii) Work is under execution for new platform No.4 and 5.

#### **Supply of Oil to Army**

2448. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enquired into the alleged pilferage and adulteration of oil supplied to the army in Ladakh region;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty; and

(c) if not, the time by which the inquiry in the matter is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) This Ministry had asked Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to get an inquiry conducted through their Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) into the alleged pilferage of oil supplied to the Army in Ladakh Region as reported in the media in July, 2005.

The CVO conducted the inquiry and inter-alia recommended the following:-

- (i) Major penalty proceedings against the Senior Terminal Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh, Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal and Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal, and their transfer from the present locations to non-sensitive jobs.
- (ii) Minor penalty proceedings against the Foreman, Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal and their transfer to non-sensitive jobs.
- (iii) Action against the transporters as per contract agreement including banning of Tank Truck (TT) crews involved in the incident of seizure of 7 TTs at Leh.
- (iv) Ambiguity in checking of inventories of Locks and

system for handing/taking over of Master keys to be removed by issuing fresh circular and fix responsibilities of particular persons associated with it.

- (v) Inspection of Terminals/Depots to be made by senior officers of State/Head Office at a regular frequency and action to be taken for removal of discrepancies observed during inspections in a time bound manner.
- (vi) Present system to secure the transportation of POL products to be replaced with a superior/advance system to make it full proof against any tampering.

After examining the report of the CVO, the management of IOC has placed the Senior Terminal Manager, Ambala Terminal under suspension. Further, regular disciplinary proceedings have been initiated by IOC against Senior Terminal Manager, the then Depot Manager, Leh, Deputy Manager, Ambala Terminal, Assistant Manager, Ambala Terminal, Foreman Ambala Terminal and Senior Operator, Ambala Terminal found to be involved in the alleged pilferage. Transfer orders of the officials concerned have been issued. 7 TTs which were caught by Police at Leh have been suspended. Further, 45 TTs belonging to the transporters whose tank trucks were involved in the incident have also been suspended.

IOC have issued a circular on the role and responsibilities of officers handling security locking system and inspection of depots/terminals as per schedule. They are highlighting the importance of the master key in their conferences. IOC have further stated that while it is absolutely essential for the consignees to check the quality and quantity of the product before taking deliveries, it would be their endeavour to search for cost-effective devices to be installed in tank lorries so as to make it difficult for the carriers to pilfer/adulterate the product.

(c) Does not arise in view of replies to (a) & (b) above.

#### **Utilisation of Reservation Quota**

2449. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation quota of berths/seats fixed for the roadside stations in various trains remain under-utilised during 2004-05;



(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the utilization of reservation quota;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government for better utilization of train capacity at the originating point?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) At some locations the reservation quota may remain under utilized. Reservation quotas allotted at various stations are reviewed from time to time and necessary adjustments made wherever required. The statistics of utilization and adjustments is not centrally maintained train-wise.

(e) With a view to optimize the utilization of the train capacity, Passenger Profile Management (PPM) cells have been established on zonal railways which study the profiles of trains, utilization of quotas etc. and suggest various measures e.g. addition/reduction/change in composition, earmarking end to end quota etc.

#### **Procurement of Electricity**

2450. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways procured electricity at different rates from various States to run trains on electrified routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have requested the State Governments to supply electricity at a concessional rates to them; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Power for traction is being purchased from 16 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and 5 power Companies viz. Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), M/s. TATA, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), North district power limited (M/s NDPL) & M/s BSES (Rajdhani). The rates charged by the different SEBs & Power Companies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. After setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) whenever any tariff revision proposal is submitted by SERCs, Zonal Railways make representation before the SERCs and plead for reduction in traction tariff.

(d) There has been a reduction in traction tariff in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and M/s. TATA in 2004-05.

#### **Statement**

##### *Average Cost/Unit Charged by Various State Electricity Board's/Power Supply Authorities (in 2004-05)*

S. N.	Name of State electricity Board's/ Power Supply Authorities	Average cost per unit (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation	4.43
2	Bihar State Electricity Board	5.02
3	Gujarat State Electricity Board	5.03
4	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam	3.90
5	Karnataka Power transmission Corporation Ltd.	4.76
6	Kerala State Electricity Board	3.70
7	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	3.97
8	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board	4.65
9	Grid Corporation of Orissa	3.98
10	Punjab State Electricity Board	4.32
11	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	4.13
12	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	4.71
13	Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.	4.45
14	West Bengal State Electricity Board	4.13
15	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	4.44
16	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	4.79
17	M/s. TATA in Mumbai area	3.48

1	2	3
18	Damodar Valley Corporation	3.60
19	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	2.53
20	M/s NDPL in Delhi area	4.69
21	M/s BSES (Rajdhani) in Delhi area	4.69

#### **Violation of Rules by Spice Jet**

2451. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Spice Jet goes extra mile for passengers, lands in a spot' appearing in the Times of India, dated November 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government from security point of view and the action taken against the airline for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Two passengers, both foreign nationals had arrived at domestic terminal IGI airport, Delhi at 0230 hrs. by Spice Jet on 30.10.2005 and were to catch international flight from Terminal-II (International), IGI Airport Delhi at 0420 hrs. Carriage of the passengers from domestic to international airport building is done by the coach provided by the AAI from air side. Instead of dropping the passengers to the coach provided by AAI, the staff of Spice Jet dropped them directly to the international terminal building in their own vehicle.

(c) Spice Jet has placed under suspension the defaulting employees and reiterated the existing security instructions.

#### **Booking of New LPG Connections**

2452. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether the oil companies have been asked unofficially to suspend booking of new Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections countrywide despite the claims of the Government that the LPG is available abundantly;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of persons awaiting for new LPG connections, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken or being taken by the Government to make available LPG and to liquidate the list of aspirants of new LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Government have not imposed any restrictions on Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for providing new LPG connections.

LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. A temporary shortage of LPG emerged in September 2005 on account of various factors. PSU production in the period April - September, 2005 was 303 (Thousand Metric Tonne) TMT less than planned; Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) production was 190 TMT less than planned. In consequence, physical inventories with oil marketing companies (OMCs) declined from 333 TMT at the beginning of April, 2005 to 190 TMT at the beginning of October, 2005. Then, with effect from 4th October, 2005, RIL, the single largest domestic supplier of LPG, shut down their Fluidized Catalytic Cracker (FCC) unit at Jamnagar for maintenance work. Moreover, at just about the same time, as RIL confirmed its shutdown effective October, 2005, domestic production prospects were seriously impacted by the fire in Mumbai High North and global LPG supplies became tight, largely on account of the impact of Hurricane Katrina on US refineries. All these factors put together upset the plans made by OMCs to effect imports in time to offset the anticipated shortage in supplies. This fed rumours in the market that OMCs would not be able to meet the demand, leading to a sudden spurt in demand. There was also a strike in bottling plants in the National Capital Territory (NCT) area towards the end of September 2005 which aggravated the situation.

The Ministry took matters in hand early in October, 2005 when it was decided that through a combination of inventory management and imports, directly handled by a composite task force of the OMCs under the close supervision of the Government, physical shortages of

supply would be overcome as quickly as possible. It was also decided that bottling plants in the NCT area would work on Sunday, 9th October 2005 and other holidays. On the basis of these decisions, it was announced that the physical shortage in the NCT area would end by Dusshera and substantively in the rest of the country by Deepavali. These objectives have been largely achieved. In addition to the arrangements made earlier by OMCs to import 642 TMT of LPG during the period October-December 2005, arrangements have been made to import an additional quantity of 237.9 TMT during this period, 138 TMT of which has already reached the country. Thus, the overall physical shortage in the country at present has been reduced to only about 1.5% of the average monthly consumption of LPG. However, the backlog at the micro-level may vary from market to market on account of operational reasons.

In view of the temporary LPG shortage, OMCs had restricted the release of new connections effective September 2005 but they have resumed the release of new LPG connections from 1st December 2005 onwards. As on 01.11.2005, a waiting list of about 3.90 lacs persons has developed in the various States of the country. The State-wise details of waiting lists are given in the enclosed Statement.

With the restoration of production of LPG in RIL's refinery from 1st December 2005, the supply situation is expected to substantively improve and normalize in the coming few weeks.

**Statement**

*All India Waiting List as on 01.11.2005*

States	Total
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	9374
Arunachal Pradesh	4170
Assam	10212
Bihar	6800
Chhattisgarh	7849
Delhi	2117
Goa	1365

1	2
Gujarat	7838
Haryana	2638
Himachal Pradesh	4963
Jammu & Kashmir	8376
Jharkhand	6370
Karnataka	20613
Kerala	71161
Madhya Pradesh	20720
Maharashtra	30548
Manipur	4555
Meghalaya	2553
Mizoram	793
Nagaland	1435
Orissa	4874
Punjab	19746
Rajasthan	5177
Sikkim	565
Tamil Nadu	88818
Tripura	4821
Uttar Pradesh	11967
Uttaranchal	1250
West Bengal	24831
Sub Total	386499
<b>Union Territories</b>	
Andaman & Nicobar	51
Chandigarh	1428
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1515
Daman & Diu	416

1	2
Lakshadweep	400
Pondicherry	168
Sub Total	3978
Grand Total	390477

#### Low Productivity In Railways

2453. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is struggling with low productivity;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to make railways one of the country's largest profit making units;

(d) if so, the strategy adopted by the Government therefor; and

(e) the annual volume and revenue target already achieved in the in the first six months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Railways' productivity, in financial terms, is best judged by the Operating Ratio;

the ratio of working expenses to the traffic earnings which reflects the input cost per unit of earnings. In the last few years, the Operating Ratio of the Railways is showing continuous improvement and the same for 2004-05 at 91.0% indicates an improvement of 7.3 percentage points over 98.3% in 2000-01. This improvement is primarily attributable to substantial increase in traffic earnings on account of significantly improved performance in the freight segment and moderate growth in other segments of traffic earnings, complemented by strict control over expenditure.

The targeted Operating Ratio for 2005-06 is 90.8%. Railways have a focused thrust towards maximizing the capacity of the system so as to increase throughput in order to be able to cater to the growing demand of the economy. Besides, changes have been made in the freight policy through rationalization of freight structure with a view to make freight rates attractive. Various schemes such as Engine-on-Load (EOL), Premium Registration Scheme etc. have been implemented to facilitate and attract customers. Several measures like expansion of computerization of passenger reservation system, Unreserved Ticketing System and Internet Ticketing are in place to help push up passenger traffic. Apart from the measures taken to increase earnings, Railways are continuing with efforts to control expenditure through austerity and economy in all the areas.

(e) The target of traffic output and earnings envisaged in the Budget Estimates, 2005-06 vis-a-vis the performance to end September, 2005 are as under:

	Budget Estimates, 2005-06	Performance to end of September		
		2004-05	2005-06	Growth over previous year
Freight Loading (million tonnes)	635.00	284.80	313.49	10.07%
No. of Passenger Booked (millions)	5707.44	2718.89	2895.66	6.50%
Segment-wise Earnings (Rs. in cr.)				
Passenger earnings	15,080.00	6,911.69	7,393.12	6.97%
Other Coaching earnings	1,100.00	456.58	521.69	14.26%
Goods earnings	33,480.00	14,407.70	17,257.59	19.78%
Sundry earnings	1,208.00	402.63	411.31	2.16%
Total Traffic earnings	50,868.00	22,178.60	25,583.71	15.35%

**IPO for I.A. and A.I.**

2454. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed Advisors for the proposed Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI);

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms of reference thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to divest its stake in IA and AI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has appointed M/s DSP Merrill Lynch as Advisor for the IPO. The terms of reference of the IPO is to (i) prepare a broad road map for Air India's proposed IPO; (ii) advise on the pre-issue preparations for an IPO including capital restructuring, amendments to Memorandum & Articles of Association keeping in view the SEBI/Stock Exchange/RBI guidelines, provisions of the Companies Act etc., (iii) broadly advise on various options regarding type of issue, size of the offering to match with Air India's fleet acquisition plan, issue structure, valuation methodologies, issue pricing etc. and identification of preferred option; (iv) the possibility and extent of reservation and firm allotment to various categories of investors; (v) the procedure, formalities and possible terms and conditions for ESOPS; (vi) utilization of IPO proceeds and basic framework of the Red Herring prospectus; (vii) pre and post IPO Equity structure; and (viii) general procedure to be followed for the selection of various agencies involved in the IPO.

As regard Indian Airlines; the selection process for appointment of the Advisor for IPO is yet to be completed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Construction of Chopala  
Over Bridge in U.P.**

2455. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for completion of construction work of Chopala Railway Overbridge in Bareilly District of Uttar Pradesh and the expenditure likely to be incurred on the project;

(b) whether the Overbridge is likely to be completed as per the schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing No. 356/ Spl. and 250/A near Chaupala was sanctioned on cost sharing basis with Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1999-2000. The Railway portion of work, bridge proper i.e. bridge across the railway track is constructed by Railway and approaches by Public Works Department (PWD)/NH wing of State Government. Presently, work is in progress (50%) in railway portion. All efforts shall be made by Railway to complete its portion of work by end of 2006.

Approximately Rs. 315 lakh have been spent by Railway for their portion of work upto March 05 and further Rs. 100 lakhs has been allotted for railway portion of this work in the financial year 2005-06, which is likely to be spent by Railway during the year.

[English]

**Air Routes for Private Airlines**

2456. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase air routes given to different private airlines to cater the needs of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such routes which are likely to be increased during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere

In the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

#### **Patrolling Cooperation between India and Sri Lanka**

2457. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that frequent incidence of firing at genuine fishermen along the international maritime border between India and Sri Lanka and also free movement of criminals between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes for a coordinated patrolling by the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No incident of firing on Indian fishermen along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Sri Lanka has been reported in 2005 so far. Frequent illegal movement of Sri Lankan refugees between India and Sri Lanka and vice versa has been noticed. In 2005 so far, 267 Sri Lankan refugees have been arrested for illegal movement between India and Sri Lanka.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal with the Government, at present, for a coordinated patrolling by the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies.

#### **Children's Film Complex**

2458. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent any proposal seeking permission to establish a Children's Film Complex at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Union Government in regard to this request;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) If not, reasons for the delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The project for construction of Children's Film Complex at Hyderabad was under consideration since 1997 but was omitted from the 10th Five Year Plan due to various reasons. Subsequently, a request from Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of the project for construction of the complex at Hyderabad had been received which was responded to. Another request from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was received in September, 2004 for reviving the earlier proposal. The proposal for the project i.e. construction of a Children's Film Complex has been revived by Government of India and the process of seeking estimates and consequent approvals from the concerned authorities is on.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Airports**

2459. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS  
SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received demands from various States/Industrialists to set up airports in different cities in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cities and towns have been proposed by various State Governments/Industrialists for setting up of new airports at Pakyong, Gangtok (Sikkim), Chiethu, Kohima (Nagaland), Mopa, Panaji (Goa), Chakan, Pune, Shirdi, Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bharuch (Gujarat), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Devanahalli (Bangalore), Gulbarga and Hassan (Karnataka), Shamshabad, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Kannur (Kerala) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

(c) Government has already granted 'in principle' approval for setting up of international standard airports at

Devanahalli near Bangalore, Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Mopa in Goa with public private participation. Other proposals are at preliminary stages.

[English]

**Malfunctioning of Anti  
Hijack Device**

2460. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a malfunctioning of anti hijack device on a Bankok bound Indian Airlines aircraft triggered off a distress signal at the Mumbai airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation for malfunctioning of the said device;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such malfunctioning of the device?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 7/11/2005 at about 2300 hours, ATC Mumbai received a hijacking signal from an Indian Airlines aircraft parked at Bay No.47. Immediate action was taken to alert the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and special security checks were conducted. The transponder was thereafter switched off.

(c) and (d) Inquiries have been ordered by the Director General (Civil Aviation) and Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation).

(e) Necessary corrective measures would be taken by all the concerned agencies based on the outcome of the investigation.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Aero Space Command**

2461. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding setting up of Aero Space Command;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no decision of the Government to set up Aerospace Command, as yet.

[English]

**Utilisation of Seat Capacity**

2462. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) have been utilizing their seat capacity much below the capacity available with them;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor alongwith the percentage of capacity being utilised vis-a-vis the actual capacity; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to utilise the available capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights to operate on international routes are governed by the bilateral air services Agreement signed with foreign countries. At present, India has Air Services Agreement with 100 countries. Actual utilization of traffic rights by any airline is, however, always guided by its commercial judgement. At present, both Air India and Indian Airlines are utilizing the seat capacity available to them optimally depending on several factors like available fleet capacity, traffic demand, global/economic situations, fulfilment of socio-economic responsibilities of being national carriers etc. The load factors achieved by Air India during 2004-05 is 69.8% and during April-June, 2005 is, 71.8%, whereas Indian Airlines' passenger seat utilization for the period April-October 2005 is 65.9%.

(c) Both the airlines have been introducing various sales and marketing schemes from time to time to improve passenger seat utilization factors. Air India has launched

its low cost carrier, Air India Express in order to retain market share on the price sensitive Gulf routes. The services of Air India Express will be progressively expanded to South East Asia and other Regions. Also, both the airlines are in the process of acquiring new aircraft, which will substantially enhance their product.

#### **Aviation Financial Package for Development of Infrastructure**

2463. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has announced any new aviation financial package for Karnataka to develop infrastructure in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which it will help to boost tourism from abroad as well as within the country;
- (d) whether a similar proposal is also under consideration for other States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) undertakes development works at airports depending upon traffic demand, requirement of airlines, availability of resources, land etc. from its own resources. Keeping in view the specific requirements of various regions in the country, financial contribution is considered by the Government. However, there are no State specific packages.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Railway Projects of Karnataka**

2464. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the proposals of Railway projects received from the Government of Karnataka during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;
- (b) the details of surveys for the projects undertaken during the above period;

(c) the details of the works done for improvement and extension of rail network in Karnataka during the above period;

(d) the expenditure incurred on each project so far;

(e) the reasons for slow progress of these projects and the steps taken to expedite completion of these projects; and

(f) the present status of Hassan-Mangalore rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Following new proposals were received from Government of Karnataka during the last three years:-

- i. Gauge conversion of Kolar-Chickballapur narrow gauge line
- ii. Doubling of Ramanagaram-Mysore section

(b) Surveys taken up during the last three years are as under:

#### **New Line**

1. Rayadurg-Tumkur via Kalyandurg (200 Kms)
2. Bijapur-Shahbad (140 Kms)
3. Almatti-Kupgal (170 Kms)
4. Bagalkot-Kudachi (111 Kms)
5. Gunji-Kulem (97 Kms)

#### **Gauge Conversion**

1. Kolar-Chickballapur (85 Kms)

#### **Doubling**

1. Salem-Bangalore (218 Kms)
2. Ramanagaram-Mysore (94 Kms)
3. Hospet-Hubli-Alnawar-Londa-Vasco-da-Gama (341 Kms)

(c) to (f) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.



**Statement**

*Details of works taken up for improvement and extension of rail network, expenditure incurred on each project and status with targets, wherever fixed, are as follows:*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Project	Cost	Expenditure upto March 2005	Budget Outlay 2005-06	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

**New Lines**

1	Munirabad-Mehbubnagar (246 kms)	497.47	26.90	5	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up. Doubling between Krishna-Yeramaras has been completed.
2	Gadwal-Raichur (60 kms)	108.91	18.37	4	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition has been taken up.
3	Hubli-Ankola (167 Kms)	997.58	53.90	5	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress in 33 kms on Hubli-Kirvatti section. Land acquisition for remaining length of this section has been taken up. Proposal for diversion of forest land for this project has been taken up with the State Government.
4	Gulbarga-Bidar (140 kms)	369.7	29.01	4.45	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers for 31 Kms from Bidar end submitted to State Government and for further 22 Kms are under process.
5	Kottur-Harihar via Harpanhalli (65Kms)	124.03	19.01	3	This work is being executed on 2/3rd cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka. State Government is not depositing their share regularly which is affecting the progress of the work. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on 60 kms from Kottur end.
6	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur (93 Kms)	274.29	40.86	8	The work has been taken up on Kadur-Chickmagalur section. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up in 40 Kms stretch. Balance is forest land for which the case has been taken up with the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Hassan-Bangalore via Shravanabelagola (166 kms)	412.91	159.89	20	On this project, works on Hassan-Shravanbelagola (42 kms) has been completed. Shravanbelagola-Neelamangala (110 kms) land acquisition has been taken up.
8	Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 Kms)	901.62	0.27	0.01	Final location survey for 207 kms has been completed.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>					
9	Solapur (Hotgi)- Gadag (300 kms)	342.7	260.83	15	On this project, gauge conversion of Solapur-Bijapur (110 kms) has already been completed and commissioned. The balance work i.e. gauge conversion of Bijapur-Gadag (190 kms) is being executed on cost sharing basis (50:50) with the Government of Karnataka. On Bijapur-Basavana-Bagewadi (45 kms) track linking has been completed. Work on the balance section has also been taken up.
10	Mysore- Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam (148 kms)	606.58	21.55	16.54	Earthwork, bridge works and ballast collection have been taken up on Mysore-Chamarajanagar section. Updating of survey report for the balance length has been taken up.
11	Shimoga Town - Talguppa (97 kms) of Bangalore- Hubli project	46.22 (441.24- for entire project)	4.17	0.1	The work on the line from Bangalore-Hubli & between Birur & Shimoga has been completed. On Shimoga-Talguppa section, earthwork and bridges have been taken up.
12	Yeswantpur -Salem (197 kms)	199.78	197.22	1.45	Work on the main line has already been commissioned. Residual work for a bye pass line at Yeshwantpur has been taken up.
13	Arasikere-Hassan- Mangalore (236 kms)	357.43	291.90	0.01	Work has been completed.
<b>Doubling</b>					
14	Hospet-Guntakal (115 kms)	157.73	8.93	26	This project is proposed under K-RIDE funding with a view to expedite the

1	2	3	4	5	6
					progress. Doubling of Tornagallu-Hospet and track linking on Guntakal-Hagari has been completed. Work on Hagari-Bellary (14kms) and Bellary-Tornagallu is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
15	Raichur-Guntakal (81.1 Kms)	136.62	0	19	Final location survey has been completed. This work is being implemented by M/s. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).
16	Bangalore-Kengeri- patch doubling with Electrification. (12.45 kms)	29.19	17.60	5.2	Karnataka Government is sharing 2/3rd cost of this work. Formation work has been completed and ballasting has been taken up. This work is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
17	Kengeri-Ramnagaram (32.43 kms)	58.9	9.90	10	Karnataka Government is sharing 2/3rd cost of this work. Doubling of Kengeri-Bidadi section (15 kms.) of this project is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
18	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur (64 kms)	98.14	48.76	35.55	Work on Yeshwantpur-Golahalli (26 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. Major bridges have already been completed. Earthwork, minor bridges, Road over bridges and ballast collection have also been taken up.
19	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram - quadrupling (23.08 kms)	85	0.016	0.01	Work will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances.

**TV Towers**

(e) the funds earmarked for the purpose?

2465. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. towers set up in various parts of the country during each of the last three years alongwith the locations thereof, State-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more TV towers in the country;

(d) If so, the details alongwith locations thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) State-wise locations of sixty-four numbers of new T.V. transmitters commissioned in various parts of the country during the last three years are contained in the Annexure. The expenditure incurred on the above projects during the said period was Rs.11.75 crore whereas the total expenditure incurred on these projects is Rs.108.94 crore.

(c) and (d) New T.V. transmitter projects, presently under implementation, in the country are as under:

**I) High Power Transmitters**

- 1) Bikaner
- 2) Bhatinda (DD News)
- 3) Bilaspur
- 4) Chhattarpur
- 5) Dharamshala
- 6) Dharamapuri
- 7) Hissar (DD 1 and News)
- 8) Karnal
- 9) Kurseong (DD News)
- 10) Radhanpur
- 11) Sagar
- 12) Saharsa
- 13) Srinagr (DD News-upgradation)
- 14) Srinagar (Kashir channel - upgradation)
- 15) Tirunelveli
- 16) Vadodara (DD 1 and News)

**II) Low Power Transmitters**

- 1) Ambassa
- 2) Satrasal

(e) Approved cost of the above transmitter projects is Rs.154.09 crore.

[Translation]

**CNG Filling Stations In Delhi**

2466. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the applications for opening of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations in Delhi pending with various oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), alongwith the reasons for pendency;

(b) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some of the CNG filling stations sanctioned since long by various oil PSUs in Delhi have not been installed so far;

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

(e) the time by which all sanctioned CNG filling stations are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Requests are received by the oil marketing companies from their retail outlet dealers from time to time for creating CNG facilities in their outlet premises. Considering the need for creating CNG facilities in the area and based on techno-economic feasibility, IGL create CNG facilities at selected retail outlets of the oil marketing companies in a phased manner.

At present, there are 137 CNG stations in Delhi operated by IGL and Oil Marketing Companies. The break-up of these stations is as follows:

IGL	-	82
Oil Marketing Companies	-	55
Total	-	137

The CNG stations in different parts of Delhi have been created after market surveys so as to cater to the requirements of the CNG vehicles in different areas.

IOC, HPC, BPC and IBP have informed the Ministry that 3, 2, 3 and 4 cases respectively of their retail outlets are pending for installation of CNG facilities. It is not possible to indicate the time by which the CNG facilities will be operational at these retail outlets since it involves various steps like obtaining approval from the Explosives Department, construction, provision of equipment by M/s IGL, etc. During the current financial year 2005-06, six new CNG stations are proposed in Delhi as detailed below:

Station No.	Station	Company
1	Gopi Service Station, Wazirabad Road	OMC
2	Autocare, Shivaji Place	OMC
3	Mundka SS, Nangloi	OMC
4	Sripal Jain, Singhu Border	OMC
5	Paul Service Station, Narela	OMC
6	Mayur Vihar Phase-III, Ghazipur Freight Complex	IGL

[English]

### Cooking Gas Pipeline

2467. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal or project under consideration of the Government for distribution of cooking gas through pipeline in different cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study or prepared any road map to identify such cities and towns in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) At present, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being supplied in Delhi, Mumbai, and some cities in Gujarat State. Further, GAIL and other oil marketing companies, viz., IOC, HPCL, BPCL have plans to supply PNG in the cities of Kanpur, Agra, Lucknow, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Pune, Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior.

(c) and (d) PNG will be extended to other cities in a phased manner with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas.

### Ban on Films

2468. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Government of Pakistan has banned the import of films made or developed in India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Government has consistently taken up the issue of Pakistan's ban on Indian audiovisual products within the ambit of the Composite Dialogue talks with Pakistan. However, the issue has not been resolved as yet.

### Surrendering of Funds for ROB/RUBs

2469. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge funds allocated for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges was surrendered by the Railways during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, zone-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether there has been a lack of coordination between the State Governments and the Railways before finalization of Annual Plan;

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

(e) the steps taken for timely completion of such projects and also for utilization of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) During 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 the actual expenditure incurred by the Railways under Railway Safety Fund for the planhead Road Safety Works - Road Over/Under Bridges has been lesser than the allotments made in Budget Estimates. Zone-wise and year-wise detail in this regard for the last three years is given below:

(figures in crores of rupees)

Railway	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Budget Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Actual Expenditure (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	25.10	4.38	8.77	1.54	5.68	1.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eastern	32.12	12.62	35.20	5.91	15.65	18.60
Northern	35.86	15.77	26.39	9.87	24.05	21.76
North Eastern	10.20	1.86	4.29	0.85	3.60	1.49
Northeast Frontier	6.88	4.14	3.78	3.00	4.30	0.80
Southern	103.23	27.33	51.24	15.17	42.32	11.35
South Central	52.42	8.30	45.00	15.24	12.82	22.56
South Eastern	32.91	3.85	16.75	5.04	14.20	7.20
Western	26.28	3.87	9.04	2.08	9.69	5.03
East Central	.. *	.. *	41.86	12.14	50.20	11.60
East Coast	.. *	.. *	15.59	2.91	12.76	3.30
North Central	.. *	.. *	6.51	1.17	5.12	0.73
North Western	.. *	.. *	1.48	0.66	14.54	2.37
South East Central	.. *	.. *	0.60	0.68	4.49	0.02
South Western	.. *	.. *	40.90	7.81	26.28	4.48
West Central	.. *	.. *	5.60	0.87	5.30	2.04
Total	325.00	82.12	313.00	84.94	251.00	115.28

\* New Zones functional from 2003-04 onwards.

(c) to (e) There has been no lack of coordination between State Governments and Railways regarding finalisation and execution of Road Over/Under Bridge works. Proposal is sponsored by State Government/local bodies with due consideration of traffic density at level crossing. Joint inspection is carried out by Railway and State Government/local authorities for checking feasibility of work as well as finalisation of alignment of Road Over/Under Bridge before sanction of work. As per extant rules proposal is sponsored by State Government alongwith requisite undertakings regarding sharing of cost of work, closure of level crossing after completion of Road Over Bridge, provision of funds in their annual plan, acquisition of land required for approaches etc. alongwith the proposal for sanction of work. On sanction of work on cost sharing basis in Railway Works Programme, drawings and estimates are prepared. The Railway constructs its portion of work i.e. bridge proper (bridge across the railway track)

and approaches by State Government. To expedite the completion of work and utilisation of allotted funds the progress of works is reviewed with concerning authorities of State Government periodically. All efforts are made by Railway to complete its portion of work alongwith approaches by State Government.

#### **Market Strategy of Railways**

2470. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the experts have suggested that the Railways should reorient its marketing strategy in order to retain its pre-eminent status in the National Transport Infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as part of their own initiative, Indian Railways have been re-orienting their marketing strategies.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Initiatives taken by Indian Railways in order to attract additional traffic are as under:*

- (i) Wagon Investment Scheme (WIS) have been introduced to cater to the need of increasing freight traffic and demand for wagons.
- (ii) Siding rules have been further liberalized and made more customer friendly to restore the confidence of siding owners and encourage more loading. The concept of assisted siding has been revived. It has been decided that Railways will share the cost of a new railway siding if the industry comes up with a long-term commitment of traffic for 10 years or more, commensurate with the investment of Railways.
- (iii) A new scheme for development of Rail-side Warehousing Complexes through public-private partnership have also been introduced with a view to encourage public-private partnerships. It will provide a single window service to the customers for providing value added service of forwarding, handling, warehousing and road bridging.
- (iv) To capture more traffic Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) is increasing its terminal network and acquiring more wagons to increase its reach in hinterland and augment capacity.

In addition to above, following incentives have also been offered to freight customers in order to attract more traffic.

- (i) Freight Concession in Empty Flow direction of wagon- 20% concession in freight rates have been granted for incremental traffic booked in covered wagons in the notified empty flow directions of wagons for the period from 1.10.2005 to 31.3.2006
- (ii) Special Freight Incentive Scheme- 10 % concession in freight rates have been granted to the incremental traffic booked in covered wagons during the period from December 2005 to January 2006.

(iii) Special Station -to- Station Rate Scheme for covered wagons - 10% concession in freight rates have been granted to the incremental traffic for covered wagons from goods shed for the period 1.12.2005 to 31.01.2006.

(iv) Mini Rake Scheme - Mini Rake Scheme, which permits the granting of trainload benefit for running of 20 and more covered wagons, has been extended upto 31.03.2006.

**Utilisation of Submarine Building Capabilities**

2471. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's submarine building capabilities have been lying idle for the last 15 years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to utilize the submarine building capabilities?

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) Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, is the only shipyard in the country which has a proven capability and a dedicated Yard for constructions of submarines. The East Yard of MDL was set up in 1982, exclusively for the construction and major repairs of submarines for the Indian Navy. Two submarines were constructed and commissioned into service in February 1992 and May 1994. Thereafter, no orders were received by MDL for building new submarines. The submarine refit facility has been since utilized for the mid life major repairs-cum-modernisation of submarines of the SSK type held by the Indian Navy.

The submarine facility will henceforth be fully utilized since the Government of India has awarded a contract to MDL in October 2005 for construction of submarines for the Indian Navy with French collaboration.

**Navigation System Cooperation with ISRO**

2472. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is developing Technology

Demonstration System (TDS) for satellite Based Navigation over the Indian airspace;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the system is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action for development of Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) in India in collaboration with Indian Satellite Research Organisation (ISRO). Technology Demonstration System (TDS) is a part of the project.

(b) Action has already been initiated for installation of various part equipments for SBAS such as Reference Station Equipment, Mission Control Equipment etc. at Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Jammu, Port Blair and Guwahati as per requirements.

(c) The probable time for the system to be operational is December 2009.

#### **Category-II Routes**

2473. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the increased demand in aviation sector, the category-II routes are no longer loss making;

(b) if so, the details of the category-II routes which have recovered from loss making;

(c) whether North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands routes have become profit making;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if no, the strategy adopted by the Government to make these routes profit making;

(f) whether the Government has given any subsidy to fly on these routes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to adopt the same strategy on other category-II Routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines operations on Cat.II routes continue to be loss making with the exception of services to/from Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(e) to (g) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

North Eastern Council is providing Rs. 35.00 crores per annum for 5 years (Rs. 175.00 Crores) starting from 2002-03, to Alliance Air, for operation of ATR services to improve the air connectivity in the North Eastern Region. There is no proposal at present to extend this scheme to other Category-II routes.

#### **Piracy in Film Sector**

2474. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the film industry in the country is facing a lot of problems due to piracy and incurring huge losses as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether there has been persistent demands to amend the existing laws and make them more stringent to deal with piracy problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) According to the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) the revenue loss from film piracy is about Rs.1200 crores annually.

(b) to (d) The Copyright Act, 1957, which falls under



the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development contains, inter alia, legal provisions regarding copyright in cinematograph films and music. The Act is amended from time to time to keep it in consonance with International Copyright Law. This Ministry has also made suggestions for restricting incidence of piracy in the film and music sector while considering the ongoing amendments to the Copyright Act.

This Ministry has also received a proposal to enact an Optical Disc Law to counter piracy in the entertainment sector. The Ministry in consultation with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and other stakeholders is examining the need for a separate legislation for this purpose.

#### **Leasing of Aircraft**

**2475. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) propose to lease more aircraft to increase their existing services;

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

(c) the details of the terms and conditions on which lease agreements have so far been signed by these airlines; and

(d) the sector identified by these airlines for using the aircraft?

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

(b) **Air India**

One B777-200A aircraft is scheduled to be inducted on 15.12.2005 by Air India. Besides, Air India proposes to take 6 aircraft for itself and 7 B737-200 aircraft for Air India Express on dry lease basis for delivery in the year 2006.

#### **Indian Airlines Limited**

Indian Airlines proposes to dry lease 3 A320 aircraft and 3 A319 aircraft.

(c) Terms and conditions for taking aircraft on lease basis vary from lessor to lessor, aircraft to aircraft, their conditions, age, airframe/engine combination, duration of lease, number of aircraft and the prevalent market

conditions. Generally, aircraft under 15 years of age are taken on lease for a term of 3-5 years.

(d) Indian Airlines proposes to utilize the leased aircraft on the total network of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air. As regards Air India, the sectors and routes to be operated by their aircraft will be finalized at the stage of lease evaluation.

*[Translation]*

#### **Restoration of Railway Halt**

**2476. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any requests from the peoples' representatives in August 2005 about closure of Ganjmuradabad railway halt at Unnao in Uttar Pradesh and restoring it as a station as well as running of new trains and changing the time-table of the trains running between Kanpur and Balamau;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A reference dated 18.08.2005 from Hon'ble Member of Parliament forwarding therewith a copy of the letter signed by Principal, D.C.K.M. Inter College and other residents, Village-Ganjmoradabad, District-Unnao (Uttar Pradesh) regarding the following demands has been received:

(i) Re-conversion of the Ganjmoradabad halt station into a full-fledged railway station.

(ii) Running of new trains.

(iii) Changing the time-table of the trains between Kanpur and Balamau.

(c) The demands have been examined and the position is as under:

(i) Re-conversion of the Ganjmoradabad halt station into a full-fledged railway station has not been found financially justified.

(ii) and (iii) Introduction of trains from

Ganjmoradabad and change in timings of trains on Kanpur-Balamau section is not feasible, at present, due to operational constraints.

[English]

### **Misutilisation of Funds by NGOs/VOs**

2477. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted for the selection of NGOs/VOs for sanctioning financial assistance;
- (b) the details of the financial assistance given by the Government to different NGOs/VOs which are running schools and other relief measures for mentally and physically handicapped children in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints for the mis-utilisation of funds by NGOs/VOs during the above period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check mis-utilisation of funds by these NGOs/VOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The criteria adopted for selection of NGOs/VOs for sanctioning of financial assistance under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme) administrated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, and Establishment of Relief Institution Scheme and Training of Caregivers (Community Based Caregivers) Scheme administrated by National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (National Trust) under the Ministry is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of financial assistance given by the Government to different NGOs/VOs which are running schools and other relief measures for mentally and physically handicapped children in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise, under DDRS and ADIP Scheme are available on the website of the Ministry of Social Justice &

Empowerment- [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in). The details of organizations, State/Union Territory wise, which were given financial assistance under the schemes of National Trust during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-I and III.

(c) to (e) Complaints of mis-utilisation of funds against 5 NGOs funded under DDRS and 3 NGOs funded under the Scheme of National Trust have been received during the last three years and the current year. Further grant in aid to these NGOs have been stopped.

### **Statement-I**

*The details of criteria adopted for the selection of NGOs/VOs for sanctioning financial assistance*

#### **I For sanction under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme:**

- (a) The organisation should be Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 (XXI of 1860) or any relevant Act of the State/Union Territory; or  
  
A public trust registered under the law for the time being in force; or  
  
A charitable company licensed under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958.
- (b) The organisation should have a legally constituted managing body.
- (c) It should not be running for profit to any individual or body of individuals.
- (d) It should have at least 2 years experience in running the project for which the grant in aid has been applied
- (e) It should have engaged qualified staff as prescribed under the Scheme.

The concerned State Govt./UT Administration should forward the proposal of the NGOs alongwith their recommendation and inspection report to the Central Govt. The eligible proposals of NGOs from those Districts where not even one project is funded under the scheme are given preference. New proposals from districts where two or more projects for a disability type are already funded under the scheme are not sanctioned.

#### **II. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme).**

- (a) Organisation and their branches, if any should be

registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 or it should be a Registered Charitable Trust.

- (b) It should preferably possess professional/technical expertise in the form of professionally qualified staff.
- (c) It should also preferably possess infrastructure in the form of machinery/equipment for the fabrication, fitment and maintenance of artificial aid/appliance to be given to a disabled person under the scheme.
- (d) It should network and establish linkages with medical colleges/district hospitals/rural hospitals/PHCs/Fitment Centers of Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Company Limited/District Disabled Rehabilitation Centers.

**III. Under establishment of Relief Institution Scheme and Training of Caregivers (community bases caregivers) scheme of National Trust for welfare**

**of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.**

- (a) It should be a Registered organisation and also be registered with National Trust for welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.
- (b) It should be running for at least 2 years.
- (c) It should have a legally constituted managing body.
- (d) It should not be running for profit of any individual or body of individuals.
- (e) It should run as close to the Community sought to be served as possible.

#### **Statement-II**

*Details of financial assistance given to different NGOs/VOs, State /Union Territory wise, under Establishment of Relief Institution Scheme of National Trust (Scheme revised and renamed as SAMARTH during the current financial year) during last three years and the current year*

S.No.	State	Name and Address of the organisation	Amount given (Rs. in lakh)			
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Mahila Sabha, Mahila Sabha Building, University Road, Hyderabad	3.37	2.06	5.41	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	Uma Manovikas Kendram, Manovikas Nagar, Behind Raydu Palem, Kakinda	2.27	0.89	2.19	0.00
3	Andhra Pradesh	Akshya Kshetran, Adjacent to North Post Office R.S. Tirupati	8.36	3.47	4.63	0.00
4	Andhra Pradesh	Shri Dakshinya Beva Samiti, K.G. College Road, Guntur	2.53	6.05	4.03	0.00
5	Andhra Pradesh	NIRMAN Association for the Mentally Retarded, W-12Z, HMT Colony, HMT Township Ranga Reddy	5.30	0.00	6.89	0.00
6	Andhra Pradesh	Sneha Society for Rural Reconstruction, H. No. 11-2-31, DPP, Kenkateswar Temple, Kanteswar, Nizamabad	2.83	4.30	3.94	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	Andhra Pradesh	Swayamkrushi, 265, New Vasavinagar, Secunderabad	0.00	10.86	4.63	0.00
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Arunachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Assam	Peroma Pratibandhi Shisu Bikash Kendra, Cinnamara, Jorhat	3.08	3.58	1.99	0.00
9	Assam	Parent Association of Shishu Sarothi, Off Ram Krishna Mission Road, Guwahati	0.00	9.98	3.39	0.00
10	Bihar	Shama Vikas Samiti, Assar Nagar, Mala Bigha, Islampur, Nalanda	4.39	2.59	3.87	0.00
11	Bihar	Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Naya Nagar, Rosen, Samastipur	6.28	0.00	7.40	0.00
12	Bihar	J M. Institute of Speech & Hearing, Road No.5, Indrapuri, Post Keshri Indrapuri, Patna	7.22	6.88	7.93	0.00
13	Bihar	Indian Institute of Health Education & Research, Health Institute Road, Beur, (Near Central Jail) Patna	0.00	2.44	0.00	0.00
14	Bihar	Deepalaya Institute of Mental Health, Purnia	0.00	0.00	4.03	0.00
	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Chhattisgarh	Aakansha Lions School for Mentally Handicapped, Lions Den, Jal vihar Colony, Raipur	0.00	10.66	0.61	0.00
16	Chhattisgarh	Sneh Smapada, Durg	0.00	0.00	3.43	0.00
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Delhi	Inspiration Centre, AGI-123 D, Vikaspuri, New Delhi	7.86	8.25	7.10	0.00
18	Deihi	Muskan Parents Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental Handicap, B-2, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	1.80	1.74	2.25	0.00
19	Delhi	Handicapped Childrens Parents Association, 2-Balbir Saxena Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi	0.00	7.96	2.48	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20	Delhi	Tamanna Special School, Vasant Vihar New Delhi	0.00	0.00	4.13	0.00
21	Delhi	Manovikas Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Research Centre, Delhi	0.00	0.00	4.28	0.00
22	Goa	Lokvishwas Pratishthan, Shantadurga Krupa Ashram, Kaplishwari Dhavali, Ponda, Goa	3.03	3.03	4.60	0.00
23	Goa	Sangath Society for Child Development & Family Guidance, 35, Defence Colony, Alto Poryoring Goa	1.82	7.96	0.00	0.00
24	Gujarat	Sanskardhan Educational Trust, Trasali Road, Baroda	3.45	2.69	3.20	0.00
25	Gujarat	Sri Vadilal S. Gandhi Charitable Trust, Antisar Darwaja, Kapadwanj, Kheda	5.75	9.36	10.91	0.00
26	Gujarat	Smt. Prasanben Namadas Ramji Shah (Talajawala) Society for Relief & Rehabilitation of the Disabled, 51 Vidyannagar, Bhavanagar	1.01	2.35	2.02	0.00
27	Gujarat	Andhjan Kalyan Trust, Oppt. Madina Masjid Churapa Road, Dhoraji	9.07	7.32	8.07	0.00
28	Gujarat	Navjeevan Charitable Trust, 23 Avinashi Azartment, Neharu Parklayad Society Road, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad	1.64	2.58	3.02	0.00
29	Gujarat	Blind People's Association (India) Vastrapur, Ahmedabad	0.00	9.62	0.00	0.00
30	Haryana	Red Cross Parents Association for Welfare of Handicapped Children, Gandhinagar, Near Mahila Ashram, Rohtak	5.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Haryana	Arpan Institute for Mentally Handicapped Children, Gandhinagar, Rohtak	5.30	3.67	0.00	0.00
32	Haryana	DISHA Vocational Training & Rehabilitation Centre, Disha Lane, Hissar Road Sirsa	4.36	1.67	3.99	0.00
33	Himachal Pradesh	Sahyaog Balsravana Viklang Kalyan Samiti, Near Red Cross Bhawan, Mandi	5.28	4.17	4.80	0.00
34	Himachal Pradesh	Aastha Welfare Society, Nahan, Opp. GPO Tonk, Sirmour	5.41	2.17	4.34	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35	Himachal Pradesh	Prem Ashram PO Una	5.04	7.21	7.21	0.00
36	Himachal Pradesh	Bishop Collon School, Shimla	0.00	3.64	2.29	0.00
37	Jharkhand	Deepshika Institute of Child Development & Mental Health, Shradhanand Road, Ranchi	3.78	3.66	5.72	0.00
38	Karnataka	Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA), S-123, Kirloskar Colony, 3rd stage, 4th Block, Basaveswara Nagar, Bangalore	1.79	1.79	3.95	0.00
39	Karnataka	Ashakiran Special Needs School, 15, 7th main, II Stage, Indra Nagar, Bangalore	4.25	3.19	0.00	0.00
40	Karnataka	Welfare Association for Rehabilitation of Disabled of Society (WARDS), 10th Main Road, Near Hopcoms Jeevan Bhima Nagar, New Thippasandra Post, Bangalore	2.54	2.61	3.19	0.00
41	Karnataka	Comprehensive Rehabilitation Organisations & Service Society, PO No.6, REML Nagar Post, Kolar Gold Fields.	0.00	6.03	6.50	0.00
42	Karnataka	Shristi Special Academy, MIG 71, 1 Cross V Main KHB Colony, II Stage, Basavesavara Nagar, Bangalore	0.00	6.50	6.50	0.00
43	Karnataka	Social Welfare Institute of Mankind, Davangere	0.00	0.00	3.30	0.00
44	Kerala	MITRAM Charitable Society, Mitram Rehabilitation Complex Kanjirikkapilly, Arakkunnam PO Ernakulam	2.83	2.83	4.03	0.00
45	Kerala	Ashraya, Pulliyil, Piliyathumukku, Kollam	6.68	4.03	4.03	0.00
46	Kerala	Paura Rehabilitation Centre and Special School (A unit of Emmaus Villa Charitable Society)	5.10	4.04	0.00	0.00
47	Kerala	Deepti Society, Jetty Road, Muhamma PO Alappuzha	2.09	6.02	4.24	0.00
48	Kerala	Vikas Yojna Social Service Society, Kottayam	3.56	0.00	3.56	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49	Kerala	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped, PO No.59, 17/194 A, M Square Complex, Pavamani Road, Calicut	0.00	8.88	9.35	0.00
	Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50	Madhya Pradesh	Mahila Utkarsh Sansthan, 3/4, Vrindawan Colony, Banganga, Indore	2.02	3.02	4.03	0.00
51	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Vikang Sahayata Samiti, 88, Subhash Nagar, Indore	2.86	2.64	0.00	0.00
52	Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shri Utkarsh Samit, 38, Narayan Bagh, Indore	4.25	382.00	6.22	0.00
53	Madhya Pradesh	Digdarshika Institute of Rehabilitation & Research, Red Cross Bhawan Complex, Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal	0.00	11.02	2.52	0.00
54	Maharashtra	Indian Red Cross Society, District Branch, Kolhapur, Gate No.4, Near Central Building, Kasaba Bawada, Kolhapur	1.24	1.07	2.11	0.00
55	Maharashtra	SANKALP Association of Parents of Persons with Mental Retardation, Beary Layout, Rajanagar, Nagpur	1.86	5.50	4.69	0.00
56	Maharashtra	SAVALI, Alankar, Plot No.14, S.No.133, Prabha Co-op Housing Society Ltd, Kothad, Pune	2.64	4.47	5.69	0.00
57	Maharashtra	Association for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Handicap in Maharashtra, Turner Morrison House (Basement) 16 Bank Street, Mumbai	0.00	2.68	4.94	0.00
58	Maharashtra	Jeevodaya Vocational Training Centre for Mentally Handicapped, Residency Road, Sader Nagpur	0.00	6.78	3.19	0.00
59	Manipur	People's Welfare Society, Yairipok, Laimanai PO /PS Yairipok, East Imphal	6.12	5.56	7.44	0.00
60	Manipur	The pioneer Wom's Welare Association, Keisamthong, Kalsom Leirak, West Imphal	4.68	3.40	5.16	0.00
61	Manipur	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation, Keishamthong Top, Lierak, Imphal	5.28	5.14	5.14	0.00
62	Manipur	Better Living Conditions and Research Organisation, Thoubal	0.00	0.00	3.36	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Meghalaya		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Mizoram		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Nagaland		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
63	Orissa	Veer Surendra Sai Institute for Mentally Handicapped, Social Welfare Centre, AT PO Dhankuda, Sambalpur	6.65	6.65	7.80	0.00
64	Orissa	Association for Social Help in Rural Area, AT PO Tusra, Bolangir	5.46	4.09	4.45	0.00
65	Orissa	Research Academy for Rural Enrichment, AT PO Sonepur	5.38	4.28	4.99	0.00
66	Orissa	Association for Voluntary Action, At Dampur, PO Berbol, Puri	6.46	3.55	4.98	0.00
67	Orissa	Centre for Rehabilitation and Research, Bhadrak	0.00	0.00	4.47	0.00
68	Punjab	Shishu Basant Residential Care, Sudar, Patiala	3.84	4.64	4.03	0.00
69	Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Bhavan, Sadiq Road, Faridkot	6.16	4.61	6.49	0.00
70	Pondichery	Rehabilitation of Disabled in India, 42, St. Antony's Kovil Street, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry	1.97	1.43	4.33	0.00
71	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal, Opp. Savitri School, Govind Bhavan, Civil Line, Ajmer	3.05	2.84	1.50	0.00
72	Rajasthan	Navdisha Vikas Samit, P-6, Hasan Khan Meulati Nagar, Alwar	1.40	1.39	2.47	0.00
73	Rajasthan	Asha Ka Jhama Harial Ka Kothi, Nawigarh, Jhunjhur	3.19	3.76	3.82	0.00
74	Rajasthan	Mahila Balvikas Gramodyog Shiksha Samiti, Zuky School for MR, 345, Rajendra Nagar, Bharatpur	2.01	3.80	4.71	0.00
75	Rajasthan	Narayan Seva Sansthan, Seva Dham, Seva Nagar, Hiranmargi, Sector-4-5, Link Road, Udaipur	3.29	2.02	7.49	0.00



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
76	Rajasthan	Akshya Pratisthan, State road, Chirawa, Jhunjhun	0.00	4.61	2.80	0.00
77	Rajasthan	Shradhalaya Ashram Samiti, Jhal House, Suraj pole, Kota	0.00	2.35	0.00	0.00
78	Rajasthan	Prayas Prachya Shodh Peeth, 30 ACI Road, Bhopal Pesia, Udaipur	0.00	6.24	7.20	0.00
	Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
79	Tamil Nadu	ANBAGAM, Plot No.14, Thenujari Housing Colony, Thenu Ganapathi Nagar, Madambakkam, Chennai	3.85	5.86	4.39	0.00
80	Tamil Nadu	Ecomwel orthopaedic Centre, near R.C. Church, Tharamagalam, Salem	3.48	5.38	4.03	6.00
81	Tamil Nadu	M.S.Chellamuthu Trusts Research Foundation, 613, K.K. Nagar, Madurai	3.82	1.51	3.76	0.00
82	Tamil Nadu	Local Level Committee Udhagamandalam, Nilgiris	5.15	7.06	7.06	0.00
83	Tamil Nadu	The Guild of Services, Near Railway Station, Railway Station Road, Kanchipuram	1.09	0.91	2.46	0.00
84	Tripura	Tripura Charitable Health Society, Kerchowmohari, 42, Karimnagar, Agartala	4.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
85	Tripura	All Tripura Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Minority Upliftment Council, Ramnagar Road, No.1 (2nd land) PO Ramnagar, Agartala	4.41	4.02	4.03	0.00
86	Uttar Pradesh	Drishti Samajik Sanstha, MG 2/1 Sector C, Aliganj, Lucknow	6.16	4.63	6.47	0.00
87	Uttar Pradesh	Bhagirath Seva Sansthan, R-10/44, New Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad	6.46	4.06	4.06	0.00
88	Uttar Pradesh	Centre for Mentally Retarded & Hearing Impaired, 3 Church Road, Civil Lines, Saharanpur	0.00	5.02	3.86	0.00
89	Uttar Pradesh	Nirbal Varg Kalyan Samiti, Mau	0.00	0.00	1.68	0.00
90	Uttaranchal	UNECSS Research Development Society, UNECSS House, Billoon, Takula Road, Bageshwar	5.52	3.82	5.04	0.00
91	West Bengal	India Institute of Cerebral Palsy, P-35/1, Teratolar Road, (Opp Marine Engg. College) Kolkata	5.23	0.00	3.62	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
92	West Bengal	Indian Red Cross Society, Dakshin Dinajpur District Branch, Suryasen Sarani, PO Belurhat, Dakshin Dinajpur	6.44	4.40	6.51	0.00
93	West Bengal	Midnapore Rehabilitation Centre for Children, Gitanjali, Vidya Sagar Road, Midnapore	5.55	6.82	6.82	0.00
94	West Bengal	Dulal Smriti Sansad, PO Khajuradaha, Hooghly	6.94	0.48	0.00	0.00
95	West Bengal	Rampurhat Spastic & Handicapped Society, Chamragudam, PO Rampurhat, Birbhum	4.62	4.63	4.46	0.00
96	West Bengal	Kanduadihi Bikash Society, PO Kanduadihi, Bankura	2.72	3.05	2.79	0.00
97	West Bengal	Chittranjan Smriti Pratibandhi Seva Kendra, 10, RNTP, Bye Lane, PO Shyamnagar, North 24, Parganas.	0.00	2.64	0.00	0.00

**Statement-III**

*Statement showing details of financial assistance given to different NGOs/VOs, State /Union Territory wise, under Training of Caregivers Scheme of National Trust during last three years and the current year.*

S.No.	State	Name and District of the organisation	Amount given (Rs. in lakh)			
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Dakshinya Bhava Samiti, Guntur	2.00	0.00	1.61	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	Kiranam Parents Association, Rangareddy	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
3	Andhra Pradesh	Rural Educational Medical and Economical Development Society, Chittoor	0.001	0.00	0.98	0.00
4	Andhra Pradesh	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute, Hyderabad	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
5	Andhra Pradesh	REMEDS, Chittoor	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
6	Andhra Pradesh	Rural Small Industries Develop Society, Chittoor	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Andhra Pradesh	Manchetana, Warangal	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
8	Andhra Pradesh	Uma Manovikas Kendra, Kalinda	1.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
9	Andhra Pradesh	Swamkrushi, Secunderabad	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	Andhra Pradesh	Sneha Society for Rural Reconstruction, Nizamabad	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.98
11	Assam	Assam Mental Welfare Society, Nalbari	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Assam	Prerona, Jorhat	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
13	Assam	Shishi Shaharati Spastic Society, Dhubri	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
14	Assam	Swablambi	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
15	Bihar	Deepalay, Purnia	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
16	Bihar	Janhit Seva Mandal, Begusarai	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
17	Bihar	Ecovic, Gaya	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
18	Bihar	Samarpan, Sheohar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Bihar	Indian Institute of Health Education & Research, Patna	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Bihar	Shama Vikas Samiti, Nalanda	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Bihar	Karpuri Thakur Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Patna	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Bihar	Environmental Consultancy Vikash Centre, Patna	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
23	Bihar	Shubham, Muzaffarpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98
24	Bihar	Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Samastipur	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
25	Chhattishgarh	Askanksha, Rajpur	2.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
26	Chhattishgarh	Sneh Sampada Vidyalaya, Durg	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
27	Chhattishgarh	Ankur, Korba	1.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
28	Chandigarh	GIMRC, Chandigarh	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
29	Delhi	Tamanna, Vasant Vihar	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
30	Delhi	Serve the Children with Mental Retardation and Disability Foundation, Laxmi Nagar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98
31	Delhi	Manovikas Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Research Centre, Vivek Vihar	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32	Gujarat	Smt. PNR Society, Bhavnagar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Gujarat	Sh. Excellent Yuwak Mandal, Bhavnagar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Gujarat	Medical Care Centre Trust, Vadodara	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
35	Gujarat	Shri Andhjan Vividhaxi Talim Kendra, Jamnagar	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
36	Goa	Disha, Panaji	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
37	Goa	Sangath, Panaji	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
38	Himachal Pradesh	Chetana, Bilaspur	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
39	Himachal Pradesh	Prem Ashram Una	0.00	0.00	1.61	0.00
40	Haryana	Tapan Rehabilitation Society, Karnal	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
41	Haryana	Khushboo Welfare Society and SOS Villages, Gurgaon	0.00	1.91	0.00	0.00
42	Jharkhand	Deepshika, Ranchi	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
43	Jharkhand	Sriyak Samuh Deoghar	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
44	Karnataka	Angavikalara Asha Kiran Trust, Devngere	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
45	Karnataka	Karnataka Parents Association	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
46	Karnataka	Sweim, Davengere	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
47	Karnataka	Grameen Abudaya Seva Samsthe, Doddaballa	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
48	Karnataka	Academy for Severe handicapes and Autism, Bangalore	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
49	Kerala	Manovikas Special School, Kolam	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50	Kerala	Seirei Asha Bhavan, Kollam	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
51	Kerala	K. Velayudhan Memorial Trust, Allapuzha	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
52	Kerala	Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
53	Madhya Pradesh	MP Vikalang Kalyan Samiti, Ujjain	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
54	Madhya Pradesh	Mahatama Gandhi Sansthan, Indore	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55	Madhya Pradesh	Asha Deep Viklang Vikas Avam kalyan Sangathan, Siwani	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
56	Madhya Pradesh	Avasar Punarvas Avam Anusand Sansthan, Sagar	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
57	Madhya Pradesh	Ashagram Trust, Barwani	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
58	Madhya Pradesh	Brigh Star Social Society, Sehore	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
59	Madhya Pradesh	Gurukul Sanskrit Shikshan Samiti, Sidhi	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.0
60	Madhya Pradesh	Roshni, Gwalior	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61	Maharashtra	Aavishkar, Kolhapur	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
62	Maharashtra	Jeevoday, Nagpur	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
63	Maharashtra	Adivasi Sevakbavi Sanstha, Ahmednagar	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
64	Maharashtra	Salvi, Pune	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
65	Maharashtra	The Research Society for the Care Treatment Training of Children with Mental Handicapped, Mumbai	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
66	Maharashtra	Jivhala Society for the Mentally Handicapped, Solapur	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
67	Manipur	Community Development Programme Centre, Thoubal	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
68	Manipur	Organisation for rural Development and Economic Consciousness, Bishenpur	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
69	Manipur	People Advance in Social Service, Churachandpur	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
70	Meghalaya	Dear Jingkyrmen, Shillong	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.98
71	Mizoram	Spastice Society of Mizoram, Aizawal	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
72	Orissa	VSS Institute for MH, Sambalpur	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
73	Orissa	Asha, Bolangir	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
74	Orissa	Prachi Pathagar, Puri	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75	Orissa	Vikas Badan, Puri	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
76	Orissa	Rare, Sonepur	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
77	Orissa	Vikas, Bhubneswar	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
78	Orissa	Jewels International, Bhubneswar	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
79	Orissa	Regional Spinal Injury Centre, Cuttack	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80	Orissa	Dr. BB Mohanty Memorial MR Benefit Trust, Bhubneswar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
81	Orissa	Rural Research & Development Council, Mayurbhaj	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
82	Orissa	National Rehabilitation Artificial Limb Centre, Rourkela	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
83	Orissa	Research Academy for Rural Enrichment, Sonepur	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
84	Orissa	Association for Social Help in Rural Area (ASHRA) Bolangir	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
85	Orissa	Open Learning System, Bhubneswar	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
86	Orissa	Balasore District Handicapped Welfare Organisation, Bhadrak	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
87	Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society, Faridkot	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
88	Punjab	Sadhu Basant Residential Care, Patiala	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
89	Pondicherry	Saday, Pondicherry	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
90	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Mahila Kalyan Mandal, Ajmer	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
91	Rajasthan	Jubin Spastic Home and Charitable Trust, Sriganganagar	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
92	Rajasthan	Social Welfare Department, Jaipur	0.00	1.69	0.00	0.00
93	Sikkim	Spastic Society of Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
94	Tamil Nadu	Bharatmatha Centre, Tiruvarur	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
95	Tamil Nadu	Santhee Neethi Kendra, Nilgiris	2.00	0.98	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
96	Tamil Nadu	Vidya Vikasini Opportunity School, Coimbatore	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
97	Tamil Nadu	Ecomwel Orthopedic Centre, Salem	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
98	Tamil Nadu	Scord, Thiruvaur	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
99	Tamil Nadu	DDRC, Tuticorin	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
100	Tamil Nadu	DCDR, Madurai	1.33	0.00	0.98	0.00
101	Tamil Nadu	Rucode India, Kanyakumari	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
102	Tamil Nadu	People's Craft Training Centre, TV Malai	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
103	Tamil Nadu	Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu, Chennai	2.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
104	Tamil Nadu	Deepam Trust, Palaini	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
105	Tamil Nadu	Keel Ottivakkam Gram Sangam, Kancheepuram	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
106	Tripura	Tripura Charitable Health Society, Agartala	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
107	Uttar Pradesh	UP Parents Association, Lucknow	2.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
108	Uttar Pradesh	Integrated Institute for the Disabled, Varanasi	1.00	1.00	1.98	0.00
109	Uttar Pradesh	Chetana, Lucknow	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110	Uttar Pradesh	Subhash Shikshan Avam Vikas Sanstha, Raebareilly	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
111	Uttar Pradesh	Shikshit Yuva Seva Samiti, Basti, UP	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
112	Uttar Pradesh	Viklang Kendra Rural Research Society Allahabad	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00
113	Uttar Pradesh	Shanti Samaj Sevi Samiti, Farrukhabad	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
114	Uttar Pradesh	Rastriya Buddha Shiksha Avam Samajik Sansthan, JP Nagar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
115	Uttaranchal	UNECSS, Bageshwar	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
116	Uttaranchal	Mangaldeep Vidya Mandir, Almora	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
117	West Bengal	Midnapore Rehabilitation Centre for Children, Midnapore	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
118	West Bengal	Manovikas Kendra, Kotkata	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
119	West Bengal	Bikashayan, Kolkata	1.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
120	West Bengal	Kenduadihi Bikas Society, Bankura	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
121	West Bengal	Rampurhat Spastic & Handicapped Society, Birbhum	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
122	West Bengal	Mahila Unnayan Shivar, Howrah	1.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
123	West Bengal	Shelter, Hooghly	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
124	West Bengal	IRC, Dakshin Dinajpur	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
125	West Bengal	North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society, Darjeeling	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
126	West Bengal	North Calcutta Pratibandhi Seva Kendra, Kolkata	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
127	West Bengal	Society for Mental Health Care, Burdwan	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
128	West Bengal	Pradip Centre of Autism Management, Kolkata	1.00	0.00	0.98	0.00
129	West Bengal	DDRC Murshidabad	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
130	West Bengal	DDRC Jalpaiguri	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00
131	West Bengal	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, Kolkata	0.00	0.98	0.98	0.00
132	West Bengal	New Alipur Anunbhab, Kolkata	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00

#### Setting up of Call Centres

2478. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up 22 Call Centres;

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

(c) the nature of works to be assigned to these Call Centres; and

(d) the time by which these Centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Integrated Train Enquiry System (ITES) will be set up by providing call centres throughout the country. Two call centres at Patna and Bangalore have already been made operational on trial basis. The main features of the call centres would be:

(i) A universal telephone number 139 will be provided without prefixing any Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) code to get connected to the call centre.

(ii) Both Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and manual enquiry will disseminate information on train running status, Reservation status of Passenger and availability of accommodation.

(d) Commissioning of remaining call centres is likely to be completed during 2006-07.



[Translation]

**Documentary Films on  
Freedom Fighters**

2479. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government to make documentary films/publish books on the lives of freedom fighters and important personalities of the country;

(b) whether the Government has received some proposals from the Government of Maharashtra for making documentary films etc. on the lives of freedom fighters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No criteria has been fixed so far by the Government for making of documentary films on Freedom Fighters and important personalities of the country. However, the Films Division, Ministry of I&B takes up a few subjects for production of biographical films on Freedom Fighters/personalities for inclusion in the Production Programme by the Government on the basis of proposals received through Independent Producers as well as from In-house Directors.

The Department of Publications Division under the Ministry of I&B primarily publishes biographies of eminent freedom fighters of India under the Builders of Modern India series in various languages of the country. The leaders taken up in this series include Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Azad, Pt. Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Rajagopalachari, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Smt. Indira Gandhi, etc. In all 103 personalities have already been included in this series in various languages. Normally, these books are being published in English, Hindi and the language of the area from which the personality hails.

As regards other important personalities on whom biographies are published by the Division, the selection of the personalities are done in consultation with eminent authors, experts in the related fields and institutions like

Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademy, Lalit Kala Akademy, CSIR etc. depending on the field to which the personalities belong.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Growth Rate of Passengers Earnings**

2480. SHRI. ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth rate of passengers earnings has not been commensurate with the growth rate of passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to attract more passengers and to plug the leakage of revenue through rampant corruption in passenger related areas; and

(d) the strategy chalked out by the Government to break the nexus of corrupt railway officials, touts and agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The growth rate in number of passengers and that in passenger earnings, generally do not tally as growth in number of passengers shows the numerical increase whereas the earnings depend upon a number of factors viz. the increase in the distance travelled by the passengers, the increase in type of passengers like suburban/non suburban or lower class/ upper class etc.

(c) Following steps have been taken to plug the leakage of revenue in passenger related areas:

- i) To improve the ticket dispensation new schemes like Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), reservation through internet, reservation through mobile phones, e-ticketing have been introduced.
- ii) Additional seating capacity in trains is being generated by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.

- iii) The load of patronised trains is being enhanced to the maximum.
- iv) Additional coaches are being attached to clear waiting list.
- v) Innovative ticket checking strategies such as setting up of "intensive check posts" at divisions and "nominated hour ticket checking" by Railway officers have been introduced.
- vi) Regular intensive drives are conducted by mobilizing a large number of ticket checking staff in association with Police, Magistrates.
- vii) Penalty for ticket less travelling has also been enhanced from Rs.50 to Rs.250 w.e.f. 1st July 2004 which has a deterrent effect on ticket less travelling.

(d) Besides conducting surprise checks and imposing punishment in substantiated cases, railway employees holding sensitive posts are transferred periodically to break the nexus.

#### **Viewing of Channels under DTH**

2481. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of channels presently being telecast free under Direct-to-Home (DTH) service;

(b) whether Set-Top Box is required for viewing channels under DTH;

(c) if so, whether Set-Top Box has not been popularized so far due to some pressure from the cable operators; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to attract more private channels under DTH and to make it more affordable?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The details of channels available under Free to Air DTH service of Doordarshan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The penetration of Set Top Boxes depends on various factors like consumer's preference for TV channels, quality of service, vis-a-vis other service providers affordability, etc.

(d) As regards Doordarshan's Free to Air DTH service, the Government have since permitted Prasar Bharati to increase the number of TV channels in its bouquet to fifty.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of channels included in the bouquet of DD Direct Plus*

DD Channels	Channels	Radio Channels
1	2	3
1. DD National	1. Aaj Tak	1. Vividh Bharati
2. DD News	2. Headlines Today	2. AIR FM Rainbow
3. DD Sports	3. BBC World	3. AIR FM Gold
4. DD India	4. Jain TV	4. AIR Hindi
5. DD Bharati	5. Star Utsav	5. AIR Bangla
6. DD Kashir	6. Zee Music	6. AIR North East
7. DD Punjabi	7. Smile TV	7. AIR Oriya
8. DD North East	8. ETV Marathi	8. AIR Gujarati

1	2	3
9. DD Bangla	9. Sun TV	9. AIR Marathi
10. DD Oriya	10. Kairali TV	10. AIR Telugu
11. DD Gujarati	11. Aakash Bangla	11. AIR Tamil
12. DD Sahyadri (Marathi)	12. ETC Punjabi	12. AIR Kannada
13. DD Saptagiri (Telugu)	13. MH-1	
14. DD Chandana (Kannada)	14. TV-9	
15. DD Podhigai (Tamil)		
16. DD Malayalam		
17. DD LS (Lok Sabha)		
18. DD RS (Rajya Sabha)		

**Educational Channel**

1. Gyan Darshan

**Shifting of Air Force Centre**

2482. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Roy Paul Committee has recommended to shift Air Force Centre from Palam to Hindon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of Committee in this regard;

(d) whether the Hindon Airbase has already been closed by the Indian Air Force; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Committee has recommended that the Indian Air Force (IAF) may shift its operations out of Palam to Hindon and surrender the area presently occupied by them for civilian use so that adequate number of parking bays can be provided to meet the rapidly growing needs of airlines.

(c) No final decision has so far been taken in the matter.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Recovery of Transportation Charges**

2483. SHRI BAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Limited and Essar company had signed any agreement in 1996 for purchasing the gas under which the Essar company had to pay charges on the transportation of gas through the HBJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount outstanding against the Essar company on account of the transportation charges;

(c) whether the GAIL has recovered the outstanding amount from the said company;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by GAIL to recover the outstanding amount from the said company?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Essar Steel had entered into an agreement in July, 1996 with GAIL to make payment of HBJ transportation charges for quantities of gas supplies on fall back basis over and above their firm allocated quantity. Subsequently, Essar disputed the payment of the said HBJ transportation charges. The outstanding amount payable by Essar company, as assessed by GAIL, is about Rs.260 crores (inclusive of interest) as on 31.10.2005.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As reported by GAIL, Essar had earlier deposited about Rs.81 crores with GAIL under the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and Gujarat High Court. In a recent judgment, the Gujarat High Court has inter alia ordered that Essar is not liable for paying transportation charges to GAIL. GAIL has filed a Leave Petition Appeal (LPA) against this judgment and the matter is pending before the Gujarat High Court.

[English]

#### **Oil Pool Deficit**

2484. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) the amount of foreign exchange spent on import of oil and other petroleum products during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the oil pool deficit is increasing every year;

(c) if so, the amount of oil pool deficit during each of the last three years and expected in the current financial year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to contain and reduce the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The foreign exchange spent on import of crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years is as under:

Year	Value (US\$ Million)
2004-05	29,266
2003-04	20,383
2002-03	17,581

(b) and (c) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 01.4.2002, the Oil Pool Account has been wound up w.e.f 01.04.2002.

Since late 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices. Since domestic prices of sensitive petroleum products have not been revised in line with international prices, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have incurred under-recoveries as under:

	(Rs./crore)		
Under-recovery	2003-04	2004-05 (prov.)	2005-06 (estimated)
On PDS kerosene & Domestic LPG	9,274	17,842	20,652
On petrol & diesel	-	2,304	14,900

(d) With a view to containing the burden of the increase in international prices on sensitive petroleum products, particularly since June 2004, the Government resorted to several measures which inter-alia included downward revision in customs and excise duties on sensitive petroleum products and moderate price increases, especially in petrol and diesel from time to time. This has been done with a view to ensure equitable distribution of the burden amongst various stake holders, i.e. Government, oil marketing companies and consumers.

Further, the Government has formulated a loss sharing scheme by which upstream oil companies, namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL share 1/3rd of under-recoveries on sensitive petroleum products. The Government is also considering issue of bonds for under-recoveries suffered by PSU oil marketing companies on subsidized petroleum products.

The Government has also constituted a high-powered committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C Rangarajan. This Committee will examine the pricing and taxation structure in respect of petroleum products with a view to ensure stability and rationalization in pricing of petroleum products amongst all stakeholders i.e. Government, oil marketing companies and consumers.

The Government is continuously monitoring the price situation.

#### **Increase in Broadcasting Capacity of AIR in Gulbarga**

2485. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the broadcasting capacity of All India Radio (AIR), Gulbarga;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to be increased; and

(c) the details of programmes being broadcast by the said station at present to encourage local culture, agriculture, education and sports?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Presently 20 kW MW transmitter and 1 kW FM transmitter are functioning at AIR Gulbarga. The 1 kW FM transmitter would be replaced by 10 kW FM transmitter, subject to availability of funds.

(c) The details of programmes being broadcast (on 20 kW MW Transmitter) to encourage local culture, agriculture, education and sports are as follows:

**Local Culture:** Folk songs, Special Audience Programmes for Youth, Children and Women, Programme in Urdu, Radio Feature, Radio Play, Kirtan, Replies to listeners' letters, Bhakti Sangeet, Local News and Radio Reports on local functions.

**Agriculture:** Hints for Farmers and Programmes on agricultural production in the field of horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, cattle rearing and dairy development etc.

**Education:** Hindi lessons, IGNOU, Phone-in-Counseling programmes, Education programmes and Music lessons for children.

**Sports:** On Friday, 30 mts programme on sports, local coverage of sports events from time to time and interviews with the upcoming sports persons.

Regular programmes covering anniversaries and festivals of local importance are produced and broadcast.

1 kW FM Transmitter also relays Vividh Bharati service as an entertainment channel.

#### **Training to Pilots in USA**

2486. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has procured an aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov from Russia;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Navy has planned to send its pilots to USA for training to fly MiG 29 Ks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of pilots likely to be trained in USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Contracts and Supplementary Agreements were signed with Russia on 20.1.2004 for the induction of Aircraft Carrier "Admiral Gorshkov". The aircraft carrier is undergoing necessary repairs and modification in Russia at present. The contract for procurement of MiG 29K aircraft from Russia includes type training of ten pilots on MiG 29K aircraft in Russia. There is no plan for sending pilots to USA for undergoing training to fly MiG 29K.

#### **Passenger Friendly Informative Coaches**

2487. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to manufacture aesthetically designed passenger friendly informative coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has produced such type of coaches; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Our existing fleet of coaches manufactured by Rail Coach Factory/Kapurthala and Integral Coach Factory/Chennai are of aesthetic design and have passenger friendly features. Our endeavour is to keep on improving the existing design and features on a continuous basis.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Constitution of District Planning Committees**

2488. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

MOHD. SHAHID

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act each State and Union Territory (UT) is required to constitute District Planning Committees (DPCs);

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is aware that many States/UTs have not set up the District Planning Committees;

(c) if so, the reasons put forward by the concerned States/UTs for not constituting DPC;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to issue fresh guidelines to the concerned States/UTs for setting up such bodies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by Union Government to ensure that each State/UT set up DPCs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) All States and Union Territories (except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, J&K, the Hill areas in the State of Manipur, the Hill areas of the District of Darjeeling for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists, NCT of Delhi) and Sixth Schedule Areas where Autonomous District Councils have been constituted, are required to set up District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243ZD of the Constitution of India. The States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have constituted District Planning Committees in all the Districts. Manipur has constituted these Committees in four Valley Districts. District Planning Committees have not been constituted in Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections to Panchayats are yet to held. Uttar Pradesh has enacted legislation for District Planning Committees but is yet to issue the notification for the constitution of these bodies. Maharashtra has not constituted DPCs in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution, but has District Planning

and Development Councils head by a Minister, including nominated members from Panchayats and Municipalities. Andhra Pradesh has issued an Ordinance in September, 2005 for the constitution of DPCs pending the passage of the relevant bill in the Legislative Assembly. Punjab has enacted legislation on the constitution of DPCs in October, 2005. The Union Territory of Chandigarh has stated that since it comprises just one district, the planning function can be carried out at the territorial level.

Between July and December, 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus 150 points for action relating to 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table held at Jaipur. During the second Round Table held at Mysore on 28-29 August, 2004, the subject of Planning was discussed. In this meeting it was resolved that there shall be constituted in every State at the District Level, a District Planning Committee (DPC) by the end of the financial year 2004-05 wherever such DPCs did not exist. It was also resolved that all DPCs should be constituted according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution in Article 243ZD. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also addressed all Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in States on 30th May, 2005 requesting them to constitute DPCs in their respective States if the same had not been constituted. Their attention was also drawn to the meeting of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in the States/ Union Territories held on 11th April, 2005 wherein the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had communicated that the States that had not constituted DPCs in accordance with Article 243ZD of the Constitution should do so within 31st October, 2005.

The Planning Commission has sent out guidelines for preparation of District Plans and their incorporation into the Annual Plans of States for 2006-07 to Planning Secretaries of all States/UTs on 24 October, 05. These guidelines state that the Planning Commission will take the following points into consideration before approval of the Annual Plan Proposals for 2006- 07:

1. The District Planning Committees should be constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution by the time the Annual Plan Proposals are presented;
2. The composition of the District Planning Committees

is to be decided by the law made in the connection by the legislature of the State;

3. Taking into account the imperative need to increase the professional competence of the DPCs, whose main responsibility and function is to consider the Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat development plans, as also those municipalities of districts and to consolidate and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole, the DPC should be required to consult institutions and professionals, as may be specified for this purpose by the Governor under Article 243 ZD (3) (b).

#### Discovery of Gas in Ganga Basin

2489. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas has been found in the Ganga basin of West Bengal particularly in the Sunderban area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any exploration work is being carried out by the oil companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) have been exploring the Ganga Basin in West Bengal, including the Sunderbans area. So far these exploration activities have not led to any commercial discovery of hydrocarbons.

(c) and (d) ONGC are currently undertaking exploration in two acreages in Bengal Basin. One on-land block, Contai, was awarded on a nomination basis while another offshore block WB-OSN-2000/1, was awarded under NELP-II. 3D seismic data acquired in Contai PEL is being interpreted. Drilling of the first well is in progress in block WB-OSN-2000/1. As on 1.10.2005 ONGC have acquired 29243 Ground Line Kilometers of 2D & 394.36 sq. kms of 3D seismic data besides drilling 31 wells.

#### Oil and Gas Block Offered by Nigeria

2490. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nigeria has offered oil and gas blocks to India on a nomination basis as reported in "Business Standard" dated October 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has signed any agreement in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) ONGC-Mittal Energy Limited (OMEL), a joint venture of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Mittal Investments Sarl and SBI Caps, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Petroleum and Resources of Nigeria in November 2005. The MoU includes an offer from the Nigerian side to OMEL to consider offering oil blocks on a nomination basis; a certain quantity of oil on term contract basis; and LNG when the fields/infrastructure have been developed in Nigeria. In return, OMEL will consider participating in Nigeria's infrastructure development projects in the refinery, railways and power sectors. The details in regard to this "economic package" are to be worked out over the next few months.

#### Silchar Airport

2491. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 829 dated November 23, 2000 regarding Extension of Silchar Airport and state:

(a) whether the works regarding extension of runway and Night Landing facilities at the Silchar Airport have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Work for extension of runway and ground lighting facilities at Silchar airport was awarded in March,

2005. But, the work could not commence due to non-receipt of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Indian Air Force (IAF) authorities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) duly endorsed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation has been forwarded for acceptance by the IAF/Ministry of Defence in September, 2005 for early commencement of work.

(d) Work is likely to be completed within two years of the start of the work.

12.00 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

1. Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2004-2005.
2. Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2980/2005]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2981/2005]

- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2982/2005]

- (3) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2983/2005]

- (4) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2984/2005]

- (5) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2985/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Airlines Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2986/2005]



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2987/2005]
- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2988/2005]

12.01 hrs.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

#### Nineteenth to Twenty-Second Reports

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) Nineteenth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "National AIDS Control Programme".
- (2) Twentieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the 48th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Procurement of defective sleeping bags".
- (3) Twenty-first Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2003-2004)".

- (4) Twenty-second Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the 58th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) relating to "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2001-2002)".

12.01½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### Twenty-First and Twenty-Second 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) Twenty-First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Fifty-Second Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on "Conditional Access System" relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (2) Twenty-Second Report on "Implementation of e-Governance Projects" relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).

12.01½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

#### Seventy-Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Seventy-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2005 of the Standing Committee on Commerce.

12.01½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### Statement

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to lay a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Statement

showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 4th Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2004-2005.

12.02 hrs.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology**

[English]

\*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in pursuance of direction 73A of the Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Information Technology held its meeting on 30th March, 2005 to consider the Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2005-2006. In its Eighteenth Report presented to Lok Sabha on 21.4.2005, the Standing Committee made 25 recommendations. The Ministry furnished Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Report on 18.8.2005.

A statement of Action Taken on the specific Recommendations/Observations as contained in the Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is laid on the Table of the House.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2989/2005.

12.02½ hrs.

#### **STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 262 DATED 11.08.2005 REGARDING PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC AT AIRPORTS**

AND

#### **GIVING REASONS FOR DELAY IN CORRECTING THE REPLY**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Praful Patel may lay the statement correcting the reply given on 11.8.2005, to Starred Question No. 262.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta – North East): Sir, before Shri Praful Patel lays his statement correcting the reply given on 11.8.2005 to Starred Question No. 262, you may please give a chance to the hon. Members to put supplementaries based on the reply given by the hon. Minister. Normally, when it comes to the floor of the House, you give a chance to put supplementaries. Since he is correcting the reply to the Starred Question, we may be given an opportunity to put supplementaries on that basis.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall see to it. I will see as to what is the type of Question but not now.

Shri Praful Patel.

\*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay a statement correcting the reply given on 11.08.2005 to Starred Question No. 262 by Shri Anant Gudhe regarding Passenger and Cargo Traffic at Airports.

I also beg to lay a statement giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

#### *Statement Correcting reply to starred question no. 262 dated 11.08.2005 regarding "Passenger and Cargo Traffic at Airports"*

In reply to Part (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 262 on 11.8.2005 regarding "Passenger and Cargo Traffic at Airports", serial No. 7 to 19 of Annexure, giving details of actual passenger and cargo traffic (in metric tonnes) handled by each airport during 2002-03 to 2004-05, are provided as under:-

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2990/2005

S. No.	Airport	2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
		Passenger	Cargo	Passenger	Cargo	Passenger	Cargo
7.	Cochin	1596126	22175	1332601	15961	818018	10696
8.	Ahmedabad	1289747	16692	976687	13153	839918	3474
9.	Goa	1265410	4856	987681	3486	1014287	25362
10.	Trivandrum	1160151	23655	1073582	26260	508719	4749
11.	Calicut	827861	10589	655597	7600	178037	392
12.	Pune	600949	8791	466295	7379	1010286	10802
13.	Guwahati	598932	4310	541233	4376	629561	7787
14.	Lucknow	453345	2588	384393	2107	410136	5326
15.	Coimbatore	391175	4685	279324	4615	318656	2202
16.	Srinagar	389493	2172	264335	1679	258964	3464
17.	Jaipur	380251	1771	299824	1429	229915	1413
18.	Vadodara	361894	3265	312447	2079	289934	1326
19.	Amritsar	347911	1312	225292	1126	361302	1826

2. On scrutiny later on, it was found that some error was made due to inadvertent jumbling of the figures (from Sl. No.7 to 19) in the year 2002-03 while transferring data on computers.

3. The reply to Part (c), the figure from Sl. No.7 to 19 of the Annexure in respect of the year 2002-03 should have read as follows:

S. No.	Airport	2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
		Passenger	Cargo	Passenger	Cargo	Passenger	Cargo
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Cochin	1596126	22175	1332601	15961	1010286	10802
8.	Ahmedabad	1289747	16692	976687	13153	818018	10696
9.	Goa	1265410	4856	987681	3486	839918	3474
10.	Trivandrum	1160151	23655	1073582	26260	1014287	25362
11.	Calicut	827861	10589	655597	7600	629561	7787
12.	Pune	600949	8791	466295	7379	410136	5326
13.	Guwahati	598932	4310	541233	4376	508719	4749
14.	Lucknow	453345	2588	384393	2107	318656	2202

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Coimbatore	391175	4685	279324	4615	258964	3464
16.	Srinagar	389493	2172	264335	1679	229915	1413
17.	Jaipur	380251	1771	299824	1429	289934	1326
18.	Vadodara	361894	3265	312447	2079	361302	1826
19.	Amritsar	347911	1312	225292	1126	178037	392

The error committed and delay occurred in laying the corrected reply with reference to the Question is regretted.

*Statement indicating delay in correcting the reply to Lok Sabha Question No. 262 dated 11.08.2005 regarding "Passenger and Cargo Traffic at Airports".*

The error, occurred inadvertently while transferring Data on computers. It was noticed towards the end of Monsoon Session of the Parliament. Hence, it was not possible to make a correcting statement in the House within the stipulated period of time.

The correcting statement is now being made on the Table of the House.

The delay which has occurred is regretted.

12.02 0½ hrs.

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352 DATED 24.11.2005  
REGARDING 'ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT'**

*[English]*

\*THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay a statement correcting the reply given on 24.11.2005 to Unstarred Question No. 352 by Shri Virendra Kumar and others regarding 'Acquisition of Aircraft'.

In reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.352 on 24.11.2005 regarding acquisition of aircraft, it was stated that the Government has approved Indian Airlines proposal for acquisition of

43 Airbus aircraft at a cost of Rs. 10237 crores approximately.

On scrutiny later it was found that after further negotiations with the Airbus Industry by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM), a further concession of approximately Rs. 349 crores was agreed upon.

As such the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question should read as follows:

Government has approved Indian Airlines proposal for acquisition of 43 Airbus aircraft at a cost of Rs. 9888 crores approximately. Indian Airlines would place final orders after finalization of memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Airbus Industry.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to give any particulars regarding this statement?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: If you want, I can give them now.

MR. SPEAKER: You may talk to him while calling him for tea.

...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been reported in three newspapers that Rs. 528 crores. ...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not show papers. It is against the rules.

\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2991/2005

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, ...\*

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It manifests that such party is corrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. I appeal to all of you not to show papers. This is against parliamentary norms. Do not do it. I am asking you not to show papers.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One day, I will teach a lesson to some of you. My officers will come and snatch those papers and I will see what action can be taken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Our decorum expressly prohibits any Member from showing papers here. You know it very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief, Prof. Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, it has been reported in three newspapers yesterday that Rs. 528 crore\* ...*(Interruptions)*... we want the Government to explain if it has received the report of Enforcement Directorate in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*... It has been published in three newspapers and now it is clear that Shri \* ...*(Interruptions)* has received money from oil dealing from Shri \* ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, ...\* is corrupt. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji must resign. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me. I will see.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please speak about the backwardness of Bihar.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs. 528 crore...\* party has received Rs. 528 crore. This information has been given by the Enforcement Directorate of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Prof. Malhotra, you have made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you ask the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot ask anybody to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been reported by three newspapers has been confirmed by the Enforcement Directorate of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you know that I cannot force him to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Go and snatch that paper.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not show papers.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? You want the House to be run or not? You have raised your issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotraji, you have raised your issue very properly. All has gone on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised your issue very properly.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what do you want? Do you want the House to run or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why should he tell you just now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised the matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh wants to raise Bihar issue. You are not allowing him to raise the Bihar issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate with me.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Their silence proves that the Enforcement Directorate has submitted the report today. ...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[English]

He should take the House into confidence.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sonia Gandhi ji is not giving resignation, she should resign. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot force him. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sonia Gandhi ji is not giving her resignation and they are not submitting the report so in protest we walk-out from the House.

12.11 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Walk-out is a democratic norm.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be silent. What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dome.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I warn you. Now, I am warning you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else except Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)..

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You call me Mr. Speaker, Sir, but do not listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be in trouble. I have told you already. You think I am giving you empty threats. You are not a child.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right.

[English]

Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...'

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

[English]

What are you doing Mr. Raghunath Jha?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: He has spoken his mind and we will not be heard. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I will listen to all one by one.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, Prabhunath Singh ji, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing except Prabhunath Singh's statement will go on record.

[English]

Only Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

[English]

Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the issue of Bihar. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that Bihar is a backward state with empty coffers. It has been discussed on earlier occasions also in the House and across the country as well When Bihar and Jharkhand were bifurcated, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, he tabled the bill related to the partition. A line was there in the Bill.. ... (Interruptions) After the partition of Bihar, the Planning Commission's Deputy Chairman says. ... (Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Prabhunath Singh's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: A Committee will be constituted and through it, a suitable policy will be formulated to address the backwardness of Bihar.

Speaker, Sir, the long time has passed after the formation of Jharkhand out of Bihar and the amount to be provided in the phases has been sanctioned as a package under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' and small amount of money has been allocated/released for various schemes. But the money which was sanctioned under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna' has not fully been received by Bihar. I, through you, want to submit that. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Why are you telling it now? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please, leave it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Speaker, Sir, he is the Railway Minister. I do not want to make any comment on what he says. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not make any comment, please address me. By addressing me your views will be taken note of.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...\*\*

Therefore, I want to state that the coffer of Bihar is empty and the package which the Government of India declared and the money which is due to be released to root out the backwardness of Bihar, may be released to Bihar. Since a backward States has been awarded to the state of Uttaranchal on the same lines, Bihar must also be granted the status of a backward state to improve upon the economic condition of Bihar.

I, through you, would request the parliamentary Affairs Minister and the leader of the house. In this context the Chief Minister of Bihar has also arrived here and, he has sought an appointment with the Prime Minister, I would request the leader of the house to respond on this issue

\*Not recorded.

\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

whether they want to release or not the package amount that due. Please clarify this in clear terms. ...(Interruptions)  
Mr. Speaker, you had also assured me in you chamber that you will make a reference on the issue relating to Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: I will make comment.

[English]

Certainly, I am sure, the Government is responsible. It would certainly see that every State's problems are properly looked into. I am sure, proper steps will be taken. It was raised earlier. Bihar's backwardness was raised earlier by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Raghunath Jha and Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. I am sure, the Government will take note of it.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You caused division of Bihar and you are making comments. You have divided the Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh, I will send your photograph. I will send your CD cassette later on. You will see how you are behaving!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you are a very sensible person. Why do you do this? Do not follow them. Do not follow Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Prime Minister has provided on package to Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Why these people are opposing Bihar, when the question of dignity of Bihar is raised, then why the issue of rights of Bihar is not being supported. Bihar's people have taken time to decide upon



this issue, it does not mean that they will oppose Bihar.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this to go on further.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, it is enough.  
You now leave it to me. It's enough now.

[English]

You know that I have got it ready. If I have get rid of you, it will take my one minute. Everything is ready with me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has responded, I have also spoken to you.

[English]

The Bihar matter has been raised earlier today by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

Sometimes, he make good comments and Raghunath Jha has also raised this issue.

[English]

You are raising the same issue. Although there is a change of Government, yet Bihar's problem are there. I am sure, the Government will take not of it,

[Translation]

what more we can say?

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A notice has already been received.  
Let the names be called one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you told

that every State should get the opportunity. The hon. Leader of the House is present. He made a statement the other day with regard to shifting of the National Institute of Science. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Nothing will be recorded.  
Do not record anything now.

(Interruptions)...\*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfair. I have allowed you. I have said that I would make arrangements for making a full statement on that issue for you. I have made some observations. Even then, if you do not allow others to raise important issues, it is unfair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel any Minister to react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said once in his agony  
"There cannot be instant coffee every day."

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Let the Leader of the House respond to the issue. ...(Interruptions) I want to say that the Leader of the House should respond when he is sitting in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Leader of the House...\* you tell him to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright.

[English]

That will be deleted.

[Translation]

What are you doing?

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\*Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will he make a statement in the House? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have some mercy for an old man! Will you allow me after that?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have I ever said that I would not allow you? You are a very good Member until you get up suddenly.

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

#### SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

##### (I) Re: Reduction in the rate of interest payable on EPF

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panaskura): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the entire House to the statement that had been made yesterday outside the House while Parliament was in Session.

Sir, while the Parliament is in Session, the Minister of Labour makes a statement outside the House and he is not even here to make the statement here. He has said that the interest rate on provident fund will be reduced from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent causing grave distress to four crore people in the country many of whom are unorganised workers. What is the reason? The Government says that the Government has no money. The Prime Minister says that the provident fund will turn bankrupt, therefore, the interest rate has to be reduced. May I tell you. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to give you a discussion but if you take long time, I cannot.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, let me make my point. Only Rs. 700 crore were needed to have increased the interest rate from 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent. Only Rs. 700 crore were needed. ...(Interruptions) Please, I beg you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, this is not right.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: You are a very energetic person. Your energy is very good but not for me. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I support you.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Alright. Unsolicited support!

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, get the support from where ever you can.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Let the support be withdrawn from there. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the point is this. The Government of India has reduced the interest rate on special deposit scheme. From 2000 to 2004, your Government was there. They had reduced the interest rate on special deposit scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Not mine. 'Your' means mine.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Not yours. I pointed to them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be on record that you are showing finger.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am addressing you but I pointed at them.

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be on record.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I looked at you but I pointed at them. There is no violation of decorum. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are supporting as well as opposing the issue, how this stands can be taken at the same time. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Withdraw your support. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is for them to decide when to support.

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the Government had reduced the interest rate on special deposit scheme, where Rs. 1,00,000 crore of the money is deposited, from 12 per cent to 8 per cent. That is the basic reason. That is why the interest rate on provident fund had to be reduced to 8.5 per cent. Now, I am coming to the present Government. During the Budget there was a provision that there will be a turnover tax of 0.1 per cent on the secondary market. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give any Calling Attention!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I beg you two minutes. This is an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Every issue is important.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is this. Since, there was some outcry by the brokers in Mumbai stock market, the present Government reduced the tax from 0.1 per cent to 0.01 per cent. By that reduction, the country has lost Rs. 7,000 crore. The Government can lose money for the brokers to the extent of Rs. 7,000 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: All these details cannot be gone into now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The Government is not ready to give Rs. 700 crore to the subscribers of the provident fund. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we protest, all the trade unions have opposed, we strongly protest. ...*(Interruptions)* Please! The present Government may kindly understand that the trade unions and the Left parties will no longer be a stamping machine on the policy of the Government.

\*Not recorded.

*...(Interruptions)* We will not be a stamping machine. Please understand this with regard to the Left. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I associate with this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your association is not noted. Only Shri Santosh Gangwar.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you, Mr. Acharia. I will call all of you, those who have given notice.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know, he is also on the same matter.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those who do not take the trouble of even giving a notice, they will not be given any facility by me.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The hon. Member has just concluded. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Please allow me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Two Members cannot speak together.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: What is irksome is that they are supporting a Government whose all decisions are anti-poor and anti-commoner. When the NDA Government fixed it at 9.5% why have they reduced it to 8.5%?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a few points. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It's not needed. Your protest on on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, still there is no investment policy. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The NDA Government itself fixed the EPF rate at 8.5% ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: No, it was 9.5%. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It's not correct. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need of elaboration.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: We are not misleading. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

We are telling the truth. ...(Interruptions) An investment policy should have been chalked out. It's almost two years since then but there is nothing in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what to do.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you are eminent people. Give me some solution.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: There is a sum of more than Rs. 15600 crore which is unclaimed for. We would like the Government to decide as to where and how would they deposit it in some mutual fund or anywhere else? If the Government decides accordingly only then it is agreeable. ...(Interruptions) But it is not agreeable. ...(Interruptions) Nobody seems to care for poor, common man and more than four crore workers of organised sector. We would like to see the Government decide on this matter expeditiously and contain the EPF interest rate at 9.5% until a final decision is taken in the matter. ...(Interruptions) Only afterwards the Government should go to decide as to how the EPF interest rate should be increased. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, today thousands and thousands of workers from all over the country have come to demonstrate in front of Parliament demanding the restoration of EPF interest rate. Yesterday, the Government of India decided to reduce the EPF interest rate from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent. The EPF interest rate in 1998 was 12 per cent and during six years' regime of the NDA Government, they reduced the interest rate from 12 per cent to 9.5 per cent. This will adversely affect 40 million workers both organised as well as unorganised workers.

Sir, this is a social security which is available with the workers of our country, and that is also being affected by the decision of this Government. Sir, in the meeting of the Trustee Board, the representatives of trade unions demanded that the Labour Minister should take a decision on the interest rate keeping in view the concerns expressed by the trade unionists. Sir, they were demanding that the interest rate should not be reduced. Last year, the interest rate was 9.5 per cent. Sir, this is an unfortunate decision taken by the Government of India by reducing the interest rate. The present Government – the UPA Government – promised in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) that the Government will bring in a comprehensive legislation. ...(Interruptions) They promised to bring in a legislation to protect the interests of 37.5 crore workers. Sir, we demand that the interest rate should be restored to 9.5 per cent ...(Interruptions) The Government should review its decision and bring in a comprehensive legislation to protect the interest of 37.5 crore workers. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should consider this matter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government must consider it as it is a very important

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\*Not recorded.

matter. This is a question of four crore workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Bashirhat): Sir, through you, ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why should the hon. Minister made a statement on Television only? ...*(Interruptions)* What does it mean? This is a question of dignity of Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: By defying the Chair, you are not maintaining the glory of the Sansad.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: The Labour Minister has given a shocking and anti-people decision outside the Parliament by bringing down the EPF interest rate by one per cent. Earlier, it was 9.5 per cent. Now, they reduce it by one per cent. I strongly condemn the decision of the present Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is an anti-worker decision. It will jeopardise the interests of crores and crores of working class people. ...*(Interruptions)* I demand the Government to withdraw and revoke this decision.

Sir, the Government should immediately revoke this decision and restore the EPF interest rate to, at least, 9.5 per cent. Otherwise, we shall start a movement outside the House. ... *(Interruptions)* So, I demand that this decision should be revoked immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not a super human. I cannot hear simultaneously 80 hon. Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12 — Shri P. Karunakaran. Do you want to raise your Calling Attention?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 2 o'clock.

12.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes  
past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

(I) **Re: Reduction in the rate of interest payable on EPF ...Contd.**

*[English]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Sir, I would like to raise one very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is already over.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, Lakhs of labourers today have staged demonstration in front of the Parliament. They are demanding social security and fixation of minimum wages.

*[English]*

For that matter, some sort of a comprehensive Bill should be brought before the Parliament within this Session itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is already over.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, in this respect, I want the reaction of the Leader of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the hon. Minister to reply at this time. 'Zero Hour' is already over.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, may I request that Item No.14, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), be taken up first? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take Item No.12, I request Shri Lalu Prasad to make a statement.

14.05 hrs.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR  
GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 2005-2006**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD YADAV): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2994/2005]

14.05 ¼ hrs.

- (I) **Re: Reduction in the rate of interest payable on EPF – contd.**

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, so many workers are on dharna today. A lot of agitation is going on. There is no social security. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): While the country is making great strides, the condition of the poor is worsening. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, as was promised in the National Common Minimum Programme, a legislation should be brought before the House. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What you intended to say, has been recorded. Please don't waste time now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I will take Item No. 12, Shri P. Karunakaran.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, 37.5 crore workers are there. The UPA Government has promised to bring a comprehensive legislation to protect the interests of the unorganised workers. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What you intended to say is already on record. Please sit now.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: But not a single word has come from the Government's side.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The Government should respond on the issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded which is without my permission.

...(Interruptions)\*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): As per Common Minimum Programme, definitely legislations will be brought at the appropriate time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is already over.

...(Interruptions)

14.07 hrs.

- (II) **Re: Dharna in support of the continuance of minority character of the Aligarh Muslim University at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi – contd.**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of students and teachers of Aligarh Muslim University today are demonstrating at Jantar Mantar as the minority character of the university is being done away with. ...(Interruptions)

\* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Sir, just listen to my point. Hon. Speaker allowed me so please give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* These people are not ready to listen. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan had established this University in accordance to the Article 30(a) which provided educational rights to Muslims to progress. However, the minority character of this university has been abolished by the Court which is to be restored and 50% reservation to Muslims should also be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request Shri P. Karunakaran to speak on the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is already over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*...\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Mr. Barq's statement shall go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: I demand the restoration of the status and character of the University. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*...\*

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: This not only pertains to Muslims, but to the entire University. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. I will not allow you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*...\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Barq Saheb, nothing else is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

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14.10 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on Records. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Barq Sahib, whatever you had wanted to convey has been recorded. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

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\* Not recorded.

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have not allowed any unparliamentary expressions to become a part of the record. I only request you to allow the scheduled business of the House to go. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, he has used unparliamentary language. He should not have spoken this that having taken our money. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That has not been recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.12 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, I want your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you protection. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

\* Not recorded.

14.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*(MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER in the Chair)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for not recording some of the things which were uncalled for. It is good. I appeal through you, Sir, that the next business may be taken up. Now, there should be no more things of the earlier episode. Whatever Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq has said, I only assure him that the Government is equally concerned for this and the Government will further evaluate the whole matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, we would also like it to be put on the record. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.31 hrs.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

- (i) Situation arising out of fall in the prices of Pepper, Cardamom, Arecanut and other agricultural cash crops thereby leading to starvation and death amongst the workers engaged in this sector and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we would take up the item number 12 – Calling Attention.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:



"The situation arising out of fall in prices of Pepper, Cardamom, Arecanut and other agricultural cash crops thereby leading to starvation and death amongst the workers engaged in this sector and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request the hon. Minister, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, during the current year, there has been a mixed trend observed in the prices. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you wish, you can lay the statement on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, Sir.

\*DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: During the current year, there has been a mixed trend observed in the prices of cash crops in the country, as measured by wholesale price index. While the prices of black pepper and arecanut have shown a declining trend, the prices of cardamom have increased. In the case of raw rubber and coffee prices have increased as measured by their wholesale price index. In the case of raw cotton, prices have increased.

**Wholesale Monthly Price Indices, 2005  
(March & October)**

S. No.	Crop	March	October
1.	Black Pepper	186.6	174.6
2.	Cardmom	112.7	114.9
3.	Betel nuts/ Arecanut	143.8	139.2

#### **Production**

The production of black pepper has been fluctuating between 61-72 thousand tonnes during 2000-01 to 2003-04 of which Kerala's share is more than 93%. The production of cardamom has been in the range of 14-15 thousand tonnes of which Kerala's share is in the range of

52-60%. The production of arecanut has increased from 373.1 thousands tonnes to 417.5 thousand tonnes during this period. The share of Kerala is ranging between 20-26%.

#### **Effects of Export / Imports**

In the case of black pepper there was a steep decline in exports from 42,806 tonnes in 1999-2000 to 14,150 tonnes in 2004-05. At the same time there was a significant increase in the import of pepper from 3124 tonnes in 1999-2000 to around 17725 tonnes in 2004-05. Significant increase in world production of pepper and emergence of new producers such as Vietnam as also high productivity coupled with negligible domestic consumption of pepper in these countries resulted in an expansion in supplies in the domestic market. The decline in prices of pepper in the India domestic market reflects the trend in international prices.

The prices of Cardamom also in the domestic also in the domestic market reflect the trend of declining international prices. Export of Cardamom during 2002-03 to 2004-05 is stagnating around 650-750 tonnes and the import of Cardamom increased from 59.40 tonnes in 2003-04 to 290.00 tonnes in 2004-05. However, the prices, as mentioned above have shown some increase (1.8%) during the current year. During the last years prices have shown a declining trend.

From 2000-01 onwards prices of Arecanut in the domestic market have shown a declining trend, which continues in the current year also. During 1999-2000 import of arecanut increased due to removal of quantitative restrictions in the context of trade liberalization. Increased import along with high domestic production led to declining prices. During 2004-05, India imported 33,088 tonnes of arecanut valued at Rs. 4558 Lakhs.

#### **Details of Incidence of suicide**

It is unfortunate that the farmers have committed suicide during the past few years. The main causes identified by the State Governments for committing suicide by farmers are indebtedness, crop failure, non-payment of loans taken from private moneylenders at high rate of interest etc.

#### **Status regarding the State of Kerala**

\* Laid on the Table. Also placed in Library, See No. L.T.2992/2005

[Dr. Akhlesh Prasad Singh]

The growing incidence of fragmentation and consequent decline in the average size of land holding contributes to the predominance of uneconomically small and marginal holdings in Kerala. The low productivity of crops, the poor investment capability of the small and marginal farmers and the high cost of production make Kerala's agriculture sector more vulnerable. The high incidence of pest and diseases on crops also further aggravate the situation.

The unprecedented drought that prevailed in the State continuously for two years caused severe crop losses coupled with steep fall in price of cash crops and huge financial debts leading to the suicide of farmers.

As reported by the State Government of Kerala, the total number of farmers who have committed suicide in Kerala during three years i.e., 2002-2004 is 180.

#### **Steps taken by the Government of Kerala**

Moratorium for one year from 23.01.2004 on agricultural loans of Co-operatives and also compensation for the loss sustained by way of interest and penal interest.

A one-time settlement scheme has been implemented.

Instructions have been issued to Co-operative Banks regarding conversion and rescheduling of eligible loans and to postpone the recovery steps for agricultural loans for a period of one year.

In the special package announced for Wayanad District, the district worst affected by drought, the interest on loan availed by farmers has been waived up to an amount of Rs. 50,000/- till 31.03.2006 during which period the State Government owns the liability for payment of interest to the concerned banks.

To help the farmers who cultivate arecanut, coffee and pepper, special package to relief measures involving procurement of arecanut and pepper and providing production incentive for coffee is being implemented by the State Government.

Government have extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 50,000/- to each of the families of farmers, who have committed suicide.

On the direction of the PMO, a Multi-Disciplinary Central Team visited Kerala in July-August, 2004 to assess the agricultural situation in the State. Based on the recommendations of the Team, the following decisions taken by the PMO have been implemented.

- (a) Rs. 106.00 crore released to the State Government from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).
- (b) The Ministry of Finance has finalized debt-restructuring guidelines for perennial horticulture and plantation crops.
- (c) Old development loans availed by growers from the Coffee Board amounting to Rs. 24 crore waived by the Government of India.
- (d) Release of Rs. 30 crores under the scheme of Macro-management of Agriculture for undertaking the rehabilitation of cashew and pepper plantations in three annual instalments. The first instalment of Rs. 10 crore was released in 2004-05.

#### **Steps Taken by different State Governments**

The State Governments have taken various relief measures to alleviate the distressing condition of the farmers. In addition, the State Governments particularly Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have been granting ex-gratia amount of Rs. 1 lakh to each of the affected families. Some State Governments like Maharashtra and Punjab have also commissioned studies through specialized agencies to find the root causes of this malady and suggest remedial measures.

Due to persistent efforts of the State Governments, there is perceptible decline in the number of cases of suicide by farmers in the current financial year as evidenced by the data in the enclosed statement.

#### **Steps Taken by Central Government**

The Government of India has also, interalia, taken the following important steps:

#### **Black pepper**

Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government

of India, in consultation with State Govt. of Kerala has sanctioned a Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of 5050 MT of Black Pepper at a Market Intervention Price of Rs. 70 per kg. from 15.2.2005 to 31.3.2005.

Govt. of India on October 27, 2005 announced a Scheme for grant of subsidy on export of pepper from India at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg. (or actual cost incurred, whichever is less) for international freight and Rs. 2 per kg. for internal transport for a maximum 20,000 metric tonnes of pepper. The subsidy would be provided as a one time measure, upto March, 31, 2006.

The regime of advance licenses for duty free import of pepper for re-export purpose/excluding light berries required for the oleoresin industry has been discontinued w.e.f. June 7, 2005.

Department of Commerce have advised DGF&T to look into allegations of infringement of law, including mis-declaration, misuse of advance licence.

Department of Commerce has also written to Department of Revenue to request the customs authorities to keep strict vigil against unscrupulous activities relating to import of spices.

It has also been decided to deny the facility of DTA (Domestic Tariff Area) sales of pepper and pepper products under EOU scheme.

It has also been made mandatory for the EOU units to get themselves registered with a Spices Board also.

### Cardamom

Spices Board, Cochin extends financial assistance to the Cardamom growers through its Plans schemes for production of planting material, re-planting, irrigation and land development etc.

The Spices Board is popularizing usage of cardamom, with a view to increase its consumption, through domestic international exhibitions.

Spices Board has extended an air freight subsidy from the CDF (Cardamom Development Fund) at the rate of Rs. 30/- per Kg for Cardamom procured from auction centres for the purpose of export to Middle East destinations during 16.10.2004 to 30.11.2004. The air freight assistance was offered to enable Cardamom exporters to airlift Cardamom to the Middle East market and position Indian Cardamom in those markets before the arrival of fresh Cardamom from Guatemala. Subsequently, the air freight assistance was enhanced to Rs. 45/- per Kg. during December, 2004 to February, 2005. At present, the scheme is not in operation.

### Arecanut

Government of India raised import duty on Arecanut from 35 to 100 per cent to restrict the imports.

Finance Ministry has also issued instructions to the Customs Officials to prevent the illegal entry of Arecanut into the country

### Statement showing cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govt.)	Amount of financial relief/ ex-gratia paid (in lakhs of rupees)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1997-98	2	2	
		1998-99	148	148	
		1999-00	128	127	
		2000-01	191	189	

[Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh]

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2001-02	233	232	
		2002-03	280	280	
		2003-04	258	258	
		2004-05	972	622 (upto 31/12/2004)	
		2005-06 (upto 1/9/2005)	40	Details not available	
2.	Karnataka	2000-01	2630	5.70	The figures for the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 are based on the records with the State Crime Records Bureau and for the subsequent years on the basis of records maintained by the State Agriculture Department. 11 and 18 cases of suicide by farmers for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto 23.8.2005) respectively are pending with the Committee for want of additional information.
		2001-02	2505	3.50	
		2002-03	2340	Details not available	
		2003-04	708	205	
		2004-05	271	110	
		2005-06 (upto 23/8/2005)	52	21	
3.	Maharashtra	2001	64	8	
		2002	131	40	
		2003	180	23	
		2004	524	105	
		2005 (upto 30/8/2005)	86	N.A.	
4.	Punjab	2002-03	Nil	Nil	
		2003-04	2	Nil	
		2004-05	Nil	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2005-06 (upto 30/6/2005)	Nil	Nil	
5.	Kerala	2002	44		State Government has extended financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to each of the affected families.
		2003	40		
		2004	96		
6.	Tamil Nadu	2004-05	None	N.A.	
7.	Orissa	2001-02	2	Nil	These cases are on account of indebtedness and non-payment of remunerative prices.
		2002-03	1	Nil	
		2003-04	Nil	Nil	
		2004-05 (upto 30/9/2004)	Nil	Nil	
8.	Gujarat	2001	13	N.A.	These cases are on account of indebtedness and financial problems. The information is based on the State Police Records.
		2002	6	N.A.	
		2003	4	N.A.	
		2004	5	N.A.	

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, please allow the hon. Minister to read the statement. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a lot of business to finish today.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Some of the decisions taken by the Central Government as well as by the State Governments are included in the statement. But I am sorry to say that the statement does not reflect the actual situation really prevailing in the agricultural sector as well as in the cash crops in Kerala and in other parts of our country.

Sir, part of our rural Kerala has been experiencing an acute agricultural distress. This distress has come in

the form of drastic price fall, unbearable debt burden and also the low production in some sectors.

Sir, in the statement made by the hon. Minister it is stated that there is a mixed price trend in some of the commodities. It is not true when we see the price falling in many of the commodities. The Wholesale Price Index never reflects the actual situation in the retail price either in the commodities or in other sections.

Sir, if I go through the figures with regard to price fall, we can see how disastrous the situation is. With regard to pepper — the 1 kg of pepper, the price was Rs. 215 per kg; in 2000, it came down to Rs. 174 per kg; in 2001, it came down to Rs. 80 per kg; in 2002, the price was Rs. 88 per kg; and again in 2003, the price was Rs. 74 per kg. So, there is no mixed trend. The trend is really declining.

Sir, take for example, the price of tea. In 1998 it was Rs. 73 per kg.; Rs. 62 per kg. in 1999, Rs. 57 in 2000,

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Rs. 55 in 2001 and Rs. 50 per kg. in 2002. Also, take this green tea. It was a very disastrous situation. In 1998 the price was only Rs. 15 per kg.; in 1999 it was Rs. seven and in 2002 it came down to only six rupees a kg. There is 43 per cent of fall in the price as far as tea is concerned.

Take the case of coffee. In 1995 the price was Rs. 137 per kg., in 1996 it was Rs. 80, and it came down to Rs. 63 in 1997, Rs. 43 in 1998, Rs. 33 in 2000, Rs. 23 in 2001 and in the year 2002 it was only Rs. 17 per kg. Same is the case with regard to cardamom. Five years back the price was Rs. 900 per kg. and now it is between Rs. 120 and Rs. 170 per kg. With regard to arecanut, three years back, one kg. of arecanut was costing Rs. 160 and now it is only Rs. 40 or Rs. 45. Sir, you see the drastic changes that have come about in the prices.

The major districts in Kerala, especially Vayanad, Idukki and Kasargod are aggressively affected. As I said, the main cash crops are pepper, cardamom, arecanut, tea, coffee and other commodities. While the prices of the agricultural products came down, at the same time if you see the service sector, in education and health the cost is going high. Take the case of agricultural inputs. In some cases there is cent per cent increase that we can see in the price of fodder and also in pesticides and others. As a result of this, the farmers are unable to cultivate their land. The cost of production is so high that they cannot meet it. They have to take loans from the banks. They have taken the loans but they are unable to pay the principal or interest. As a result the question before the farmers in Kerala is whether to live or die. As Shakespeare said, it is a question of 'to be or not to be'. That became the question now. Sir, the Government has to take perspective steps and also certain steps in order to save the peasants in Kerala, not only in Kerala but in other parts of the country also.

Sir, in the statement made by the hon. Minister, there is a mention that there are only 180 cases of suicide and that it is all. I remember that in this House itself, we have raised an issue and then the hon. Minister of Agriculture said that there was no report from Kerala of the suicides. But then, this statement says there are 180 cases. But the fact is that 1,300 farmers have committed suicide in the last three or four years. In Vayanad district there are 476

cases. A distant relative of our hon. Member Shri Veerendra Kumar had also committed suicide. In Idukki district there are 176 cases. In Kasargod there are 180 cases. The figures given by the hon. Minister with regard to the suicides is also not correct.

The Statement made by the hon. Minister says that it is due to the small holdings in Kerala that there is a low production. It is really wrong because as far as Kerala is concerned the land legislation came into existence in 1957. The agricultural crisis really started in Kerala and also in other parts of the country from 1990 onwards. It has sharpened five or six years back. So, that calculation is wrong. Not only that, when the farmers get their own land, their motivation to cultivation is higher as far as Kerala is concerned.

We have to see what really the reason is. We have to analyse the root cause. Then only we can treat. It is true that constant floods and droughts are one of the reasons. The main reason is India is a member of WTO. We have discussed it yesterday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have discussed WTO thoroughly only yesterday.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Yes Sir. We are a member of WTO. We signed an Accord with Sri Lanka. As a result of that we have to import many of the items. We are bound to follow many of the conditions of the WTO. Our Malabar pepper has gone to the world. Earlier, Portuguese people were getting this black pepper from us. But now pepper is coming from Sri Lanka. We have to use Sri Lankan pepper. It is not only the Sri Lankan pepper but the pepper from Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand etc. are re-routed through Sri Lanka. As a result of this our domestic market is really weakened.

It should not be at the cost of our agriculture and our domestic industry. Why has this situation come? This is the main question. What can the Government do in the long run and also in the short run? That is the main issue with regard to this case. With regard to agricultural issues, the Government can give some concessions to the agriculture, but as far as cash crops are concerned, they are not giving the concessions. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider introducing a special package scheme to assist the farmers of cardamom, rubber, tea, pepper and other cash crops in the list.

Also, the main issue is restriction on the imports. I would like to know whether the Government would restrict the imports in accordance with the requirements of our domestic market.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Four Members are yet to speak.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, this is a very big issue. I am concluding in two or three minutes.

There should be employment opportunities. This House has passed the Employment Guarantee Bill. It is applicable to Vayanad now, but this should be applied to Idukki and Kasargod also and there should be flexibility in its implementation.

There are 26 items which have got the supporting price at the national level, but there is only one item, Copra, from Kerala in this list. Eighty-one per cent of pepper is produced in Kerala. We are contributing crores and crores of rupees. This is not a question of Kerala alone; this is a question of India as a whole. Among these 26 items, only Copra from Kerala is included. Will the Government take stern step to include other cash crops also?

With regard to tea, I would like to submit that workers in the tea estates of Kerala, especially Idukki district, are going to Sabarimala not to worship but to get some jobs. What I can say is that we have taken some decision with regard to Nilgiri. Similarly, minimum price has to be fixed for green tea leaves, especially Kolandhu. This is the time when the Government has to take a decision whether you allow the farmers to die or you make them live. That is the main question. That is what we have to take a decision about.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati D. Purandeswari. You may ask only clarifications.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): Sir, I would not like to talk about tea, coffee, cardamom and pepper as my colleague Shri Karunakaran has ably touched them. I would like to refer to cotton and chilly, in particular, here.

Sir, cotton, as we all know, has a Minimum Support Price, but I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the Minimum Support Price has not been scientifically derived. The input cost, as correctly pointed out by Shri Karunakaran, has risen quite a bit, but the

Minimum Support Price, which the Government had been fixing, is not in tune with the input cost. When we talk about inputs, it includes seeds, fertilisers, power, water and all that goes into production. Since the input costs have increased, I think, a review must be done of the Minimum Support Prices which the Government is fixing. The Minimum Support Price of cotton is Rs. 2,010 whereas the price of seeds of BT cotton, which the farmers are resorting to, itself is coming between Rs. 1,750 and Rs. 1,800 per acre. So, nowhere does the Minimum Support Price match the input cost. I would request the hon. Minister if he can tell us in the House whether they would review the Minimum Support Price.

There is no Minimum Support Price for chillies. We have only a market intervention scheme which comes into force only if the norms which the market intervention scheme specifies are met. This is the crop which is not long-standing like tea or coffee, or any other spices. This is a crop which gives its yield within six months and after six months, it has to be replanted. This crop also needs to be given a Minimum Support Price. If I am correct, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already sent a request to this effect to the Union Government. So, I would request the hon. Minister to tell us in the House if they would consider fixing a Minimum Support Price for chillies and if they would re-think about Minimum Support Prices which they are fixing for other cash crops also.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement made by the hon. Minister. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has admitted today that the facts and figures placed before the Parliament are incorrect. Similarly I am of the view and the Minister will also agree that the facts and figures given in respect of Punjab are also incorrect. He has indicated only two suicide cases during 2002-2003 in Punjab. But, I would like to bring through you to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that 329 farmers have committed suicide in Punjab during the period mentioned above. Why these figures have not been incorporated therein? There are one or two reasons which can easily be sorted out. The first cause is that the farmers do not get the marketing facility for cash crop. Further they do not get remunerative prices of their crops which leads the farmers towards suicides.

I would like to cite an instance. Once a farmer went to the market with 40 kilograms of cauliflower. The commission agent priced it at Rs. 40 in all. Having heard this the farmer began to throw away the cauliflower. There was a person from the cooperative cold store standing

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

there who was witness to all this. He said to the farmer, please do not throwaway the vegetables, give them to me, when the prices will increase I will pay you whole of the money after having sold it. In this way, he put all of the 40 K.G. of cauliflower in the cold storage and after two months when the wedding season started the same vegetable sold at Rs. 40 per kg. Thus, a farmer who was being offered Rs. 40 for 40 kilograms of cauliflower got Rs. 1600 for that. The farmers will get the remunerative prices of their crops and the trend of suicides will also come to an end if the Government provides marketing facilities for the cash crops.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to point out that the N.D.A. Government had launched an Income Assurance Scheme for farmers. The farmers can come out of this problem if the income is assured and they get remunerative prices of their crops. I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister that he has taken the issue of Punjab very lightly with giving incorrect figures of 2 suicides. In my view an incident occurred in Punjab which might have never happened any where in the country. In Punjab, an entire village came out on the road with banners in their hands. Their banner displayed the message that this village was for sale and whosoever wanted to buy it could do so as they were leaving. As such many farmers departed from there leaving behind large houses. Nowadays, situation is very critical in Punjab. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give particular attention thereto and give some assurance also in this regard. Therefore, the hon. Minister, may please pay special attention towards it and give some assurance also about it in the House today.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, I fully subscribe to what Shri Karunakaran has said. I come from the area Wayanad. I have only three points to make.

The commodity exchange on coffee in India is poorly managed with no firm conditions and follow up actions. I bring it to the notice of the Government. Many of the norms fixed by the NMCE were violated by the exchange itself mainly to favour certain multinational companies. For instance, the stipulated date for delivery against July contract of coffee was 15th July, 2005. No delivery was given on this date. Huge open positions were kept unsettled by July 15 as certain MNCs could not deliver within the stipulated time. The genuine growers and other

regular participants in the exchange had to suffer huge losses because of this single act of the exchange. As a result of the default of the MNCs in not delivering coffee to the buyer members on time in July, 2005, the buyer members were eligible to get Rs. 76 per kg. instead of Rs. 63 per kg. This was also not allowed by the NMCE, mainly to protect the sellers. Several appeals have been made both to the exchange and also to the Forward Market Commission, but nothing good has come out of these efforts.

It is common knowledge that ultimately the growers suffer. Forward trading in commodities like coffee results only in loss to the growers, and only the middlemen and other powerful cartels make the gains. The regulatory authorities also appear to be blind to the situation. There should be a proper and thorough investigation into the working of this exchange and justice should be done to the participants.

As regards pepper, some hon. Members have already mentioned about the import from Sri Lanka. The pepper that comes through Sri Lanka to India is inferior in quality. According to traders, each bag of 50 kg of pepper that is imported contains 1.5 kg of dust, and the moisture content in it is 14 per cent. As per the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), the permissible level of moisture in pepper is only 12 per cent. Therefore, I urge the Government to allow the Spices Board officials to be present at the port when pepper consignments arrive from Sri Lanka, and they should verify and certify the quality of pepper imported. I am saying this because the Customs officials are not well versed with the quality of pepper imported. Hence, the involvement of Spices Board officials is a must to check foul play in this area.

I would like to make one more point with regard to this issue. In order to regulate genuine imports, it is very important that import of pepper to India should be done only through the Kochi port, and not through any other port.

There is a tea plantation in my Constituency called the Padur Plantation, which is closed for almost three years, and nearly 1,500 workers have no job. The Commerce Minister had assured me in the House that he would take up the matter with the Kerala Government. But it has not been taken up with them till this date.

Lastly, the Agriculture Ministry is giving the reply to this debate, but the Commerce Ministry is creating havoc.



I feel that there should be proper understanding and coordination if we have to address the issues related to commerce. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, but I would only allow you to ask a clarificatory question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the Calling Attention Motion moved by the hon'ble Member Shri P. Karunakaran with regard to the starvation deaths amongst the farmers and labourers engaged in cultivation of pepper, cardamom, arecanut and other agri cash crops and the fall in the prices of these crops I would like to say that this matter is not confined to Kerala or Punjab only. At present, the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce throughout the country. Remunerative prices should be fixed for these crops. Moreover, the farm labourers and small farmers in villages who earn their livelihood by toiling in fields face the problem of not being able to repay the loans which they have taken from banks. They are at present on the verge of starvation and forced to commit suicide because they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. It should be the endeavour of the Union Government to provide employment to at least such farm labourers by implementing the 'Food for Work Scheme' or 'National Employment Guarantee Scheme' throughout the country to check migration to cities from villages and generate employment in villages itself. With these words I emphasize and in particular request the Government to waive off the loans of those farmers who have taken loans amounting to 20-25 thousand rupees or 50 thousand rupees in case they are in miserable condition. Only then can we get rid of the problem of starvation deaths and suicide by the farmers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as a general practice only five hon. Members are allowed to speak or ask clarifications on a Calling Attention. I have a few more names of hon. Members who wish to speak on this issue, but I also have to take-up another Calling Attention after this. Therefore, if the hon. Members assure me that they would only ask clarifications within one minute each, then I can allow 3 or 4 more hon. Members.

[Translation]

If they are to make speeches,

[English]

then I cannot allow it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Yes, Sir, we totally agree with this suggestion of yours.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, no speech will be made, and only questions will be asked.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Member makes a speech,

[Translation]

I will stop him.

[English]

I would only allow the hon. Members to ask clarificatory questions. Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, one important reason for fall in the prices of cardamom is that huge quantities of cardamom are being dumped from Nepal into India via Kolkata port. This is the constant complaint of the farmers there. I mean to say that it is being imported from Nepal into the Kolkata port. This is one of the main reasons for fall in the prices of cardamom. Will the Ministry co-ordinate with the Commerce Ministry to take immediate and urgent steps to tackle this problem?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri C. K. Chandrappan, but I would only allow you to ask a clarificatory question.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, the Minister in his statement has agreed that indebtedness is one of the main reasons for peasants committing suicide in this sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the leviable duty according to Government's decision on these items and what are the rates actually levied on those items when they are imported. Considering the indebtedness problem, would the Government consider as a special case to give loans to peasants at an interest rate of four per cent?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, associating with the sentiments expressed by all the hon. Members I would point out certain facts for the consideration of the Minister as well as of this House. We must remember that Kerala means 'the land of coconut'. The state of affairs there is deplorable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are requested to seek a clarification and not go into the history.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There are about 25 lakh small coconut growers there who are really in starvation. This is due to an error committed by the Government of India by entering into the World Trade Agreement. Copra as we know is an agricultural product. Unfortunately, it became an industrial product following the World Trade Agreement. Similarly, we know natural rubber to be an agricultural product. Unfortunately, as per the terms of the World Trade Agreement, it is an industrial produce. Hence, rubber growers and coconut growers are put to starvation. It is because of the negligence of the then Government which did not consider the plight of Kerala in these matters that we are in difficulty.

The Boards constituted for the development of these two commodities, rubber and coconut, are helpless in coming to the rescue of the farmers. So also the Spices Board. The same is the situation there. They cannot help cardamom growers. They are not in a position to do anything to pepper growers.

From time immemorial we had relations with Arabia. People from Arabia came to Kerala in the past and collected the produce. Nowadays we cannot sell it because of imports from other countries. This is another aspect. Moreover, all the tea estates in Kerala are closed down. They are not functioning. So, the economy of the State of Kerala is in difficulty. Until and unless the Government comes to their rescue, our position will become much more deplorable. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give sufficient directions to the concerned statutory bodies which are constituted for development of these agricultural products.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Karunakarn Ji has raised, the matter concerning the workers of Kerala. In this regard, I would like to say that the Government of India have taken several steps for improving that situation. The most important matter pertains to the prices offered to the farmers of Kerala who produce areca nut. As far as other products are concerned a multi-administrative central team had visited Kerala in July, 2004 at the direction of the Prime Minister's office to monitor the state's agricultural condition.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the decisions taken after that tour have been implemented. As a first step 106 crore rupees have been released to the state Government from National Disaster Contingency Fund. Secondly, the directions for restrictions on loan for all weather horticulture and plantation crops have been finalized by the Ministry of Finance and thirdly, an amount of 30 crore rupees has been released under Large Agricultural Management Scheme for restarting cashew and chilly farming. From that amount, the first instalment of 10 crore rupees have been released in the year 2004-05.

Sir, Shri P. Karunakaran has repeatedly raised the issue of pepper. I would like to inform that in the beginning permission has been granted for procurement of 5050 metric tonne pepper at the market intervention price of Rs. 70 from 15.2.2005 to 31.3.2005. Secondly, the Government of India have announced a scheme on 12th October, 2005 for giving an incentive of 5 rupees per kilogram or on actual cost, whichever is less on international carriage charges and 2 rupees per kilogram on in land transportation subject to a maximum weight of 20,000 metric tonne pepper as grant for export of pepper from India. Financial assistance will be provided in the form of one time settlement by March 2006. For the purpose of report keeping aside the tariff free import of chilly and the desired light fruit industry, advance license system has been put to an end since June, 7, 2005. The changes of law by D.G.F.T., wrong declaration and the misuse of advance license are being taken into consideration. It has also been decided that the facility for the sales of chilly and chilly products D.T.A (Domestic Tariff Area) has been rejected under E.O.U. scheme. It has been made mandatory for the spices Board also to get its unit registered to make it a E.O.U unit.

Sir, so far as the question of cardamom is concerned, I would like to tell that the Spices Board has taken some steps. Financial assistance has been increased for the Cardamom producers for material, replantation, irrigation and land improvement. Spices Board is popularising the use of Cardamom for the purpose of increasing its consumption. Air freight relief has been increased from C.D.F (Cardamom Development Fund) at the rate of Rs. 30 per kg during the period since 16.10.2004 to 30.11.04. After that air freight relief has been increased to Rs. 45 per kg. during the period from December 2004 to February

2005. This air freight relief has been provided for marketing of the cardamom to middle east before the import of new cardamom from Guatemala.

Sir, so far as the arecanut is concerned, Government of India has increased import duty from 35% to 100% on arecanut to control the import. Finance Ministry has issued instructions to the customs officers to curb illegal entry of arecanut in the country and the Government of Kerala has taken some steps. The Government of Kerala has increased financial assistance by upto Rs 50,000/- to the families of the farmers who have committed suicide. Compensation is also being given for the loss caused due to suspension of loan, interest and penalty of interest for agricultural loan of cooperatives for one year since 23rd January 04. The settlement scheme has once been implemented. Instructions have been issued to the cooperative Banks to make charges in the eligibility loan and prepare the list again and suspend the recovery of agricultural loan for one year.

Hon'ble member has raised a question of badly drought affected district of Wayanad where the interest on the loan upto Rs. 50,000/- has been waived. Shri P. Karunakaran has raised the question of W.T.O. regime and bilateral agreement. It is a matter of two sovereign countries and the bilateral relations that we have, have no time limit. We import from Sri Lanka on zero per cent duty. Certainly that is causing problems to the farmers of Kerala and other states. It is a fact that the prices of black pepper, cardamom and arecanut have decreased during the last four or five years. In consequence of the vital decisions taken by the Union Government we may hope that the prices of these commodities will certainly go up in the domestic market. As far as the question raised by madam Purandeswari regarding the minimum support price is concerned, it is determined not only by the Ministry of Agriculture but C.S.P. also. She had sought the variety wise price of cotton. In 2004-05 the minimum support price for the variety F-414, H-777, J-34 was Rs 1760 and for the H-4 quality it was Rs. 1960, for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 it was fixed Rs. 1980.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: That is not true.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Avinash Rai Khanna has raised the question regarding the suicide

committed by the farmers of Punjab. According to the figures and data provided by the Punjab Government to the Union Government and to my Ministry show that there were two instances of suicides and only on that basis I have responded to you. As far as Kerala is concerned, figures regarding this have not been officially authenticated even in this state. However, Kerala Government has intimated that 180 farmers have committed suicide there and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to inform the same to the House. I have intimated the House whatever information we have got from the Kerala Government. If anybody commits suicide in any region or anywhere else across the country, it is unfortunate and a matter of serious concern for the Government of India. The Government wants that no farmer should commit suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has taken the issue of suicide by the farmers and their interests seriously ever since the UPA Government has come to power.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: There is no hope. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Varkala Radhakrishnan, please listen to the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: In their first budget the UPA Government decided to double the out flow of the loan. The target for the first year was 30 per cent and we have provided loans more than the target. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, please allow me to make a small submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No; Mr. M.P. Veerendra Kumar, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: He has not answered my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: I had answered your question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

Hon. Minister you please continue.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: I have just now told that I have gone through the decision in detail taken by the government of Kerala state and the Government of India to help the farmers and whatever suggestions have come from your side, the Government will certainly consider those suggestions seriously and implement them. The Government will take effective action as to have the farmers get minimum support price or more than that.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we come to item No. 13.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

One minute, please.

[Translation]

You may speak when there would be a discussion on agriculture at 4.00 p.m.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down, nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There would be a discussion on agriculture at 4.00 p.m. you may speak on that. You please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There would be a discussion on agriculture you may speak at that time whatever you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

\* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Sir, you asked me to put a question, and I had put my question. But the hon. Minister has not answered my question. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Veerendra Kumar, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Minister, please assure as to what you are going to do. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will have to assurance to other also if he gives assurance to you.

...(Interruptions)

15.12 hrs.

(II) Situation arising out of hike in charges of medical investigation in All India Institute of medical Sciences and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up item No. 13 – Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of hike in charges of medical investigation in All India Institute of Medical Sciences and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may please lay the statement on the Table of the House.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I would like to read it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

\*DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the rationalization of charges at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which has been carried out after a gap of 12 years, is aimed at ensuring that free treatment can be provided to more number of poor patients and general patients and also simultaneously create additional and new facilities in the institute.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Get it laid on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, Mr. Minister says that he wants to read it.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: At AIIMS, poor patients will continue to get free treatment as hitherto for even after rationalization of charges. Besides, all patients admitted in the casualty, irrespective of their economic status, will continue to get free treatment. There is absolutely no change in this provision. The procedure for exemption of charges at AIIMS is liberal and simple and does not take long time.

The exercise for rationalization of charges was going on for more than two years — and it has not happened just now — and was finalized after due consultations at various levels including AIIMS faculty and appropriate statutory bodies.

The rationalisation of charges includes introduction of several new diagnostic procedures, etc. It not only includes upward, but also downward revision of charges in order to pass on the benefit of reduction in the cost of consumables to the patients. For example, rates of plain X-ray have been reduced from Rs.30 to Rs.25. Charges of HIV/ AIDS test have been decreased from Rs.100 to Rs.30. Charges of over 450 diagnostic procedures have not been revised. The charges of most of the routine tests which are generally required for patients are extremely reasonable and even these are exempted for poor. The charges have been computed on the basis of cost of consumables.

I would also like to inform that the patient load at AIIMS has increased manifold over the years; and in the year 2005, the OPD attendance was more than 15 lakhs

\* [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2993/2005]

and indoor patients were more than 80,000. The patients coming to AIIMS belong to all strata of society and patients from higher economic strata can afford to pay and are willing to pay the extremely reasonable price to avail of the state of the art super-speciality treatment delivered by highly competent doctors at AIIMS. Moreover, many patients who are otherwise undergoing treatment in costly private hospitals come to AIIMS for second consultations. This is also another segment which is ready to pay for the diagnostic tests. The resources generated would be utilised to provide diagnostic facilities and free treatment to more number of poor and needy patients.

Several initiatives have also been taken to augment patient care facilities at AIIMS. In the recent past, 100-bedded Vishram Sadan has been added to the existing 300 beds to provide accommodation to relatives of patients at nominal rates. New and well-equipped waiting areas have been created. Most importantly, a new diagnostic facility will be functional at AIIMS within the next few months which will cater to patients of private wards and thus, the existing diagnostic facilities would become fully available to poor and general patients. This step shall result in decreasing the waiting period for various tests and also provide more access to more number of patients.

It is reiterated that the basic idea behind the whole exercise is to evolve a progressive revenue model with the thrust and focus on continued free treatment to larger number of poor and needy patients coming from different parts of the country to AIIMS. I would also like to reiterate the commitment of the Government to provide free quality treatment to the poor and needy and affordable treatment to all at AIIMS.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Minister, in his statement, stated that the increase in the charges for investigations is aimed at ensuring that the free treatment can be provided to more number of poor patients and general patients and also simultaneously create additional and new facilities in the Institute. If it is really the purpose, then it is all right, because AIIMS is one of the best hospitals particularly for the poor patients. The poor patients come from all over the country to get treatment at a cheaper cost. It is almost like free treatment. I know of one case of a by-pass surgery that was done on a poor patient of my area; it was done almost free of cost.

The Minister has also stated that in some cases, the rate has been reduced. It is a downward revision of charges. The main purpose is to rationalise the charges

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

which has been done after 12 years. This is what he has stated and he further said that idea behind this is to evolve a progressive revenue model with the thrust and focus on continued free treatment to larger number of poor and needy patients coming from different parts of the country to AIIMS. It is a fact that poor patients do come from various parts of the country.

The patients who come to All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment, 60 per cent of the patients are poor, who are living below poverty line, lower middle class, farmers, agricultural labour, etc. In order to reduce the burden on the poor patients, if certain increase is done for the category of patients who can afford to spend money for their treatment, there should not be any objection. But I would like to know from the Minister what is his plan and programme to increase the coverage of the patients belonging to the poor and lower middle class. He has stated that in the year 2005, the number of OPD patients was more than 15 lakh and the number indoor patients was more than 80,000. So, it is already choked.

This year All India Institute of Medical Sciences is observing Golden Jubilee Year. It was created 50 years back as an institute of excellence in medical education, research and patient care in the country. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an example of successful enterprise in public sector. In fact, it can be compared with the Navratna public sector enterprises. It does not earn profit for the Government and it is also not expected to do so but its achievements show the dedication of the health care workers including faculty, technicians, Resident Doctors, para-medical staff, etc. of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The need of the hour is to invest in All India Institute of Medical Sciences for large scale expansion to meet the challenges which I have already stated — the wait list, new health problems, application of rapidly evolving technologies, upgradation of technologies. New technologies are coming and for that more investment is required. We were told in this House a few years back that the Government had certain proposal for its expansion to cover certain areas, to improve its functioning and to introduce certain new initiatives. I would like to know from the Minister what initiatives have been taken by the Government of India so far to meet the challenges that are being faced by this Institute. I would also like to know from the Minister whether the Government will give liberal financial assistance to clear the pending projects and to provide financial support so that the burden on the poor patients and the common patients is reduced. There will

be no need for increasing the charges because the health care system should be improved. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences is one of the best institutes run by the Central Government, the Government of India have to take certain measures which are required today.

I would like to know as to how the Government proposes to address the problems afflicting the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It has been stated that in regard to the treatment of poor patients, the Government would be guided by the existing guidelines. He may also like to clarify this aspect. Some system must have to be evolved in order that there may not be any difficulty for the poor patients to get proper treatment in this Institute. Treatment should not only be made available for the poor patients, but should also be extended to people living below the poverty line and persons belonging to the lower middle class families and farmers. These categories of people, who cannot afford treatment, also should get the benefit of treatment in AIIMS at concessional rates. I would like to know from the hon. Health Minister as to whether the Government would think of evolving a system whereby there would not be any difficulty for such patients, who cannot afford treatment by paying large sums of money, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, All India Institute of Medical Sciences is the best medical institute of this country but in the last few days the patient fee has been increased manifold. I think that the reasons given for this are not appropriate. The basic question is whether the Government hospitals of this country will earn money there itself and provide facilities or the Government will provide the facility to them? It has been stated in statement that the rates have been increased to ensure that the general patients get free treatment. I would like to ask whether other poor people will be made to pay in order to provide free treatment to poor people? Whether the money would be charged from middle class people? This would be a huge betrayal to the people of the country. It would be against what UPA promised the people of this country that 'Congress ka haath Aam Admi Ke Saath'.

Today, people from the entire country come to All India Medical Institute and if the fees is increased from one thousand to five thousand and from five thousand to ten thousand and then express their helplessness by saying that there can't be done much in this regard as so

many people have started coming, then it is not good. It is written in this statement that since the number of patients has increased from 15 lakh to manyfold and the number of indoor patients as also increased accordingly therefore, the rates had to be increased. I would like to ask as to why the Government is not contributing to this? The Government should grant sufficient funds to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences so that every poor and middle class person who goes there for treatment is able to avail the facility. Do they think that any rich person would stand there in a queue? The rich people go to other hospitals. How much money would come to them from what has been increased by the Government? This would only generate four-five crores of rupees. I would like to say that the private hospitals in Delhi were given land on the condition that they would treat poor patients in those hospitals but today they are not fulfilling that promise. One Thousand Crore rupees can be recovered from those hospitals. They are not willing to give this money. I mean to say that the Government should sell land at the market rate and recover one thousand crore rupees from them. Why is the Government playing with the lives of lakhs of poor people for just 4-5 crore rupees. I would like to ask hon'ble Minister to immediately take it back because this is not only injustice to the poor people but also against the promise, made by the Government so, this should be immediately taken back. Therefore, the Government should subsidise the 4-5 crore rupees income they are going to have and recover money from those hospitals.

I would also like to know from hon'ble Minister as to what happened to the 12 medical institutes that were to be set up by upgrading the six medical institutes throughout the country. If the Government would have set up these 12 medical institutes at places like Bihar, Ranchi and Orissa etc., then it would have saved the people from coming to All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment.

Today, a rich person or anyone of us can get admitted into Apollo hospital but the poor person who comes here is turned away. We write a letter to hon'ble Prime Minister that someone is awaiting bypass surgery and funds are required, the surgery requires three lakh rupees and only twenty five thousand rupees are given and it takes a number of days to get funds from the health Ministry and a number of times people do not even get a chance.

Sir, this argument, that the rates have been increased, the number of people has increased and we have to provide facilities to the poor people, is absolutely wrong. It is the Government's duty to provide facilities in Government

hospitals. If the Government cannot provide facilities to the poor people in Government hospitals and increase fees for that then they do not deserve to remain in power. At least in Government hospitals poor patients should get free treatment and therefore, the rates that have been increased in this medical institute should be reversed immediately or we would believe that the Government is not fulfilling its promises made to the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan — Not present.

KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to inform the House that there has been continuous fall in the health services in rural areas. I particularly belong to Uttar Pradesh where there is a dearth of basic health services in rural areas and that is why the rural people of villages prefer to visit 'AIIMS' where they get better facilities at lower cost. But I believe the poor person will be heavily burdened with the increase in medical cost. Whatever increase has been made is on the free of cost services. I believe that if any poor person comes to this hospital he will have to bear an expenditure of upto Rs. 250 to Rs. 500, which I believe is outside the budget of a common man. I would also like to mention in the same context that there has been no charge in the health facilities after the rates have been increased. Infact, it has been seen that ever since the rates have been increased, there has been a downfall in the number of OPD patients and as far as the question of poor people's treatment is concerned they have to stand in long queues for check-ups, which is another big problem and now if the trend for payment is also introduced then there would be a separate line for the same. This would take three to four days for treatment.

[English]

I would like to know from the hon. Minister on certain aspects. He has said: "In the process of creating a progressive revenue model, the fear is that the poor will be denied facilities." Now, will the poor get priority for treatment despite the creation of the revenue model which the Minister talks about?

The other question is this. Is the Minister considering increasing low rent beds for the poor patients at the end of the Tenth Plan?

Then I would also like to know from him — and I have already asked him — about the status of institutions like the AIIMS in other parts of the country.

[Translation]

\*SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (Ludhiana): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, today, it has become very difficult for people to get medical treatment in hospitals. It is all the more difficult for poor patients. The poor patients have great hopes from hospitals like AIIMS and PGI, Chandigarh. But, the way the condition of these hospitals is deteriorating, is a matter of great concern. If we really want to help the poor patients, we should provide such facilities in hospitals like AIIMS so that they can compete with private hospitals. In foreign countries also, hospitals like AIIMS and PGI are held in great repute. But today, people are losing faith in these hospitals which is a matter of great concern. The rich can afford to get themselves treated in private hospitals. But, the poor people cannot do so. Merely providing treatment is not enough. The manner in which treatment is provided is also important. Are good doctors available there? Are new techniques available there? There is a growing trend among good doctors to leave the government hospitals and join private hospitals. Here, they are provided high salaries and more facilities. Private hospitals are poaching on these expert doctors. The real sufferer is the poor person who is not getting proper treatment. In foreign countries, responsibility is fixed on each doctor. If a doctor gives wrong treatment, he can be sued in foreign countries. He cannot absolve himself of his responsibility. But, in India, it is not so, especially in private hospitals. There have been cases where patients who should not have been operated were operated upon. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this very important issue. Patients who should not have been operated, were operated upon in the private hospitals just to mint money. Who is responsible for this? Will the government book the culprits? Where should such patients go to get justice?

Sir, I would appeal to you that in hospitals like AIIMS, doctors should be provided more facilities. Such hospitals should get state of the art machines and latest technology, so that doctors do not join private hospitals but continue to serve government hospitals. The rates of various treatment facilities that have been increased in AIIMS, should be withdrawn. When patients visit these hospitals, they face a long waiting list. Many times, the patient dies while waiting for his turn to come. So even this waiting line should be reduced. I hope that the Honourable Minister will take concrete steps to solve these problems.

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to request hon'ble Members that it has been the practice in the House that more than five Members are not allowed to speak on Calling Attention looking at the seriousness of the issue we can do so if hon'ble Members put forward their clarifications by taking one minute each. If all the hon'ble Members are going to deliver their speech then it would create problem for me because this makes my position awkward.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, amongst the hospitals in our country, AIIMS particularly i.e., All India Institute of Medical Sciences, is a good hospital for poor people. Today the poor patients have developed an apprehension for treatment. It is very sad the way this issue has been raised. Therefore, I would like to say that the faith of poor patients towards AIIMS hospital which was there earlier has now been shaken.

This is a very serious issue. Therefore, hon'ble Members have drawn the attention of Health Minister towards this, which is very right. The reply given by hon'ble Minister on increase in medical examination fees under the name of rationalization, rationalization of charges, is very vague. Hon'ble Minister has also said that there has been both increase and decrease in charges. I would clearly like to ask whether the patients living below poverty line would be given priority or not for treatment etc. and whether they would be burdened as not with this under the name of rationalization of charges? Whether the medical charges would be increased and whether any such category has been formed under which those poor patients whose earnings are less or who can not afford food twice a day would be given priority or private sections would be opened for them? He is saying that poor patients would be provided free x-ray and medical facilities. I would clearly like to know as to whether some special arrangements are going to be made for people living below the poverty line? I would like the Government to reconsider this increase and should not hesitate to review what has been said about rationalization of charges. Hon'ble Minister should hold a considerate attitude towards this issue because this is a very important issue. This has brought a feeling of distrust amongst the poor. Therefore, we would like the Government to roll back these charges without any hesitation.



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be better if the hon'ble Member finishes his speech within a minute.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (New Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to seek two-three clarifications from the hon'ble Minister. AIIMS was established by an Act of Parliament in 1956. The main purpose of the institution was research and teaching in the field of Medical Science. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the percentage of total budget for research being spent on AIIMS. What are the big research projects taken up by the AIIMS? They are increasing diagnostic charges, however, the machines are not working. I would like to know the time by which these machines will be got repaired. The CAT scan machine of AIIMS used in diagnosing cancer is lying defunct. I would like to know the time by which the said machine is likely to be got repaired. The facility for open heart surgery was available in the hospital and for which robotic machines were installed in AIIMS like Apollo and Escort Hospitals which costed crores of rupees. I would like to know as to how many operations have been done by that machine as that machine is functioning in both the remaining hospitals however nobody knows about the condition of that machine installed in AIIMS.

I would like to clarify one misconception about AIIMS that poor patients get treatment without difficulties. I feel that it is the greatest myth. I am the Member of Parliament. Every month thousands of people visit us and request us to recommend for them so that they may get treatment and medicines. The poor people do not get proper treatment there without recommendations. Unless poor people are treated there without any difficulties, the purpose, for which the AIIMS was established, cannot be achieved.

SHRI MONAN SINGH (Deoria): First of all, I would like to extend my thanks to Shri Basu Deb Achariaji that he raised a very important subject in the House. The hon'ble Minister replied quite ingenuously that nearly 15 lakh patient visit and out of that 80,000 patients are admitted. Though he gave figure however, poor people are also treated but in his speech there is no mention about the number of such patients. There are many star hospitals in Delhi. Those who can afford three-four lakh rupees visit such hospitals. The issue of BPL was raised. It was also pointed out that the poor patients and those who are covered under CGHS go there. However, there are many such people who are not covered under BPL and it is difficult for them to get treatments. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to provide treatment to

such patients? I would like to know the number of those poor patients who are getting treatment for one year and the number of those who neither come under BPL or are able to spend anything from their pockets. Besides this, I would also like to know the number of persons who are neither covered under insurance nor under the CGHS.

Hon'ble Makenji has raised a very important issue that Safdarjung Hospital is being raided because they have got duplicate machines installed in the hospital. Several allegations have been levelled against AIIMS that machines are duplicate or are defunct or there is laxity in research and teaching. I would like to submit that treatment should be provided to poor patient free of cost and well off persons should also not be charged that much that they may be compelled to go to star hospitals. Though the land was allotted to five star hospitals with the condition that they would provide free of cost treatment to poor people however when the said hospitals are asked to furnish number of poor people who availed free of cost treatment in such hospitals, they fail to furnish the required information. So all of their allotments are being cancelled. In this situation poor people have no alternative except to visit Government hospitals. So there should be some rationale to rationalisation. I feel that it is not proper to leave rationale in the name of rationalisation and compel poor people to get treatment there. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to take it into consideration.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question from the hon'ble Minister that has also been asked by my hon'ble colleague from Shahjahanpur. The different branches of AIIMS were proposed to be set up in other states. I would like to know its present position. One AIIMS hospital was also proposed to be set up in Jodhpur in western Rajasthan. I would like to know about its present status. The land for the proposed hospital was allotted however till date nothing has been done in this regard. The hon'ble Minister had submitted that the facilities of AIIMS would also be provided to poor people. The AIIMS facilities should not only be made available in Delhi alone rather it should be made available in other states and cities. One very unfortunate incident happened in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. The eye of a patient was eaten by ants and the patient died. I would like to know from the Minister the time by which the AIIMS like institutions are likely to be set up in other states so that AIIMS like facilities may be available in other States as well.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, before that, may I make one point? I am sorry to make an observation. I am not going into all those things. Let them also ask the questions. But the rule provides that only four persons can ask questions apart from the first one who raises it. That is one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you. There is no doubt about it.

[Translation]

This is the issue that is released to the entire nation.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have no objection if you take it up under Rule 193 and allow everybody to discuss it. Everybody can be allowed to discuss it. I have been specially called here. I am sitting here. I have something else to do. I thought that only four Members are going to speak. I came here.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have told that you have to go at 4 o'clock.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Then, I can go. I will go now. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not right. It should not be just thrown to the winds. This is an important issue and Members should be allowed to ask. Let him also be allowed to ask the question. I have no objection to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him as a special case.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, injustice has been done to the poor people by increasing the charges in AIIMS. I would especially like to mention that 60 percent of the patients to be admitted in AIIMS come from Bihar, who are poor. They are so poor that they cannot afford even minor increase in the cost of treatment. After increasing the charges it is being said that special facilities would be provided. I would once again like to submit that it is the constitutional right of the every citizen of the

country to avail free health care and education and it is the responsibility of the Government to provide the said facilities to the people. This is also the commitment of the UPA Government and I feel that breach of commitment on the part of the Government is going to happen. So, I would like to request the Minister to reconsider it. NDA people had given wrong information regarding the AIIMS. The foundation stone of AIIMS were laid at six different places however work on these did not start. ...*(Interruptions)* They had given wrong statement during their election campaign, the people will teach them lesson. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that if an AIIMS had been set up in Bihar 60 percent of the poor and helpless population would not come to AIIMS in Delhi and it would not be so crowded. I think there are two more states other than Bihar where proposals to set up AIIMS are pending. I would like to know the time by which AIIMS would be set up in order that there may be justice with the poor. This apart, I would also like you to restore the old rates by withdrawing the hike in charges. ...*(Interruptions)* This increase would be improper for the poor, hence I request that this hike may be rolled back.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, Shri Ram Kripalji was saying and it is quite understandable that the MP's residing at a distance of nearly 250-300 km. find it difficult to receive treatment in the AIIMS. Through you Sir, I would like to bring the fact to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that people queue up right from 4 am. Most of the people who stand in queue are poor and belong to the BPL category. There are so many hospitals functioning in Delhi where one may go for treatment if one can afford a little. Let me tell you the real problem. Of late, a case came to my notice in which the charges for By-pass surgery was higher in AIIMS as compared to the Metro Hospital. I would simply tell you that one more injustice has been done to the poor. Now only one patient a month will be given financial assistance on the recommendation of a Member of Parliament. This means that an MP can recommend only 12 patients in a year for financial assistance. This amounts to gross injustice to the poor.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is another injustice.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: My submission is for reconsideration of the hike in hospital charges and its roll-back. The people living below poverty line come to us for help be it from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or the Health Minister's Relief Fund. As per the information available with us we can provide financial assistance to only one patient in a month that too only to the extent of 25 or 30 thousand rupees out of the total expenditure of one and a half lakh of rupees. I would like you to roll back the hike in fees with immediate effect and an announcement to this effect be made today itself.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I would like to submit that illness does not distinguish between the rich and the poor. All of them are nothing but patients. When this hospital was set up it was meant for everyone. Many big hospitals have come up only thereafter where the rich may go for treatment otherwise earlier everyone would have to visit here only. Even today, priority is accorded to those belonging to the influential classes, political parties and bureaucratic circles. The former Government had announced to set up a hospital of AIIMS standard in our state and even had released funds for the same. This makes no point that the successive Government should criticise such sacrosanct decision of the previous Government. Such things should not take place. The ideal course of action would be to complete the incomplete work of the previous Government and vice-versa. I would like to know whether in the state. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I was saying that you got converted to Hinduism and I turned muslim. What steps have been taken for the upgradation of hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir. So many hospitals had been inaugurated and funds were allocated to them. Even if funds were not allocated to them is it not the responsibility of the present Government to take steps for their upgradation for the people residing in the state of Jammu and Kashmir?

*[English]*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I must appreciate the proposal of Mr. Minister for rationalisation of fee structure. The mission

is good. In the name of rationalisation of fee structure, though the Minister has stated the policy, yet this policy has not been rationalised. Sir, AIIMS is a tertiary hospital. It is our pride. Around 90 per cent people from across the country, especially the poorer sections of the society and middle-class people, those who have no other option to go to the corporate hospitals, they come here to get the super-specialised treatment.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister is conscious about these facts and when it is going to be rationalised, 90 per cent people should be exempted from the hike. I would like to know whether he will do this or not. What will be the system for distinction between the richer sections and poorer sections of the society? Another thing is that AIIMS has to bear the extra load of patients. What is his proposal to rationalise the over-crowded Out Patient Department (OPD)? It is a tertiary hospital.

My last point relates to controlling corruption in the management. There is rampant corruption. Many cases have come in the public. I want to know whether the Government is doing anything to root out corruption in the management.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the poor have been drastically affected by the increase in charges at AIIMS. On the line of AIIMS, charges have been increased at PGI, Chandigarh also. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether any discussion over the hike in hospital charges took place in institute-bodies. We are elected to Parliament and this responsibility rests with us. As far as I know, this issue was not discussed there. Way-back in the year 2002, when Shri Shatrughan Sinha was the Minister of Health and Family Welfare this issue came up for discussion. At that time a decision was taken not to increase the charges. Despite that this time, a decision has been taken at the lower level to increase the rates as a result of which, the number of the poor visiting AIIMS has come down like anything and they are very much affected. I would like to make my submission before the Hon'ble Minister that a lot of money can be generated by constituting a committee and putting a check on the extravagance. Whether the Government will get this mode of fund generation examined instead of putting undue burden on the poor?

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to pose some specific questions. Sir, we object to increase the diagnostic charges in the AIIMS. This is my first point. It is because, of late, we have read out in the newspapers that the Government is going to initiate a 'health cess' like the 'education cess'. The Government is trying to implement the health cess. I would like to know from the Minister whether this suggestion has gone to the Planning Commission for introducing the health cess, and the Finance Ministry. If it is decided by the Government that the health cess may be increased by two per cent, then the investigation charges in AIIMS should be subsidised.

Sir, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is one of the premier medical colleges or institutes in the country. The previous Government as well as the present Government have made a promise that AIIMS should be opened in Bhubaneswar. I would like to know from the Government whether it will be opened there. I also want to know what is the budgetary allocation for this year.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much! I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this issue. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had raised the slogan "Roti Kapda Sasta ho aur Dawai Padhai Muft ho". As nature has bestowed upon us free air, free water and free sun-light, similarly this Government is committed to the core. The UPA Government had promised to provide facilities to the common people. The charges have been increased at AIIMS. The Uttar Pradesh Government has reduced this from Rs. 8 to Re. 1.

16.00 hrs.

An amount of Rs.50 that used to be charged for bed in the hospital these has been waived off. Similarly, the Central Government should also waive off the increased charges. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us sitting here are MPs, no matter they belong to treasury or opposition benches, every one of us is of the opinion that the increased charges should be waived off. Therefore, I would request the Government to waive off this increase.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before the Health Minister replies to the Calling Attention. I have a submission to make, through you, to the House. We are scheduled to start a discussion under Rule 193 at 4 o'clock regarding problems being faced by agriculture sector. I would like to make an appeal to the House :

[Translation]

I have talked to Gangwarji that after the reply of the hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare two to three members are left to advance their views on internal security. They will speak and Shri Shivraj Patil's reply will follow. I want this debate to be concluded by 4.30 in order that discussion under Rule 193 may be taken up after the reply of the Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss. I am saying so to build a consensus in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the House agrees with the suggestion made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I understand the concern of all the hon. Members on the issue of rationalisation of charges in All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Sir, first of all, this is not an increase of charges, this is only a rationalisation of charges. Secondly, they are meant only for diagnostic tests and not for any therapy or treatment. Thirdly, there are a lot of diagnostic tests for which the rate has come down and for some it has gone up. Fourthly, for all the BPL patients, not a single paisa will be charged. This applies to not only to BPL patients but also to poor patients who cannot afford the cost of the diagnostic tests.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How? ...*(Interruptions)*  
What is their number? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will come to that. Why are you impatient?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He wants to know what is their number.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will come to that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the number of BPL patients, poor patients, patients belonging to middle class, farmers etc. who are treated in All India Institute of Medical Sciences?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will come to that. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me answer your question. Please listen to me.

Sir, for all the emergency cases in casualty, all the diagnostic charges, irrespective of who they are or what they are, everything is free for them. So, for all BPL patients, for all poor patients, for all emergency cases, everything is completely free. We are charging money only from those who can afford that. Then, all the faculty members in AIIMS have the discretion to waive the fee for diagnostic charges.

Sir, the previous rationalisation of these charges was done 12 years ago. The process of rationalisation of charges had started two years ago and I took over charge just 1½ years ago. Basically, All India Institute of Medical Sciences was started as a research unit. Since there were no proper medical facilities in the neighbouring States like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc., many patients started coming to AIIMS and treatment was provided to them. Moreover, we do not deny treatment to any patient who comes to AIIMS. After a gap of 12 years, we have only rationalised these charges.

Sir, I would like to reiterate that not even a single paisa will be charged to any BPL patient. So, I do not see any poor patient getting affected due to this rationalisation. Definitely no poor patient is going to be affected. There are a lot of diagnostics where rates have come down.

Now, coming to point of the number of patients coming to AIIMS, I will say that there are a lot of patients who are coming to AIIMS and who can afford a lot of money. But it is not a question of money. It is the duty of the Government to provide quality health care for everybody in this country. But then, we have to rationalise these procedures, which have been there all around the country, including Sanjay Gandhi Institute and hospitals in Hyderabad, where you have to pay entrance fee for admissions. The State Governments are doing that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He should not compare with other hospitals. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in AIIMS, everyday, you get about 3,500 vehicles, both four wheelers and two

wheelers, coming there. A lot of people are coming in expensive cars. We are trying to get something from them to assist the poor patients, but it is not that we are trying to get money from them. It is not a question of money. I can also say that this process was started two years ago and I did not start it. It is just to rationalise things. I would also like to say that no poor patient is going to be charged for this.

As far as the number of poor patients or labourers, etc. is concerned, we do not have the number of these patients. It is a huge number. The registers are there and maybe I will find out and inform the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he should have the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it is a policy that no poor patient is going to be charged. Even patients in Casualty and Emergency are not charged a single paisa. Now, after that I do not see why are they concerned about this. Definitely the UPA Government is for the poor and its policies are also for the poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will let you know the details of that. It is a huge record. I will get the information and give it to the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)* I will find out the numbers and inform the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What is the particulars regarding hospital norms?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): No patient is going to walk to the hospital, he or she will necessarily come here by some vehicle. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of your speech is going on record.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The poor patients, who have the BPL cards are exempted. Even if they do not have cards and if the Faculty feels that the patient is poor, he is also exempted. It is as simple as that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That will be subjective. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is not subjective. If the Faculty feels that the patient is poor, then he is exempted. There is no hard and fast rule in that. The basic policy of the UPA Government is to provide quality accessible care to all the people in the country and no charges to be levied on the people who cannot afford that. Definitely we are committed to that also.

Now, I come to the six new AIIMS like institutes. There were a lots of issues raised. ...*(Interruptions)* On the specific query of the hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia about the programme to increase the coverage of poor patients, definitely we are concerned about it and we are trying to expand the services in the AIIMS. Today, there are about 2000 beds in the AIIMS and in the next few months we are going to expand it by 420 more beds. That is the first phase of that. After that, we have a mega project where we have envisaged a sum of Rs. 650 crore approximately. We are trying to work it out. There is a constraint of land. But we are trying to work out the modalities on that also. There is a nullah flowing over there. The land is going to be worked out.

At this point of time we are going on an expansion phase because, as has been said, about 15 lakh out patients are coming in a year. It is a huge number. Sir, there are 80,000 in-patients. We are concerned about it. As far as these six AIIMS-like institutes are concerned, that is under process. It was submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet had proposed a Committee of Secretaries and they have recommended. I will be taking it back to the Cabinet as soon as possible, and it is in the process. We are committed to that. We are going to bring out these six new AIIMS-like institutions. It is just a question of time, and we are trying to work out the modalities.

As far as liberal funding of the projects is concerned, definitely we need lot more money. In fact, every year at the end, for non-plan it is more than double the budget which we give to AIIMS. So, we are very liberal in giving

money to AIIMS. It is because many poor patients come there. We do not have any restriction as such for funds for the non-plan. For the last year, we had in fact doubled the non-plan money. So, money is not a constraint but we have to provide services for expansion also. Of course, system should be evolved. As I have already said, anybody coming with the card or even though he does not have card, if he says that he cannot afford, then he will be exempted. The Director has authorised everybody there, all the faculties to take up the issue and to see that if a patient cannot afford, then they are going to exempt the charges of diagnostics.

Shri Malhotra said that the rates should be increased for the middle class. For us, the poor patients and in the middle class if there are some people who cannot afford it, they will be exempted from these charges. Also the Government should pump in more money. We are pumping in more money, and for expansion phase we are going to expand the AIIMS. My friend Shri Jitin Prasada spoke about the difficulty of the common man. I have already explained that Below Poverty Line (BPL) or poor patients would not be affected. He has said that the patient load has come down. It is wrong. It has not come down. In fact it has gone up a lot. It has gone up a lot. In fact with all the doctors in AIIMS there are constraints with so much of patients coming in from all parts of the country. We need to take care of them. Of course, there are low rents for beds for the poor. As Shri Basu Deb Acharia said cardiac procedure which costs about Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh outside is absolutely free for these patients. So, it is not the question of money. We are definitely going for poor patients. We are definitely doing it free of charge and we are going on that line. Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhillon said that new techniques should come to AIIMS. AIIMS is one of the hospitals which has best techniques in the country. There are a lot of new equipment which have come. It is one of the state-of-the-art hospitals and state-of-the-art treatment is given by AIIMS. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav talked about relaxation for BPL patients. Again I have answered that question. Shri Ajay Maken asked as to what is the percentage of money spent on research. I will again get more information about what percentage of money is spent on research and then I will inform the hon. Member. As he has said, this Institute was started as a research Institute. Then it has become a hospital for health care. Even though one of its duties is to provide treatment, yet the research part went to the backburner. Now, we have to

start research all over again and we have initiated a lot of processes in that.

He said some machine is lying out of order namely PET. PET is not lying; it is undergoing trial runs. It is a new machine. Very soon it will be fully functional. Now, it is undergoing trials. In fact, it has been said that without recommendation poor patients do not get treated. I would deny that. According to what certificate they have, there is no discrimination between anybody whether recommendations are there or not. Shri Mohan Singh has again asked the same question which Shri Basu Deb Acharya asked, as to how many poor patients are being treated. I will definitely get the information and I will inform the hon. Members. About the six new AIIMS-like institutions — Shri Ram Kripal Yadav also asked about it — I have already said out of these six new AIIMS-like institutions, they want one in Bihar. In fact, in Bihar we have not got the land yet. We have got only one-third of the land. Another two-third of the land we have not got in Bihar. Shri Santosh Gangwar asked for the rollback. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): The land had been given at that very time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should first listen to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the land has been given, I can vouch for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we are talking with the Government of Bihar and they have promised to provide the land. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Shri Santosh Gangwar has asked for the rollback in prices. I have already answered all the queries and said that all the poor patients are not going to be affected.

Dr. Ram Chandra Dome talked about the change in the policy. Absolutely there is no change in any policy whatsoever. He also wanted to know the steps that are being taken to prevent overcrowding. We have built a new OPD separately for Paediatrics and we are trying to decentralise all the procedures. In fact, as an expansion

phase, overcrowding will get reduced in due course of time.

Shri Suresh Chandel asked whether it was discussed in the Institute. Yes, all these issues were discussed with all the faculty members. Most of the faculty members have given concurrence by way of a paper and said that this has to go. They have given their concurrence. This has been discussed at different levels in the Institute before taking a decision.

Shri Bikram Deo has said about health cess. I am unaware of that right now. I will ask the Finance Minister and maybe I will get more information about that and give it to you all. About the subsidised rate, it is already subsidised, and in fact, we are giving good quality health care to our patients who are below poverty line free of cost. Regarding Bhubaneswar, as I said, six to eight AIIMS-like institutes will be coming in the country which will include Bhubaneswar.

Shri Shailendra Kumar has raised some issues, which have already been addressed.

Sir, to sum up, the UPA Government is very much concerned and it is on the side of the poor people. Definitely there is no question of any sufferings by any poor patients or patients who are below poverty line or anybody who cannot afford this treatment, and everybody is going to get the treatment free of cost.

I think, I have addressed the concerns of all the hon. Members. In fact, the UPA Government is very much on the side of the poor people. We are definitely concerned about them and we will be the last persons to do injustice to the poor people.

16.17 hrs

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 15. All Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

#### (1) Need for expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant in Jharkhand

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr.

\* Treated as laid on the Table.

Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister had given an assurance while visiting Bokaro during the Jharkhand Assembly elections, 2005 that expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant will be done upto 10 million tonne and the problems of displaced persons will be solved. Land acquisition has been done in Bokaro on a large scale resulting in displacement of 64 villages. Out of these 64 villages, many villages have been acquired on paper only. Villagers have been living in those villages in their own houses as usual. Neither they have been given plots for rehabilitation nor they have been provided any facility for displacement.

A large chunk of acquired land is not in use of Bokaro Steel Plant for many years.

Therefore, I demand from the Government that if there is a proposal for expansion of Bokaro Steel plant, then it's DPR should be prepared at the earliest. If there is no scheme for expansion, then the unutilized land should be returned to their old owners because the development of said villages is totally blocked as villagers are leading a hellish life.

**(II) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Tamil Nadu for construction of Court Building at Palani**

*[English]*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Palani is one of the ancient hill town in Tamil Nadu, the abode of Lord Karthikeya. In Palani, Criminal Court and Civil Courts are functioning in two different places. The judicial Magistrate Court is functioning in Taluk Office campus. District Munsif Court and Sub-court are functioning in a separate building in Dindigul road. A new building was constructed in 1984 by the State PWD Department and the District Munsif Court was housed in the same year in the same complex. The Hon'ble High Court has sanctioned Sub-court for Palani in the year 1996 and the Sub-Court also started functioning in one portion of the above building. Both the courts and Legal Aid Centre are functioning in the same building.

Since there is no provision for Library and Bar Room in the building, I have allocated Rs. 5 lakhs to construct Library Hall through MPLAD Scheme and Administrative Sanction by Dindigul District Collector is awaited.

Due to the recent torrential rain and flood, the building is almost damaged and it is endangering the lives of advocates, judges and clients. A proposal was also sent to

the Tamil Nadu Government and the same is pending. Hon'ble High Court, Madras also recommended the same. Till date, the Government has not allocated any fund for the construction of the Combined Court Building for Palani.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to intervene in the matter and take immediate action for the establishment of Combined Court Building at Palani.

**(III) Need to link Indralok and Moti Nagar in Delhi by Metro Rail.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of Metro Rail services in the Capital Delhi, the passenger amenities as well as revenue of the Government have increased. Work is in progress on several Metro Lines. Shahdara-Rithala line is already in operation and Barakhamba-Rohini-Dwarka line is likely to be operational shortly. There is a need to link both the lines so that West-South Centre and East Delhi could be connected. I want to give a suggestion to connect Indralok on Shahdara-Rithala line with Moti Nagar on Barakhamba-Rohini-Dwarka line which could solve this problem. This distance is only 3 kms and construction of this line should be considered keeping in view the convenience of public.

Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Urban Development to consider this suggestion and approval for a 3 kms Metro Line between Indralok-Moti Nagar should be accorded.

**(IV) Need to regularize the services of Temporary and Daily Wage Mazdoors in the Electricity Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

*[English]*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): During the 1990's the Electricity Department of Andaman & Nicobar Administration had appointed daily rated mazdoors for implementation of various plan schemes such as establishment of power houses, construction of T&D systems, installation of renewable energy systems and providing of service connections and street lights etc. some of these daily rated mazdoors were granted temporary status during 1993. I understand as on date there are about 677 temporary status mazdoors working in the department. Time and again Andaman & Nicobar Administration have approached the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter, who have further forwarded to



Ministry of Power for their recommendations. The decision is yet to be received by MHA from Ministry of Power.

Sir, I cite an example i.e. in 1999 MHA sanctioned for creation of 964 Group 'D' posts of mazdoors in scale Rs. 2550-3200 for regularizing the casual workers who were earlier appointed by the department during 1980s with the following conditions:

- (i) These posts will be treated as personal to the Casual Workers having temporary status in the electricity department of A&N administration till the date they are adjusted against regular vacancies/retiree; and
- (ii) These posts will be wasted out against future promotions, retirements, deaths etc.

In the same manner, I strongly opine that the present situation also needs to be handled with sensitivity and compassion in view of the longer services rendered by these mazdoors in the electricity department of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It should be possible to issue a notification suitable with a little more effort.

**(v) Need to declare Minimum Support Price of certain agricultural Produce of Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan State has a leading position in production of Guar, Moth, Coriander and Cumin seed. Rajasthan produces 80 percent of total Guar production of the country. Rajasthan holds first position in the country in production of Moth. The average land under cultivation for Moth during the last five years has been 8.69 lakh hectare and 1.20 lakh Metric tonne Moth is produced every year. The land under cultivation for Guar is 20.56 lakh hectare and annual production is 3.77 lakh Metric tonne. For Coriander and Cumin seed the average land under cultivation is 2.35 and 1.66 lakh hectare respectively and average production is 0.75 and 1.68 lakh Metric tonne respectively during the last five years. Almost 4 lakh hectare land is under cultivation for Coriander and Cumin seed and 40 lakh farmers families are dependent on these for their livelihood. It is also worth mentioning that Isabgol and Methi are important medicinal/spice crops of Rajasthan. The average area under cultivation for these crops is 88000 and 470000 hectare and average production is

60,000 and 54000 Metric tonne respectively during the last five years. The Government of India has not announced the Minimum Support Price for these crops.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to declare Minimum support Price for these crops so that the farmers can get remunerative prices.

**(vi) Need to ameliorate the lot of Khadi weavers in the country**

*[English]*

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (Ongole): I would like to bring the notice of this House about the problems being faced by the Khadi industry. From the last 100 years, Khadi industries have been facing many challenges from both within and outside the country and still trying to establish its presence. However, in the changed scenario of globalization and liberalisation, the problems faced by this sector have multiplied due to competition from machine run textile mills, lack of proper Government support and various other factors. This has led them to poverty, hunger-deaths and migration to other places as daily wages workers.

In view of this, I would like to request the Government to reserve certain segments of the markets of Khadi sector, like making Khadi uniform compulsory for school children in Government run schools throughout the country. Such programmes will bring relief to the millions of poor Khadi workers, help strengthen rural economy and bring in more employment opportunities. It will also help imbibe a spirit of swadeshi and patriotism in the young minds. I once again strongly urge the Government to consider this proposal and thus help the Khadi industry which was once the backbone of Indian economy.

**(vii) Need to accord the status of AIIMS to Sawai Man Singh Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan**

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all kinds of facilities and equipments are available in Sawai Man Singh hospital, Jaipur and procurement process for very necessary equipments has started. Construction works of new wards are underway expeditiously by the State Government. Therefore, there is an urgent need to accord the status of AIIMS to this Hospital

since it has very good doctors and overall management. It will reduce the burden of Delhi and people of Rajasthan will get facilities at par with AIIMS.

Therefore, I demand the Union Government to accord the status of AIIMS to Sawai Man Singh Hospital at the earliest.

**(viii) Need to provide a railway link connecting Chintapurni, Paragpur, Jwalamukhi and Ranital in Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Minister of Railways towards the negligible expansion of railway network in Himachal Pradesh since independence and urge upon him that the construction work being undertaken on the only broad-gauge railline Una-Talwara is complete between Una to Churudu and work is in progress from Amb to Talwara. My request is that this rail-line will be of much use if it is constructed from Amb to Ranital Via Chintapurni, Paragpur (Heritage village), Nadaun and Jwalamukhi and this way it will pass through borders as well as heartland of Himachal Pradesh which will benefit the local populace. It will connect Heritage Village Paragpur and Nadaun, Tehsil headquarters of Hamirpur district as well as religious places of world-renowned deities like Jwalamukhi, Brijeshwari and Chintapurni etc. and the income of the Railways will also increase.

**(ix) Need to take suitable measures to increase the production of fertilizer in the country**

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, farmers could not get the fertilizers on time due to the sudden reduction in supply of chemical fertilizers in the country. Large-scale black marketing of fertilizers in several states like Madhya Pradesh has come to light. It is known that producers in the country have stopped producing fertilizers. As a result of this fertilizers have been imported from abroad. I want to know from the Government the quantity-wise and the rate-wise details of fertilizers bought from several countries. The Government should inquire about the reasons, due to which fertilizer production in the country has stopped.

The Union Government is requested to take appropriate measures to increase the production of fertilizers in the country.

**(x) Need to protect the interest of indigenous small scale industries by supplying them coal at subsidized rates**

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, small scale industries have played special role in the development of the country and employment generation. Small-scale industries have proliferated to small towns and villages by making small investments. According to the priority of the country, it was expected from the Government to promote and protect the growth and marketing by small-scale industries, which are engaged in production and employment generation. Previous Governments have taken many decisions under this policy, because small-scale industries are doing the important job of providing employment to around more than 20 percent people in the country. In view of this, the small-scale industries are also expecting the same thing from the Government. But by bringing in widespread changes in coal policy during the last few days, for auction of coal through E-Auction, the coal based small-scale industries are inching towards sickness.

Coal India might have earned profit through E-Auction system but profit cannot be earned at the cost of small-scale industries. Workers engaged in small-scale industries are also adversely affected and are facing unemployment. The Ministry of Coal is providing coal on floor rate to core sector (Power, Steel, Cement) by the name of core and non-core sector. Non-Core sector, which consists of small and medium industries, is being compelled to buy costlier coal through competitive bidding in E-Auction. It will be necessary to provide them coal at lower price in view of the efforts by the countries like China to attract the consumers in International Market on the basis of its small-scale industries and to keep our small-scale industries strong in competition. Only this policy can protect the small-scale industries.

**(xi) Need to direct Coal India Limited to generate electricity by applying the method of burning underground coal at Merta in Nagaur district, Rajasthan**

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that it has been 25 years since Coal India Limited had dug wells in Merta, District Nagaur, Rajasthan for mining of coal. The same Coal India Limited appointed Scochin Skoi Institute of Mining and vo Machinompot, a Russian company to prepare an expert report on the ways to make use of the coal of the

said coal wells. It came into the notice of the Government that the coal available in said area is not of the desired quality and there would be excessive expenditure on extracting the coal from beneath the ground. This company was asked to give its expert report about the power generation through gas formation by burning of coal. The said expert team prepared its report on 21.02.1995 and submitted it to Coal India Limited. In this regard, I want to submit that earlier too I tried to set up a power generation project there through the Government of Rajasthan. But, it could not materialize due to some reason. In such circumstances, now Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited, India has prepared a scheme in public sector to generate power by generating gas through the burning of underground coal, with the help of Coal India Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited. It came into my notice through a news item published on page 14 of the newspaper Business Standard dated 14 December 2004.

It is requested to the Union Government to issue necessary direction to Coal India Limited for power generation through the said method in Merta District, Nagaur in Rajasthan.

**(xii) Need to enhance the entitlement criteria for bonus by amending Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as cover maximum number of employees and workers in private sector industries**

[English]

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): A large number of employees and workers in private sector industries are deprived of bonus due to imposition of limit through the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Since the wages of many workers and employees have been increased due to increase in cost of living, the ceiling on bonus should be raised in commensurate with the increased wages. Secondly, there is also need to increase the limit of maximum bonus.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to bring an amended Bill on the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 in this House enhancing the present eligibility norm from Rs. 3500/- p.m. and increase the bonus amount limit to Rs. 7500/- in view of the situation arising out of continuous fall of rupee value in the country.

**(xiii) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh for inclusion of certain castes in the list of SCs/STs**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, various State Governments and Union territory administrations have recommended the names of some castes to be included in the list of scheduled castes after proper survey to the Union Government. But due to delay in decision by the Government regarding the inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes, there has been a delay in providing this facility to lakhs of people. In my view, some castes should have been included in the list of scheduled castes long ago, but they are still deprived of the same benefits. In other states, some castes out of these were already included in the list of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, but in some states, still they are not included in the said list. Economically backward castes are becoming more backward. Therefore, injustice is being done to lakhs of people belonging to these castes because such castes are deprived of facilities relating to reservation provided by the Government. As the Union Government has not yet sanctioned the proposal to include Kewat, Nishad, Blind Dhiwar, Dhima, Machua, Kashyap and Chik, Chak, Hindu Chikwa Castes of Uttar Pradesh in the Scheduled Castes, justice is not being done to thousands of people belonging to these castes. Through you, I request the Government to include the economically-Socially and educationally backward castes, in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes list without any delay regarding which recommendations have been received from the State Governments to include them in list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

**(xiv) Need to declare 'Neemtree' as a national tree in view of its immense utility**

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Neemtree appearing on the roadside is a repertoire of medicinal properties. This is an important tree from the view point of the Indian culture and medicines. In Persian, this tree has been called Azade Darakt.

Neem is useful in numerous illnesses. Its use is beneficial in cultivation and in fertilizers. As per a report of the national Research Council of Washington, this is a very useful tree for all the living beings on earth. No other tree gives as many products as this Neem tree gives. Much literature is available on this tree. A company of the

USA has acquired patent on some of the pesticides derived from it. This tree which is a repertoire of medicinal properties may be declared as the national tree of India so as to spread its virtues and to check the tendency of getting patents for it.

**(xv) Need to check pollution caused by effluents of Riga Sugar Mill and distillery factory in Sitamarhi district, Bihar**

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, dirty contaminated water discharged by the Riga Sugar Mill and distillery in the Sitamarhi district of Bihar is being flown in the river which is causing water pollution leading to serious ailments to the thousands of people of the area. Most of the animals have already died. The sugar mill owners should have their own system for the treatment of the effluent discharged from the sugar mill. This is against the rule that such effluents be allowed to go into the river.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to check the discharge of effluent from the sugar mill and the distillery in public interest at the earliest so as to save the said area from pollution.

**(xvi) Need to provide financial assistance under 'Adarsh Zila Yojana' for construction of a bridge on river Gomti between Mohammadi and Mitauli in Khiri district of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mohammadi tehsil of the district Khiri of my constituency is divided into two parts by the Gomti river and there is just one bridge on the National Highway no. 24.

The construction of the second bridge between Aurangabad-Barwar commenced, but work on that project has remained stalled for the last two years.

The first requirement of that area is to get another bridge constructed between Mohammadi and Mitauli along with the expeditious completion of the bridge under construction over the Gomti river.

Unless and until these two bridges are constructed, the development of the Mohammadi tehsil and the Khiri district is impossible. I demand the Government to get the bridge under-construction completed at the earliest taking the co-operation of the Uttar Pradesh Government and funds be made available from the Aadarsh Zila Yojana or

from any other Yojana for getting another bridge constructed on the Gomti river between Mohammadi and Mitauli.

**(xvii) Need to relax eligibility criteria under Indira Awas Yojana with a view to include victims of natural calamities**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to the need for liberalising the eligibility criteria under Indira Awas Yojana. As per the prevalent rules, only those families that figure in the BPL list are entitled to be the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana. A family whose house is destroyed in a natural calamity also loses all its material belongings which were housed in it. Such a family would no longer have the necessary financial capability to reconstruct the house on its own. Moreover, in the rural areas where most of the houses have thatched roofs, accidental fire can totally destroy the house and reduce everything inside it to ashes. I would therefore suggest that the prevalent rules in this regard be liberalised, so that families whose houses are destroyed by flood, cyclone, earthquake, tsunami, and accidental fire, be equally entitled to be the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana even if they do not figure in the BPL list.

**(xviii) Need to open a passport office at Madurai in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Passport is but a tool in the hands of job seekers and others who go abroad and help earn foreign exchange for the country. Such foreign earners who go abroad from Tamil Nadu are on the increase. Though it is stated that procedures to issue passports have been streamlined, practical difficulties still persist.

District passport collection cells at every district Headquarters manned by the staff of the State Governments are functioning now. The states which are not able to make and distribute even the ration cards are entrusted with this job. All the passports for the southern districts are issued by Tiruchirappalli passport office. Tough passport applications are submitted through district collection centres, for some reason or the other the applicants are necessitated to go to Tiruchi Passport office.

In stead of opening passport collection centres in

every district, it would be better to open a full-fledged passport office in Madurai which can be reached easily by the people of all the southern districts in Tamil Nadu. Kerala has three passport offices which serve 14 districts. Trivandrum passport office serves just for 3 districts whereas Tiruchirappalli passport office has to serve 16 districts.

Hence there is a justified need to open a new passport office at Madurai in Tamil Nadu.

**(xix) Need to check pollution caused by effluents discharged by Usha Martin Company Limited in Gamharia, Jharkhand**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Usha Martin Company Ltd. located at Gamharia of Sarai Kela Kharsava in Jharkhand which produces steel, iron-bar and electricity, consumes a lot of coal in production and emits smoke which has made people asthmatic who live within a circumference of ten kilometers and also many people have lost their lives due to it. The wastewater discharged from this factory is reducing the fertility of the soil of fields belonging to poor farmers and this polluted water destroys the crops standing on the fields of the poor tribal farmers. On the other hand, all sorts of oily substances are mixed, with this waste water which goes straight to Sitarampur dam which supplies water to half of the Jamshedpur area. This water also contains oil which is adversely affecting the health of the people of this area who drink it. Water pollution and air pollution is rampantly spreading in this area which is urgently required to be checked.

Through this House I urge upon the Union Government to take stringent steps to check the pollution being spread by this factory.

**(xx) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Medical College in Bijnore Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is just one medical college in Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh which is located 450 kms. from Lucknow – the Capital of Uttar Pradesh. No other medical college is located in the area falling between the two. The poor patients can not afford to get themselves treated in the expensive private nursing homes. In the health centers,

doctors and medicines are not available. Keeping in view the above reasons, through this House I demand the Union Government that a Government Medical College be set up in my Bijnor Lok Sabha constituency so as to provide medical facilities to the poor farmers and labourers of this area. State Government should be provided funds required for this purpose.

16.18 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(I) **SERIAL BOMB BLASTS IN DELHI ON 29.10.2005**

(II) **TERRORIST VIOLENCE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

(III) **NAXALITE ATTACKS THAT TOOK PLACE IN JEHANABAD, BIHAR ON 13.11.2005**

AND

(IV) **NAXALITE ATTACK THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE HOME GUARD TRAINING CENTRE, GIRIDIH, JHARKHAND ON 11.11.2005 – Contd.**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 21 – Discussion under Rule 193. The allotted time was four hours. We have already taken three hours and thirty-six minutes.

Shri Nikhil Kumar was on his feet when it was last discussed. I request him to continue his speech.

*[Translation]*

Shri Nikhilji, we want to conclude this topic by 4.30 hrs. You may please conclude your speech earlier.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I have been waiting to deliver my speech for the last six days. You may please give me some time.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please continue your speech.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I was on my feet on 1st

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

December, 2005 and I was trying to explain as to why a special law is being sought to fight the battle against terror. A point was made by our friends on the other side that we are not serious enough to fight terrorism in our country. One reason, they said, was that we do not have a special law and the special law that used to be there has been scrapped. I would like to say that the special law, it is believed, helps in both the investigation of a terrorist crime and in the prosecution of the terrorist so that the special law is in a position to secure the conviction of the terrorist. There have been some very serious terrorist crimes in this country. I would mention just two of them. One was the incident of assault on the Red Fort.

And the second was the assault on the Parliament. Both these cases have ended in conviction. This must be noted. In neither case was the special law of great use. On the other hand, what is significant is the conviction in both the cases was handed down under the general law. This has to be understood that if we have to fight terrorism, it can be fought efficiently and effectively with the help of the general law that we have at the moment.

The United Kingdom has a special law. But it did not help the United Kingdom authorities prevent the series of terrorist incidents on the 7th of July. Special law can be expected to assist us in expediting trial. Unfortunately, we have special courts under the special laws but the trials have been extended as long as in any normal court. In some cases, the trials may have even ended but the judgement has not been announced.

We had seen in Britain the series of bomb blasts that took place nearly six months ago but still given the criminal jurisprudence system of Britain where trials are very expeditiously concluded, even there the special law has not been able to secure a very speedy trial. My point, therefore, is that the special law itself cannot be considered the only panacea in combating terrorism. This Government is extremely certain and very sure of combating terrorism through the general law and it is serious in combating it. We have rightly given importance to contain terrorism, as it should, because it leads to massive loss of life and property mainly of the innocents.

But I would say that this phenomenon called Naxalism is equally serious, if not more, and it must be given equal importance. Naxalism today is such a big scourge that nearly one-third of our country's districts are under the sway of Naxalism. Nearly 200 districts out of 600 have been affected by the Left wing extremism. The

CPI (Maoists), the Left wing extremists, are in concert with the Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist) Maoists, and they want to forge a Compact Revolutionary Zone from Nepal right down to the South. When this comes about, it would be a wedge right through the centre of this country. It will divide this country the North-East from the rest of the country. What can be the consequences? It can always be imagined. It is, therefore, very essential that this phenomenon of Naxalism must be combated very strongly and efficiently.

Sir, I will dwell a little on the causes of what is called Naxalism. Basically, it is related to socio-economic causes. There are also criminal causes. But it is land which is at the root of all the problems. Land is at the root of the problem because of a revenue settlement that we reached in 1793. An intermediary came between the Government and the peasant, the tillers. It is this intermediary, who had to pay a fixed land rental, was in a position to carry out atrocities and exploitation. It is this which has led to a non-incentive to production and productivity. It has led to poverty. It has led to backwardness and it has, therefore, led to Naxalism being what it is in the poorest and the most economically backward districts of this country.

My suggestion, therefore, is that it should not only be tackled as a law and order problem but also the Centre must reserve to itself the suo motu right to tackle this problem even if it means bringing about an amendment in the Constitution of the Concurrent List and the State List. This subject should be examined very carefully and deeply and it should be brought on the Concurrent List.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Kindly give me a little time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot allow you any more.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: The point that I want to make is about the dialogue that has to be carried out with the Naxalites. My point is that dialogue should be carried out but it should not give any chance to the Left wing extremists to find the time to regroup themselves and then go back on whatever agreement that they may have had with the Government.

That leads to further violence. It is this violence that we have to be careful about and the violence must be contained through a Two Point Programme of Containment and Counter. For this containment, the Centre may have

to take even suo motu action. I also say this because there are inter-State ramifications of naxalism. It is not only a matter which is confined to one State. Then the modernisation of security forces is of utmost importance. We have to do that because at some places, the police forces are so backward that they are unable to even go out into the areas affected by naxalism. They are so scared, especially of land mines that are laid. The experiment of providing mine-proof vehicles has failed. We saw the incident in Chhattisgarh where 22 people were killed. I would request the hon. Home Minister to kindly consider these suggestion about pro-active action by the Centre even if it has to bring an amendment. To counter the ideology of Naxalism, we should have the ideology of development. Then land reform is important and we must pay very special attention through the means of dialogue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. M. Ramadass – not present.

Now, Shri Tapir Gao to speak.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have spoken on this bomb blast in Delhi and situation in Kashmir, Jehanabad and Jharkhand. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to North-East. Whenever he makes a statement in the Rajya Sabha or inside or outside the Parliament, he is always saying that there is an improvement in the North Eastern Region. But I feel surprised and the country also feels surprised. Recently, one incident has happened in Assam in the District of Karbi Anglong and in North Kachar Hills. The Government of India has fixed the responsibility to that incident as communal clash between two tribals. Tribals are innocent people. They do not know as to how to focus in the forum of this country. All our media friends are also highlighting it as a tribal clash. If it is a tribal clash then I want to know as to why both the DIMASAS and the Karbis are still living together in the relief camps. I would like to know as to why the Government of India is not taking the responsibility there. Both the DIMASAS and the KARBIS have got their underground activists. Underground activists of both are having cease-fire with the Government of India. I would like to know as to why the Government of India is not taking responsibilities of it as an *atankwadi* issue. The Government of India is managing the situation of insurgency but they are not finding out a lasting solution.

I have got a lot of points but you have given me only two minutes. This is the question of eight States. We

cannot deny the nexus of naxalites and the North East extremisms. We cannot deny that all underground activities are prevailing in the North Eastern Region with the mainland extremisms. Here, the Government of India need a political will. Without political will, there cannot be any solution in that part of the country.

Sir, daily there is a killing of innocent people in Manipur. If there is a cease-fire with the Naga underground activists then in my Parliamentary constituency in Tirap District, as to why recently one citizen has been killed. Is this the salient feature of the peace talks with the Naga underground activists? The solution to the problem of underground activists of Nagas should be found out. If this is the salient feature to the peace talks, the extortion and killings then what is the solution? All these things are going on in the North Eastern Region. That is why, in such national insurgencies and internal security problems, the North Eastern Region should not be overlooked. Prevention is better than cure. Shri Kapil Sibal, the hon. Minister has given a simple statement on the floor of the House.

While responding to the point made by our hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Prof. V.K. Malhotra, Shri Kapil Sibal stated in this august House that there is a relation between the North-Eastern extremist groups and political leaders. Who are the political leaders having nexus with the underground outfits in the North-East? It is the Congress Government in Assam; it is the Congress Government in Manipur; and it is the Congress Government in Arunachal Pradesh. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Government of India need political will to tackle all these activities in the North-Eastern region.

I would like to know whether the Government of India is having any talks with the Myanmar Government and the Bangladeshi Government to take action for closing down the training camps. If so, what is the outcome of the talks with the Bangladeshi Government and the Myanmar Government? All the North-East extremist groups are having training camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Until and unless there is political will, the problem cannot be solved in the North-East.

I have got a few suggestions. My first suggestion is that the Government needs political will. We cannot always try to find solutions at the barrel of a gun. This morning, there was a news flash in Aaj Tak where the Chief Minister of Manipur was said to have given Rs. 1.5 crore to an underground outfit in Manipur. So, it requires political will. The Army, the paramilitary forces and the police forces

[Shri Tapir Gao]

should be well equipped with modern technology. It is also important to have socio-economic development in the North-Eastern parts of the country along with tackling insurgency. We should also have border fencing.

I am a Member of the Departmentally-Related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. We always used to talk about border fencing. It is very important that border fencing in the border of our North-Eastern States with Bangladesh should be taken up. Hon. Members Shri Mohan Singh and Gurudas Dasgupta had put a Question on 29th November, 2005 on the Karbi-Anglong issue. The State Government has given an assurance to pay Rs. 3 lakh to the kin of the victims but not even a single paisa has been given to the victims. It has been called a tribal clash. So, everything has been done behind the scenes by the extremists. The Government of Assam has asked the Government of India for a CBI inquiry. Where is the CBI inquiry? Nothing has happened so far; not even a single culprit has been nabbed till today.

Sir, I am concerned over the situation in the North-East. I would like to get a meaningful reply from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, we are discussing four incidents: the serial bomb blasts in Delhi, the terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir, the Naxalite attack that took place in Jehanabad in Bihar, and the Naxalite attack that took place at the Home Guard Training Centre in Giridih in Jharkhand. These could be classified into two categories. The first two incidents could be called militant attacks, perpetrated by our neighbouring country and the other two incidents could be called Naxalite extremism.

The Naxalite activities are increasing every year throughout the country. They are spreading all over the country and they are attacking here and there. Almost 160 districts of the country are backward districts where there is hunger and starvation. Actually, Naxalite activities started in West Bengal but now there is no Naxalite activity in West Bengal. It is because the Government of West Bengal has taken very sincerely the problems of the land. They have taken a lot of progressive steps in respect of land reforms and because of these steps, they have solved the problem of the naxalites. I think, this lesson should be followed by other States also where land is the problem and where starvation and hunger etc. are responsible for

the naxalite activities. If the State Governments carry out these land reforms, then their activities can be checked by them.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): The BSP has not been granted even a minute's time out of four and a half hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No member of your party had given a notice.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it's not that the issue of terrorism is being debated in our country only but has been an issue of extensive debate across the globe and is being defined in the wrong perspective getting direction from a super power, also termed as super terrorist power. Earlier too, I have stated and even today I say with full confidence particularly for those colleagues sitting on the right side not to perceive it wrongly. Just for the reason that my name is Ilyas Azmi. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, he is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. Please take your seat and do not waste the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, please address to the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Until and unless we lay focus on this issue and uproot them, the evil of terrorism cannot be out of existence. Terrorism has no religion whatsoever. Terrorism is not limited to Kashmir only. It is another thing that terrorism in Kashmir has been a buzzword. They may also be considered to be prey to terrorism who were meted wild treatment for thousands of years and in this democratic regime of one man-one vote. We tried a lot to



transform them into a human being. Whether you pronounce them as terrorists or bring in diabolic legislation as TADA or POTA. I can say with authority, this is very much on the records in Lok Sabha. It cannot uproot the terrorism. If we fully establish true system of justice, naxalism will be over.

Unless, the plank which mothers terrorism and is the primal force to trigger terrorism is put to an end, we cannot uproot terrorism by resorting to TADA, POTA or guns. This deserves serious consideration that a youth aged 18-20 years of age who has not experienced the world or has enjoyed the essence of the world is propelled by something that leads him to espouse planned death of himself as well as ten to twenty other fellowmen? There must be some reason behind it? Without understanding the basic reasons, no matter how extensively we debate it over in Parliament or elsewhere, it is not going to make virtually any difference only be terming terrorism as communal terrorism. Terrorism can never be a thing of the past the world over or in our country itself.

America is offering advice to those people of Iraq to shun terrorism whose freedom was arrested by the super power and were subjected to subjugation. I assert that the terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan will be over in a day if the foreign forces cease to operate there. There will be no sign of terrorism in those countries. In our country too, the reasons which led to the triggering of terrorism, due to which the youth being disappointed with the bloody justice embarks on the path of resurgence in which innocent people are killed, whether by the police personnel or by the terrorists. I condemn them and am dead against them. However, we will have to ponder over it seriously as to why a youth turns truant and gets adamant on sacrificing his life. To say that there is terrorism in India in queer as those people who were treated wildly for thousands of years and were not given even a chance to be a human being are being pronounced as terrorists. *...(Interruptions)* You may abuse them like anything but its not going to leave any impact on them. *...(Interruptions)* Once again I would like to lay emphasis on focusing on the reasons leading to terrorism which compel a young man to sacrifice his life. By uprooting those planks, terrorism will be out of sight naturally. There is no other picture. *...(Interruptions)* Neither POTA nor TADA can remedy this problem.. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are repeating the same.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: If it occurs to you that TADA and

POTA have proved to be effective tools to tackle terrorism, bring in a legislation by blending both of these or legislate some bill to let humanity down but it's not going to remove terrorism. *...(Interruptions)*

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. *...(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of terrorism is serious in J&K also. Please permit me also to speak for a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Whenever an incident take place, we come to hear some common statements that the State has been put on red alert, clues have been found etc. *...(Interruptions)* The District Magistrate of the area has been transferred, the SP has been transferred. *...(Interruptions)* He has been suspended, but there too incidents recur. Whether the State is put on red alert or the DM is transferred, the stereotyped statements will be of no help in uprooting terrorism nor it will enable us to put the internal security in order. *...(Interruptions)*

I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister towards Suiya village adjoining Ludhiana. If I put a question, I will be told that information has not been received from the State. A memorial has been erected at the spot where terrorists were shot dead by the police, their names figure therein. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot show it on paper.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: But the Central Government and the State Government did nothing other than making statements. If such a situation persists, it will result in the loss of peace in Punjab. In my district, a member of the SGPC was shot dead in the broad day light in front of his home. Incidents like bank robbery, kidnapping of children are taking place in recurrence. *...(Interruptions)*

I wish to tell you a new thing. We will also have to take care of the morale of security forces. Security forces put forward the grievance that at the time of promotion CRPF personnel are not recommended for appointments as DIG, IG AD, ADG and those who are posted on deputation basis are not aware of the intricacies involved or the complexities attached to the post concerned. I would

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that the CRPF personnel be also assigned opportunities to serve in the higher hierarchy in order that they may serve the organization in the best manner being aware of the difficulties which the personnel are faced with. This apart they can deal the law and order situation well. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted to your party is over.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: According to survey as many as 77 per cent people of Britain are affected by terrorism. They are panic struck and a great number of them are Indians. Here 82 per cent people are paranoid of terrorism. 66 per cent population of America and 64 percent of Germany is living under the fear of terrorism. We should boost the morale of security forces to suppress terrorism and to generate the feeling of security. *...(Interruptions)* If the authority of the Government is diminished, the internal security cannot be maintained. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time fixed for the Congress Party has been over.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: If terrorists are not afraid of security forces, there would not be any internal security so we should restore the morale of security forces.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, please allow us to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time fixed for your party has been over.

*...(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is not a question of party. *...(Interruptions)* It is a question of Jammu & Kashmir. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdas ji, please conclude your speech in a minute.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please write this to hon'ble Minister.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Two thousand and five hundred years ago the God Buddha was born in India who gave the message of peace to our country. We are proud of it. But the situation in the country, which has given the message of peace to the world is becoming alarming. Terrorism, Casteism, Naxalism and Communal movement is on rise in this country. One person should have the feeling of protecting the other person, one should protect the other person but today one person is eliminating the other person, group, religion, caste, etc. We all are sitting in the Parliament. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil is present here. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is running this country very efficiently. The N.D.A. Government had ruined this country in its six year rule but we all. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdasji, what are you saying? You speak on your topic only. Your one minute is over so please conclude your speech. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am concluding but first let me speak on terrorism. I would like to say that we all should rise above the party line during discussion on combatting terrorism in Parliament. We all have different caste, religion, party but we are proud of India because we have accepted the constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar. If we follow the constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar then the peace could be well established in the country. Today injustice is being done with people. *\*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His name will not go on record. He is not present in the House.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would not like to take more time. The Republican party would fully support the legislation which the Government will bring to curb terrorism. I want to say that law like TADA or POTA would not work. *...(Interruptions)* All of us should work in direction of bringing change in the society. There is a need to work

\* Not recorded.

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

out strategy to curb terrorism activities. The Government should take steps in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* All of us should work together to curb terrorist movement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech hon. Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time fixed for all parties has been over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you the time for clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale Sahab, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way to address the Chair to have time. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale, please sit down, now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will give you the clarification later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, the Jahana-bad incident has taken place in Bihar. Such a major incident has taken place and will we not be allowed to express our views? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing more will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, it should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. I have already said that only the speech of the hon. Home Minister should be recorded, and will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have requested the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that whosoever honourable Member, feels that he was not been given time, can raise his important point and ask for clarification after his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, and I cannot allow it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will give you clarification later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the issue of internal security was discussed in the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The issue of internal security is now being discussed in Lok Sabha also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I think that the issue of internal security should be discussed more often than we have been discussing in the Parliament. Different aspects of internal security should be discussed here. At times, we concentrate our attention on incidents. It is necessary to consider the incidents also, but if we do not adopt a holistic approach to the problem of internal security, then we would not be able to come to correct conclusions. Therefore, it would be useful to consider it more often, and consider the different aspects relating to the internal security in the Parliament.

Sir, many hon. Members participated in this debate, and I would like to say that they have made very good points. All the points that they have made are going to help the Government to come to correct conclusions, and to make correct policies. The hon. Members here made their statements, and in their statements they explained the points of view that are acceptable to them as well as the points of view on which they had differences of opinion. They had the opportunity to explain as to how the other points of view are not correct. This has made my job very easy because the points that were raised by a few hon. Members were contradicted by some other hon. Members, and in the process the thesis and anti-thesis have turned it into a kind of synthesis. The points made by Members on one side are contradicted by the Members on the other side. In the process, they have presented a picture which is of a balanced nature, and which can be easily accepted by the Government.

I would like to thank all hon. Members for having taken so much interest in this debate. I was not sitting here in the House because I was required to be in the Rajya Sabha to attend to the same kind of a debate. But I have read all the statements that were made by the Members. I am indeed very happy to say that the points made by them are very valid and we are going to make use of them. I would like to congratulate the Members. I would like to thank them also.

Before I go to some of the important points, because I may not be able to cover all the points, I would like to make two-three submissions to this House. One submission is, whenever a matter relating to internal security is discussed they say that previously a few Districts were affected and now a large number of Districts are affected. They are talking in terms of Districts, not in terms of Talukas or villages or police thanas. This is presenting a distorted

picture. If a village in a District is affected, it is not possible for us to say that the entire District is affected. If a taluka in a District is affected, it will be wrong to say that the entire District is affected. This is exactly what is being said that so many Districts are affected. We are saying that there is a corridor being created. These kinds of statements made either by the Home Ministry or hon. Members or the Ministers like me will create wrong impression. It will create a kind of scare in the minds of the people, which has to be avoided. I would like to make a submission that let us not talk in terms of Districts; let us talk in terms of villages or in terms of at least police thanas. How many police thanas are affected, that will give a more correct picture.

When incidents happen, they are very bad incidents. We cannot be happy or feel proud of what has happened in some places. What happened in Srinagar, what happened in Delhi, what happened in Jharkhand, what happened in Giridih, are the incidents about which I cannot say that I can be proud of and I can justify what has happened over there. We are sorry about it. Sometimes your head is not held high but it is lowered when something of this nature happens. I would like to say that so many people have died and we are sorry. We condole the deaths. We sympathise with the people. We have taken steps to help the victims of these incidents. We have given them compensation. We have given them help. If they require more help, that can be given too.

But, if we concentrate on incidents and then try to assess the situation in the country as a whole with respect to internal security, will it be possible for us to come to the correct conclusions? On the basis of incidents, it is not possible. We shall have to take the number of incidents that have taken place, the number of cases that have occurred in the country. It is only after taking into account the number of cases, the number of incidents, the number casualties, that we would be able to say whether the situation is improving or whether it is deteriorating.

17.00 hrs.

But concentrating on one incident is not going to be possible. If Parliament is attacked, that incident itself cannot go to show that everything has gone out of control. Supposing an incident has taken place in Jehanabad or Srinagar or Delhi, it is not possible to say that the situation has gone out of control totally. Those are bad incidents and something more has to be done, and if we do not do

it, we will be guilty and yet on the basis of those incidents, assessing the internal security situation in the country cannot be properly done.

17.01 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*)

Let us also consider as to what was happening a few years before and as to what is happening today. Has the number gone up or has the number come down? It is only by comparing the situation today with the situation which was existing in the past, we will be able to conclude as to whether the situation has improved or as to whether the situation has deteriorated.

One more thing which has to be kept in mind is the number of people living in the country. We have to compare the statistics about murders, dacoities and the law and order cases in the country with those incidents and the number of persons killed in those countries. Only by considering these facts with respect to other countries relating to the number of people living in those countries, we will be able to form a correct opinion. I am not saying that it is better than what it was in the past or it is worse than what it was in the past. I am not saying that the situation here is better than the situation in other countries and things like that. I am just presenting to the House as to how we should assess the internal security situation. This is really very important.

I have no doubt that the hon. Members who spoke here did have those things at the back of their mind and keeping those facts in mind, they have made a few very important suggestions. One of the important suggestions was made by the hon. Member, Shri Nikhil Kumar - I do not know whether he is here or not. He knows the job. He knows the situation. He did say and the other hon. Members also did say that police force should be strengthened.

Now, we have the 'police' with the State Governments. We have the 'police' with the Union Government. We have defence forces also with the Union Government. The State Governments and the Union Government are trying to expand these police forces. There are nearly 22 lakh officers and men in the police forces with the State Governments and the Union Government. But these people have to control the situation which arises in the entire country as such, and the number of people living here is nearly 108 crores. The ratio of the police to man here is to

be seen. In some countries if it is one thousand or 200 or 300 or 400 police force per one lakh persons; in our country, it is just 112 or 115 police force per one lakh persons who have to be controlled. So, in order to increase the number of police, we have to take a number of steps. The first step which we have taken is to allow the higher battalion to be raised in the country. Previously, we were giving Rs. 13 crore, now we are giving Rs. 25 crore for raising each battalion in the State. We have allowed nearly 55 higher battalion to be raised. Now, we have taken a decision to raise 25 more higher battalion to be raised. The State Governments can raise them; they can retain them. And if necessary, they can give these battalions to the adjoining States for such purposes.

The point I am trying to make is that the job of increasing the number of men and officers in the police through the States is going on. Some kind of decision was taken by the Union Government also to expand the police force which is with us. Nearly 250 battalions are likely to be raised by us.

One of the most important points which I would like to put before the hon. Members is this and I would request them to bear this in mind while assessing the situation. The Army does not man the entire border of ours. Please remember that the Police mans these borders - the Bangladesh border of 4000 kilometres, the border in the Western region, the border in the Himalayas and others. It is the police force which is there in the front and on the international borders and not the Army. This has to be understood. It is only on the Line of Control that the Army is there in the first rank. The Police is there but it is not in the first line. But in other places, it is the BSF or the SSB or the ITBP. These forces are protecting the borders. When they are protecting the borders, they are providing the internal security. They are not allowing the people to come inside and disturb us. It has been very difficult to stop them from coming and yet they have been greatly successful. In the Western region, the fence is erected; in the Eastern region, the fence is in the process of getting erected. Half of the job is done and the remaining half of the job will be completed in 2006. This way, the Police are protecting the borders. The Police is not just protecting the cities and villages. We are giving them battalions. But they are doing the main job on the borders. This Police which is there, is also helping the State Governments at the time of elections and to meet some difficult situation.

I would like to submit to this House that some of the States, the Naxal affected States like Andhra Pradesh,

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Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, a few districts of Maharashtra, Bihar, a few areas of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and a few places in Madhya Pradesh are also affected. These States have been given 26 battalions. It means 26,000 men and officers have been given. They are at the disposal of the State Government. They are expected to be used by the State Governments in order to control the Naxalite activities. In this fashion, we are trying to control this situation through the police force. We are not only doing this thing but we are in the process of modernising the Force. A lot of money amounting to nearly Rs.3,000 crore is being given to the State Governments to modernise their forces. We are spending a lot of money, nearly Rs.3,000 crore, on modernising the forces. These funds are given to the State Governments. I am sorry to say that some of the State Governments have not even used them. Only some State Governments have used them. We are requesting them to use these funds for giving better training, better equipment, better communication facilities, better vehicles, better armoured vehicles and things like that. I would like to say that it is the States in the North-Eastern region which have used it. But the bigger States have not used this amount of money. Our request to them is to use this amount of money which is given to them. They are given funds for having more police stations; they are given funds for having communication system, the POLNET system.

Regarding equipment that are necessary for communicating and to see that the police thanas should be able to communicate with the districts, districts should be able to communicate with the States, States should be able to communicate with the Union, we have established a POLNET system, and through that POLNET system, the communication system throughout the country is being established. It has to be used. As far as the communication up to the district level and the State level is concerned, it is complete. But from the district level to the village level, it is not complete, and so it is also not being done.

We have also said that in order to help the police, we would like to give them intelligence. We are giving them intelligence; we are also giving them armoured vehicles, which they are using. They are using armoured vehicles in the naxal-affected areas, in Jammu and Kashmir and in the North-Eastern States. Not only that, we have also told that we will give them helicopters. And, helicopters have been given to them in order to evacuate the injured persons, to take the injured persons from the places where they are injured to the hospitals and things like that.

The point that I am trying to make with respect to this is that as far as strengthening the forces is concerned, modernising the forces is concerned and giving help to the State Governments for strengthening their own police is concerned, the points which have been made by some of the hon. Members, specially Mr. Nikhil Kumar — he is not there now, but he was trying to say that; it would have been better if he could get more time because he is the person who knows it — would help the Government. Now, this point is very well taken, and this is how we are doing on that.

Sir, I would respectfully submit to this House that we do not claim to know everything. We will be able to help ourselves by their suggestions on this point. This is as far as trying to control violence in the country with the help of police and with the help of forces in the country, is concerned.

But I would like to say, having said this much on this point, it was very rightly put. I think, it was by Mr. Chakraborty, who delivered a very good speech. He said: "You would not be able to control violence with the help of bullets." The hon. Member who is sitting in the first row also said the same thing. You cannot control violence only with the help of bullet and gun. It was very well said, and I agree with them. They did make so many very good points, and that was one of the most important aspects of the debate.

Sir, they said that if the land reforms have not been able to carry on in a proper manner, if the surplus land is not distributed in a proper manner, if the house sites which have to be given to the poor people are not given properly, if the employment is not provided to them, if the Advasis living in the forests are not allowed to use the forest produce on which they have been living for thousands of years, it would be very difficult to control the violence. Now, the Advasis do not destroy the forests. Those who live outside destroy the forests. The Advasis do not destroy the forest; they in fact, protect the forests; they are in love with the trees, greenery, forests and the atmosphere over there. So, if we do not do all these things, it would be very difficult for us to control violence and the anger in the minds of the young people who come from the forest areas, who come from the rural areas and see what is happening at other places, how people live. And, if the anger burst in their hearts and if they take to arms, well the remedy does not lie in the barrel of a gun or bullet. The remedy lies in persuading them, in telling them and creating a situation in the country in such a fashion

that they do not feel angry or they do not take the arms. Now, this is what the hon. Members said. The main point, which was made by many of the hon. Members, was this.

But they spoke very little on strengthening the police forces or modernising the police forces. A few hints were certainly given. But the main emphasis was on brining about economic development, doing economic justice, doing social justice, and doing political justice, and freeing the society from the ills with which it has been suffering for all these years and through that method, trying to control and contain the terrorist activities and the naxalite activity.

Hon. Members were very right when they said that we have to go to the root cause of the problem and find out why they are becoming terrorists and why they are becoming violent. Only then, we will be able to do that. That is a very correct approach. It is easier said than done, and yet, it is the correct approach. Without it, there is no solution to the problem. If we do not do that, it will be difficult.

Sometimes, people say, 'take the gun and take action'. What does that mean? It means, take the gun and fire at others. If one is maimed or if one is killed because of that - one bullet fired at one person - it will create more naxalites and more violent people. His family members will also become naxalites.

So, the suggestion given by the hon. Members here are very valid and I am very happy to find that the hon. Members were not making suggestions in the air, without understanding as to how it has to be done. They were very correct; they said that this has to be done by the State Governments. They said that we have to ask the State Governments to do it. It is very correct that the land reforms, distribution of land, tenancy laws, ceiling laws are the laws made by the State legislatures; they have to be implemented by the State Governments. Wherever land reforms have taken place in a proper manner, the level of violence is lower. This fact is also correct. This has to be very clearly understood by us.

So, we have to take action. What can the Government of India do in this respect? It was suggested by the hon. Members that we have to ask the State Governments, give directions to the State Governments to implement the tenancy laws and the ceiling laws, and distribute the surplus land in a proper manner. Yes, this has to be done. I do think that the Government of India will find no difficulty in suggesting to the State Governments that they should be done. The Government of India is allowed to consult

the State Governments and tell them that this has to be done and please do it. This is not an order, but this is consultation; the entire country is with us and with all of you, the Government of India can do it.

May I also request the hon. Members to ask their own Governments in the States to pay a little more attention to this aspect because that will help? They will hear the hon. Members. They cannot just neglect the suggestions of the hon. Members. They will hear the hon. Members and so, I will request all of you to do the same thing.

The point is that economic development is necessary and it has to be done through the State Governments. *...(Interruptions)* We will all help you in this matter. There is no doubt about it and we will certainly do that. Strengthening the police force alone is not sufficient. Bringing about economic development is necessary.

The third point is this. Some hon. Members said that socio-economic development and socio-economic justice is also responsible for that. Imagine that you go to a village. It is fortunate that it is not happening in the cities, but if you go to the villages, you may find that a person is treated as an untouchable. A dog can be touched, but a human being cannot be touched! So, that person's anger bursts out. He feels that he is being treated badly. There is no solution to this problem by using force or law.

It is the correct approach to life which is necessary. So, economic justice is necessary; social justice is necessary and political justice is also necessary. If people come to the conclusion that through elections, only a particular kind of people could come, they try to adopt different methods, and that is where, this has to be done. But this cannot be done only by the State Governments or only by the Union Government. This has to be done by the entire society as such. If it is not done by the society as such and by all the hon. Members in the society, then this solution will prove to be less efficacious.

So three things, namely, economic development, social justice and political justice also has to be done and only then this problem can be reduced.

Now there were some other points which were raised by the hon. Members. One of the Members said that you have repealed POTO and that is why you have lost the instrument which you could have used for controlling the violence. Is this a fact? I am very happy that immediately after that speech was delivered by the hon. Member, there

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were other Members who got up and gave instances when POTA was in existence and even then at so many places the incidents took place. Today also Mr. Nikhil Kumar did say this. I am not going into the details. I do not want to touch the sensitive part of it. I do not want to hurt anybody's feelings. When the POTA was in existence, the incidents did take place. We have to realise that Great Britain has stringent laws. The Government of Great Britain – I think Mr. Kapil Sibal spoke about that – wanted to change the existing law and allow the Government to retain the arrested person in the jail for nearly 160 days or something like that. But the Parliament of Great Britain did not pass that law. This happened immediately after the incidents which had happened in the subway over there. Now this has to be borne in mind.

Sir, I remember a story which is very interesting. There were two ladies who were very fond of their husbands. One lady came to the other lady and said that her husband is a great hunter. She further said that when he goes to the forest, he takes the gun but he does not take the bullet. He shows the gun to the tiger and the tiger runs away. The other lady said that this is nothing. She said that her husband is a better hunter than your husband. He does not take the gun but takes the licence in his pocket and shows it to the tiger.

It is like this. You are talking about this law. If the law is there but you are not using it properly, what is the use of having the law? The law is required. I would like to submit to this House that there are many laws like Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Assemblies Act, Armed Forces Special Power Act and many other laws are in existence. So, if POTA is not there, it is not going to make any change. Whatever was in POTA, is there in other laws. What was in POTA and which was most objectionable was the theory that it is not the prosecution but the defence which has to prove that he is not guilty. That theory was most objectionable and that theory has gone with POTA. So to say that you have repealed POTA therefore you do not have the will to control violence is not the correct assessment of the situation and it should not be accepted. The laws are there. We are not handicapped because of the existing laws. We are in a position to control it. Those who are in the Government are saying that they are in a position to use the existing laws and controlling the situation. Those who are sitting on the Opposition Benches, they do not have to do it. The people who are sitting on the Ruling Benches have to do it. We are in a position to do it and we are doing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask after the reply. He is not yielding. I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is how my link is broken. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, as far as the law is concerned, Shri Nikhil Kumar suggested that the subject of Police and Law and Order should be brought from the State List to the Concurrent List. This is an issue which had been considered by previous Governments and is still being considered at different levels. Sometimes we do feel that at some places incidents are taking place and the Government of India is finding it very difficult to send their Forces to control the situation unless there is an invitation. When there is an invitation to this effect, there is no problem. Or, when the Government in a State has been removed, then Forces could be sent. But these invitations generally come and the Forces are sent. We have no difficulty in that. But removing a State Government and then sending the Forces is an extreme step which should not be taken. It is not always possible for the Union Forces to go and control the situation because they are not always in the field. Those who are in the field they are in a better position to handle it. The Forces are going from there. But this is an issue on which a debate has been going on and the position of the present Government is that we would not like to disturb the situation which exists today unless and until all States concerned, or a majority of the States concerned ask for it, or they say that it should be done. Otherwise, it would create unnecessary problems.

Sometimes we do feel that we are very much handicapped because incidents are taking place and we have the Forces standing hardly a kilometre away from the place where incidents are taking place and yet we are not able to use the services of those Forces. Such a situation did occur in the past and our friends from Uttar Pradesh know as to when such a thing happened. Still we are saying, "look, this is an issue which has to be very carefully dealt with and we will deal with it in a very careful manner". We would like the hon. Members to give us the guidance as to how to deal with it. We have our own ideas and we would implement our ideas but if the hon. Members have their ideas then it would help us. What has been happening today is that, I have said this

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\* Not recorded.



while replying to the debate last time on Internal Security, the situation Jammu and Kashmir has improved; the situation in the North-Eastern States has improved and that the Naxalite activities also appeared to have got reduced. But today I am not in a position to say that the Naxalite activities have reduced. It has gone up a little. But the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has definitely improved. The situation in the North-Eastern States has improved. The incidents that are taking place here and there do not make the totality. They do not give the correct picture. This is the situation.

What we have to bear in mind is that this is a place which should not be used for blaming each other and for slinging arrows at each other. This is a place which should be used for developing a consensus. An hon. Member was saying that this is a partisan approach. I am not using it as a partisan issue. I could have replied in a very bitter language to some of the speeches, to some of the statements made by hon. Members here. But I have not referred to a single point because I wanted to avoid bitterness and that is why I have not said anything at all. I could have said that these are politically motivated speeches giving no ideas at all. But I have not said that. I am saying that they have their views and it is a different matter if I am accepting them or not accepting them. But then I want the views of the hon. Members. This is a forum which could be used for developing a consensus which could be used for the betterment of the country.

What are the problems? The real problem that is faced by me is not the number of incidents that are taking place and the number of casualties taking place because of such incidents, but the devices that are being used. Grenades are being used, grenades are thrown. Secondly, car bombs are being used and the third is that landmines are being used. How to deal with these things? We have our own ideas and we would do it. But these devices are being used.

Supposing more difficult weapons or more dangerous weapons would be used tomorrow, then how to do it? That is really a question that has to be answered by us.

Now, our friends from Bihar spoke about Jehanabad issue. Jehanabad is one of the places in Bihar. There are places like Koraput also. There is the Giridih issue. Now, what actually has happened? We have a few police stations and we have towns or cities where a few policemen are posted. There may be ten policemen or 100 policemen in a police station. Supposing 300 or 400 men or more in

number come there in police uniform and attack, then it becomes a war like situation. We are not afraid of such a situation. We have the strength to control them and we will control them. But when this happens, then what is to be done? That is something which we shall have to consider.

My opinion is that the best remedy for all these things is the intelligence. If we have the intelligence, we would be in a position to control the situation. Intelligence is available at the national level. International intelligence is also available. But unfortunately, the State intelligence, and more than that, the local intelligence, are not available. Now, it is necessary to develop local intelligence.

How do we develop local intelligence? It has to be developed through the local police and the local machinery available there, and that kind of local intelligence will be operational intelligence. That means, it is intelligence on which operations can take place. An hon. Member was saying that we had the information six months back. The only thing the terrorists have in their favour is the time and place. They can choose the time and place and they can attack at their will. It is exactly these which is not always known to us. We know that something of this nature is likely to happen but where and at what time it is going to happen and what exactly is the procedure are not known. We are not always correct on that and that is why, we have to collect intelligence on such things.

I am saying that these things are happening in the villages. Villages are attacked by, say, 100 or 200 of them. The forests are used for hiding but the city can also be used for this purpose as it has happened in Delhi and Srinagar. For terrorists, cities are like forests. It is easy for the terrorists to hide there. It is not very difficult for the terrorists or those who are involved in violent activities to hide in the cities. Cities can protect them; they can give them the cover and the cities can also help them to counter that kind of an attack.

Now, we are thinking of providing security in mega cities and small cities also. We will decide how it has to be done. In other countries, there are cameras at every corner of the roads and at every cross roads. There are underground cameras. There are cameras in the buildings. Is it possible for us to do like that? Then, people can help us in this regard. The trade unions, the unions of shopkeepers and people in the industries can help us. School teachers can help us. If they find any device kept somewhere and if they think that it can explode, it is for them to find it out and inform the police. And it is necessary also. In some countries, they have big control room. From

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such a big control room, they watch every lane of the entire city. Is it possible for us to do like that? We are in a position to do it and we will do it. But this is the kind of thinking that is going on over here.

The last point which I want to mention before I conclude my speech is that terrorists create terror and they live on that terror. We should not contribute to their capacity in creating terror. We are not giving them weapons directly. We are not joining hands with them to attack anybody.

But we are talking about these things in such a fashion that terror is created. If we say that so many districts are affected, corridor is going to be there, this is happening and that is happening, then terror is created. Anything that is happening in one part of the country is seen in all other parts of the country. Naturally, people living there think that it has happened in their neighbourhood. When they see that it has happened in their neighbourhood, then terror is transported from the place where it took place to every other part of the country. Are we contributing to it or not? We shall have to develop our own policy. The Government cannot say to people, do this thing or do not do this thing. That is not the policy of the Government. We leave it to the people who are in a position to do it.

Here, we heard hon. Members saying this has happened or that had happened. One of the hon. Members, while speaking here, said that when that incident took place in Delhi, the entire bazaar was on flame, the entire city was burning and that the people did not come out on the streets. Fortunately, this did not happen. People celebrated Eid and other festivals. In spite of the fact that it happened, people did come out and they did celebrate Eid. They did show that they were bold enough to face these kinds of incidents. They did show that.

So, my request would be, unwittingly we should not contribute towards increasing the terror by exaggerating the facts, which the terrorists want to increase. Some thing has happened. So, by all means inform the people. But do not inform the people in an exaggerated form, do not inform the people in such a form that it increases the terror.

On the incidents that happened in Giridih and Jharkhand, I am not taking a political stand. Different States were ruled by different parties. We are not blaming these parties. Now, the situation has to be handled by all of us in

a united manner. With united efforts we will be in a better position to handle this situation, rather than criticising one another. If you want to criticise the Government, if you want to criticise the Home Minister, you have the right to do so. It is my duty to hear that criticism and learn from that. If you want to criticise the police, you have the right to do so. The police will hear it and learn from it. But if you are not going to criticise the terrorists and if you are not trying to find out the causes and reasons as to why it has happened, the situation is not going to be controlled. So, the approach should be to criticise the terror and terrorists, to find out the causes and suggest solutions.

At the same time, do not spare the Government, do not spare the Home Minister or the police. But if you criticise only the Government, only the Home Minister and only the police, the result produced would not be beneficial.

I do not have anything more than this to say. Once again I thank all the hon. Members who have contributed to the debate.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to how many trained Pakistani's are there in Jammu and Kashmir and how many have been called back ever since the peace talks have started there.

When I visit the far-flung areas of my constituency, the SPO's, CRPF and Para Military personnels tell me that it is their moral duty to inform me that I should not go to those far-flung areas. The SPO's, BDO guards who are deployed there are equivalent to constables but when they loose their lives in any incident, they do not get anything in the name of compensation because they are not permanent employees. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know what the Government has done for them? These days a number of private companies are being set up and people are being recruited but parts of the country like Doda, Udhampur and Kathua, where people are fighting against militancy even today, why is it that no recruitment is being made in those areas? Alongwith this, I would like to know that as to why the dispute in our area and in Mirpur of occupied Kashmir and free Kashmir area has not been sorted out till today?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, lastly I would like to know as to whether the Home Ministry has made any arrangements

for providing some security cover to me, a Member of this House, so that I can safely visit the far flung areas of my constituency where there is not transport and people have to walk upto 86, 68, 56, 20 and 30 kilometers and spend nights over there?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Home Minister has expressed his views in a very detailed manner. This discussion was actually upon two issues but has now become one firstly about what we call Naxal activities and secondly about terrorist activities. Naxalite word has now become old. Now people have started using another word for this but I would use the same word which is mentioned in action report. We should view both Naxal and terrorist activities separately. Terrorist activities are organized and sponsored from across the border whereas Naxal activities, I believe, brew from our own land and are the result of disparities prevailing in the society.

Sir, hon'ble Home Minister has stated that there has been a decrease in naxal violence or it has been controlled. I have a different evaluation of the same. The two naxal groups that were there earlier have now come together and formed one group. They have formed ties with the organizations involved in Maoist activities across the border in Nepal. Which is why, now they have started doing big activities instead of doing some small ones, which can be either the incident of Bhor, Giridih or Jahanabad. Those have been their successful operations. We can not compare this operation and technique with those techniques and activities that are taking place outside our country. We cannot utilize the same technology that we have to deal with terrorism sponsored from outside for dealing with naxal activities because naxal activities are a result of dissatisfaction that has brewed in our own country.

Sir, as hon'ble Home Minister has used the word 'Persuasion' in his reply just now. Whether a solution for this problem cannot be found through the same persuasion method by holding cross table talks and sorting out the issues? The manner in which it happened recently in the case of Shri Subhash Ghesingh, talks were held with him and action was taken, whether talks cannot be held with the naxal organizations in the same manner?

Sir, this system was started in Andhra Pradesh but it was concluded after some one or two incidents and it was said that these activities could be controlled forcibly, it is not right thinking. Therefore, I would like to ask hon'ble

Home Minister that the organizations, which have got involved into naxal violence after getting frustrated from the conditions developing inside the country or due to other internal reasons, whether the Government of India will hold one to one talks with them, even if the Government has to take the help of state Governments for taking such measures?

Secondly, we are going to modernize our Police. It is good if we modernize our police and infact we must do this.

In our country, National Security Guard was primarily formed to deal with this kind of activities only. BSF had its own approach and CRPF had its own. We cannot train the people of CRPF as we can train the National Security Guard persons. Therefore, I would humbly like to ask hon'ble Home Minister whether the Government are making any efforts to set up the base of National Security Guards in all those big states where we are facing such conditions. I want to ask hon'ble Home Minister these two questions.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Home Minister, in his reply has thrown light on a number of issues as to how we can combat and control Naxalism and terrorism. I hail from Bihar and would like to request hon'ble Minister as to what are the reasons for the growing dissatisfaction amongst the poor people and the naxalism that is breeding over there and whether we are doing something to find its root cause or not? Hon'ble Home Minister has stated that we are trying to control naxalism, but I feel that the more we are trying to control naxalism the more it is increasing. I am speaking about my state particularly, and similarly naxal activities are increasing throughout Bihar and the entire country. Due to this disparity and poverty one section of people are reeling under resentment and are willing to lay their lives for the same. The Government is trying to do everything to provide them security but there are some other sections who would go to the extent of doing anything to promote naxalism. What efforts are being made by the Government to check these kinds of things?

Sir, they have said that the Government has allocated three thousands crore rupees to equip the country with modern weapons. They have also said that the amount has been given for building police station also. I would like to know as to how much funds have been allocated to Bihar during last financial year, where people are suffering from naxalism and how much more funds are to be allocated to check the same? Whether he is aware of the incident

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

which took place in Jahanabad on the 13th and to discuss that we are all sitting here in the House. On that day naxalites had distributed a pamphlet in a Jahanabad hospital which is visited by a large number of common people and it was stated in that pamphlet that all the police stations would be blown up and the political leaders would be attacked. Whether he is aware of any such incident, and if he is, then what steps he is taking at his own level to deal with this?

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister categorically about one thing. There was a Conference of Superintendents of police at Guwahati. In that Conference, they gave a suggestion. Mr. Minister, as you have rightly mentioned during your reply, the State Governments have weak intelligence machinery. They are not able to deal with violence there. So, what steps your Government is taking? ...*(Interruptions)* What is your Government's thinking about this? Are they going to make this internal security in the concurrent list like they did after 9/11 in USA by creating 'home land security'.

Secondly, the internal security has got an external element. It is because, in the debate which we are having now, they have discussed two issues. One was about Fidayeen attacks and the other was about internal attacks by Naxalism and Maoists. Now, the internal security has got the external element. So, to deal with that, the State Governments are not competent enough because like you have mentioned, now they are using claymore mines. They are using more sophisticated arms and they are getting it from outside. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question please.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: My last question is that the funding of terrorism is basically from narcotics. It is already known and is widely known. It is not only terrorism, it is narco-terrorism. So, what steps is the Government taking to curb this narco-terrorism? It is because that is their funding agency. That is from where they get the funds to create terrorism. It is because a terrorist is not a democrat. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): This is with reference to the suggestion made by the hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh that there should be a decentralisation of the National Security Guard.

Sir, I oppose this. Firstly, it is not possible logistically. Secondly, it is not possible operationally. Thirdly, it is not possible from the point of view of morale. It is a good suggestion as far as theory goes but when you will start implementing it, you will find it is very difficult to implement it because there are so many factors involved. So, while I welcome this suggestion which is clearly born out of great thought and consideration, it is impractical. Therefore, I would suggest that it may not be necessary to be considered. But while I am on the subject, Sir, I wanted to complete something, which I wanted to say but because of the shortage of time, earlier the hon. Deputy Speaker did not permit me. What I had wanted to say was that Naxalism is a problem that has different aspects. It has social aspects, economic aspects and law and order aspects. We should not deal with only the law and order aspect, though it is very important. For if we cannot deal with it, then it will threaten the security of the State. So, it is very important that we do something to strengthen our security forces. But the social and economic aspects are equally important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already replied.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: For that my suggestion is that the Centre should make out a comprehensive Central plan in consultation with the States and which can then be implemented by the States uniformly. That is why, I had also said that since this matter has inter-State ramifications, there may be occasions when the Centre may have to take suo motu action like in the case of Jehanabad incident. It is said that people had come all the way from Andhra Pradesh through Jharkhand into Bihar. They went back also the same way. It is in these cases that the Centre must reserve to itself the right to act suo motu.

17.54 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

For that, an amendment in the Constitution will be imperative. I suggest, for the consideration of the hon. Minister, that he may please give it some thought.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, while replying, the hon. Minister had said that in States where the land reforms are implemented, the menace of Naxalites is comparatively less. But it is a question of political will of the State Government how far the land reforms they will do. I feel that the Centre should also take initiative to compel, not to compel, to persuade the State Governments to do so. In that case, I would ask whether the Government

would consider a proposal of calling a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss this problem and suggest that the land reforms should be implemented. Then it is for the States to do that if the Centre takes this initiative. I would like you to respond to this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call the hon. Home Minister.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): They are having Army in themselves. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had told me that I would be provided an opportunity to speak, however, I have not been provided an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, Shri Mohan Rawale.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I would also be allowed to ask one question. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except Mr. Mohan Rawale.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has just now said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved, however, the Air Marshal of India who remains in the field has given a statement that the intensity of terrorist activities in the State has increased after starting the peace talks with Pakistan and that we have a threat from Pakistan. The incidents of bombs explosions are being taken place again and again in Jammu and Kashmir and such incidents are occurring in other parts of the country as well. I would like to know facts about it from the hon'ble Minister. How much funds have been allocated to Maharashtra? I would like to give one suggestion in this regard. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that arms are being supplied to Naxalites through ISI. When he said about their frustration and anger,

I would like to ask as to who were in power till so many year. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are so many speakers who want to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon'ble Members of every party are speaking where as I have given time to speak even to independent Members.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will accommodate your name Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the hon. Members have raised various points in the discussion and while asking their questions, they have made various suggestions. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): He has not said any word about Karbi Anglong. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given you enough time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: The hon. Home Minister has not replied about Karbi Anglong. This is an issue which cannot be overlooked by this country. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have discussed this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the hon. Home Minister.

(Interruptions)..."

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\* Not recorded.

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\* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : They are not combating terrorism. They are supporting it. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I should not be misinterpreted. I have not said what he is saying. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down. Hon'ble Minister has given elaborate reply? All the hon'ble Members will be satisfied with the reply. You please try to listen what the hon'ble Minister is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...\*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to say that they have made very good suggestions. I have noted them. They were not the questions asked for explanations. I am not giving any explanation. Sir, I have already said that we will discuss every issue but not in this fashion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are wasting the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

10.00 hrs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is *aatankwaad* in Parliament. ...(Interruptions)

\* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, let it not go on record at least.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)...\*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is what they do in the House, this is what they do in Uttar Pradesh and this is what they do outside. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, I have given you time, at present you please sit down. If you disturb the House like this then there will be no option left to me except to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The statement that has been given by the hon'ble Minister will be considered as sufficient. If you want I will take up it is 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It depends on his understanding. If he does not understand, I cannot help it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to bring any specific thing to the notice of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, you please give it to him in writing and he will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to submit that our police personnels are very brave and such statement will not demoralize them, let him say whatever he want. Secondly, hon'ble Members have given many good suggestions, some suggestions are also in the form of questions. I will look on those things.

One question has been raised whether the Govern-

\* Not recorded.

ment will hold talks with them or not. I would like to submit that the talks in North Eastern states are going on till now and whatever could be achieved yesterday was out-come of that. However, I would like to submit that the State Governments will have to take initiative and the Central Government will assist them. We will have to keep in mind one thing. I do not know whether Shri Nikhil Kumar is present here or not. He has time and again suggested to transfer it from state list to concurrent list. There are some complexity in federal system, so he has suggested to hold discussion in this regard as the discussions on this issue had also been held in the past and have also been held today. The Government are of the opinion that despite their genuine demand, the state concerned will have to be taken into confidence. Only then anything can be done, other wise other problems will crop up. Their views are absolutely correct. Whatever anything is raised the discussions on that issue is not held keeping in mind the federal system/structure of the State. If the discussion is held in the House, it is said that so and so incident occurred there and what did the Central Government do in this regard. There is no central police or police inspectors, rather they are state police, though indirectly they are ours. Instead of raising this issue in state legislatures, if it is raised in the Parliament it is alleged that it is the responsibility of the Central Government. It is all due to federal structure. Our Government have dealt it in a quite balanced way and we should act keeping in view all these things. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to submit that in my tenure.  
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): It is the problem of fifteen states, the state cannot solve the problem without the interference of the Union Government.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have to understand it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we are not satisfied with his reply and so we are walking out in protest.

*(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply of the hon'ble Minister will be treated as complete.

Regarding the item no. 22 the hon'ble Minister has agreed that the item will be taken up some other day. If all the hon'ble Members want that it should be taken up in 'Zero Hour' we can do that.

18.05½ hrs.

#### SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS – *Contd.*

#### (iii) **Re: Reported withdrawal of invitation to Shri Amitabh Bachhan as Chief Guest of the International Film Festival held at Goa**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the Indian Film Festival held in Goa in which the hero of the last century and a great actor, Shri Amitabh Bachhan was invited as a chief guest and thereafter he was humiliated by this Government. Shri Amitabh Bachhan had even been a Member of this House. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy wrote to him not to attend the festival as he is associated with Samajwadi Party. We want to convey that this was a humiliatim to the hero of the century. Through you, I demand that the Government should apologize publicly, to the hero of the century and honour him.

All the television channels reported the condition of his health as he was recently fighting against the death in Leelawati Hospital but Doordarshan covered not a single news regarding his health. This kind of double standard will not be accepted. So, through you, I would like to convey to the Government that they should write a letter of apology to Shri Amitabh Bachhan and honour him. With these words I conclude my speech.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate my self to the statement made by Mr. Shailendra Kumar. This is a serious issue. I would like to say that he was humiliated by withdrawing the invitation. This is against the Indian culture. I would like the Government to make an explanation or apologize publicly. Indian culture should not be disregarded.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the response of Mr. Minister should come today.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will definitely bring the matter to the notice of the concerned Minister. But I do not accept any discrimination. I deny that discrimination had been shown to a great artiste like Shri Amitabh Bachchan. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : Sir, it has appeared in all the newspapers that because of his proximity with Samajwadi Party, this type of discrimination was shown to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, anyway, I will definitely bring this matter to the notice of the concerned Minister.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister has said that he would bring this fact to the notice of the Minister concerned.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Not present.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thanks a lot. I have been trying to raise this issue for the last four days consecutively. I could not get an opportunity, for the last two days as the Members from the NDA disrupted the proceedings of the House and yesterday you did not allow me.

The students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, run by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in every districts of the country, have been subject to the continuous torment by teachers and administration. The dead body of Shri Ram Prasad, S/o Shri Ajay Verma, the student of class six of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalay situated in my constituency Mahoba (UP) itself was found on the railway track in the dubious circumstances on 23rd July, 2004. In October 2004, another student of the same school Virendra Prajapati S/o Shri Ram Narayan was pushed to suicide due to harassment by the lecturer. After a year, a student of class ninth, Farookh Ahmed, S/o Abdul Wani was beaten mercilessly who is still under treatment in district hospital. Having heard the cry of the said student the other students happened to come there. The student groaning with pain was admitted to the district hospital by his class-mates. The school administration is trying to hush up this case.

Sir, through you, I request the hon'ble Minister to check the consecutive torture being perpetrated against

the students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya of Mahoba, U.P. and the amount of compensation being given to the family of the deceased should be increased. At the same time total expenditure incurred on the treatment of the hospitalised student, Farokh Ahmad be borne by the Government and his family should be provided financial assistance. Moreover, the steps should be taken to check the recurrence of this sort of incidents and appropriate actions be taken in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh – Not present.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia – Not present.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak on the problem of fertilizer. Agriculture is an important sector of the country. Our country is directly or indirectly a agriculture based country and 70 per cent population of our country is dependent on agriculture. Sowing of Rabi crop is going on in Uttar Pradesh, which is one of the largest State of this country. Entire region is facing scarcity of fertilizers and this problem is turning into a gigantic proportion. The farmers remains on tenterhook for the whole night in the societies of cooperative sector but the farmers get negligible amount of fertilizers. This causes considerable loss to them. Rabi crop is the main crop of Uttar Pradesh on which the income of the entire country depends. This is the only opportunity for those farmers to improve their financial conditions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The status of arsenic is the same. Arsenic should also be included.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: The efforts are being made to make fertilizer accessible to the farmers but it is still inaccessible. It is a problem not only for Uttar Pradesh but also for the entire country. So, I request the Government, through you, to increase the quota of fertilizer to make fertilizers available to all the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. However its prices have been increased and despite the price hike it is not available. It will cause loss to the entire country, production will come down. Hence the Government should be directed to solve this problem. I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Punjab should also be included in it.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to speak on a



very important subject in the Zero Hour. My submission is that the number of tigers in the country is decreasing fast. When the Prime Minister went to Sariska sanctuary he also expressed concern on this and said that there should be a separate law and maintenance mechanism for this. I would like to tell the House and the country through you that if such poaching of tigers continues, a day will come when tigers would be extinct from our country, even from this planet and we would read about them in books only.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. I have with me 39 more notices for Zero Hour. Your point has been recorded.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Sir, this is a very important matter. I would like to tell the House through you that there are 23 reserve forests in our country which inhabit tigers. My submission is that these should be protected so that we could show them to our generations to come and say to them that the tigers too are Nature's gift to us. I would like to put forth some facts here. According to the information of Wildlife Trust, the reserves situated in the Eastern part of the country have completely been devoid of tigers, like Dampha in Assam. A similar situation prevails in Indravati in Chhattisgarh, Balmiki Nagar in Bihar, Manas and Nameri in Assam, Nagarjuna Sagar in Andhra Pradesh and Palamu in Jharkhand.

I would like to say through you, Sir, that the Wildlife Trust of India has suggested which is my suggestion also to amend ICP and GPC providing that an FIR would be lodged against anyone caught poaching or killing tigers. Provisions of rigorous punishment of 10 years or life imprisonment may also be made for this purpose. This is my demand through you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri M.M. Pallam Raju — not present. Shri A.V. Bellarmin.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, Saudi Arabia is said to be a foreign country where a large number of Indian nationals are working. Approximately 17 lakh Indians are employed there. Of them, majority workers are from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Almost all are employed in the fields of construction, fishing, agricultural farms, hospital, menials in Government offices, household labourers, etc. and they belong to below poverty line strata.

Unmindful of scorching sun and freezing cold they

continue to perform hard duties. However, innumerable problems confront them in their day-to-day discharge of their duties. More often than not, those employees meet with accidents and succumb to them. In such cases, it takes many months to bring the dead bodies to India. Further, as per agreement they are not being paid by their employers. Owing to terrible workload or not in possession of valid travel documents or landing in foreign soil through fraudulent are some of the reasons with which many work with constant fear. A good number of such workers were apprehended by police and ultimately they land in jail.

For going to their rescue and bringing them out from prison, or to help them in labour litigation, or to extend legal help in wage settlement, there is neither a proper mechanism nor welfare officers to effectively intervene in their problems.

Similarly, Indian Embassy in Riyadh or Consulate General Office in Jeddah is not so powerful enough to effectively handle the problems of those workers. Further, workers are also ill-afford to travel a distance of 500 km or 1,000 km to reach this office for lodging a complaint. Therefore, the Government of India should sanction more manpower to those offices in Saudi Arabia with specific purpose to affording all possible and effective help to the Indian workers when they are in need of any urgent help.

Similarly, a Consulate General Office should be opened at Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah — not present.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

18.17 hrs.

(iv) Re: Reported decision of a Shariat Court in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia against an Indian citizen

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it has been reported that the Shariat Court in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has ordered for the removal of an eye of an Indian citizen working there. The allegation is that he has caused injury to the eye of another citizen of Saudi Arabia. So, following the principle of 'tit for tat', the Shariat Court ordered that his eye should be removed forthwith. Now, he is in jail. So, it is a very serious matter. It is also a human violation. Removing one of the eyes of a person is a challenge to human civilisation also.

The hon. Minister is present here. It is a humanitarian issue. All the people are very much worried about this inhuman treatment, that is, removing one of the eyes of an Indian who is employed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. I once again request the hon. Minister, who is present here, to inform the Central Government to interfere in the matter and do the needful immediately because it is the voice of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I also associate with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Let the hon. Minister say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, let the Minister reply. It is a matter of human violation. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is seized of the matter. Since the hon. Member has raised it today, I will bring this matter to the notice of the concerned Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a very serious matter. This has come in all newspapers.

Shri Tarit Baran Topdar — not present.

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav — not present.

Shri Chhattar Singh Darbar — not present.

Shri Lakshman Seth — not present.

Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta — not present.  
Shri Abdullakutty

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the august House to a very serious issue of stray dogs' menace. Stray dogs roaming in the street and countryside have become a big threat to people, especially women and children who have become victims of dog bite and disease of rabies which at times result in the death of the victims.

Last month one of the sons of a driver working in Parliament was bitten by a stray dog and he died after developing acute rabies. This is a very serious issue not only in Kerala but also all over India. Earlier the Panchayats and Municipalities were engaged in rounding up of stray dogs. But the legislation by the NDA regime enforcing prevention of cruelty to stray dogs has put a restraint on elimination of stray dogs. This is a serious issue. If a wild animal comes out of forest, we order to shoot at site. So, why do we not control stray dogs that cause rabies?

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Government to intervene in this serious issue, study this matter and bring an appropriate amendment in this regard. This is a very serious issue. I love stray dogs but I love human beings too.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the demand of Chhattisgarh for a railway line connecting Bilaspur and Mandla, Jabalpur and Mugli. Chhattisgarh is a backward state and SC/ST dominated State. The rail-network is thin there. Survey for Jabalpur-Mandla rail line was conducted long ago and crores of rupees have so far been spent but no substantial result has come. The people of that area travel to Delhi, Bhopal and Lucknow in search of employment. The number of educated unemployed is on the rise in that area. People are facing starvation and are compelled to go outside for a living. Laying this rail line would also help them earn their livelihood. The Ministry of Railways should send a proposal in this regard to the Planning Commission so that the problem of unemployment could be removed and they could set a proper transport facility. If Bilaspur and Mandla are linked by rail it would also enable the people to travel from Bilaspur to Delhi, Bilaspur to Lucknow and Bilaspur to Mumbai. Therefore, I demand the Union Government to clear the proposal of laying the 120 kms long Bilaspur-Mungli-Mandla-Jabalpur rail line which will also provide a link between Mainpur and Jabalpur. Our State is rich in minerals. It has mines of coal, bauxite and also of diamond. It will only improve our economic condition and will not affect the Government, it will enhance the revenue earnings. Therefore this work should be done expeditiously.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House and hon. Civil Aviation Minister, through you

to the State of Himachal Pradesh and its tribal areas Lahol-Spiti, Kinnaur and Pangi and Bharmaur regions of Chamba. Everyone knows that these areas remain completely isolated from the rest of the country for six months in a year due to heavy snow fall. The people of these areas are so poor that they cannot afford transportation by air. I would like to demand the Civil Aviation Minister through you, Sir, that the Union Government should start a subsidised aviation service for these areas of Himachal Pradesh on the lines of N-E States so that the poor tribals of these areas may avail themselves of proper transportation facility and they remain linked to the rest of the country. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Chandel — not present. Now Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to point out the problem of shortage of power all over the country. Our country faces acute shortage of power and a number of States are affected by this. My State Maharashtra also faces power shortage and resentment is brewing up among the people there. The State Government is incapable of supplying power. Both the rural and urban areas are facing power cuts stretched up to 10 hours and this is adversely affecting our industries located there. Farmers do not get adequate electricity resulting in low yield and many allied industries are on the verge of closure. The Government of Maharashtra requested the Central Government to meet the requirement of 3600 MW power in the State. Talks were on with NTPC also and they agreed but in between there was some problem in the talks. The Union Government has not given power to Maharashtra which has put the industries there on the verge of closure and it may lead to further unemployment there. Many other problems may also crop up there with the closure of industries. Farmers are facing problems in irrigating crops which are almost destroyed. I request that the State of Maharashtra may be provided with the required amount of power. NTPC should also take initiative to set up a thermal power plant there. This is my submission.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh — not present. Shri Sunil Khan — not present.

Now Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hosiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is here and I request him to please listen to my point attentively. It is almost 58 years since we got freedom. At the time of country's independence, many Hindus from Pakistan came to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Even today there are about one lakh such families in J&K which are deprived of their right to vote even after they are in their fourth generation. Their children have no access to Governmental medical colleges or engineering colleges. They do not get even peon's job in the Government sector. They have been sitting at Jantar Mantar for last 112 days but neither the J&K Government nor the Central Government has paid any heed to them. These people and their children have never taken up arms in their hands against the Government there rather they raise slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

Fourth generation have come on the stage in these 58 years and the new generation feel that their future is very bleak. So, I would like to request that the Government should talk to the Jammu and Kashmir Government for providing right to vote to one lakh people of the State. Since the formation of PDP government in the State, they are not allowed to park 'Rehris' beside roads and are asked whether they are residents of the State that means do they have citizenship or not. It is gross isolation of human rights. They belong to dalits and minorities community and are deprived of their just rights. The people who are living here for 58 years do not enjoy the right to vote. So, no political party care for them. I would like to request that they should be given the right to vote so that they may live like responsible citizens of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Y.G. Mahajan — not present.

Yogi Aditya Nath — not present.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty — not present.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Behrampur - Orissa): Thank you, Sir.

Recently, the Urban Development Department of the Government of India has announced the launch of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

throughout the country. They have taken a decision to take in all the State Capitals, metropolitan cities and some important towns of historical importance. In respect of Orissa, they have left out three cities — Berhampur, Cuttack and Sambalpur — which are historically important. Since they have not been included in the National Urban Renewal Mission, the public in these cities are holding rallies, dharnas and bandhs. There is a lot of discontentment among the people of these three cities. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Urban Development, through you, to reconsider the decision and include these three cities of Berhampur, Cuttack and Sambalpur under the National Urban Renewal Mission.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : The Ministry of Rural Development, the Government of India have resorted to excessive reduction in the allotment of Indira Awas in Deoria district of Uttar Pradesh. This district which comprises of 15 development blocks and where 80 per cent of the population is rural is economically and socially extremely backward. Almost every year this district is affected by devastating flood and it is on account of this, more quota of Indira Awas is allotted to the district. Last year 20 thousand Indira Awas were allotted in Deoria district which has been reduced to only 5 thousand this year which is quite insufficient. On account of this, not even 5 dwelling units can be constructed in one Gram Panchayat. Through this House, I would like to demand the Government that it should increase the quota of Indira Awas to match the number to previous year.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran — not present; Shri Santasri Chatterjee — not present; Dr. Ramachandra Dome — not present.

Shri Hiten Barman.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

A serious problem has arisen in my constituency of Cooch-Bihar in West Bengal. A new railway line from Mainagiri to Jogikhaba is being constructed by the Railways. A large number of farmers, particularly those who hold *pattas*, who are affected, have not yet been paid compensation. According to the clarification of the Government of West Bengal, the holders of *patta* shall be compensated either by allotment of another piece of land

or by way of cash to be paid by the Railway Board. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways, through you, and request him to make arrangements for the farmers to be paid their dues by the Railway Board so that the work on the railway line could be completed at an early date.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppy): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very serious problem faced by the traditional fishermen after the Tsunami disaster. The devastating Tsunami of December 26, 2004, has caused tremendous changes in the marine eco-systems, which has resulted in the elimination and disappearance of many species of fishes and also appearance of some harmful organisms. A very uncommon phenomenon faced by the traditional fishermen is the appearance of a peculiar organism called puffer fish, which is a frog-like organism. It is toxic and not edible. It feeds on marine fishery. Moreover, when the puffer fish enters the net, it eats up the fish in the net and also causes damage to the net by its sharp jaws. This has caused great damage to the catch as well as to the nets. In Kerala alone, the damage caused is around Rs. 10 crore. A lot of applications are being received by the Fisheries Department of the Government of Kerala seeking help to overcome the damage caused by puffer fish.

I would urge upon the Government to make necessary studies upon the changes in the Marine ecosystem and also to monitor the movement of puffer fish flock and inform it to the fishermen so as to avoid fishing in those areas where puffer fish is abundant and also to provide financial assistance to the fishermen who have suffered damages by the puffer fish.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Small Scale Industries to the fact that Chhattisgarh is a newly created State and is covered by forest. 44 per cent of the total area of the State is covered by forest and is rich in mineral resources and forest products. Many units of Khadi Gramodyog can be set up there and through this employment opportunities can be generated. Last time, it was decided to provide money to 1200 beneficiaries in the year 2002-03 under the money margin scheme, however, this time only 300 beneficiaries have been targeted by the Central Government in its budget. Since Chhattisgarh is a newly created State so

there is abundant possibility of setting up of industries. The present Government want to generate employment opportunities by way of promoting small scale industries, however it is on account of the short target that the people employed in small scale industries all over the State or the youths who want to generate their own employment with small capital and earn by way of value addition in local resources are not being supported. They should be supported. I would like to request that the earlier target of 1200 should be restored for Chhattisgarh so that more and more employment opportunities may be generated for unemployed youths.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 9, 2005/Agrahayana 18, 1927 (Saka).*

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