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Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Vaisakha 20, 1927 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Fourth Session

(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 10, 2005/Vaisakha 20, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha—Q. No. 621

[Translation]

Solid Waste Management and Drainage Scheme

*621. + SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated a programme to deal with the garbage/solid waste problem in urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has accorded its approval for cent percent grants for the solid waste management and drainage scheme;

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

(d) the areas/cities identified where garbage accumulation is increasing;

(e) the amount likely to be spent under the said scheme; and

(f) the details of agencies through which the cleaning work is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) to (c) Government is drawing up a comprehensive strategy for Solid Waste Management in urban areas to be taken up under the proposed National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

At present, there is a Central Sector scheme under implementation for Solid Waste Management and drainage works in identified 10 air-field towns to protect defence aircraft against bird menace. These towns are Ambala and Sirsa (Haryana), Adampur (Punjab), Bareilly and Hindon (U.P.), Dundigal (Andhra Pradesh), Gwaiior (Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Pune (Maharashtra) and Tejpur (Assam). The scheme is being implemented with 100% central grant. The scheme provides for setting up of sanitary landfills, compost plants and drainage. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) cost of the scheme is to be borne by the concerned urban local body/State Government.

(d) Though city-wise information on garbage generation is not available, quantum of garbage generated per day in cities with more than 1 million population is enclosed in the Annexure.

(e) No separate earmarking of funds for Solid Waste Management and Drainage has been envisaged under the proposed schemes of National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, though both are admissible components to be taken up under these schemes. Under the scheme of Solid Waste Management and Drainage in 10 selected air-field towns, Rs. 99.34 crore are likely to be spent.

(f) In the proposed schemes of National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, works relating to solid waste management and drainage can be taken up by Urban Local Bodies themselves or by outsourcing the same to outside agencies. The following agencies are executing/proposed to execute works under solid waste management and drainage in 10 selected air-field towns:

(i)	Ambala	National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC)
(ii)	Sirsa	NBCC
(iii)	Adampur	NBCC for solid waste management Government of Punjab for drainage
(iv)	Bareilly	Construction & Design Services, U.P. Jal Nigam

(v)	Hindon	Construction & Design Services, U.P. Jal Nigam
(vi)	Dundigal	NBCC
(vii)	Gwalior	Gwalior Municipal Corporation
(viii)	Jodhpur	NBCC
(ix)	Pune	Pune & Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation
(x)	Tejpur	Decision of State Government is awaited.

Annexure

Waste Generation in Cities with more than 1 Million Population as per Study by Central Pollution Control Board (April, 2000)

Sl.No.	Name of Urban Agglomeration/ City	Quantity of Solid Waste Generated per day (in MT)
1	2	3
1.	Greater Mumbai	6000
2.	Kolkata	2500
3.	Delhi	6000
4.	Chennai	2500
5.	Bangalore	2500
6.	Hyderabad	2100
7.	Ahmedabad	1273
8.	Pune	1200
9.	Surat	1035
10.	Kanpur	1300
11.	Jaipur	1000
12.	Lucknow	1250
13.	Nagpur	600
14.	Patna	330
15.	Indore	600
16.	Vadodara	560
17.	Bhopal	480
18.	Coimbatore	670
19.	Ludhiana	1200
20.	Kochi	250
21.	Visakhapatnam	600
22.	Agra	575
23.	Varanasi	576
24.	Madurai	480
25.	Meerut	625
26.	Nasik	280
27.	Jabalpur	300
28.	Jamshedpur	140
29.	Asansol	78
30.	Dhanbad	285
31.	Faridabad	550
32.	Allahabad	305
33.	Amritsar	600
34.	Vijayawada	475
35.	Rajkot	450

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Sir, whether a Technology Advisory Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation in 1999 in the wake of judgement of the supreme court and the recommendations of the Committee constituted as per Supreme Court's order on the solid waste management and whether the said group has suggested any action plan in its report on this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you followed him?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: No Sir, I do not follow him.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha, please speak slowly.

[Translation]

Please repeat your question.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Sir, special scheme has been prepared for certain selected cities under cent percent central assistance scheme launched by the Government regarding the solid waste management. Whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for the disposal of garbage and solid waste also for the states and remaining cities. If so, by what time the said scheme will be formulated and if not the reasons therefor?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as far the Central Government is concerned, I have also told in my reply that there is no separate funds for solid waste management. There are only ten such cities which have airforce bases where planes are damaged due to bird hit. An amount of Rs. 99 crore has been allocated by the Central Government for the said purpose. These cities are Ambala and Sirsa in Haryana; Adampur in Punjab, Bareilly and Hindan in Uttar Pradesh, Dundigal in Andhra Pradesh, Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Pune in Maharashtra and Tejpur in Assam. As far the question of solid waste management is concerned, as I have submitted that till date there was no separate fund for all the cities of the country. However, under the National Urban renewal mission which is to be launched shortly, about which the Minister of Finance has also mentioned, separate funds will be allocated for the said purpose for the big cities having population of more than 10 lakh and 40 lakh respectively. Further the 12th Finance Commission has recommended that approximately Rs. 5 thousand crore should be allocated to ULBs and I am happy that the Government have accepted the recommendation of the Finance Commission. As per the recommendation Rs. 5 thousand crore will be allocated to States and ULBs and out of that Rs. 2500 crore are only for waste management.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Sir, whether a Technology Advisory Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation in 1999 in the wake of the judgement of the Supreme Court and the recommendations of the Committee constituted as per Supreme Court's order on Solid Waste Management and whether the said group has suggested any action plan in its report on this matter.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: At present, I do not have those recommendations. However, from time to time the Ministry has paid its attention to the orders of the court. That is why, Government have taken many steps in this direction. I feel that the cities should be neat and clean in the country. As far the directions given by Supreme Court and others courts on different occasions are concerned, we have taken initiatives in this direction accordingly.

[English]

The Task Force was set up at the instance of the Supreme Court and its recommendations have also been carefully examined by the Ministry. So, various initiatives have been taken. After taking the report of the Task Force into consideration, it has been decided that modernisation of slaughter houses and carcass utilisation centres, solid waste energy projects, assistance for setting up model solid waste management facilities also have been initiated. Based on the above facts and experience, a comprehensive strategy for efficient management of urban waste has been drafted by the Ministry of Urban Development and circulated on 1st April, 2005, about a month back, to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Health a Family Planning. I am very happy to announce that all these Ministries have extended great cooperation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister ensure that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please take your seat. I made a mistake. I will come back to you.

Shri Munshi Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ground water as well surface water level is declining in the country. The main objective of my submission is that the water which is wasted should be utilised for irrigation purpose. If any scheme is prepared by the government at the district and tehsil level, we can use that water which is flowing on the roads and land. It has been observed that such water provide breeding ground for mosquitoes that

cause malaria as malaria mosquitoes breed on such places. So instead of ground or surface water we can use such water for irrigation purpose. The Minister in his reply has stated that works are being done by NBCC in five cities out of the ten cities selected under the scheme. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much works out of the total work amounting to Rs. 99.34 crore are being done by the NBCC. The House should know about it as earlier the scheme was meant for ten cities but the work of five cities out of them has been assigned to a company only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is a government company. How much money is given to NBCC?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, in so far as the first part of the question is concerned.

[Translation]

I feel that this question is not concerned with water and mosquitoes rather it is concerned with solid waste management.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a perennial problem, you can answer that.

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As far the information regarding these 10 cities are concerned, it is not true that all works have been assigned to NBCC.

MR. SPEAKER: According to his version the work of probably 5 cities have been assigned.

[English]

There was a preference for a Government company probably.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is there is your list.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I have the status. The NBCC is given a total of Rs. 21.41 crore so far. Other places have been given to different other agencies, including the State Government agencies. So, out of a total of Rs. 99.34 crore, only Rs. 21.41 crore has gone to NBCC so far of 2 towns.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, could the hon. Minister ensure that each area, particularly, the major cities and district headquarters are covered with good Solid Waste Management and Drainage Scheme? Has the hon. Minister taken any efforts in this direction so far?

Sir, I come from Tenali, one of the major cities of Andhra Pradesh and it is my parliamentary constituency also. The drainage system is in a very bad condition there.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, every hon. Member will join you.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Has the hon. Minister formulated a Master Plan to cover all the areas of the country where one can have an essential solid waste management and drainage system. In the rainy season.

MR. SPEAKER: It is understood.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, in the rainy season, if the drainage system is not properly maintained a lot of diseases start spreading like Malaria, fever, etc. I would like to know how much grant has been provided under the Solid Waste Management Drainage Scheme for Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You may answer the first part only.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as I said in the beginning that so far neither specific area nor money was allocated for solid waste management. But as I also said that under the National Urban Renewal Mission, which is going to be launched very soon, three categories of cities will be taken care of. They are mega cities above the population of 40 lakhs, 25 cities above the population of ten lakhs and ten other cities, which will be selected in consultation with the State Governments.

So far as the smaller cities are concerned, as the hon. Member mentioned about his place and other places, these will come under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme, which is for small and medium towns. So, a large amount of money is going to be

spent on drainage, sewerage and solid waste management after this National Urban Renewal Mission is launched and after the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for small and medium towns comes into being.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, in many cities, this solid waste management is a serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone is asking for his own city.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Central Government has identified only ten centres, but there are other cities in the country where this is a serious problem. What the Municipal Corporation does is that they heap the solid waste in a muffosil area thereby compelling people to a sanitation drive against the heaping of such wastes in muffosil area.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Or in the alternative, they will put it in a river, which causes pollution or in the sea thereby causing pollution problem there also.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Central Government give directions or issue proper guidelines in these matters is such cities in the management of solid waste?

MR. SPEAKER: Will you give directions, if you have power to do so? I do not know.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is not a question of giving direction, I totally agree with you. But with the increasing population and also less land available people have problem of dumping the waste material in different parts of the cities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Kerala, in particular, has more problems. There are more people and less land. I recognise that. That is why the Government of India has taken some initiatives. As I mentioned, very soon we will be coming forward with some suggestions. If you want, I would briefly like to mention about the recommendations which we have made in the strategy paper. As I have already said, on first of April this year, a comprehensive strategy for efficient management of waste has been drafted and circulated to all the Governments. It includes incentivise segregation of waste through community groups and NGOs; incentivise joint ventures and private participation for setting up of compost plants and bio-methanation plants and waste to energy plants; land for garbage dumping to be given to long term lease free of cost; mortgaging of leased land; adoption of proven waste to energy technologies suiting to Indian conditions; tax holiday for 10 years for entrepreneurs to promote private sector participation; exemption from customs etc. All these steps have already been taken up.

DR. R. SENTHIL: Hon. Speaker Sir, at the moment solid waste is collected as a single unit and is either disposed of by using open dumping method or deep burial method. If you go to these areas of dumping, a huge number of rag pickers are fishing out plastic and other recyclable material, which is putting them into a very hazardous condition. It is a very inhuman practice.

Would the Government consider collecting disposable items like disposable cups and other recyclable items in separate colour-coated bags as is done in Western countries and then dispose them of safely so that we do not put these people into hazardous conditions?

Part 'b' of my question is this. The biomedical waste, at the moment, is collected along with other solid waste though there are Supreme Court orders and other rules and regulations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government of India is not collecting waste. Why are you asking them?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are very good suggestions. We will pass them on to the competent people.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Different systems are being adopted in different parts of the country. For example, we have about 44 waste compost method of conversion of bio-degenerable waste, and we have waste to energy method where energy is being produced, and bio-methanation has also been done in Hyderabad, Lucknow and Mumbai. Then, refuse-derived fuel method has also been done in Hyderabad and Vijayawada. We have incineration type of thing which is burning of waste at a very high temperature ranging from 800 degrees to 870 degrees. All these are done from State to State.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members. 21 hon. Members have expressed their intention to put supplementaries. I think, this is an extremely important matter. I shall allow half-an-hour discussion so that this matter can be fully discussed.

Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether in view of the international importance of Gaya in Bihar the Government propose to cover this city under the proposed National Urban Renewal Mission and urban infrastructure Development scheme for small and medium town programme. If not, the reasons therefor.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told that major, medium and small, all towns will get their due share under the National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for small and medium town programme. I am fully confident that major cities and corporations will properly utilize the resources.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since we will have a full discussion, I now come to Q. No. 622. I hope during that discussion, the Members will participate and give good suggestions.

[English]

Bungalows in Lutyen's Zone

*622. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of bungalows in the Lutyens' Zone have outlived their life span and the Zone is now shrinking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any plan to demolish and reconstruct dilapidated bungalows in a phased manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Government for re-development of the Zone and its glory?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Bungalows in the Lutyen's Bungalow Zone (LBZ) under the care and maintenance of CPWD are more than 70 years old. These were constructed using mud mortar in walls and reinforced brick work or jack arch roofing, with insufficient damp proofing in the plinth. This undermines the structural safety of the buildings. Three bungalows which were not considered structurally safe, have been demolished and one more is proposed for demolition.

(c) and (d) Reconstruction of bungalows is proposed to be taken up in a phased manner. In the first phase new bungalows are proposed for construction on Plot Nos. 2, Sunheri Bagh Road and 2, Janpath, in accordance with the LBZ guidelines.

(e) A proposal has been formulated by the New Delhi Municipal Council for improvement of the Central Vista area, including buildings and lawns on either side of Rajpath.

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Sir, New Delhi was declared as the new imperial Capital of India in 1911. Sir Edwin Lutyen has designed 'Acropolis' incorporate buildings flanking the two-mile processional route up to the present PM's residence set atop the Raisina Hill. Lutyen's style for the new Capital and his own columnar order created something that was both impressive and original. It has always been called 'Lutyen's Delhi.' I want to know, through you, from the Minister that it has appeared in the daily *Tribune* of January that Lutyen's bungalows are unsafe for the VIP security and committees have been set up to suggest restructuring and demolishing the bungalows and flats.

What are the number of flats or bungalows in the zone which are required to be demolished and reconstructed with the provision of residential accommodation, offices, provision of security and improved environment to preserve its heritage and with a co-ordinated architectural and structural planning to obtain optimal solutions?

MR. SPEAKER: All questions are rolled into one.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Can I have to read all the rules?

MR. SPEAKER: Do not read all. You tell us how many buildings you propose to demolish and how many buildings you propose to construct. You mentioned two bungalows.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As such, we are not a demolition squad. But we have already said that most of the buildings have completed their life span and their maintenance has become totally uneconomical. The issue of structural safety and their capacity to withstand earthquake is also in question. Three of the bungalows, which are not considered structurally safe, have been demolished and one more bungalow, which is presently in a bad condition, is proposed to be demolished. Sir, bengalow No. 2 of Janpath was demolished in June 1996. Bungalow No. 7 of Motilal Nehru Place was demolished as back as 1974. Bungalow No. 7 of Motilal Nehru Marg was demolished prior to 1967 and Bungalow No. 2, Sunehari Bagh is in a bad condition which is also proposed to be demolished.

Insofar as the second part is concerned, we have a massive programme for the construction of general pool residential accommodation to augment the houses in New Delhi, that is, at Rouse Avenue Pocket-I and Pocket-IV. The proposed construction is of about 584 quarters of IV, V and VI-Types. ...*(Interruptions)* We have also a scheme for Dev Nagar where about 1,626 quarters will be constructed, and at Aliganj, about 1400 quarters will be constructed in the near future.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: The demolished bungalows, however, met with a stout resistance from a group of architects and environmentalists who argue that the demolition will deprive the Capital of a major portion of the glorious colonial heritage. It is also feared that any demolition of bungalows would do irreparable harm to the Capital landscape.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question very ably.

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: I want to know whether the bungalows needed to be demolished have become a threat to the VIP security and would involve a big drain on the coffers.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking whether they should be demolished or repaired.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: You cannot live in an unsafe house, but in Lutyen's area, there are already guidelines. If you have to construct a new buildings, it has to have the same plinth area. It has to have the same height as the earlier one had. So, you cannot flout the guidelines in LBZ area.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh, are you really interested in such subject?

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to demolish any bunglow for developing parks there. I would also like to know whether the Government propose to restore the previous status of the Central Park of the Connaught Place where presently construction work of metro railway is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about Lutyen bunglow.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Lutyen Bunglow Zone is also the part of Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: Ok, it is all right.

[English]

Have you got any park?

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no proposal to demolish any bunglow in Lutyen Bunglow Zone and make park.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In a changing, moving and dynamic world, to be really bogged down by any rule which was set many years back does not really sound to reason though we certainly have to accept certain guidelines also to ensure that every area does not witness a haphazard growth. Why do I say so? It is because I feel that there are certain bungalows which have acres and acres of land attached to them. The

bungalow is in such a poor condition that you have to spend much more amount on its annual repair than it should have been justifiable. Have the Government ever thought of exploiting a part of it for commercial purposes, and using that money which could run into thousands and crores of rupees for building excellent good bungalows in place?

MR. SPEAKER: In Lutyens' area, you want commercial purposes!

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I would not exactly know whether in Lutyen's area, it will come or not. As I have said that we are going to take a massive programme of reconstruction of buildings as the demand is increasing every now and then with the expansion in each area of our development. But definitely, in some parts of Delhi where the CPWD or NBCC does not have its resources to construct the houses from its own resources available with them, we will exploit some areas available with us for commercial use, and we will be constructing houses for the Government free of cost.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. Vinod Kumar, are you interested in Lutyen's Delhi?

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Keeping in view the aesthetics of the Lutyen's bungalows, it is not desirable to construct multistoryed buildings. What is the proposal of the Government in this regard?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: So far as multistoryed buildings in the Lutyen's area are concerned, it applies only to Government and residential buildings. Insofar as other areas like institutions are concerned, it does not apply to institutions. So sometimes other institutions might come up with huge buildings because the guidelines do not apply to some categories.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 623, Shri Subash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—Not present.

Q. 624, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy—Not present.

Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao.

[English]

Indo Japan Trade

*624 + SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) has organized a seminar 'Destination India' in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors participated in the seminar;

(c) whether the Government has invited the Japanese to invest more in India;

(d) if so, the response received therefrom, so far;

(e) whether India is the largest recipient of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan;

(f) if so, whether India is intending Foreign Direct Investment based bilateral trade with Japan instead of ODA; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Government of India, in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Japan chamber of Commerce and Industry, organised "Destination India" seminar in Tokyo, Japan on 13th April 2005 with the objective of attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan. The seminar focused on investment opportunities in various sectors and aimed at creating awareness on the investment climate in India.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. India was the largest recipient of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2003-04 and 2004-05. The Government of India envisages comprehensive economic engagement through expansion of trade, investment and other areas of economic cooperation with Japan, in addition to the ODA.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, hon. Minister has stated that the Government in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Japan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry organised a Destination India Seminar in Tokyo, Japan in April. With this programme, has any agreement with the Japan in regard to the investments on sectors like infrastructure, power and construction been considered? Have any agreements been reached?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: During the visit to Japan on the Destination India Programme, a Joint Press release was issued by me, and the Japanese Minister for Industry and Trade, which included a thrust in the manufacturing sector including supporting industry, as two major areas of cooperation. The Joint Press Statement that we made, also stated that the investment environment would be improved. We already have a large ODA assistance, and we discussed ways where ODA could be dovetailed with FDI also, as India is the largest recipient of ODA from Japan. The ODA assistance could drive FDI into this country. So with Japan, we are foreseeing much greater economic engagement both in terms of trade and in terms of investment.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: As far as Indo-Japan trade is concerned, recently the Japanese Prime Minister had visited India. Has there any agreement been signed between the Indian Government and the Japanese Government with regard to exports of Indian commodities to Japan?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Yes, Sir. The visit of the Japanese Prime Minister to India very recently has been a very successful one and a Joint Declaration by the hon. Prime Minister has been issued after the visit. A specific mention is there about the comprehensive economic engagement through expansion of trade in goods and services, investment flows and other areas of economic cooperation and further exploration and expansion of the Indo-Japan economic partnership agreement.

MD. SALIM: As the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out, with the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister recently, there is a scope to enhance and augment the economic cooperation in the field of trade, service, goods and investment.

Sir, being from the Eastern Region, when the Government of India is talking about the 'look East policy' and with the changed scenario in the world-wide, the importance of the Eastern sector is now being recognised also. Kolkata being the Gateway to the East, we have found that even the Company like Mitsubishi has found it a successful destination. They are getting their returns on their investments. They have made big plants, one in China and one in West Bengal and in Haldia they are getting profits now. So, Japan has also shown interest in long-term investments in India, particularly in the Eastern India—Kolkata, West Bengal.

So, seeing this, I would like to specifically ask the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, through you, what specific steps or road maps they are planning to further enhance the economic cooperation with Japan from our side. I would also like to know whether there is going to be a Joint Commission for strengthening the trade relations between Chambers of Commerce and Industry there in Japan and in India.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is true that the economic relationship between Japan and Eastern India is very old. In fact, it goes back to 1953-54. Some of the Japanese Companies fondly remembered their period in Kolkata, West Bengal where they had set up their first offices. They said that they are very old to India. Now, they are looking at the large number of companies that met me. They are looking to build upon their old associations which they have had with the Eastern India. All State Governments would also necessarily have to create an environment which is attractive for this investment.

As far as the Government of India is concerned, we are establishing a Japan Desk in the Ministry of Industrial Promotion so that all issues of Japan investments and other issues of Japan are dealt with in this Japan Desk.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India organised a seminar in Tokyo on 13 April, 2005 with the cooperation of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Japan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry which has improved and strengthened the Indo-Japan relations. It has benefited in this way. Through this question I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal regarding holding similar seminar in Delhi and Mumbai with the association of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Japan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry as there is need for it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, sir, a delegation of the industries accompanied the Prime Minister of Japan when he recently visited Delhi. Our Chambers of Commerce and associations also organised a similar programme which was attended by the Prime Minister of Japan himself. It has sent a message that the relations between the two countries are very strong and cordial and an economic component should also be given to these relations. Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Associations have been organising such programmes in the country and would continue to do so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 625 Shri Anandrao V. Adsul—Not present.

Shri Tathagata Satpathy—Not present.

May I take this opportunity once again to request my friends in the Opposition on the left to please reconsider their decision to join this House? They have also raised many important issues. They have put questions and they are not being answered. Therefore, I am sure, the other hon. Members would join me in requesting them to come.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I agree with you and request the members of the NDA, Opposition Parties to come and participate in the deliberation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us hope for the best.

Misuse of Funds under Tribal Development Schemes

*626. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received reports regarding misuse of funds under the centrally sponsored tribal development schemes during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government had constituted any committee to look into the misuse of funds;

(d) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulting agencies?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the year 2001-02 and 2002-03, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs received reports regarding misuse of grants-in-aid released to the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh respectively under the Post matric Scholarship scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by the Ministry. The matter was taken up with the State Governments concerned who furnished the following details:

Madhya Pradesh: 30 different institutions were found to be involved in irregularities in the disbursement of scholarships to ST/SC/OBC students of MP and the total amount involved is Rs. 1,67,19,827. An FIR has been lodged with the police in respect of all these 30 institutions.

Andhra Pradesh: In the preliminary report it was revealed that an amount of Rs. 20,54,540 was drawn by two colleges *viz.* (i) DVR Jr. College, Jubilee Hills and (ii) Chanikya College, Krishna Nagar. Thereafter the State Government appointed a Committee to investigate the total fraudulent withdrawal of scholarship. This Committee reported that an amount of Rs. 3,80,08,081 has been paid by the Pay and Accounts Office of the state government without corresponding entries in the register of the state Tribal Welfare Department and this involved different colleges.

(c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not constituted any Committee to look into this matter because the misuse of funds has to be examined by the State Governments and they have already initiated action in the matter.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent Uttar Pradesh. Minister's reply is confined only to Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. These are also parts of India. I want to submit that a tribal named Tharu lives in tarai area of Uttar Pradesh. All the schools, hospitals or other organisations that are being run there for their help are being run through the so

called NGOs. In fact there are neither hospitals nor schools in that area. Through you, I would like to know whether it is feasible to involve the local MP's and MLA's in those schemes to implement them properly? Whether there is any such proposal under consideration of the Government?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main Question is regarding misuse of funds. In my reply, I have made a very clear statement that misuse of funds took place in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and certain steps were taken. This Question relates to post-matric scholarship scheme, but we have many other schemes also which relate to education, health and so on and so forth. We are pursuing many other schemes which are meant for the betterment of tribal people. There are schemes like Vidyalaya which concern about having quality education. We are having other schemes like health projects and education projects. There are so many other projects; it is not only the post-matric scholarship scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking how to stop such misuse. Would you involve the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, I am coming to that. There is no misuse as of today. So far as post-matric scholarship is concerned, we have taken so many steps and there is no misuse now. This happened only in 2002-03.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Sir, though my first supplementary has not been replied, you are asking me to put my second supplementary question. That is why I ask my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied but you have not liked it.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I did not like the reply because my question was very simple i.e. if the public representatives are involved in the programmes being run by the Government then they would be implemented properly.

My second question is that the Ministry of Human Resource Development had conducted an enquiry which covered an organisation named "Friends and Tribal Society", it works for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. A recommendation was made to freeze the accounts of that organisation but as per my information that organisation is still involved in the acts of religions conversion and spreading communal frenzy. Whether he has any information that the accounts of 'Friends and Tribal Society" have been frozen and its activities have been stopped.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are allegations the hon. Members is bringing to your notice. What is your answer to the Question asked by the hon. Members?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, I did not get the specific Question asked by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned the name of a society.

[Translation]

Please take the name slowly.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: The problem is that I do not know English and he does not know Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: I try to speak Hindi. But one makes progress slowly.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: The name of the organisation is "Friends and Tribal Society", this society is spreading communalism in all the tribal areas of the country including Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh. It is not proper to take names in the House but we all know this organisation is only spreading communalism. It is unfortunate that it is still receiving money from various Ministries like Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of HRD and Ministry of Women and Child Welfare though its accounts have been frozen. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether its accounts have been frozen or not.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We have taken every step possible in this area. In the past, there have been a lot of societies and other organisations, which were not doing their work well. So, we have stopped them. But in the case of Madhya Pradesh we have. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, he has mentioned the name of a specific organisation.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: In the case of Madhya Pradesh, we have stopped grants to all NGOs except the Deen Dayal Sodh Samsthan. No other grants are given. I am talking only of NGOs. But so far as other grants are concerned, we are revitalising them now.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you better look into the specific complaint made by the hon. Member. Kindly look into this issue and let the hon. Member know about its result Let us not ignore it.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is about tribal community and its welfare but the reply amply widens the scope of the question. It has mentioned irregularities in the disbursement of scholarships to the students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. It is a fact that grave irregularities are being committed in the distribution of scholarships in the colleges all over the country. The children from these classes do not go to the schools and colleges but scholarships are being received in their names. Dozens of such cases have come to light in Uttar Pradesh. I myself have written about several such cases to the Government and enquiry is being conducted in that matter. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any penal provision can be made in this regard so that grants may not be provided to those States where grants under this Head are being misused and such irregularities are not prevented. Unless such penal provisions are imposed, bungling of grants would continue. Whether the hon. Minister propose not to provide grants to those States which have not taken penal action in the genuine cases even after finding sufficient reasons in the course of enquiry.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I would like to make it clear that in the case of Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS), certain States have committed liabilities due to which we cannot disburse the funds. But we are giving it to the States that are doing well. In fact, we have many schemes in the Post-matric Scholarship, and we are upgrading it now.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will try to help you Mr. Yadav. Mr. Minister, what is being asked is this.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, the Centre has not given licence to the States, and the money sent by the Centre is being looted without any check.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is saying that money sent by the Central Government is not properly used, and the State Governments are not taking any action on it. Would you not do something in those cases? This is the information that the hon. Member wants to know from you.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: This is the reason for taking up this issue with the State Governments. They have to do away with their committed liabilities, and then we can give funds to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We cannot given funds to them unless they do it.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, in the first six years, many allegations were made against many organisations that were funded by different Ministries, and, in particular, by this Ministry also. But those funds were utilised for communalising the entire society, in particular, among the tribal people.

Would the hon. Minister like to hold any inquiry about the disbursement, which has been made in the past six years by two different NGOs? Will the Government stop funding to these NGOs or not?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Mr. Speaker, in this case, we are willing to conduct the inquiry provided we get the reports about the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lahiri, you can give him the specific reports with the names. The hon. Minister says that he has not got any information in this regard.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Yes, the hon. Members can write about it to us.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh while referring to the States where irregularities are committed in the disbursement of scholarships to the students of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes, whereas large number of such cases have taken place in Uttar Pradesh. I have been elected from Kanpur and Bilhaur seat. No scholarships have been given to the students belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes for over three years which has created impediments in their studies. Several reports of irregularities regarding disbursement of scholarships have been registered in Uttar Pradesh. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has details in this regard and whether hon. Minister would take any concrete steps to stop such irregularities?

MR. SPEAKER: Please send the particulars.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, no official reports about this have come to us. But I would like to give the hon. Member some information about Uttar Pradesh. In 2002-2003, the Actual Beneficiaries were 354; in the year 2003-2004, the Actual Beneficiaries were 468; and in the year 2004-2005, the amount is Rs. 107.62 lakh, and the Anticipated beneficiaries are 3,996.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is pointing out that the money given is being wasted.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I would take the House into confidence. In the case of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, we got official reports from the Members of Parliament themselves. As a result of this, there have been many inquiries done by us. So, any Member of Parliament can write to us about it, and we can take it up immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants information about the same from the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, I want to know as to why the students are not getting money which is being provided in the name of scholarships?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious matter, and I have already intervened.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir since 1950 we are spending a lot of money for the welfare and development of the tribals, particularly, in the field of education. Still, the literacy rate among the tribal population is very meagre. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, it is mentioned that: "In the preliminary report it was revealed that an amount of Rs. 20,54,540 was drawn by two colleges, namely, DVR Junior College, Jubilee Hill sand and Chanakya College, Krishna Nagar. Thereafter, the State Government appointed a Committee to investigate the total fraudulent withdrawal of scholarship." After the Committee had gone through all the records, it revealed that Rs. 3,80,08,081 has been paid by the Pay and Accounts Office of the State Government without corresponding entries in the register of the State Tribal Welfare Department. This sort of a thing is going on. We are giving crores of rupees, and it is not reaching the tribal people. The college people are drawing money, and eating or constructing buildings in the name of the tribal people. What is the Government of India doing in it? You are leaving it to the States, and the States are appointing Committees. There is no action taken from the side of the Government of India. We have to evolve a mechanism in it.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you propose?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: If a lot of irregularities are coming to the notice of the State Governments—after appointing all the Committees—then the Government of India should have a mechanism evolved to control all these things.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Government evolve any mechanism to control all these things, and punish all those who are doing it?

MR. SPEAKER: Let us get the reply from the hon. Minister. The hon. Member has asked about the issues that you have already mentioned in your reply. But what action is going to be taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We have taken many steps in this regard. Firstly, at the time this happened in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, cash amount was given to the students.

However, we have introduced a system by which an 'Account Payee' cheque is given to the student. This is the first thing. Second, the entire dispensation of scholarship or any other thing goes to the State Governments. Therefore, we have issued circulars to the State Governments to see that the amount spent is regular or to make payment to scholarship-holders very clearly through 'Account Payee' cheques only. This is very important, and this has gone a long way.

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have stolen the money should be punished.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: That is the point, Sir.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, in my constituency, a lot of tribals are there. Though schools are being run, there are no teachers or the teachers are not attending the schools every day. One other thing is that when examinations are going on, the students have to travel about 50 kilometres to 60 kilometres from their place to the main cities and the Government has not provided any accommodation to them. This time, I have arranged accommodation for about 100 students in Kodaikanal. Why is the Government not providing accommodation to them?

MR. SPEAKER: It is very nice of you to do that, but what is your question?

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: The Government should provide accommodation to them at least during the examination period. They are having only one bus which leaves around 7.30 a.m. If they miss that bus, they cannot come to the city to write the examination.

MR. SPEAKER: It is far away from the main question. Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer the question?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I Would like to have a separate notice on this. The schools and other activities of the tribals are being run under the Tribal Sub-Plan. We have a channel through which funds are disbursed. There is a special Central assistance, and the State Governments are responsible for doing all these works in their own States. We do not come into the picture in this. We come into the picture only as a supervisory body and for monitoring purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give a suggestion to the States to provide them accommodation during the examination period.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how much funds have been allocated under this scheme for SCs, STs and other backward classes during last fiscal year? I think it is very important scheme. In view of its importance whether the Government propose to hike allocation for it? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you in a position to say how much money is provided for it?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: So far as the question of money provided to SC/ST/OBC students is concerned, I cannot give the information now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would to know whether allocation under said scheme can be increased? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied after giving a due thought.

[English]

Export of Perishable Items

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*627. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:
DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated steps to exploit the huge export potential in different states in marketing fresh and processed fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the high container cost involved for transportation of such perishable items;

(d) if so whether the Government is considering grant of subsidy on export freight to enable them to compete in the international market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith other incentives provided to boost such exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting export of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables through its ongoing schemes.

(b) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) The details are as under:

(i) 39 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) have been set up in 19 states to promote export of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. An investment of Rs. 1018.85 crores is expected to be made by private sector, Central and State Governments in these AEZs during the next 3-5 years.

(ii) Incentives are provided to exporters on export of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables under the schemes, being implemented by Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA), for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research & Development and Transport Assistance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Transport Assistance is being extended to exporters to mitigate the freight cost incurred by them on export of select fresh and processed fruits and vegetables to specified destinations. This includes expenses incurred on inland freight upto ports in reefer containers. The details of assistance admissible are given below:

Transport assistance for export of eligible items by air except fresh cut flowers.	10% of Free-On-Board (FOB) value or 25% of freight or the specific rate whichever is the Least.
Transport assistance for export of eligible products exported in non-reefer containers by sea.	10% of FOB value or 25% of freight or the specific rate whichever is the least.
Transport assistance for export of eligible products exported in reefer containers by sea.	10% of FOB value or 33% of freight (inclusive of inland freight in reefer containers)* or the specific rate or 50% of ocean freight whichever is the least.

*Inland freight by reefer container (from factory to port) is included in the freight subject to fulfilment of specified conditions.

Other incentives provided to exporters are listed in reply to part (b) (ii) above.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Sir, through you, I want to know from the Minister the names of the 39 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) and the amount of investment made in the respective AEZs by the private sector, State and Central Governments. The second part of my question is whether there is a Central plan for setting up more AEZs in other States or even in the States where they have already been set up. The Minister has stated that an investment of Rs. 1,018.85 crore is expected to be made. Is it going to be done under the Central plan and in consultation with the States or has it been left in the hands of the private promoters?

MR. SPEAKER: We do not want the list of 39 AEZs. You can send the details to the hon. Member.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Yes, Sir. There are 39 AEZs with an investment of Rs. 1,018 crore. The actual assistance released or investment made by the private sector in these AEZs is the tune of Rs. 418 crore. We have even estimated the exports made from these 39 centres, which comes to Rs. 2,532 crore.

There are about 13 pending proposals for Agri Export Zones.They are in Manipur, Mizoram, Karnataka—there are about four in Karnataka—Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar. We hope that there will be a substantial increase in this with the new thrust that is given in the Foreign Trade Policy of allowing them a five per cent benefit which is more of a replenishment benefit.

I may add for the information of the Member that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. Despite being the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world, we have not been able to take full advantage of exports in this because of lack of facilities, post-harvest facilities and infrastructural facilities, which relate to the cold chain, whether it is the cold storage or whether it is the cold transportation. This has been a big impediment. But now, with the new thrust that we have given to the agri sector in the Foreign Trade Policy which has been announced, we expect that there will be a quantum jump in this.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any proposal for allowing the 10 per cent air freight assistance to fresh-cut flowers or not; and whether there is any proposal for giving subsidy for air transport of fresh vegetables from the Eastern zone, particularly from Kolkata.

MR. SPEAKER: Also flowers.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: While giving a transport subsidy, one very important aspect to be looked at is the Incremental Effectiveness Index. These are the norms used by APEDA for monitoring the item and category at the level of export. The Incremental Effectiveness Index estimated indicates what is the incrementality we get for every additional rupee spent. As far as the specific question or flowers is concerned, the Incremental Effectiveness Index by air is obiously not that attractive as it is.

MR. SPEAKER: Using flowery language only.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: But flowers obviously can only be exported by air. So, there is a transport subsidy scheme for flowers, and of course, from Kolkata.

MR. SPEAKER: From cold storage. I am concerned with it. I am doing it in my Constituency. You had better keep it in mind.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I put this question some important facts I want to bring to the attention of the House.

India's position in the international market in the production of fruits is the second. India holds the first rank in the production of banana and mango; second in papaya; fourth in pineapple; and tenth in apple.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Ninety-seven per cent of our total fruit production is estimated to be marketable surplus. Finally, India's share in world export of fruits is only 1.53 per cent. It is a very good initiative which the hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply. Keeping these facts and also the information furnished by the hon. Minister in view I would like to know, out of the 39 Agri-Export Zones, how many have been planned in the State of Himachal Pradesh which is a major fruit and vegetable producing area of our country with special reference to infrastructure-basically cold storage, packaging, transportation and marketing facilities for export.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will take a whole day to answer that. Mr. Minister, give the names of the places in Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There is no pending scheme out of the 13, as I said. The hon. Member has given some very good figures. Those figures are a fact. This just demonstrate that we have enormous potential for that. Out of the 13 which are pending—39 are already there, so I am not getting into that—there is no proposal from Himachal Pradesh for any scheme. If the hon. Member does ensure that there is a proposal for Himachal Pradesh, we will be happy to examine it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudhangshu Seal. He is doing a lot of work.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: I would like to mention to the hon. Minister that in the list, mango is excluded. Is the Minister considering to give subsidy on mango?

Regarding refrigerated containers, I have already told that if he is really interested to send potatoes and other perishable items through refrigerated containers, then, we need to have at least 100 refrigerated containers of our own. Agriculture Ministry have already taken some decision and the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar has

told that we will have to club together and then, we will have to announce a scheme. I would like to inform the hon. Minister, if he is really serious, then he will have to expedite the issue and we already have a very good potential market.

MR. SPEAKER: He is serious.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: Is the Government thinking of purchasing at least 100 refrigerated containers to export these perishable items? I would also like to have information on mango.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question. He wanted to know about mango and refrigerated containers.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member was on potato, and now, he has come to mango. ...*(Interruptions)* Nevertheless, I appreciate the Member's interest in this query. He very consistently followed this up. His following up his ideas has led to this scheme, which we have announced in the Foreign Trade Policy. I must acknowledge that.

As I said, there is a specific scheme for transport assistance. It is true that as far as fresh fruits are concerned, mangoes and grapes have been excluded. We are looking into this. We will attempt to find a way so that mango exports also move.

But the real point is the question of refrigerated containers. There is a lack of cool chain. In coordination with the Agriculture Minister, we are endeavouring and we will endeavour to see that mango exports also move. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This matter should be expedited. It has tremendous scope.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Employment to Women under Condensed Courses

*623. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women above the age of 15 years educated under the Condensed Courses of Education Scheme being implemented by Central Social Welfare Board, who have got employment during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on this programme till date;

(c) whether the results achieved under the scheme have been commensurate with the expenditure incurred for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the factors attributed for the unsatisfactory performance and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Under the scheme, education at all the three levels i.e. Primary, Middle & Secondary is provided to girls/women above the age of 15 years who are school dropouts and who have not been able to join mainstream education system due to their adverse family circumstances or reasons beyond their control. Though skill upgradation and vocational training is also a component of the Scheme, the main thrust of the scheme is to impart education to the targeted beneficiaries. As such, employment status of the beneficiaries is not monitored. The number of beneficiaries of the Scheme in the last three years is as under:

Year	Number of beneficiaries
2002-2003	3,475
2003-2004	10,850
2004-2005	14,625

(b) to (e) An expenditure of Rs. 112.50 crores has been incurred and about 6.27 lakh beneficiaries have been imparted education at different levels under the Scheme since its inception in the year 1958. The scheme was evaluated by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration in 1988-89. The component of skill development was strengthened and financial norms were revised in pursuance of these recommendations.

A Working Group has been constituted, in September, 2004 to carry out a comprehensive review of the Scheme. On receipt of report of the Working Group, further improvement would be carried out in the Scheme.

[English]

Environmental Orientation to School Education Scheme

*625. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the grants-in-aid provided to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Environmental Orientation to School Education Scheme during each of the last three years and thereafter till date;

(b) whether Union Government also provides financial assistance to voluntary organizations for the conduct of experimental and innovative programmes in schools with local environmental conditions;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided to voluntary organizations in each State/UT for the purpose during the above period;

(d) whether it is a fact that the response to the scheme for the participating agencies has not been encouraging since 1995-96; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to make the scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Grant-in-Aid has not been provided to States/UTs under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Environmental Orientation to School Education during the last three years and thereafter till date.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. State wise details of assistance provided to Voluntary Organizations under Environment Orientation to School Education (EOSE) scheme during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) No. Sir, a Centrally Sponsored scheme of Environmental Orientation to School Education was started from 1988-89 under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations/ Voluntary Organizations to take up various programmes/ activities aimed at creating environmental consciousness among the students. The scheme envisages grants to States/UTs for various activities i.e. review and development of curricula and textbooks of various disciplines at primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels of 'Environmental Studies' etc. However, due to lack of interest in the States/UTs, no grants have been released to States/UTs beyond the financial year 1995-96 and it was decided to implement the scheme through Voluntary Organizations only. Appointment of Seven Nodal Voluntary Organizations have been made on merit basis engaged in the field of Environment Orientation with specified area of operation covering entire country to make the scheme successful in all States/ UTs.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/UT	Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	Releases made during		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Gowthami Educational Society, Tangutur, Prakasam	1.61	0.97	0.64
Assam	2.	Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Nagaon	0.32	—	—
	3.	WOODWICHEE, Hailakandi, Nagaon	0.88	0.88	—
	4.	Pathari Voational Institute, Nagaon	0.88	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
	5.	Sadau Asom Pauthibharal Santha, Haibergaon, Nagaon	1.93	—	—
	6.	Assam Science Society, Guwahati (Nodal Agency)	—	18.09	17.18
Bihar	7.	East & West Educational Society, Patna, (Nodal Agency)	1.10	20.35	18.00
	8.	Karpoori Thakur Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Patna	0.64	—	—
	9.	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Madhepura	1.00	—	—
Chhattisgarh	10.	SCERT, Raipur	5.09	—	—
Gujarat	11.	Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, (Nodal Agency)	34.37	33.94	27.95
Madhya Pradesh	12.	Science Centre (Gwalior), Bhopal	5.79	—	2.80
Maharashtra	13.	Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education	5.83	—	—
	14.	Tata Institute of Social Sciencas, Mumbai	—	0.75	—
Manipur	15.	Ashufimei Development Society, Senapati District	1.36	—	1.37
Orissa	16.	Bhubaneswar Science and Environment Forum	2.00	1.25	—
	17.	Sankalp, Puri	1.39	—	—
	18.	Berhampur Kansari Samaj, Berhampur	0.75	0.75	—
Tamil Nadu	19.	CPR Environment Centre, Chennai (Nodal Agency)	27.54	12.56	27.49
Uttar Pradesh	20.	Bhagirath Seva Sansthan, Ghaziabad	0.42	—	—
	21.	Lal Bahadur Shastri Smarak Gramya Vikas Sanstha,	0.64	0.64	—
	22.	CEE Himalaya, Lucknow	2.60	5.44	3.36
	23.	Myana Gramodhyog Seva Sansthan, Khurja	—	—	—
Uttaranchal	24.	Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan	61.00	129.06	65.94
West Bengal	25.	West Bengal Voluntary Health Organisation, Kolkata	2.17	2.17	—
NCT of Delhi	26.	Indian Environmental Society, Delhi (Nodal Agency)	6.14	22.89	12.95
	27.	Socio-Service Art Group, New Delhi	2.73	—	—
	28.	SANKALP, New Delhi	3.49	2.10	—
	29.	CHINTAN Environment and Action Group, New Delhi	3.72	3.77	3.00
		Total	175.39	255.61	180.68

Review of National Curriculum for School Education

*628. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has initiated talks with rural teachers to review National curriculum framework for school education;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage participation of teachers having different backgrounds, cultures and languages with a view to incorporating the national ethos in the curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NCERT organized a consultation with teachers from rural areas across the country from 9-12th April, 2005. The major concern of the National Curriculum Framework review is the urgent need to make school education more effective in rural areas where the majority of India's children live. The importance of addressing the concerns of the rural child has become all the more sharp on account of the Constitutional Amendment making elementary education a fundamental right of every child. The objective of consultation with teachers serving in rural areas was to provide the NCERT with insight to improve the decision making process involved in the revision of syllabi, preparation of new textbooks based on the Revised National Curriculum Framework for School Education, and redesigning of teacher manuals and training programmes.

(c) The consultation with teachers was woven around specific issues including the Challenge of Rural Education, Systemic Reforms in Education, Evaluation and Examination, Art, Music, Dance and Theatre in Education. Teachers were invited from different states including Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The NCERT hopes to keep up the interaction with teachers by organizing periodic consultations with them on a variety of curricular issues. All these steps have been taken for incorporation of the national ethos in the National Curriculum Framework which is presently under review.

[Translation]

Eviction of Tribals

*629. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the eviction of a large number of tribals from their own traditional habitats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make certain changes in the tribal policy/law with a view to preventing eviction of tribal people;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been consulted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) As a result of inadequate recognition of the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes over land where they had been living for generations, the threat of eviction persists. However, in order to safeguard the interests of the tribals and forest dwellers whose disputed claims are yet to be settled, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has, without prejudice to Supreme Court's Order, and as an interim measure, advised the State Governments on 21.12.2004 that they should not resort to the eviction of tribal people and forest dwellers other than ineligible encroachers, till the complete survey is done for the recognition of such people and their rights as per the guidelines for the settlement of such claims. The State/UT Governments have been advised to exclude such tribals/forest dwellers, other than ineligible encroachers, from the eviction drives. Simultaneously, it has also been clarified that this interim measures does not stop the State/UT Governments from evicting the ineligible encroachers from forest lands.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been mandated to formulate a comprehensive Central Legislation to redress the historical injustice done to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes by providing for clear assertion of their legal rights on land and other traditional forest rights. This Ministry has prepared a draft "The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005", to provide a legislative frame for recognition of the aforementioned rights, in consultation with the concerned Ministries, including the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

The proposed Bill is still a tentative draft Bill and has to be processed as per the established procedure taking views and comments of the stakeholder Ministries, including Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Salt Policy

*630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new-salt policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether formulation of new salt policy is likely to adversely affect lakhs of labourers and farmers engaged in production of salt indigenously;

(b) if so, action taken in this regard alongwith memoranda etc. received in this regard;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the interest of the aforesaid indigenous producers of salt are not already affected by the above new policy; and

(f) the tax levied on salt before and after formulation of the new salt policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) There is no Central tax on salt. However, Cess on salt is levied @ Rs. 3.50 per tonne from Salt Works having an area of 100 acres and above; @ Rs. 1.75 per tonne from Salt Woks having area less than 100 acres but more than 10 acres. The Salt Works having an area upto 10 acres; cooperative societies having individuals member's land holding upto 10 acres and salt meant for exports are exempted from Cess.

Suicide by Personnel of PMF

*631. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of suicide by the personnel of para-military forces have increased during the last few years;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry/study in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps initiated to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) There is no definite trend of increase in the cases of suicide in the Central Paramilitary Forces as a whole. In CRPF suicide cases have increased during the last three years as detailed below:

Year	2002	2003	2004
No. of suicide cases	21	22	28

Departmental inquiry has been conducted in each of the cases of suicide or attempted suicide. Most common causes leading to suicide are duty related stress, mental depression, domestic problems, marital discord and chronic illness. The Bureau of Police Research & Development is also conducting a study on stress management.

The following steps have been taken to address this problem:

(i) Efforts are made to regulate duty hours and to periodically rotate personnel from hard areas to soft areas within the constraints of operational requirements.

(ii) Regular participation of personnel in sports competitions and recreational activities.

(iii) Communication facilities for personnel in the remote areas to keep in touch with their families.

(iv) Regular interaction by officers with personnel through Sammelans, visit to forward areas etc.

(v) Introduction of stress removal techniques like Yoga and Vipasana.

(vi) Introduction of welfare measures such as canteen facilities, loan from welfare funds etc.

Training to Small Entrepreneurs

*632. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small entrepreneurs in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to train the small entrepreneurs to enable them to function under WTO regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with any agency in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The number of units in the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector that are run by small entrepreneurs as on March, 2005 is roughly estimated to be 118.59 lakh. Of these, 16.38 lakh SSI units are registered with the government.

(b) and (c) The Government has been organising training, workshops and sensitisation programmes with a view to enabling SSI entrepreneurs to operate in the post WTO global trading regime. Measures initiated by the Government aimed at improving the competitiveness of the small entrepreneurs including assistance for technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, encouraging adoption of modern management practices, creation of an electronic infrastructure with related IT applications and dissemination of marketing and other pertinent information.

(d) and (e) The training programmes for small entrepreneurs are conducted on a regular basis by the Government through the Small Industries Service Institutes (SISI), National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) in NOIDA, National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET) at Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) at Guwahati.

Development of Latent Talents in Schools

*633. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of talented students, particularly in the rural areas, are unable to develop their potentiality due to the weak economic conditions;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to set up a fund for providing financial help to encourage talents in schools; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) No such statistics are maintained by the Government. However, Government runs many programmes to help talented students from the rural areas:

(i) The Ministry of Human Resource Development operates the National Merit Scholarship Scheme through States/UTs under which scholarships are provided to meritorious students from rural areas studying in classes IX and X. Besides, scholarships are also provided to all the meritorious students, including students from rural areas, studying from the post-matric to the post-graduate level.

(ii) The Ministry of Human Resource Development seeks to operate, on an average, one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district in the country with the objective to provide good quality modern education to the talented children in rural areas without regard to their family's socio-economic condition. Reservation of seats is provided to rural students, SC/ST and girl students, which is generally in excess of the national average. The scheme is fully funded by the Government of India.

(iii) The Ministry also conducted a National Talent Search Examination to identify and nurture talented students.

(iv) The national curriculum framework adopted for the schools by CBSE provides equal opportunities for the students of all categories to develop their latent potential.

There is no separate proposal to set up a dedicated fund for this purpose.

Foreign Investment

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

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign investment received from each of the investing country during the last three years and measures taken to attract maximum foreign investment in the country;

(b) whether the U.S. has asked Indian Government to buy more US products and services to compensate for the US job lost due to outsourcing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Details of country-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows during April 2002 to February 2005 are indicated in the statement enclosed. The Government has put in place a liberal policy of FDI wherein FDI up to 100% is allowed in most activities under the automatic route. In order to attract FDI in the country, the policy & procedures are reviewed on an ongoing basis, besides undertaking investment promotion & facilitation measures.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Financial Year-wise FDI Inflows from Different Countries

(April 2002 to February 2005)

(Amount in million)

Sl.No.	Country	2002-03 (Apr-Mar)		2003-04 (Apr-Mar)		2004-05 (Apr-Feb)		Cumulative Total (from April 2002 to February 2005)	
		in Rs.	In US$	in Rs.	In US$	in Rs.	In US$	in Rs.	In US$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Mauritius	37657.36	788.06	26086.82	567.1	50019.15	1095.26	113763.3	2450.42
2.	U.S.A.	15038.02	318.61	16582.52	360.49	29056.39	634.3	60676.993	1313.4
3.	Netherlands	8356.81	175.84	22473.17	488.55	10572.12	230.39	41402.1	894.77
4.	Japan	19709.63	411.87	3604.46	78.36	5211.16	113.8	28525.25	604.02
5.	U.K.	16174.54	340.48	7685.35	167.07	4518.63	99.09	28378.52	606.64
6.	Germany	6840.49	143.91	3734.02	81.17	6392.26	139.73	16966.76	364.82
7.	France	5337.16	111.64	1762.71	38.32	5348.13	116.93	12447.99	266.89

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Switzerland	4365.3	92.97	2066.13	44.92	3381.38	73.77	9812.82	211.66
9.	Singapore	1797.33	37.88	1717.31	37.33	2886.64	63.3	6401.28	138.52
10.	Sweden	1135.99	23.94	1873.45	40.73	3381.88	73.53	6391.32	138.19
11.	Korea (South)	1877.42	39.17	1099.39	23.9	1193.22	25.94	4170.04	89.01
12.	Malaysia	864.11	18.07	2173.61	47.25	353.57	7.71	3391.28	73.02
13.	U.A.E.	716.24	15.11	773.31	16.81	1748.79	38.57	3238.34	70.05
14.	Australia	496.75	10.37	913.05	19.85	849.17	18.48	2258.97	48.7
15.	Italy	475.32	10.25	250.04	5.44	1227.96	26.76	1953.32	42.44
16.	Denmark	296.07	6.17	636.28	13.83	964.88	20.77	1887.23	40.78
17.	Cayman Island	541.71	11.29	911.47	19.81	289.4	6.3	1742.58	37.4
18.	Hongkong	244.49	5.09	977.42	21.25	448.46	9.94	1670.36	36.29
19.	Canada	326.87	6.89	464.98	10.11	614.09	13.36	1405.93	30.36
20.	British Virginia	1217.79	25.78	96.13	2.09	65.19	1.42	1379.11	29.28
21.	Indonesia	1006.44	20.97	82.68	1.8	12.79	0.28	1101.92	23.05
22.	Belgium	188.94	3.94	819.82	17.82	24.64	0.54	1033.4	22.3
23.	Oman	243.72	5.08	374.45	8.14	218.63	4.76	836.79	17.98
24.	Moracco	0	0	699.72	15.21	0	0	699.72	15.21
25.	Spain	354.6	7.48	91.49	1.99	252.43	5.49	698.53	14.97
26.	Cyprus	352.93	7.39	162.92	3.54	120.89	2.63	636.75	13.56
27.	Austria	248.02	5.18	92.6	2.01	196.88	4.29	537.49	11.49
28.	Bahrain	0	0	492.52	10.71	0	0	492.52	10.71
29.	Kenya	339.89	7.15	46.2	1	0	0	386.09	8.15
30.	Bahamas	0	0	120.53	2.62	260.37	5.69	380.9	8.31
31.	Bangladesh	112.22	2.36	128.65	2.8	133.92	2.91	374.79	8.07
32.	South Africa	5.7	0.12	117.45	2.55	209.34	4.55	332.49	7.22
33.	Bermuda	164.54	3.43	32.43	0.7	120.73	2.62	317.69	6.76
34.	Saudi Arabia	26.55	0.57	282	6.13	1.98	0.04	310.54	6.75
35.	Luxembourg	64.66	1.36	171.59	3.73	20.87	0.45	257.12	5.55
36.	Finland	227.64	4.9	0.27	0.01	10.74	0.23	238.64	5.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37.	British Isles	0.2	0	0	0	226.82	5.15	227.02	5.16
38.	Tunisia	0	0	0	0	198.4	4.31	198.4	4.31
39.	Thailand	5.6	0.12	56.32	1.22	96.97	2.11	158.89	3.46
40.	Taiwan	4.54	0.1	26.35	0.57	127.63	2.77	158.89	3.46
41.	Kuwait	58.27	1.26	4.2	0.09	72.54	1.58	135.01	2.93
42.	Slovenia	107.36	2.33	0	0	0	0	107.36	2.33
43.	Nigeria	36.96	0.77	45.03	0.98	21.4	0.47	103.38	2.21
44.	Gibraltar	0.22	0	0.13	0	100.79	2.29	101.14	2.3
45.	Ireland	9.07	0.19	49.02	1.07	25.71	0.57	83.8	1.82
46.	Slovakia	0	0	0	0	79.33	1.8	79.33	1.8
47.	Liechtenstein	45.25	0.94	30.6	0.67	0	0	75.85	1.61
48.	Channel Island	7.4	0.16	29.98	0.65	24.52	0.53	61.9	1.34
49.	Korea (North)	42.36	0.88	0	0	15	0.34	57.36	1.22
50.	Isle of Man	23.4	0.49	7.65	0.17	19.96	0.43	51.01	1.09
51.	Sri Lanka	20.32	0.44	0	0	16.79	0.37	37.1	0.8
52.	Liberia	27.5	0.57	0	0	0	0	27.5	0.57
53.	West Indies	15.67	0.33	0	0	10.89	0.24	26.56	0.56
54.	Norway	12.69	0.27	5.8	0.13	6.16	0.14	24.64	0.53
55.	China	2.49	0.05	2.63	0.06	19.13	0.42	24.26	0.63
56.	Cuba	0	0	0.1	0	21.46	0.47	21.56	0.47
57.	Aruba	0	0	17.4	0.38	2.26	0.05	19.65	0.43
58.	Ice Land	11.19	0.23	8	0.17	0	0	19.19	0.41
59.	Russia	0.51	0.01	1.98	0.04	12.14	0.26	14.63	0.32
60.	Israel	0	0	11.17	0.24	3.24	0.07	14.41	0.31
61.	Phillipines	0.21	0	0	0	12.87	0.28	13.08	0.29
62.	New Zealand	6.78	0.14	0.05	0	4.85	0.11	11.68	0.25
63.	Yugoslavia	6.62	0.14	0	0	4.69	0.1	11.31	0.24
64.	Poland	0	0	11	0.24	0	0	11	0.24
65.	Croatia	9.59	0.2	0.1	0	0	0	9.69	0.2
66.	Panama	7.8	0.16	0	0	0.6	0.01	8.4	0.18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
67.	Bulgaria	0	0	0.1	0	6.33	0.14	6.43	0.14
68.	Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	5.75	0.13	5.75	0.13
69.	Malta	0	0	4.2	0.09	0.87	0.02	5.07	0.11
70.	Uganda	0	0	0	0	4.05	0.09	4.05	0.09
71.	Qatar	0	0	0.45	0.01	3.5	0.08	3.95	0.09
72.	Nepal	0	0	0	0	3.49	0.08	4.49	0.08
73.	Mayanmar	0	0	2.34	0.05	0	0	2.34	0.05
74.	Turkey	0	0	1.89	0.04	0.43	0.01	2.32	0.05
75.	Czech Republic	2.15	0.05	0	0	0	0	2.15	0.05
76.	Brazil	0.57	0.01	0	0	1.12	0.02	1.7	0.04
77.	Peru	0	0	0	0	1.64	0.04	1.64	0.04
78.	Hungary	1	0.02	0	0	0	0	1	0.02
79.	Kazakhstan	0	0	0	0	1	0.02	1	0.02
80.	Egypt	0.1	0	0	0	0.73	0.02	0.83	0.02
81.	Ukraine	0.2	0	0	0	0.5	0.01	0.7	0.02
82.	Portugal	0.5	0.01	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.01
83.	Yaman	0	0	0	0	0.36	0.01	0.36	0.01
84.	Jordon	0	0	0	0	0.28	0.01	0.28	0.01
85.	Vietnam	0	0	0.26	0.01	0	0	0.26	0.01
86.	Greece	0	0	0.1	0	0.05	0.015	0	
87.	Lebanon	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0
88.	Maldives	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0
89.	Costa Rica	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0
90.	Columbia	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0.1	0
91.	NRI	1434.28	31.12	725.27	15.77	2950.96	64.63	5110.51	111.51
92.	Unindicated Country	0.56	0.01	0.73	0.02	298.09	6.72	299.39	6.75
93.	Advance of Inflows	19771.23	411.9	18807.56	408.86	39371.71	870.25	77950.5	1691.02
94.	Stock Swapped	840	17.5	1725	37.5	37.5	0	2565	55
95.	RBI's-NRI Schemes	4.9	0.1	0	0	0	0	4.9	0.1
	Grand Total	149,322.9	3,133.85	121,173.6	2,634.21	173.871.6	3,810.99	444,368.0	9,579.04

[English]

Utilization of Central Funds

*635. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments including Maharashtra could not utilize the funds allocated by the Union Government under various Urban Developmental Schemes during the last three years and thereafter till date;

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

(c) whether the funds also remained unutilised due to non-contribution of matching grants by the State Governments;

(d) if so, whether some State Governments had diverted funds under other schemes such as National Slum Development Programme;

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

(f) whether any observations were made by the auditors in this regard; and

(g) if so, the corrective action the Union Government proposes to take to check such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has been implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) and Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (ILCS) in urban areas. In addition, funds under the Additional Central Assistance (ACA) Scheme of National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) were also being released by Ministry of Finance on the recommendations of this Ministry. Statements I to IV indicating the funds released by this Ministry during the last three years and the utilization as reported by the States, is enclosed.

(c) No such incidence has been reported to this Ministry.

(d) to (g) In the draft inspection report for the period 2001-02 and 2002-03 received in this Ministry in March 2004, attention was drawn to the diversion of funds under NSDP by some of the States/UTs. Maharashtra was one among such States, for which diversion of funds for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 was reported. The matter was taken up with the Government of Maharashtra for their comments/clarification. On the basis of available information, this Ministry has furnished a report on 6th December 2004 to the Principal Director of Audit, Economic and Services Ministries.

Statement I

SJSRY

Statewise Central Share Released/Expenditure during 2002-2003, 2003-04 and 2004-05 under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05			
		Central funds actually Released	Expenditure Reported by States/UTs*	Central funds actually Released	Expenditure Reported by States/UTs*	Central funds actually Released	Expenditure Reported by States/UTs as reported upto 31-3-2005*	Cumulative Releases upto 2004-05 (including Opening Balances as on 1-12-1997)	Cumulative Expenditure reported upto 31-3-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	904.15	904.16	1390.19	1334.72	1116.41	0.00	9939.82	8767.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	40.68	7.84	135.15	7.69	31.35	497.81	339.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Assam	0.00	253.94	0.00	669.94	245.07	281.61	2211.43	1934.94
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	425.38	0.00	468.09	0.00	3236.24	1823.14
5.	Chhattisgarh	236.41	230.69	229.65	55.15	119.31	0.00	1136.5	766.76
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	222.9	150.69
7.	Gujarat	1717.07	335.54	260.19	170.04	164.36	117.36	6341.78	4121.13
8.	Haryana	238.39	116.99	569.95	435.52	668.47	261.07	2350.03	1658.97
9.	Himachal Pradesh	63.64	26.13	32.58	60.09	2.17	30.16	632.57	579.68
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	62.98	98.72	30.41	106.20	128.17	20.26	983.93	876.02
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	268.74	0
12.	Karnataka	668.68	587.38	577.46	985.44	1165.15	465.45	8236.96	7395.39
13.	Kerala	301.99	301.99	610.50	271.21	554.95	0.00	3372.32	2478.067
14.	Madhya Pradesh	683.93	1028.03	818.32	687.70	931.49	382.85	9291.98	8231.1186
15.	Maharashtra	618.73	1875.47	322.56	1335.80	1508.68	414.34	10495.78	9170.07
16.	Manipur	0.00	129.12	0.00	184.46	0.00	0.00	657.97	425.27735
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	434.75	328.1
18.	Mizoram	105.15	103.47	522.79	411.68	491.04	0.00	1711.51	985.46
19.	Nagaland	68.78	43.87	1.90	59.67	34.06	26.99	588.4	568.04836
20.	Orissa	381.48	232.00	0.00	291.61	48.91	105.69	2266.56	2363.02
21.	Punjab	67.38	26.03	0.00	199.77	0.00	75.78	1320.58	1541.77
22.	Rajasthan	402.53	233.62	122.96	151.86	256.29	92.39	3799.72	3201.98
23.	Sikkim	31.20	35.89	163.21	34.62	0.00	84.23	375.07	307.58
24.	Tamil Nadu	751.22	751.22	648.58	270.09	511.69	25.58	9143.16	8278.561
25.	Tripura	114.31	38.14	354.26	146.10	352.18	163.74	1460.23	926.99
26.	Uttaranchal	16.33	92.22	46.27	80.80	160.31	0.00	486.63	275.54
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1671.76	1297.19	1571.74	1732.80	2622.61	1479.67	16566.22	13994.17
28.	West Bengal	501.66	531.25	883.26	739.08	424.02	645.94	5591.43	5195.26
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	77.76	0.00	31.97	0.00	70.77	361.49	279.14
30.	Chandigarh	269.09	20.75	278.37	73.90	28.64	32.00	783.2	174.86
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23.91	90.87	14.63	69.29	0.00	7.35	369.11	305.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	5.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	243.28	42.1
33.	Delhi	0.00	12.30	0.00	21.09	0.00	4.16	430.14	100.85
34.	Pondicherry	191.00	109.69	191.00	55.14	191.00	95.01	1036.48	436.06
	Total	10091.77	9630.45	10074.00	10800.89	12200.70	4913.74	106844.72	88033.752

*Expenditure reported in any year may not be against the releases made in that year but it is expenditure against total cumulative availability of funds.

Statement II

VAMBAY

Statewise Details of Central Funds Released and Utilisation Certificates Received

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Funds released in 2002-03	UCs received	Funds released in 2003-04	UCs received	Funds released in 2004-05	UCs received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5535.437	841.860	5987.433	133.370	3492.490	0.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.000	0.000
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.000
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.000	0.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	529.410	166.260	423.470	0.00	0.000	
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.000
7.	Gujarat	3089.000	273.550	13.480	0.000	451.200	0.000
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	666.080	0.00	0.000	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	38.320	0.000	157.930	0.000	64.25000	0.000
11.	Jharkhand	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	718.800	0.000
12.	Karnataka	2042.600	1967.600	3999.580	1704.800	406.000	0.000
13.	Kerala	2389.650	1667.950	148.680	0.000	200.000	0.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	934.780	343.320	268.700	230.970	376.000	0.000
15.	Maharashtra	845.600	758.560	5334.967	1725.470	13244.970	0.000
16.	Manipur	7.875	7.875	250.400	0.000	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Mizoram	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
19.	Nagaland	9.000	9.000	185.830	47.250	6.200	0.000
20.	Orissa	61.200	47.350	99.880	2.200	16.400	0.000
21.	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Rajasthan	900.000	692.600	93.480	0.000	650.000	0.000
23.	Sikkim	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
24.	Tamil Nadu	2846.500	2846.500	2146.480	1573.000	4705.630	0.000
25.	Tripura	144.978	106.953	278.080	0.000	0.000	0.000
26.	Uttaranchal	160.150	0.000	263.680	0.000	0.000	0.000
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1108.880	1102.810	1912.480	106.200	1991.950	0.000
28.	West Bengal	1191.650	442.160	172.890	64.730	470.200	0.000
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
30.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Daman and Diu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
33.	Delhi	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
34.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.000	90.680	0.000	123.600	0.000
	Total	21835.030	11274.348	23794.200	5587.990	26935.690	0.000

Statement III

ILCS

State/UT-wise Central Assistance Released and UCs Pending under Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme

(Amount Rs. in Lacs)

State	Release 2002-03$	Release 2003-04	Release 2004-05	U.C.s due*	Amount of UCs Received	Amount of UCs Pending**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	410.58	782.12	0	6277.25	5165.99	1111.26
Assam	—	—	0	295.7	41.01	254.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	—	—	0	106.75	0	106.75
Chhattisgarh	108.65	29.5	56.99	165.71	131.79	0
Goa	—	—	0	0	0	0
Haryana	—	—	0	1063.8	289.99	773.81
Jammu and Kashmir	—	_	0	215.98	34.38	181.6
Jharkhand	—	—	0	19.98	0	19.98
Karnataka	—	—	0	669.33	669.33	0
Kerala	—	—	0	69.93	69.08	0.85
Madhya Pradesh	1978.58	—	0	2623.91	2603.79	0
Maharashtra	49.62	—	0	1084.32	659.69	424.63
Manipur	15.46	—	0	105.15	73.37	31.78
Meghalaya	—	—	0	32.63	16.4	16.23
Orissa	—	—	0	315.8	60.72	255.08
Punjab	—	—	0	2055.94	2055.94	0
Rajasthan	0	60.45	0	2445.26	1954.48	490.78
Tamilnadu	—	—	0	575.21	545.57	29.64
Tripura	58.79	—	0	176.36	173.26	0
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	0	4455.06	1909.23	2545.83
Uttaranchal	271.24	123.82	47.84	287.29	135.91	0
West Bengal	36.84	136.66	0	3818.79	3109.77	709.02
Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	0	16.5	0	16.5
Total	2929.76	1132.55	104.83	26876.65	19,699.70	7176.95

*Since inception till date

**Amount of UCs pending against total releases made since inception of the scheme (in 1989-90).

$Release by M/o Urban Development.

Statement IV

NSLRS

State/UT wise Central Assistance Released and UCs Pending under National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total UCs Received#	Total UCs Pending*
Andhra Pradesh	29.67	0.00	0.00	23.87	31.91
Assam	0.00	1.63	0.00	5.82	1.68
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.27
Gujarat	0.00	3.74	0.00	0.00	30.61
Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.06	8.31
Himachal Pradesh	2.40	3.09	0.00	5.51	3.11
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03
Karnataka	8.88	0.00	12.19	22.80	6.33
Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	1.25	1.37	107.16	10.59
Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.86	19.36
Orissa	0.00	2.85	0.00	11.33	8.28
Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.63
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.48
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.80
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	5.37	0.00	205.98	21.77
West Bengal	0.00	1.60	0.00	3.92	3.31
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	4.30
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0363	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03
Chhattisgarh	0.00	1.89	0.00	0.00	16.89
Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.85
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Total	40.95	21.41	13.56	424.33	309.18

#The UCs received against the total releases made to the State since the inception of the scheme in 1991-92.

*The UCs pending against the total releases made to the State since the inception of the scheme in 1991-92.

Statement V

(Position as on 31.3.2005)

National Slum Development Programme

Position of Releases during 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05 and

Cumulative Position of Receipt of Utilization Certificates from the States

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of States	Releases 2002-03	Releases 2003-04	Releases 2004-05	Total ACA Released since 1996	Total UCs Received Since inception 1996	Amount for which UCs due
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3389.00	3389.00	6581.00	28741.89	18868.89	9873.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	104.00	104.00	68.79	666.52	602.70	63.82
3.	Assam	0.00	219.61	563.41	1825.82	971.21	854.61
4.	Bihar	1683.00	1683.00	3563.00	15395.92	10312.80	5083.12
5.	Chhattisgarh	411.00	411.01	883.00	2573.01	1485.27	1087.74
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	281.99	105.72	176.27
7.	Gujarat	1908.00	1860.89	2253.91	17148.80	12578.89	4569.91
8.	Haryana	536.00	536.00	1047.00	5018.00	3588.94	1429.06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	76.53	0.00	144.00	696.18	552.18	144.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	687.00	687.00	934.00	5223.49	3969.45	1254.04
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	2806.38	0.00	2806.38
12.	Karnataka	2061.50	2061.00	3622.00	19127.82	15505.32	3622.50
13.	Kerala	972.00	972.00	2083.00	8841.68	5965.23	2876.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1568.00	1568.00	3359.00	16753.50	12140.98	4612.52
15.	Maharashtra	5500.00	5500.00	10219.00	41769.58	30620.87	1148.71
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	124.28	496.06	366.06	130.00
17.	Meghalaya	15.43	104.00	99.57	573.55	354.55	219.00
18.	Mizoram	104.00	104.00	100.00	860.00	860.00	0.00
19.	Nagaland	104.00	104.00	100.00	658.55	480.55	178.00
20.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	921.00	3525.00	2314.00	1211.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	3679.39	1413.71	2265.68
22.	Rajasthan	1402.00	1402.00	3005.00	12773.62	8396.28	4377.34
23.	Sikkim	0.00	104.00	100.00	508.40	360.39	148.01
24.	Tamil Nadu	2570.00	2545.40	5457.00	25065.57	18940.56	6125.01
25.	Tripura	104.00	104.00	112.00	877.00	729.00	148.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4010.00	4010.00	8594.00	39387.95	32903.89	6484.06
27.	Uttaranchal	173.00	173.00	369.00	1079.00	575.87	503.13
28.	West Bengal	3572.00	3572.00	7075.00	34311.00	23664.00	10647.00
	Total states	30950.46	31231.91	61377.96	290665.67	2086.27.31	82038.36

Note: The position of receipt of UCs has been given on Cumulative basis in the above Statement.

Drinking Water

*636. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government contemplate any fresh initiatives to mitigate the drinking water crisis in the urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of proposals sanctioned by the Union Government during the last three years under the 'Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)', State-wise especially to Karnataka;

(d) whether the Union Government has recently received fresh proposals under this programme; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the status thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) (i) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to take up a comprehensive programme of urban renewal, paying particular attention to development and expansion of physical infrastructure like water supply, sewage treatment and sanitation in keeping with the National Common Minimum Programme. For this purpose, National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) for some selected cities and omnibus scheme to be known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) to cover cities/towns other than those covered under NURM, have been proposed. Water supply is an admissible component under both the schemes. Details of NURM and UIDSSMT are being finalized.

(ii) Assistance for setting up desalination plants along the coasts and in cities/towns having problem of brackish water, is also envisaged under the above mentioned schemes.

(iii) Viability Gap Funding is also proposed to support urban infrastructure projects with public-private partnership.

(c) to (e) 584 proposals were sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme during the last three years. State-wise details, including proposals sanctioned for the State of Karnataka are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Schemes Approved under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme during 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(As on 30.4.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total No. of Schemes Approved
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	9
4.	Bihar	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	15
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	45
8.	Haryana	13
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11
11.	Jharkhand	7
12.	Karnataka	16
13.	Kerala	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	64
15.	Maharashtra	17
16.	Manipur	10
17.	Meghalaya	—
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	15
21.	Punjab	7
22.	Rajasthan	31
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	57
25.	Tripura	6
26.	Uttar Pradesh	164
27.	Uttaranchal	11
28.	West Bengal	13
	Total	584

Female Literacy Rate in Tribal Areas

*637. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in the country where Scheduled Tribe female literacy rate is below 10%;

(b) the funds allocated for these districts under various schemes to educate females;

(c) whether the Government has undertaken any study to analyse the reasons for such a low level of literacy rate in those areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the development of these districts; and

(f) the details of different schemes of the Government to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and co-operative societies in the area?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) As per 191 census, there are 136 districts including the districts having Scheduled Tribe population with less than 10% women literacy in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

(b) Under the existing Schemes, the funds are released to the State Governments and Non Governmental organizations on the basis of their proposals. No district-wise allocation and releases are made directly by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has sponsored a Study to Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) during 2004-05 for Analytical Study of educational Schemes in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

(e) The Ministry has been implementing the Schemes of Construction of Hostel for scheduled tribe girls, Establishment of Ashram Schools, Post Matric Scholarship, National Overseas Scholarship, Upgradation of Merit and Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of scheduled tribes for improvement of education among scheduled tribes. The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive Scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for improvement of literacy amongst scheduled tribe women in identified districts. These schemes are to supplement the efforts of the Sectoral Nodal Ministry i.e. Ministry of Human Resources Development and the State Governments.

(f) The Non-Governmental Organizations are provided grants under the schemes of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets; Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of scheduled tribes, pre-examination coaching and Development of Primitive Tribal Groups.

Women and Child Protection Units

*638. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to constitute Women and Child Protection Units at district level in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith salient features of the scheme;

(c) the main function of such units and name of supervising authority for the Women and Child Protection Units at district level; and

(d) the details of the yearly budget for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Violation of Indian Air Space by Bangladesh

*639. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Rifles' Helicopter violated Indian air space on 22 April, 2005;

(b) if so, the counter action taken by the Border Security Force in the matter;

(c) the number of times Bangladesh Rifles Helicopter violated Indian air space during the last three years;

(d) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether a cache of arms have been found at the Bangladesh border;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On 22nd April, 2005 BSF observed at Chotakhil, Tripura that one unidentified helicopter had entered into Indian air space from Bangladesh side. Protest note has been lodged with BDR for air violation. Normally such incidents are taken up by Government of India with Bangladesh Government diplomatically. BSF has also enhanced the surveillance on the border in view of this violation of the air space.

(c) and (d) During the last three years Bangladesh Rifles have violated the Indian air space 6 (six) times. Whenever there is an air violation, a strong protest note is lodged with the BDR. Simultaneously, Indian Air Force is also informed.

(e) to (g) No such case has been noticed during the year 2005. However, during 2004, 12 AK Rifles including 01 US made sophisticated weapons were seized from the Indo-Bangladesh Border.

[English]

Agreement on Border Issue with Pakistan

*640. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF and Pakistani Rangers have signed an agreement to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation on border issue as reported in the Hindu dated April 25, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modalities for the return of persons who inadvertently cross over the border have been worked out during the agreement on the said meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) A scheduled bi-annual Meeting between Border Security Force (BSF) and Pak Rangers was held at Karachi from 21 to 24 April, 2005 to discuss border issues. Both sides agreed to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border.

Both sides agreed to hand over, after verification, persons who inadvertently cross over the border. Both sides also agreed to prevent damage to boundary pillars, carry out practice firing away from zero line and after giving advance information to the other side, ensure that defence construction works do not affect peace and tranquillity on the border, share information on smuggling of narcotics, co-ordinate efforts in checking trans-border crimes, etc.

Enquiry Regarding Sale of Heritage Public School Land

6578. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry was conducted regarding sale of Heritage Public School land at Vasant Kunj, Delhi at nominal rates under the guise of a registered society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have reported that a complaint was received regarding alleged change of hands of the society to which the land in question has been allotted. DDA has called for information regarding the complaint from the Registrar of Societies and has a already initiated inquiries into the membership of the Society. A notice has also been issued for non-compliance of freeship condition.

[Translation]

Physical Education in Schools

6579. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to make physical education compulsory in schools at higher secondary stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps initiated by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Higher secondary stage is a stage of specialization. Students are given options to pursue their interest in the subject of their choice. Those students who have interest in health and physical education will definitely opt for it. They can also go for some of the vocational courses related to health and physical education. Further, one of the 21 Focus Groups constituted by the NCERT for the purpose of curriculum framework renewal is on Health and Physical education that has examined, deliberated and arrived at certain conclusions in respect of this subject area. This group

has recommended this subject area to be optional subject at the higher education stage and a compulsory subject upto secondary stage.

[English]

Misappropriation of Funds for CSIR

6580. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to desaffronise the educational scientific and research institutes;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the misappropriation of funds in CSIR;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action initiated against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) As per information received from the CSIR, no specific case of misappropriation of funds has come to notice.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to desaffronise the educational, scientific and research institutes:

1. A three-Member Committee was constituted by the Government on 12.6.2004 to review the History textbooks. The report of the Committee was considered by the reconstituted Executive Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). It has been decided that from the academic session 2005-06, the earlier History books will be restored with appropriate modifications. However, because of the already advanced stage of the current academic session, it would not be practical to change the textbooks at this stage. An advisory has also since been issued to guide the teachers who will be using the existing textbooks.

2. The NCERT had been asked to take up the revision of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education, which had become due. The NCERT has already set up a National Steering Committee with 31 members under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal to undertake the review of NCFSE.

3. The NCERT had also appointed 23 committee to undertake a quick review of textbooks of all subjects to ascertain that the contents of all textbooks are consistent with the vision and values of Constitution of India and to identify lapses, if any, in the quality of textbooks due to errors of a conceptual, factual or linguistic nature. Reports of all the 23 Committee have been received. NCERT has already initiated necessary action to implement the recommendations of this Committee.

4. All the Autonomous Bodies under the Department have been requested to undertake a review of their activities, which have possibly given rise to the perception of communalization of education and to take suitable corrective measures.

5. The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) has been reconstituted *vide* Resolution dated 6.7.2004 to facilitate wider consultation and concurrence in the federal spirit and a meeting of the Board has been held on 10-11 August, 2004.

6. HRM has also ordered that all recent appointments be scrutinized for corrective action as required, and that the assistance given to NGOs along with instances of denial of assistance to secular institutions like the Gandhian Institute of Studies (by the ICSSR) in the past, be examined. The issue of withholding of financial support to Gandhian Institute of Studies (by ICSSR) has been examined and the Grant-in-aid to the Gandhian Institute of Studies has been released. The Government of U.P. has also been requested to release their matching share.

7. A committee of the CABE has been set up on the subject of "Regulatory Mechanism for the Text books and parallel text books taught in schools outside the Government system" with Prof. Zoya Hassan and Prof. Gopal Guru as Chairpersons. In addition to the above six more

Committees of CABE have been constituted on the subjects of—

(i) "Free and Compulsory Education Bill and other issues related to Elementary Education" under the Chairmanship of Shri Kapil Sibal, MOS Science and Technology;

(ii) "Girls Education and the Common School System" under the Chairmanship of Shri Tarun Gogoi, CM, Assam;

(iii) "Universalisation of Secondary Education" under the Chairmanship of Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari, Education Minister, Rajasthan;

(iv) "Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions" under the Chairmanship of Shri Kanti Bishwas, Education Minister, West Bengal;

(v) "Integration of Culture Education in the School Curriculum" under the Chairmanship of Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy;

(vi) "Financing of Higher and Technical Education" under the Chairmanship of Prof. Bhalchandra Mungeker, Member, Planning Commission.

Task Force for Scientific Research and Training in Universities

6581. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a task force to assess the status of scientific research and training in universities and point out different areas of concern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the task force;

(d) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted to Government by this Task Force; and

(e) the amount sanctioned by the Government for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Central Government, on 22nd March, 2005, has constituted a Task Force for basic scientific research in Universities, consisting of the following:

1. Prof. M.M. Sharma.
2. Prof. G. Mehta, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
3. Dr. Kota Harinarayana, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad.
4. Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, Chennai.
5. Prof. P. Rama Rao, ARCI, Hyderabad.
6. Prof. Ved Prakash, Secretary, UGC.

the terms of reference of the Task Force are:

(i) To make an assessment of the present status of scientific research & training in Universities and to determine the areas of concern.

(ii) To suggest solutions and strategies to retrieve and enhance the excellence of Universities in the area of scientific research and training.

(iii) To make an assessment of the resources required both in physical and financial terms to implement these solutions and its modalities.

(d) The Task Force is likely to submit its report shortly.

(e) No separate amount has been sanctioned for the purpose. However, the expenditure would be incurred on TA/DA of the participants for attending the meetings.

Border Trade Centre

6582. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Border Trade Centre at Markachan, Assam and the details of funds sanctioned aongwith its working arrangement;

(b) whether Government is considering similar Boarder Trade Centre in Nalbani District, Assam which has an international border with Bhutan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A project for the development of the Border Trade Centre at Mankachar in district Dhubri, Assam had been sanctioned under the Critical Infrastructure Balance (CIB) Scheme of the Department of Commerce in 2001-02. The total cost of the project was Rs. 426.00 lakhs. Initially an amount of Rs. 100 lakh had been released to the Government of Assam under the CIB Scheme. The CIB Scheme has since been merged with the Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE) Scheme. The Scheme Government is continuing the project under the State component of the ASIDE Scheme. The Government of Assam has reported that it has spent an amount of Rs. 1.70 crore under the State component of ASIDE Scheme in addition to Rs. 100 lakhs sanctioned earlier by the Government of India under the CIB Scheme.

(b) No such proposal is currently under consideration in the Department of Commerce.

(c) Does not arise.

Raising of Funds by Assam

6583. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two oil majors and other Public Sector Undertakings operating in Assam have offered to raise funds for a new security force in Assam to replace the Assam Tea Plantations Security Force (ATPSF); and

(b) if so, the details thereof including constitution and functions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government has no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Good Governance in Fifth Scheduled Areas

6584. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had undertaken the measures to provide good governance in Fifth Scheduled Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the protective measures adopted and the regulation/Legislations enacted keeping in view the Central and State Law applicability in Scheduled Areas and modifications made to provide good impact and implications?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Safai Karamacharis in NDMC

6585. SHRI BHANUPRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI ASHOK AGRAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under caption "Tham nahin raha hei NDMC mein 350 safai karmiyon ki bharti ka vivad" published in *Navbharat Times* on March 30, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to order CBI probe into it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the candidates belonging to general category have been recruited in place of SCs/STs candidates; and

(e) if so, the action being taken against the officials of the NDMC in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The New Delhi Municipal Council has reported that the matter has been looked into and the individual cases of recruitment mentioned in the newspaper report have been

found to be baseless. 350 Safai Karamacharis were appointed on daily wages in the Health Department after obtaining the sanction of the competent authority and after following the prescribed procedure and existing criteria.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) does not arise.

[English]

I.C.H.R.

6586. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently constituted a new Indian Council of Historical Research Body;

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference;

(c) whether some outgoing members have also been included in the newly constituted council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has issued a Resolution dated March 23, 2005, reconstituting the 'Council'. The composition of the reconstituted Council is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Two persons, namely, Professor K N Panikkar and Professor Rajat K. Ray, who were members on the previous Council, have been renominated by the Government of India on the reconstituted Council.

Statement

Indian Council of Historical Research (I.C.H.R.)

Present composition of the Council

I. **Chairman:** Prof. D N Tripathi (Appointed on 5.2.2004 for a period of 3 years)

II. **18 historians nominated by the Government of India**

1. Prof. Y. Subbarayalu, Department of Epigraphy, Tamil University, Tanjavur (Tamil Nadu).
2. Professor K.N. Panikkar, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
3. Prof. Shireen Moosvi, Chairman, Centre in Advanced Studies in History, Dean. Faculty of Social Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
4. Prof. J.P. Mishra, Department of History, Rani Durgawati University, Jabalpur, M.P.
5. Prof. Suraj Bhan, 1817, Housing Board Colony, Sector-1, Rohtak, Haryana.
6. Prof. Rajjat K. Ray, Department of History, Presidency College, Kolkata.
7. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Director, Khuda Baksh Library, Bankipur, Patna, Bihar.
8. Prof. Barun De, 55/2, Baligunj, Circular Road, Kolkata-700019.
9. Prof. Tamo Mibang, Department of Tribal Studies and Pro-Vice-chancellor, Arunachal University.
10. Prof. David Reid Syiemlieh, Professor of History, NEHU, Shilling-793022, Meghalaya.
11. Prof. K. Paddayya, Director, Deccan College, Pune, Maharashtra.
12. Prof. Mariam Dossal, Department of History, Bombay University, Mumbai.
13. Prof. Ashraf Wani, Department of History, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
14. Prof. Indu Banga, Department of History, Punjab University, Chandigarh.
15. Prof. Shahid Amin, Delhi University.
16. Prof. D.N. Jha, Department of History, University of Delhi, Delhi.
17. Prof. Basudeb Chatterjee, Professor of History, Delhi University.
18. Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Forermly Professor, JNU.

III. Representative of the University Grants Commision.

IV. Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi-110 001.

V. Director-General, National Archives of India, New Delhi-110001

VI. Four persons to represent Government of India:

(i) Secretary, Department of Secondary & Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development of His/her nominee.

(ii) Secretary, Department of Culture of His/her nominee.

(iii) Financial Adviser, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(iv) Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Indian Museum, 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700016.

VII. Member-Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001.

Bus between Amritsar and Lahore

6587. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start more buses between Amritsar and Lahore; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken for the safety/security of passengers travelling in these buses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) India and Pakistan have agreed to start a bus service between Amritsar and Lahore/Nankana Sahib and the modalities including the measures for the safety and security of the passengers travelling in the these buses are being worked out.

[Translation]

Assistance under Book Bank Scheme

6588. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing loan, grants and other types of financial assistance to schools under the Book Bank Scheme for the Scheduled Tribes students; and

(b) the amount of funds, loan, grants and other financial assistance provided during each of the last three years till date under this scheme along with beneficiaries scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering a Book Bank scheme (which is now a part of Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme) for STs. Under this scheme the Ministry gives grants-in-aid (and not loans) to State Governments/UT Administrations for setting up of Book Banks for providing books to the ST students studying in Medical, Engineering, Agriculture, Law & Veterinary Degree Colleges and institutes imparting CA/MBA, Management Courses & Polytechnics where ST students receiving scholarships under the PMS Scheme are studying.

The courses at the school level are not covered for the purpose of "Book Banks".

Grants-in-aid are provided on receipt of complete proposals in all respects like Utilization Certificates of previous years grants, details of sets of books and number of beneficiaries and availability of State Share.

(b) The grants-in-aid released for setting up of these Book Banks alongwith the number of beneficiaries during the last three years (State-wise) is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Grants-in-aid Released under the Scheme of Book Bank for STs

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Amount Released	Beneficiaries	Amount Released	Beneficiaries	Amount Released	Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.2	3496	—	—	Nil	Nil
2.	Assam	0	0	3	152	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Gujarat	10.25	484	—	—	Nil	Nil
4.	Karnataka	20	1398	20	1536	Nil	Nil
5.	Rajasthan	5.2	960	5.6	2761	Nil	Nil
6.	Tamil Nadu	2.64	180	—	—	Nil	Nil
7.	Tripura	1.49	93	—	—	Nil	Nil
8.	Chhattisgarh	8.208	507	7.3	478	Nil	Nil
9.	Madhya Pradesh	30.13	2177	18.09	1876	Nil	Nil
10.	West Bengal	2.8457	170	—	—	Nil	Nil
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	386	—	—	Nil	Nil
12.	Orissa	5.02	326	5.62	350	Nil	Nil
13.	Uttaranchal	—	—	2.42	186	Nil	Nil
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1.4	87	Nil	Nil
	Total	139.9837	10177	63.43	7426	Nil	Nil

[English]

Status of Women

6589. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference on the status of women was held at New York recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of representatives from various countries and organizations attended the conference;

(c) whether the programmes taken in the Conference at Beijing in 1995 on the rights of women in the areas of equality, development and peace were reviewed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove the injustice and inequality meted to women over the years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at New York from February 28—March 11, 2005. Forty-five countries, including India, are members of the Commission at present. The Indian delegation was led by Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Smt. Kanti Singh. The number of representatives from various countries and organizations who attended the session is not available as yet.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Final Report of the 49th Session of the Commission has not been released so far.

(e) The problem of injustice and inequality meted out to women is being addressed through various legislative measures, policies and programmes of the Government in various Ministries and Departments, the details of which are available in the Annual Reports of these Ministries/ Departments as laid down on the Table of the House from time to time.

Regulatory Authority

6590. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the federation of construction companies has demanded for setting up of a Regulatory Authority for construction materials prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. No such request has been received.

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

Vacant Posts in Navodaya Vidyalayas

6591. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of various categories are lying vacant in Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in the country as on date, State-wise, Region-wise;

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(c) the details of criteria followed to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) Vacancies in Navodaya Vidyalayas existing as on date are expected to be filled up during the current academic session.

(c) Appointment to various posts in the Navodaya Vidyalayas are made as per provisions contained in the Recruitment Rules of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

Statement

Sl.No.	Region	State	Vacancies				
			Principal	Vice Principal	PGTs	TGTs	Non-teaching Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	15	6	13	24	230
2.		Chhattisgarh	5	1	4	5	68
3.		Orissa	11	0	2	42	129
4.	Chandigarh	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	20	31
5.		Jammu and Kashmir	10	0	15	43	47
6.		Punjab	4	4	12	17	73
7.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	1	3	6	12	48
8.		Karnataka	0	1	5	29	119
9.		Kerala	1	0	4	5	29
10.		UT	1	0	1	8	22
11.	Jaipur	Delhi	0	1	1	2	8
12.		Haryana	6	2	9	29	76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.		Rajasthan	5	9	8	37	120
14.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	26	3	6	4	361
15.		Uttaranchal	4	2	0	18	29
16.	Patna	Bihar	11	4	0	14	79
17.		Jharkhand	11	2	2	3	61
18.		West Bengal	5	0	0	17	31
19.	Pune	Maharashtra	4	2	16	6	116
20.		Gujarat	9	3	13	31	113
21.		Goa	0	0	0	5	4
22.		UT	2	0	2	3	14
23.	Shillong	Assam	4	8	13	48	113
24.		Arunachal Pradesh	8	0	2	18	42
25.		Meghalaya	5	0	2	15	20
26.		Manipur	4	4	5	10	24
27.		Nagaland	4	1	2	7	29
28.		Sikkim	0	0	1	1	10
29.		Tripura	1	2	3	7	22
30.		Mizoram	1	0	0	2	4
		Total	161	59	149	482	2072

[Translation]

Demolition of Resettlement Colony

6592. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has decided to dislocate the people settled by itself 18 years ago at Govindpuri Transit Camp;

(b) if so, whether the Government also proposes to demolish all other resettlement colonies of Delhi although the residents are paying rent on regular basis and possess allotment papers;

(c) if not, the reasons for discrimination against the Govindpuri Transit Camp;

(d) whether the officials of DDA have furnished the untrue/misleading statement in the court about the matter;

(e) if so, the action taken against them;

(f) whether the Government proposes to provide any relief to the residents of the above transit camp;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (h) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that Hon'ble Delhi High Court *vide* order dated 22.9.2004 in WP (C) No. 6324/ 2003 and further order dated 4.4.2005 in CM No. 14228/ 2004 in LPA No. 1063/2004 directed DDA to remove the construction/encroachment from the District Park and neighbour-hood parks in the Kalkaji Extension area including the Govindpuri Transit Camp. Residents of the Transit Camp have moved application against demolition vide WP (C) No. 6916-33/2005 and the matter is sub-judice.

Promotion of Indian Knowledge Scientifically

6593. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing arrangement for study and research on Indian system of astrology, preparation of Calendar and Samvats;

(b) whether there is any plan to promote Indian traditional knowledge scientifically;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these disciplines are being taught in Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati and Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi or any other Government education centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a scheme for setting up of Department of Jyotir Vigyan in the Universities to impart knowledge in the Astrology and to add a new dimension for research in the fields of Hindi, Mathematic, Vastushastra, Meteorological Studies, Agriculture Sciences, Space Sciences, etc. was introduced during the IXth Plan period. Proposals were invited from the universities and twenty Universities were selected. Out of these Universities, seven have started Departments of Jyotir Vigyan.

(b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), no new proposals during the Xth Plan have been invited.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) According to the information furnished by Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, it imparts instructions and conducts research in the Indian system of astrology, preparation of calendar and Samvats. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi is conducting courses in astrology.

[English]

Agricultural Land Vested into Gram Sabha

6594. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 177 dated March 1, 2005 and state the quantum of agricultural land vested into Gram Sabha during the last three years village-wise and steps taken to take over the possession of the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assistance by Voluntary Agencies

6595. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the voluntary agencies help the Government in evolving a new strategy to tackle mass poverty and the consequent growing levels of unemployment; and

(b) if so, the strategies evolved by the Government to remove deficiencies in implementing a number of anti-

poverty programmes with the coordination of voluntary agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Government of India (GOI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed an agreement in October 2003 to collaborate on the project entitled "National Strategy for Urban Poor". The Development objective of the project is to support adoption of a new national strategy for urban poverty reduction at the Centre and the States, based on informed debate, local/international experience and research findings on the causes and potential responses to urban poverty. The project would support a combination of initiatives like research and network building for dialogue on policies and regulations and a facility to support community associations and NGOs for actual ground level work through two distinct but mutually reinforcing components, *viz.*, national component and National Capital Region (NCR) component. The GOI-UNDP project provides for pilot initiatives involving NGOs, and other Voluntary Agencies.

[Translation]

Pre-matric Scholarship to ST Students

6596. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide economic assistance to States for the pre-matric scholarship to the Scheduled Tribes children;

(b) if so, by when the scheme is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is already implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships which is an occupation based scheme applicable for all Indian nationals which *inter-alia* include ST population. The scheme is implemented for all the children whose parents are engaged in occupation like scavenging, tanning and flaying.

Indo-Iran Trade

6597. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade agreement has been signed between the Union Government and the Government of Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of items being exported to Iran from India at present;

(d) whether the trade agreement signed between both the countries have increased the possibilities of import-export of other items also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There is an Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of India and Government of Iran signed on 10th April, 2001.

(b) The Agreement is intended to expand, strengthen and diversify the trade relations and economic cooperation between the two countries on the basis of equity, mutual respect and reciprocal benefits.

(c) Some of the major items being exported at present to Iran are: petroleum products; primary & semi-finished iron & steel; machinery and instruments; processed minerals; drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals; inorganic, organic, agro-chemicals; and manufactures of metals;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The volume and basket of trade between India and Iran is expanding constantly. The total trade between the two countries has increased from US$ 438.20 million in 2000-01, to US $ 536.85 in 2001-02, to US$ 913.03 in 2002-03 and to US$ 1,184.94 million in 2003-04.

Banana Zone

6598. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have declared Jalgaon (Maharashtra) as Banana zone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its achievement in physical and financial terms reported during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agri Export Zone (AEZ)) for banana covering Jalgaon and some other districts in Maharashtra was set up in September 2004. The AEZ envisages an investment of Rs. 13.45 crores and is expected to result in incremental exports of Rs. 52.55 crores over a period of 5 years. No achievement in physical or financial terms has been reported from the AEZ so far.

[English]

Construction of Flyovers by DDA

6599. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flyovers constructed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Delhi so far;

(b) whether the Union Government has any proposal to beautify those flyovers;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked therefor; and

(d) the allocation of funds made in 2005-06 for constructing flyovers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has completed the construction of 14 flyovers as deposit works of the Government of NCT of Delhi. Besides, DDA has taken up construction of one flyover from Dwarka Dwar (Sector 1-7) to Delhi-Rewari Railway line through Palam Bazar from its own funds.

(b) and (c) DDA has informed that landscaping work below flyovers is carried out as per the approved plans for the flyovers, and the cost of landscaping is included in the overall project cost of each flyover.

(d) The DDA has kept a provision of Rs. 25 crores in the budget estimates of 2005-2006 for construction of flyovers by DDA, out of its own funds.

Urban Mapping

6600. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to prepare Urban Maps for towns having population of less than 1,00,000 (1 lakh);

(b) whether the Nagar Parishads are proposed to be provided with financial assistance to prepare Urban maps;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of towns for which aerial survey was carried out during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether a proposal for aerial survey of Kasad town in Satara District of Maharashtra is pending before the Union Government for a very long time; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Urban Development is a State subject. It is, therefore, for State Governments to prepare urban maps as per their requirement. Central Government, however, launched a pilot scheme *viz.* Urban Mapping Scheme in the 8th Five Year Plan for mapping of 53 towns selected in consultation with State Governments. Of these, 16 towns were having population of less than one lakh as per 1991 census. A list of these towns is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Under the Urban Mapping Scheme, aerial survey was carried out during the last three years for 28 towns. A list of such towns is enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

Towns with less than 1,00,000 (1 lakh) population mapped under Urban Mapping Scheme

Sl.No.	Towns	State	Population 1991*
1.	Ratnagiri	Maharashtra	56529
2.	Veraval	Gujarat	96915
3.	Valsad	Gujarat	70823
4.	Nainital	Uttar Pradesh	29837
5.	Nagappattinam	Tamilnadu	86489
6.	Karaikkudi	Tamilnadu	71965
7.	Tindivanam	Tamilnadu	61579
8.	Tiruchendur	Tamilnadu	27420
9.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	16545
10.	Panaji	Goa	53823
11.	Hamirpur (HP)	Himachal Pradesh	12544
12.	Ambala Sadar	Haryana	90872
13.	Nalagarh	Himachal Pradesh	7448
14.	Kohima	Nagaland	51418
15.	Muktsar	Punjab	66383
16.	Gangtok	Sikkim	25024

*1991 Census population has been taken to determine the town below 1 lakh as the Aerial survey for these towns had been initiated before 2001 survey.

Statement II

The State-wise list of towns mapped through aerial survey during last 3 years

Sl.No.	State	Sl.No.	Town
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	1.	Mangalore
		2.	Mysore
2.	West Bengal	3.	Asansol
		4.	Siliguri
3.	Madhya Pradesh	5.	Bhopal
		6.	Indore
4.	Rajasthsan	7.	Ajmer
		8.	Bikaner
5.	Haryana	9.	Ambala
		10.	Gurgaon
6.	Punjab	11.	Muktsar
		12.	Moga
7.	Meghalaya	13.	Shilong
8.	Sikkim	14.	Gangtok
9.	Chandigarh	15.	Chandigarh
10.	Assam	16.	Guwahati
11.	Kerala	17.	Kochi
		18.	Thiruvananthapuram
12.	Bihar	19.	Gaya
		20.	Chapra
13.	Pondicherry	21.	Pondicherry
14.	Goa	22.	Panaji
15.	Himachal Pradesh	23.	Hamirpur
		24.	Nalagarh
16.	Tripura	25.	Agartala
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	26.	Itanagar
18.	Mizoram	27.	Aizwal
19.	Nagaland	28.	Kohima

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

6601. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the export of iron-ore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether deposits of iron-ore in the country are insufficient; and

(d) the impact of this ban on the foreign trade or iron-ore by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Iron-ore resources are adequate to meet the domestic demand.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Madras Export Processing Zone

6602. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work done by the Madras Export processing zone during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government is planning to develop the Madras EPZ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Madras Export Processing Zone has been converted into Madras Special Economic Zone (MSEZ) in January, 2003. The infrastructure development works undertaken in the MSEZ during the last three years include construction of 26 modules in standard design factory building, installation of waste water treatment plant, improvement of water supply and common facilities in the Zone.

(b) and (c) Infrastructure works in Special Economic Zones are undertaken from time to time based on the requirements of the Zone for promoting exports. Some of such activities proposed to be taken up in MSEZ towards this direction include setting up of common effluent treatment plant for garment units and strengthening of power supply system.

NDMC Schools

6603. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schools run by NDMC, education department are still following the terminal examination and pass/fail system for primary class which has since been abolished by CBSE; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The New Delhi Municipal Council has reported that the Central Board of Secondary Education has issued an advisory circular dated 15th September, 2004 regarding continuous and comprehensive evaluation with no pass-fail criteria in primary classes up to class-V. However, Education Department of New Delhi Municipal Council follows the rules and regulations prescribed by the Directorate of Education of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, which lay down the terminal examination and pass-fail system for primary classes as per promotion rules circulated vide order dated 8th September, 2001.

(b) As and when the Directorate of Education of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi amends the promotion rules, the same will be implemented by the Education of Department of New Delhi Municipal Council.

Pending Proposals of Uttar Pradesh

6604. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh are pending for approval with the Union Government under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the reasons for not approving the said proposals; and

(c) by when the same are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) During 2004-05, under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Government of Uttar Pradesh requested for additional funds of Rs. 26.25 crore. Keeping in view the availability of funds, additional funds for Rs. 12.00 crore, over and above the tentative allocation of Rs. 1422.61 lakhs, were released to the State of Uttar Pradesh during 2004-05.

Alternative Sites for Ramlila

6605. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has given an undertaking on January 10, 2005 before the Delhi High Court that it would find out alternative sites for Ramlila in place of Baba Khimman Singh Park, Ashok Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi within three months;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard at present;

(c) whether a portion of the park is being utilised as playground for cricket; and

(d) if so, the number of trees cut and the steps taken to get it free from unauthorised occupation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that various alternative sites for Ramlila have been inspected and discussions held with local representatives before finalization of the site.

(c) The DDA has indicated that no portion of the park has been earmarked as playground. However, sometimes the children of nearby area play cricket in the park which is immediately checked by DDA staff.

(d) It has been informed that no trees have been cut in this park and there is no unauthorised occupation of any portion of the park.

Salt Pan Land, Mumbai

6606. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has to take possession of Salt Pan Land of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the developers Association has approached the Government in connection with above land;

(d) if so, the names of the persons, Builders and Association; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Salt Pan lands in Mumbai are under the possession of the Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(c) and (d) The following organizations/individuals have approached the Ministry of Urban Development in connection with the utilization of Salt Pan lands:

i. Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry.

ii. M/s Mahesh Garodia and others.

iii. Lok Housing & Construction Ltd.

The Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion have informed that the following persons/Associations have approached them in connection with Salt Pan lands in Mumbai:

i. Bai Coomi Pirozsha Bhartania/Nadirsha Pirozsha & Company, lessee of Shepherd and Shepherd Annexe Salt Works.

ii. Shri Garodia, lessee of Arthur and Jenkins Salt Works.

iii. Shri Chheda of Pestomsagar Salt Works (Now Chheda Nagar)

iv. Lok Housing Construction Ltd. of Hanuman Salt Works etc.

(e) The issue of utilization of Salt Pan Lands in Mumbai has not been finalized by the Government.

Construction of School Building from Foreign Assistance

6607. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UK grant of Rs. 1555 crore under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has since been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the amount provided to Rajasthan therefrom for construction of school buildings with basic amenities in rural/tribal dominated areas of the State;

(c) whether some social organizations are engaged in creating infrastructure for setting up educational institutions in rural areas to the children of BPL families of Rajasthan and the State Government has also allotted lands in the name of these organizations for the purpose;

(d) if so, whether the Union/State Government proposes to give financial assistance to the said organisations for construction of school buildings alongwith basic amenities out of the said grant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK is partially funding the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme to the tune of Rs. 1555 crores alongwith the World Bank and the European Commission, who have altogether pledged about Rs. 4700 crores from 2003-04 to 2006-07. These funds are received from the external funding agencies on a reimbursement basis. So far Rs. 425.942 crore has been received from the DFID for SSA.

SSA funds are released by the Government of India to State Implementation Societies set up by the State Governments. Rs. 235 crores has been released to Rajasthan in 2004-05 as central share of SSA. In Rajasthan, School buildings and other school infrastructure are created through School Development and Management Committee (SDMC).

[Translation]

Employment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh

6608. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for creating employment opportunities in urban areas under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) During 2004-05, under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Government of Madhya Pradesh requested for additional funds of Rs. 5.88 crore for the Self-employment component (USEP) of the Scheme. Keeping in view the availability of funds, State Government was released Rs. 3.00 crore additional funds during 2004-05. No proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the current year 2005-06.

[English]

Bill from Karnataka

6609. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent "The Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Bill, 2004" to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has accorded its approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the approval is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Certain clarifications on the provisions of the Bill have been sought from the Government of Karnataka.

US Report on Terrorism

6610. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has added the ULFA and the CPI (Maoist) in its 2004 Country Reports on Terrorism;

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

(c) the names of the other organizations banned by the US in its recent report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) According to available information, United States of America (USA) has added United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and Communist Party of India (Maoist) as 'Other Selected Terrorist Organizations' in its Country Report on Terrorism in April, 2005. Details of the banned organizations in the above Report are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Terrorist Groups mentioned in US State Department Country Report on Terrorism.

Foreign Terrorist Organizations

1. 17 November
2. Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
3. Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)
4. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade
5. Ansar al-Islam (AI)
6. Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
7. Asbat-al-Ansar
8. Aum Shinrikyo (Aum)
9. Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
10. Communist Party of Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)
11. Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)
12. Gama'a al-Islamiyya (IG)
13. HAMAS
14. Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)
15. Hizaballah
16. Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
17. Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM)
18. Jemaah Islamiya Organization (JI)
19. Al-Jihad (AJ)
20. Kahane Chai (Kach)
21. Kongra-Gel (KGK)
22. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LT)
23. Lashakar-I-Jhangvi (LJ)
24. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
25. Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)
26. Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MEK)
27. National Liberation Army (ELN)
28. Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)
29. Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
30. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
31. Popular Front for the Liberation of Plestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)
32. Al-Qa'ida
33. Real IRA (RIRA)
34. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
35. Revolutionary Nuclei (RN)
36. Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C)
37. Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)
38. Shining Path (SL)
39. Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayan (QJBR)
40. United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC)

Other Selected Terrorist Organizations

41. Al-Badhr Mujahedin (al-Badr)
42. Al-Ittihad al-Islami (AIAI)
43. Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB)
44. Anti-Imperialist Territorial Nuclei (NTA)
45. Cambodian Freedom Fighters (CFF)
46. Communist Party of India (Maoist)
47. Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
48. Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)
49. East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)
50. First of October Antifascist Resistance Group (GRAPO)
51. Harakat ul-Jihad-I-Islami (HUJI)
52. Harakat Ul-Jihad-I-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B)
53. Hizb-I Islami Gulbuddin (HIG)
54. Hizbul-Mujahedin (HM)
55. Irish National Liberation Army (INLA)
56. Irish Republican Army (IRA)
57. Islamic Army of Aden (IAA)
58. Islamic Great East Raiders-Front (IBDA-C)
59. Islamic International Peacekeeping Brigade (IIPB)
60. Islamic Jihad Group (IJG)
61. Jamiat ul-Mujahedin (JUM)
62. Japanese Red Army (JRA)
63. Kumpulan Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM)
64. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)
65. Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF)
66. Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (GICM)
67. New Red Brigades/Communist Combatant Party (BR/PCC)
68. People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD)
69. Red Hand Defenders (RHD)
70. Revoluntionary Proletarian Initiative Nuclei (NIPR)
71. Revolutionary Struggle (RS)
72. Riyadus-Salikhin Reconnaissance and Sabotage Battalion of Chechen Martyrs (RSRSBCM)
73. Sipah-i-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP)
74. Special Purpose Islamic Regiment (SPIR)
75. Tunisian Combatant Group (TCG)
76. Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)
77. Turkish Hizballah
78. Ulster Defense Association/Ulster Freedom Fighters (UDA/UFF)
79. Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)
80. United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)

Demolition of Unauthorised Constructions

6611. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its order dated March 13, 2002 has directed the DDA/MCD, Government of NCT Delhi to demolish all such unauthorized constructions that have come up on the NH-8 in violation of NHAI norms lest they assume alarming proportions;

(b) if so, whether the Radisson Hotel (Mahipalpur, Delhi) situated on NH-8 has come up in violation of NHAI norms and is constructed within 50 meters of the National Highway No. 8; and

(c) if so, the reasons for granting permission for constructing a Hotel by NHAI authorities and the action has been taken/proposed by the Government to demolish the said Hotel and other unauthorized constructions situated on NH-8 ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) DDA and MCD have reported that Hon'ble Delhi High Court has directed to remove unauthorized constructions that have come up on the NH-8. DDA has passed 137 demolition orders against unauthorized structures along NH-8 falling under its jurisdiction.

Department of Road Transport & Highways have reported that all unauthorized constructions within the Right of Way on the NH-8 in the state of Delhi have been removed.

(b) and (c) Department of Road Transport & Highways has reported that Raddison Hotel is situated beyond the Right of Way (60 meters for Delhi).

Infrastructure Support

6612. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Union and the State Governments for providing infrastructural support such as establishment of Integrated Cargo Handling, Cold Storage, facilities and concessional credit particularly in U.P., State-wise;

(b) the number of meetings of buyer-seller organised in various states and concessional credit provided for export promotion during last two years; and

(c) the quantum of increase in export of apples and other fruits from Uttar Pradesh in comparison to last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme financial support is provided to State Governments including Uttar Pradesh for implementing infrastructure projects directly linked to exports. An amount of Rs. 53.59 Crore has been released to Uttar Pradesh under the scheme till date. The selection of projects under the ASIDE Scheme for different sectors including Cargo Handling. Cold Storage etc is made by a State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The details of amount spent by the State Governments on establishment of integrated Cargo Handling. Cold Storage facilities, Concessional Credit, etc. are not centrally maintained.

(b) Buyer-Seller meets for various kinds of products are organized on a regular basis by different Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. Centralized data on the number of meets and concessional credit provided is not maintained.

(c) As per information furnished by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Only Mangoes are exported from Uttar Pradesh. 125 MT and 60 MT of Mangoes had been exported in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

[Translation]

Promotion of Marble Industry

6613. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the export policy to promote marble industry in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to give any exemption for the import of marble in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the import of marble would have adverse effect on marble industry of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Export of marble is free and does not require any licence as per export policy contained in Schedule-2 of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export & Import Items 2004-2009.

(b) to (e) Finished marble blocks/tiles, as covered under Chapter 68 of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-2009, are freely importable and do not require any licence. However, India is maintaining import restrictions on rough and crude marble. Accordingly, import of crude or roughly trimmed marble, as covered under Chapter 25 of the ITC (HS), which was earlier allowed against surrender of SIL from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2001 with a value cap of US$ 300 per MT and above for rough marble Blocks and US$ 450 and above for slabs, has been restricted for imports from 1.4.2001. With this restriction in place, Government is committed to protect the interest of the domestic industry.

[English]

Subsidy on Cash Crops

6614. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export subsidy is being given for the Export of Natural Rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is considering such subsidy for other cash crops particularly pepper, cardamom and other spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Presently no export subsidy is being given for the export of Natural Rubber.

(c) No, Sir. However, Spices Board is providing an air freight subsidy for cardamom procured from auction centers for the purpose of export to Middle East destinations.

Export of Iron Ore to China

6615. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has mounted vigilance over the recent spurt in export of low Fe content iron ore to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a corresponding dedine in the restricted exports of Iron ore with more than 6.4% Fe content to China;

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

(e) whether the domestic steel industry has complained that high grade iron ore is being shipped out in the garb of low grade varieties; and

(f) if so, the Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The low grade iron ore (with Fe content less than (64%) is under Open General Licence for exports, and is freely exportable.

(c) and (d) The exports of Iron Ore with more than 64% Fe content to China have declined from 17.0 Million Tonnes in 2003-04 to 13.0 Million Tonnes (Prov.) in 2004-05.

(e) and (f) A joint team of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) had conducted test checks of consignments of iron ore, wherein one consignment was found to have exported iron ore containing Fe content more than 64% without having valid permission for exporting the same, and under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, orders for fiscal penalty have, accordingly, been passed on the firm.

Farm Houses

6616. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives for setting-up farm houses in Delhi;

(b) the extent to which those aims and objectives have been achieved;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the large scale irregularities being committed in the garb of farm houses; and

(d) if so, the action the Government proposes to crack the wrongs and ills, going on in the farm houses?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that as per the Master Plan for Delhi-2001 farm houses could be located in a minimum of 1 ha. of land in the rural areas and could be developed for flower, vegetables, poultry farming etc. The farm houses can also have a dwelling unit in terms of the development control norms prescribed in the Master Plan.

(c) and (d) The local bodies have also reported that action is initiated by them in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws, when any irregularity in the form of unauthorized construction or misuse is detected.

[Translation]

Computer Purchasing Power

6617. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to increase the computer purchasing power of the people of the country and to set up a tower for the global positioning system and a technology park in order to increase the import of computer chip;

(b) if so, whether the said measures are being taken to increase the import of computer chip; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The increase in computer purchasing power of the people is directly linked to the price of computers. In order to promote manufacturing of computers in the country at affordable prices, a number of steps have been taken by the Government. Some of the major steps taken are emphasis on sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT hardware in the National Common Minimum Programme; approval for FDI upto 100% for Computer Hardware Manufacturing under automatic route, depreciation on Computers at 60%, 0% duty on Computers including goods required in the manufacture of Computers, 0% excise duty on Computers including Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives etc.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, has set up 45 centres across the country to promote the export of software. The increase in consumption of computers in the country has led to proportionate increase in the import of computer chip (Microprocessors).

[English]

Safed Musli

6618. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any 'Patent' specially for safed musli which is in great demand in international and domestic markets' M.N.C.'s etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps the Government has taken to protect this rare herb; and

(c) if not, the reasons in details for not 'patenting' the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) No patent as such on the herb, "safed musli" has been granted by the Indian Patent Office. As per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, patenting of herbs is not permitted.

Import of Timber

6619. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether teak wood and other timber from Myanmar is freely imported through all ports of India except through Moreh Land Customs Station in Manipur, the only functional land route between India and Myanmar;

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

(c) the role of High Powered Committee in the North East *vis-a-vis* foreign trade policy in this regard;

(d) whether any action of the High Powered Committee has been instrumental in killing the timber based plywood industries in Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh causing losses to the industry in thousands of crores of rupees;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is a fact that by disallowing import of timber through the most economical land route the country's interest is being harmed; and

(g) if so, action taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bill from Maharashtra

6620. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposed Bill 'Maharashtra Special Economic Zone and Designated Area Act, 2004' to the Union Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Certain clarifications on the provisions of the Bill have been sought from the Government of Maharashtra.

Vanaspati Raw Material

6621. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the costs of raw material of vanaspati in Nepal and Sri Lanka is cheaper than India;

(b) if so, the break-up of its comparative figure in the countries;

(c) whether the Union Government has been requested to take steps to reduce the cost of raw material for local manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Road Accidents

6622. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roads at the front and back side of Parliament House Annexe and the one in front of Shram Shakti Bhavan have become possible hubs of dangerous accidents due to the various diversion that have been effected recently;

(b) if so, whether there are no speed breakers or traffic lights installed in these stretches for pedestrians to cross the roads;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether various fatal accidents have taken place and half a dozen of pedestrians injured in their attempt to cross roads there;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to install traffic lights/speed-breakers/over-bridge/sub-way there for the convenience and safety of the large number of employees of various Government Offices; and

(f) if so, the time by which these safety measures are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Commissioner of Police, Delhi has informed that the roads at the front and back of Parliament House Annexe (PHA) and in front of Shram Shakti Bhawan have not become hubs of dangerous accidents due to the diversion.

(b) and (c) It has also been informed that no speed breakers have been installed as there is already provision of pseudo-speed breakers and zebra crossing for safe pedestrian crossing on Imtiaz Khan Marg. A separate lane has also been made available for the vehicles destined for Transport Bhavan from Irwin Statue side on Sansad Marg. Besides, a traffic light signal for safe pedestrian crossing already exists at Sansad Marg-Rafi Marg crossing. In addition a new traffic light signal (pelican) has also been installed on Rafi Marg in front of Vittal Bhai Patel House.

(d) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Police authorities have informed that no fatal accident has been reported after the diversion and introduction of one-way scheme on Shram Shakti Bhavan and in front and back of PHA. However, one accident each occurred during 2004 and 2005 (upto 31.2.2005) both resulting in simple injury.

(e) and (f) NDMC has reported that there is no proposal to provide speed breakers/over bridge/sub-ways there.

[Translation]

Telecast Right of Cricket Match to Prasar Bharati

6623. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Cricket Control of India has handed over rights of direct telecast of cricket matches to Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any stance in regard to the guidelines issued and rulings given in judicial cases in this regard;

(o) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy framework in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) As per information given by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), "Over the last decade they had always invited parties having sports channels to furnish their offers for television rights of the cricket matches in India. After discussion and negotiations, the rights were granted to the most suitable party. Besides the financial considerations, other considerations were also taken into account such as quality of production and equipment, number of cameras, experience of producer/ director and so on. In 2004, it was time to grant the TV rights afresh. BCCI through that open tender could invite better competition and provide opportunities to many". As further informed by BCCI, however, after the tendering process, the matter became *sub-judice*. Further, "Since Australia and South Africa were due to tour India in October-November, 2004 followed by Pakistan in March-April, 2005, and time was running out, the world body of cricket, International Cricket Council (ICC) said that the tours would have to be called off unless there was television coverage. with the leave of the Court, BCCI granted the terrestrial rights of the matches for all the series to Prasar Bharati and the overseas rights to other channel".

(b) and (c) The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, Recently in a Writ Petition No. 541 of 2004 filed by M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd. before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, on the issue of telecasting rights, Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that BCCI is not a 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution.

(d) No such policy framework is under consideration of this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Sale of Medical College Seats

6624. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the reported sale of seats in medical institutions, entrance tests for which are conducted by the CBSE;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been conducting the All India Pre-Medical/ Pre-Dental Entrance Examination under the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, for 15% of the merit positions in the medical/dental colleges of India governed by the rules and regulations specified for the same by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India from time to time. Select list is prepared by the CBSE strictly in order of merit achieved by the candidates in the entrance examination.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Status of Works in Gole Market

6625. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the four works i.e. construction of Samaj Sadan at Sector-II, DIZ area, Construction of 48 Nos. Type V quarters at Market Square DIZ Area, Development of plot of land measuring 6.00 acre in Udyan Marg, near P&T colony in DIZ area and construction of additional room in Type-C Quarters in Sector-IV, DIZ area, New Delhi; and

(b) the time by which the works are likely to be started and completed and the amount allocated or spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The present status of the four works in Gole Market is as under:

(i) Construction of Samaj Sadan at Sector-II, DIZ Area has been dropped in view of the instructions dated 15.12.2004 from Department of Personnel and Training not to pursue the new construction of Samaj Sadans including proposals where administrative sanction has been issued but construction work has not been taken up.

(ii) The plot of land at Market Square, DIZ Area earmarked for construction of 48 Nos. Type-V Quarters has been allotted to DMRC and hence the proposal has been dropped.

(iii) The plot of land measuring 6.00 acre in Udyan Marg, near P&T colony in DIZ area is in possession of P&T/BSNL.

(iv) Construction of additional room in Type-C Quarters in Sector-IV, DIZ area, New Delhi is in progress and scheduled for completion by December, 2005. Rs. 123.80 lakhs have already been spent so far against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 357.47 lakhs.

Allocation of Funds for Urban Development Schemes

6626. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years under the Urban Development Schemes; and

(b) the details of amount spent in Gwalior district under various Urban Development Schemes alongwith achievements made during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following Schemes of Ministry of Urban Development are being implemented in Madhya Pradesh:

(i) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT).

(ii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP).

(iii) Solid Waste Management and Drainage in selected airfield towns (including Gwalior).

During the last three years, total funds amounting to Rs. 1864.37 lakh, Rs. 3568.23 lakh and Rs. 603.58 lakh were released by Ministry of Urban Development to Government of Madhya Pradesh under IDSMT, AUWSP and Solid Waste Management & Drainage Scheme, respectively.

(b) No funds were released under IDSMT for any towns in Gwalior district during the last three years. Under AUWSP, water supply schemes for 3 towns in Gwalior district have been approved during the last 3 years as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Town	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Pichhore	67.07
2.	Bilaua	69.30
3.	Antara	57.66

The total Central assistance released during the last 3 years for the above mentioned schemes is Rs. 97.015 lakh.

Under Solid Waste Management & Drainage Scheme in selected Airfield towns, funds amounting to Rs. 603.58 lakh (first instalment) were released to Government of Madhya Pradesh on 12.1.2005 for implementing the approved project in Gwalior.

[English]

B.C.A. and M.C.A.

6627. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some applications from various State Governments/UTs and Government/Semi-Governments/Private educational institutions for starting BCA/MCA course in their States/ Institutions during each of the last three years and thereafter till date;

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

(c) by when the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Security in Tees Hazari Court

6628. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security scenario in the lower courts especially in Tees Hazari Courts is very lax;

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

(c) the steps, the Government propose to take to strengthen security in the lower courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) In order to strengthen the security of lower courts, Delhi Police has increased the strengthen of personnel of Police Post at Tees Hazari from 23 to 36 and attached 5 police personnel with the Police Post at Karkardooma in addition to 20 personnel already posted there. 9 Police personnel have been deployed for the security of Patiala House court. Moreover, the security of courts is reviewed from time to time and additional force is deployed as and when required.

[English]

Appointment of Teachers in KVS

6629. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of India Regional Languages for which there is a provision for appointing teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(b) the names of the languages whose teachers are not appointed alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) There is no provision for appointing regular teachers for teaching Regional Languages. Regional Languages is not being offered as a subject in Kendriya Vidyalayas. Arrangement is made for teaching for a regional language provided 20 or more students in a class are opting for the same. Part-time contractual teachers are appointed for the purpose.

(b) Kendriya Vidyalayas basically cater to the educational needs of the wards of the transferable Central Government Employees by providing common programme of education and curriculum in all Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country, therefore three language formula i.e. English, Hindi and Sanskrit has been adopted to maintain continuity.

[Translation]

Advisors to Governor of Bihar

6630. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisors to the Governor of Bihar has not been appointed so far since the promulgation of the President's rule in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government about these appointments;

(c) the time by which these appointments are likely to be made;

(d) whether the appointments of the said Advisors is necessary to kick-start the administration; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Advisor(s) to the Governor are appointed; if and when needed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Task Force on Project Exports

6631. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on Project Exports had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(d) if so, the current status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The recommendations, *inter alia*, include construction of a High Level Committee, sending country programming missions to target countries, harmonization to taxation policy, establishment of the Project Export Promotion Council, capacity building of Indian Missions abroad and strengthening of Exim Bank of India as well as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation. The report was considered by the Standing Committee of Secretaries and it was decided to take follow up action by the concerned Ministries/Departments. The erstwhile overseas Construction Council of India has been converted into the Project Export Promotion Council.

Amendments in Promotion Rules by KVS and NVS

6632. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas have made changes in promotion rules for students of IX and XI classes recently; and

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had issued instructions on the subject in March 2005. These instructions were subsequently withdrawn.

Navodaya Vidyalayas have not made any change in the promotion rules for students of Class IX & XI.

Corruption in DDA

6633. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether widespread corruption is reported in Delhi Development Authority particularly in its building department;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to lay down procedures to eliminate delay and avoidable harassment to builder i.e. by notifying standard plans which can be adopted on payment of prescribed fee or/ and allowing architects to sanction plans with necessary safeguard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to eliminate and remove the scope of harassment and delay on the part of staff in the building department?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI

GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that during the last three years, 48 complaints have been received against officials of its building department. DDA prescribes specific architectural/building development controls in commercial centres to facilitate preparation and early approval of plans. DDA has also approved a proposal for simplification of building permits for residential plots up to 500 Sq mts, which can be sanctioned on the basis of certification by the Architect/Structural Engineer. DDA has also initiated action to further simplify and streamline the procedures with a view to reduce delays and increase accountability.

International Cricket Council

6634. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Cricket Council has put a condition that they will not host the 2006 Cricket Champions Trophy in India unless they are given tax exemption;

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

(c) whether the existing provisions favour the compliance for such demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the International Cricket Council (ICC) has put a condition that it will not host the Champions Trophy 2006 in India unless they are given tax exemption.

(b) The BCCI has informed that all those countries where ICC hosts Champions Trophy/World Cup had granted total tax exemption to ICC on its earnings through sponsorships and television rights as a major share of the money earned from these events is spent on development of Cricket in 92 ICC member countries throughout the World.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The President, International Cricket Council has been informed by the Ministry of Finance that the most appropriate course will be to move an application before the Authority for Advance Ruling, which has exclusive jurisdiction to decide in advance whether incomes arising out of transactions entered into by non-residents are taxable or not.

[Translation]

Delhi-Ghaziabad Railway Line Projects

6635. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two projects of Delhi Ghaziabad railway lines passed by the National Capital Region Board are under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the projects along with the estimated share of each States separately in the National Capital region?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) has proposed an Integrated Rail-cum-Bus Transit (IRBT) System for efficient and effective movement of commuters. This includes three rail corridors namely Shahdara to Ghaziabad (14.9 Kms), Sahibabad to Shivaji Bridge (17.3 Kms.) and Trinagar to Gurgaon 30.5 Kms.). The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2239 crores. The estimated cost of two rail corridors proposed between Delhi and U.P. is Rs. 1286 crores.

Equity contribution in the Special Purpose Vehicle proposed to be set up for implementation of this project, is proposed to be shared equally between Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Railways and the State Governments. The Government of NCT of Delhi, Government of Haryana and Government of U.P. would contribute depending upon the length of the corridor finally approved in each of the States.

The Planning Commission has been requested to accord in principle approval to the project.

Metro Rail Station at Shakurbasti in Delhi

6636. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up biggest Metro Rail Station at Shakurbasti in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Metro Rail Station at Shakurbasti. However, in Phase-II of Delhi MRTS Project, there is a proposal to provide a Metro Station at Paschim Vihar on Rohtak Road (near Shakurbasti) on Kirti Nagar-Mundka Corridor.

Grants for Construction of Toilets

6637. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent a proposal to the Union Government to provide grants of funds on cent percent basis for constructing toilets for the beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to information available in the year 1994-95, 9 schemes were sanctioned to Bihar Urban Development Authority (BUDA) by HUDCO covering 42 towns in the State for conversion of 1,01,729 units. Out of these, 5 schemes covering 20 towns were subsequently withdrawn and one scheme of 7 towns got transferred to the State of Jharkhand. So only 3 schemes stand sanctioned to BUDA covering 15 towns for conversion of 37954 units with a loan of Rs. 474.44 lacs and subsidy of Rs. 476.98 lacs and upfront subsidy of Rs. 106.75 lacs was released to the State. The State Government is yet to submit utilization certificates for upfront subsidy released.

[English]

Cost Effective Technology for Desalination of Sea Water

6638. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop a cost effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce potable drinking water in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the technology used for desalination of sea water will be cost effective as compared to other methods used for producing quality drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no proposal, at present, with the Ministry of Urban Development to develop a cost effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce potable drinking water in Gujarat.

(c) It is estimated that the capital cost of producing drinking water by desalination process would be about twice as that of drinking water produced by conventional methods. The operation and maintenance cost by desalination process is about 10 to 20 times that of production of water by conventional methods since desalination process involves huge power requirement, replacement of semi-permeable membranes, use of chemicals for de-scaling and mineralisation, etc.

Research and Development in Bio-Technology

6639. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Switzerland has identified Research and Development in bio-technology and trade sector as key areas of cooperation with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this will strengthen knowledge-based sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this will attract foreign direct investment in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (g) India and Switzerland have identified key areas for increasing economic co-operation and trade including research and development in biotechnology. Both sides have signed an agreement in September 1999 for enhancing Indo-Swiss collaboration in biotechnology including *inter-alia* industrial and technical collaboration. Projects in the area of bioremediation, bio-pesticides, wheat/pulse biotechnology network, biosensors for detection of pesticides etc. have been taken up as a follow up of the agreement. Soil remediation packages for pesticide degradation; bio-pesticide for insect control, commercially viable biosensors for detection of pesticides residue in food, water and soil etc. are some of the other areas addressed through collaboration in this knowledge based sector.

[Translation]

Production of Vehicles

6640. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of passenger vehicles in the country in the year 2004-05 has increased as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of different types of passenger vehicles manufactured during the year 2004-05 along with its rank amongst different countries;

(d) initiatives taken by the Government to promote the production of different types of vehicles;

(e) whether production of different types of vehicles in the country have an impact on economy; and

(f) if so, assessment of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The production of passenger vehicles has increased by 22% during 2004-05 as compared to last year. The total number of different types of passenger vehicles manufactured during the year 2004-05 was 1,209,654. Organisation International Des Constructeurs D' Automobiles (OICA), Paris, ranked India in the 11th position among different countries in the year 2004 for production of passenger vehicles.

(d) The initiatives taken by the Government include (i) gradual liberalisation of licencing policy, rationalisation of fiscal structure and increased emphasis on improvement of roads and other infrastructure.

(e) and (f) Preliminary estimates show that value of domestic sales of automobiles and export put together was more than Rs. 110,000 crores in the year 2004-05. It contributes significantly to India's GDP.

Expenditure on U.P. Home Guards and Civil Defence

6641. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested to increase the reimbursement of Central share of the expenditure to be made on the sanctioned posts of Home Guards and Civil Defence Department from 25 per cent to 50 per cent; and

(b) if so, by when the Central share is likely to be released to Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Review of reimbursement of Central share of expenditure incurred by the States including States of Uttar Pradesh on Civil Defence and Home Guards is a continuous process and its revision is under consideration.

[English]

Assistance under Re-survey Project in Tribal Areas

6642. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for Central assistance under the project of re-survey of tribal villages in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Ministry has received a proposal in the month of December, 2004, from the Government of Gujarat for Central Assistance under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) for re-survey of Tribal Villages for Rs. 350 lakhs. The Ministry had already released the funds to the State Government as per its entitlement for the projects sanctioned by the Ministry in consultation with the State Government for 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The proposal would be considered if the State Government includes it under their list of projects for sanction under SCA to TSP for 2005-06, within their entitlement.

[Translation]

Dollar Window

6643. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJ NARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether small exporters are not provided with dollar loans for less than one hundred thousand dollars per transaction in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to reserve percentage of such foreign currency loans and credit limit for such exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government intend to set up dollar window for export loans; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with profit/loss expected from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) With a view to making credit available at internationally competitive rates, exporters are already being provided with export credit in foreign currency. The credits are given at pre shipment stage (Packing Credit in Foreign Currency-PCFC) and post shipment stage.

(f) In order to enable banks to grant such advances in foreign currency to exporters, banks are permitted by RBI to borrow from abroad without any limit exclusively for the purpose of financing exporters in foreign currency. As such, institutional arrangements exist for meeting the foreign currency requirements of exporters.

As per the Gold Card Scheme for exporters brought out by the RBI on May 18, 2004 in pursuance of the announcement made by Government of India in the Exim Policy in January 2004, all credit worthy exporters, including those in small and medium sectors with good track record, are eligible for issue of Gold Card as per the criteria laid down by the individual banks. The Scheme requires that the Gold Card holders will be given preference for grant of packing credit in foreign currency.

It may, therefore, be observed that the foreign currency requirements of small and medium exporters have been taken care of. Further, RBI has not received any complaint from any small exporter that in respect of export credit in foreign currency any lower ceiling limit on the volume per transaction is fixed by the banks.

The interest rate of such export credit in foreign currency is not to exceed London Inter Bank Offered Rates (LIBOR) plus 0.75% for period of credit upto 180 days (6 months). For PCFC beyond 180 days and upto

360 days the interest rate charged is capped at LIBOR + 0.75% + 2%.

In view of the lower interest rate for export credit in foreign currency compared to export credit in Rupees, there has been considerable demand for export credit in foreign currency which has registered a ten fold increase since June 2002. (while demand for Rupee export credit has declined).

[English]

Export of Flowers

6644. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of different variety of flowers exported from the country during the last three years alongwith the names of the countries;

(b) measures taken to promote export of each variety of flowers;

(c) whether there is a steady increase in the export of roses particularly from Bangalore and Hosur;

(d) if so, the details on the various variety of roses exported during the last three years from the country particularly from Bangalore and Hosur;

(e) whether there is a great demand in the international mrket for Bangalore and Hosur roses;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith special measures taken to boost export of different variety of roses from Bangalore, Hosur and other places in India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The quantity of flowers exported from the country during last 3 years is given below:

Quantity in metric tons

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
4646.00	4355.00	3140.00

Source: DGC&IS

Variety-wise data is not maintained. The flowers were mainly exported to Japan, Netherlands, USA, UK, Germany, Italy, UAE and Australia.

(b) Measures taken to promote floriculture exports include setting up of six Agri Export Zones, cargo handling and cold storage facilities at international airports and participation in important trade fairs. Financial incentives are being extended to exporters through schemes for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Nodia for export of flowers.

(c) to (e) State-wise or variety-wise data on export of roses is not maintained. However, available information suggests that the demand for Bangalore and Hosur roses in the international market is increasing. These are finding a market in Japan.

(f) and (g) Measures taken to boost floriculture exports from the country have been explained in reply to part (b) of the question. Setting up of Agri Export Zones in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, a flower auction center in Bangalore, a floriculture infrastructure park in Hosur, and cold storage and cargo handling facilities at Chennai and Bangalore airports are expected to give a boost to export of roses from Bangalore and Hosur.

[Translation]

Creation of Posts

6645. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts created in each of the Departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs during the last three years;

(b) whether the recruitments made against the reserved posts for SCs, STs and OBCs is in the accordance with their quota;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to fill up the reserved posts soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Home Affairs has the following constituent Departments:

(i) Department of Internal Security;

(ii) Department of States;

(iii) Department of Home;

(iv) Department of Jammu & Kashmir Affairs;

(v) Department of Border Management; and

(vi) Department of Official language.

There is a common establishment for all the above Departments. During the last three years, 32 posts have been created for these Departments. Posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are reported to the Department of Personnel & Training, who make recruitment as per the extant reservation policy.

Foreigners Staying in Mathura

6646. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreigners are staying in Mahtura, Uttar Pradesh for several years unauthorisedly even after the expiry of their VISA period for reportedly pursuing theological studies;

(b) if so, whether they have purchased land there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information received from the State Government, no foreign national is residing in Mathura unathorisedly after expiry of their visa as on date.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Loan Sanctioned by HUDCO

6647. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the loan sanctioned by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited to Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years and thereafter till date; and

(b) the details of amount to be spent for slum improvement, housing for poor and construction of various roads and bridges in the State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The loan sanctioned by Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for housing schemes including housing for the poor and slum improvement in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years and the current financial year is as under:

Year	Loan Amount (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	0.60
2003-04	7.63
2004-05	1.90
2005-06 (upto 30.4.2005)	Nil

HUDCO has not received any proposal, so far, from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for construction of roads/bridges.

[Translation]

Artisan Employed in Lock Industry

6648. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hand made locks of Aligarh are the main achievement of the lock industry of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken to promote lock industry in other regions along with regions where locks are manufactured;

(c) the number of artisans employed in the manufacturing of locks;

(d) whether the Government has any scheme to provide financial assistance to the artisans employed in the manufacturing of locks;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. Mechanised production processes are now extensively used in Aligarh for manufacture of locks.

(b) A National Programme for the Development of Lock Industry (NPDLI) is being pursued by Ministry of Small Scale Industries in collaboration with UNIDO, Small Industries Development Bank of India, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., The All India Lock Manufactures' Association, Aligarh, and The Dindigul Lock Workers' Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd., Dindigul (Tamil Nadu) for enhancing' competitive strengths of the lock manufacturing units. Lock industry has been exposed to the improved manufacturing practices and better product designs for achieving higher levels of productivity and efficiency. The focus of the programme is on technology and quality upgradation of the lock units in Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and Dindigul (Tamil Nadu).

(c) As per the Third All India Census of Small Scale Industries conducted with reference to 2001-02, while there were about 6491 artisans engaged in the registered lock manufacturing units, about 19,981 artisans were employed with the un-registered lock manufacturing units.

(d) and (e) Under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation of small scale industries, Ministry of Small Scale Industries (SSI) is providing 12% capital subsidy for induction of well established and improved technologies approved under the scheme which, *inter alia*, includes lock industry. In addition, financial support by way of reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISQ-9001/14001 certification up to Rs. 75,000 and reimbursement of registration fee for adopting bar coding up to Rs. 15,000 is also provided to small scale industries, including lock manufacturing units.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

FTA with SAARC Countries

6649. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the treaties made with SAARC countries under FTA on imports including edible oils and the quantity of various items imported during last three years country-wise and import duty-wise;

(b) whether import of edible oil is channelised through public sector agencies like STC, MMTC, PEC, Food Corporation of India, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether cost of such imported oils is less as compared to the indegeneously produced oils;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any instance of imported oil getting diverted to the hoarders and black marketeers have been reported;

(g) if so, the details thereof and measures taken to curb such practice;

(h) whether Government is considering to import the edible oil only in 1 & 2 kilo packets and maximum of 5 kilo tins for distribution through PDS shops only; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Training Centers for PMF

6650. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open some training centres for the Para Military Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has identified the places for opening the said training centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of jawans likely to be given training at each of the centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) The Government has approved the Establishment of following training centres for the Para Military Forces:

Sl.No.	Name of CPMFs	Name of training Institute, Courses offered and location	Capacity per year
1.	CRPF	Central Training College for imparting professional training and in-service courses to the personnel of CRPF, Gwalior M.P.	895
2.	CRPF	Recruits Training College for imparting basic training to newly appointed constables, Haridwar, Uttaranchal	1215
3.	CRPF	Counter Insurgency & Anti Terrorist Training School, Silchar, Assam	4/5 Bns.
4.	Assam Rifles	Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare Course, Assam Rifles Training Centre & School, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam	360 personnel/ Officers & 42 Coys
5.	BSF	National Level Training Institute for Disaster Management at BSF Academy, Tekanpur (M.P.)	480

Death of Prisoners in Tihar Jail

6651. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners who died and those who fell sick due to food poisoning in Tihar Jail during each of the last three years and thereafter as on date;

(b) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the deaths occurring in the above jail;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there had been instances where arms, mobile phones etc. were found unauthorisedly being smuggled into the jail; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the entry of intoxicating substances, arms, mobile phones etc. in the jail and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) During the last three years and upto 5th May, 2005 none of the prisoners lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar, died or became sick due to toxic food.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Two such cases were detected recently. In one, a mobile phone without SIM Card was recovered. In the other case, three knives including one button activated knife were recovered from a truck that was carrying raw vegetables into the Jail. Cases have been registered under relevant Acts in both the cases.

The Jail Administration has taken several steps to curb activities. These include searching and frisking of the staff and visitors before entering and leaving the Jail premises; carrying out surprise searches under the supervision of senior officers; taking stern action against the culprits found possessing/smuggling prohibited items inside the prison etc.

[English]

Issues/Grievances of Unemployed Youth

6652. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a comprehensive legislation for resolving the issues and grievances of unemployed youth in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) In so far as Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, no such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Indo-Singapore Trade

6653. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore are contemplating to hold talks for trade promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) India and Singapore are negotiating for conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)) between two countries including a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) covering trade in goods, services and investment; a bilateral agreement on investment promotion, protection and cooperation; an improved Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA); and economic cooperation. The negotiations were launched in New Delhi on 27-28 May 2003 and the last round was held in New Delhi on March 9-10, 2005. While all major issues in the trade in goods have been settled, there are a few outstanding issues in the investment, services, financial services, telecom and DTAA which need to be resolved. The agreement is likely to be concluded by the end of May 2005.

[English]

MMTC

6654. SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC suffered huge loss by way of sales tax on packing materials (Gunny bags) on purchase of Wheat and Rice from FCI during 2000-2004 for export purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such collection of sales tax on packing materials by FCI is contrary to legal provisions;

(d) if so, steps taken to refund claim from FCI;

(e) whether MMTC has entered into litigations in India and overseas;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith current status of each litigation including amount involved;

(g) whether MMTC has provision for the same in the audited Balance Sheet; and

(h) if not, steps initiated to incorporate in the Balance Sheet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Food Corporation of India (FCI), which is a Public Sector Enterprise and Registered under the Sales Tax Act, have collected sales tax in respect of gunnies supplied for wheat and rice dispatched to ports. Thus, collection of sales tax by FCI is not contrary to legal provisions.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The handling agents nominated by Overseas buyers and Indian agents of Overseas buyers have initiated litigations against MMTC and others, and the matter is pending in Arbitration/various Courts in India. No case, however, is pending outside India. The details are as under:

(i) Arbitration for godown rent with Regional Office, Chennai:

Amount claimed is Rs. 81,52,402 plus 18% per annum, Proceedings are in progress.

(ii) Arbitration for godown rent with Regional Office, Vizag:

The Arbitrator has given award in favour of the claimant to pay Rs. 27,23,865 with interest at 18% per annum, MMTC has challenged the Award in the District Court, Vizag.

(iii) Towards market fee of Rs. 12 lakhs (approx.):

The party has filed a case in Andhra Pradesh High Court, Hyderabad. MMTC has already filed its reply. Reply from FCI and the Andhra Pradesh Government is pending.

(iv) Towards Sales Tax on Gunny Bags-Rs. 19 lakhs (approx.):

For sales tax the party has filed a writ in the Delhi High Court against FCI and others. MMTC is Respondent No. 2, Case is pending.

(g) and (h) As per Accounting Standards, the liability/ provision is made only upon the final verdict by Arbitrator/ Court.

Residential Schools for Child Labourers

6655. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up special residential schools for child labourers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the Ministry of Labour, with a view to rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and process, 1128 special schools have already been sanctioned in 23 Districts of Andhra Pradesh under the National Child Labour Project Scheme.

Salt Pan Land

6656. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5410 acres Salt Pan Land in Mumbai has been given on lease for salt cultivation and any part of land has also been transferred to Government of Maharashtra by Mumbai collectorate;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with conditions stipulated for lessee;

(c) whether any proposal has been received for the development of land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) 1819 acres of salt pan land was given on lease and about 2054 acres under license for salt manufacture. The main conditions of lease are enclosed as statement. Out of this, 557 acres of land has been transferred to the Government of Maharashtra for public purpose.

(c) and (d) A number of proposals for the development of salt lands are received from time to time. Most of such cases are subj-judice and no final decision has been taken.

Statement

Main Terms and Conditions of the Lease

The lessee shall:

(a) Use the demised premises for the purpose of manufacturing common and edible salt and its' by-products only.

(b) Manufacture salt on the demised premises in accordance with the terms of license to be granted in that behalf.

(c) Not to make any excavation upon any part of the demised premises not remove any stone, sand, gravel clay or earth there from except for the purpose of protecting the demised premises or the salt works constructed thereon from the inroads of salt water or floods.

(d) Not assign or under let this lease or any part thereof or the rights and privileges hereby granted or any of them to any person without the previous consent in writing of the Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Excise, Central Division (hereinafter referred to as the said Deputy Commissioner).

(e) In addition to all duties and taxes otherwise leviable pay royalty on salt removed from the salt pan constructed on the demised premises at the rate of four pies per Indian mounds.

(f) Pay water tax to the Bombay Municipalities at the rate of eight annas per one thousand gallon or such other rate as may be fixed from time to time in respect of quantity of water consumed by the lessee or his servants or employees.

(g) Pay during the said term of ninety nine years, all duties and taxes including municipal taxes which shall be leviable in respect of the demised premises on the salt and its' by products which may be manufactured or produced thereon.

(h) In addition the lessee may subject to the previous written sanction of the Commissioner of Customs, Salt and Excises, use the demised premises for the manufacture of any of the by-products of salt.

(i) Such manufacture shall be subject to the terms and conditions as the Commissioner of Customs, salt and Excises may specify from time to time.

(j) Such by-products shall be subject to the payment of royalty at such rates as Government may fix from time to time.

Release of Funds for Basic Infrastructure

6657. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special funds released to Urban Civil bodies for providing the basic infrastructure especially the roads and drinking water during 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Karnataka for special packages for some of its City Municipal Corporations for providing drinking water and goods roads in the cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following Schemes for providing basic infrastructure in cities/towns are administered by the Ministry of Urban Development:

(i) Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities

(ii) Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT)

(iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

(iv) Solid Waste Management and Drainage in Air Field Towns

(v) Lumpsum Provision for the benefit of Projects/ Schemes in North Eastern Region and Sikkim.

Under the above mentioned Schemes, funds are released to State Governments/State Level Nodal Agencies as per Scheme guidelines. Statewise details of funds released during 2003-04 and 2004-05 under the above mentioned Schemes are given in Statement-I to V enclosed.

However, no special funds have been released by Ministry of Urban Development to Urban Civil bodies during 2003-04 and 2004-05 for providing basic infrastructure.

(b) No such proposals have been received from Government of Karnataka.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement I

Statewise details of Central share released under Mega City Scheme during 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in crore)

Mega City	State	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Bangalore	Karnataka	34.23	52.75	86.98
Chennai	Tamil Nadu	34.82	53.66	88.48
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	38.54	59.41	97.95
Kolkata	West Bengal	41.30	63.65	104.95
Mumbai	Maharashtra	47.77	73.64	121.41

Statement II

Statewise details of funds released during 2003-04 and 2004-05 for implementation of projects approved in selected Airfield Towns under the Central Sector Scheme of Solid Waste Management and Drainage

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of Airfield town	State	2003-04*	2004-05	Total
Sirsa	Haryana	Nil	6.64	6.64
Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Nil	14.52	14.52
Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	6.03	6.03
Pune	Maharashtra	Nil	8.54	8.54
Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	4.00	4.00

*The Scheme was launched in the year 2004-05.

Statement III

Statewise Details of Central Assistance Released for Implementation of Projects Under MT Scheme during 2003-04 & 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1298.28	1398.85	2697.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	192.00	—	192.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	40.00	344.84	384.84
4.	Bihar	317.00	323.83	640.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	337.82	382.80	720.62
6.	Goa	16.08	—	16.08
7.	Gujarat	845.75	1090.00	1935.75
8.	Haryana	377.00	283.44	660.44
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28.00	70.00	98.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	253.00	132.19	385.19
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	0.00
12.	Karnataka	889.92	1578.38	2468.30
13.	Kerala	384.00	225.00	609.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	568.25	583.00	1151.25
15.	Maharashtra	834.00	1767.83	2601.83
16.	Manipur	6.00	—	6.00
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	0.00
18.	Mizoram	80.00	—	80.00
19.	Nagaland	163.00	—	163.00
20.	Orissa	138.00	257.00	395.00
21.	Punjab	177.42	42.28	219.70
22.	Rajasthan	421.01	701.67	1122.68
23.	Sikkim	—	—	0.00
24.	Tamilnadu	851.50	1201.94	2053.44
25.	Tripura	88.12	94.00	182.12
26.	Uttaranchal	86.00	93.00	179.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1049.79	1972.56	3022.35
28.	West Bengal	896.34	1555.31	2451.65
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	0.00
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	0.00
31.	Daman & Diu	—	—	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Lakshadweep	—	—	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	36.00	—	36.00
	Grand Total	10272.20	14200.00	24472.20

Statement IV

Statewise details of Central share released under AUWSP during 2003-04 & 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	492.57	1367.27	1859.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	124.16	113.27	237.43
3.	Assam	256.22	635.27	891.49
4.	Bihar	386.05	219.87	605.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	337.87	200.96	538.83
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	918.08	867.83	4133.51
8.	Haryana	469.71	563.80	1033.51
9.	Himachal Pradesh	79.46	232.15	311.61
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	290.14	1198.68	1488.82
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	417.93	417.93
12.	Karnataka	1119.84	1060.73	2180.57
13.	Kerala	268.21	231.55	499.76
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1509.09	822.68	2331.77
15.	Maharashtra	705.84	1104.19	1810.03
16.	Manipur	269.36	254.07	523.43
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	46.57	0.00	46.57
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	409.36	577.39	986.75
21.	Punjab	50.46	161.54	212
22.	Rajasthan	1012.85	1545.97	2558.82
23.	Sikkim	83.97	0.00	83.97
24.	Tamil Nadu	653.41	808.19	1461.60
25.	Tripura	213.43	309.53	522.96
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2710.48	1664.93	4375.41
27.	Uttaranchal	331.61	138.77	470.38
28.	West Bengal	417.62	103.43	521.05

Statement V

Statewise details of funds released during 2003-04 and 2004-05 under the Scheme of Lumpsum Provision for the benefit of Projects/Schemes in North Eastern Region

(Rs. in crore)

State	Funds released		Total
	2003-04	2004-05	
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	20.10	20.10
Assam	16.42	13.96	30.38
Manipur	14.63	28.01	42.64
Meghalaya	3.00	3.80	6.80
Mizoram	15.65	1.68	17.33
Nagaland	13.61	20.69	34.30
Sikkim	11.35	17.64	28.99
Tripura	17.34	8.62	25.96
Total	92.00	114.50	206.50

Vacation of Land Allotted to Gosadans

6658. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 150 acres of gram sabha land allotted to various Gosadans has been got vacated by the Government of NCT of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) have reported that in respect of two Gosadans, the land allotted has

been reduced from 63 acres and 80 acres to 15 acres each respectively, based on the actual animals/shelters capacity of these Gosadans, and the institutions were asked to vacate the remaining land. Of these, one institution had expressed inability to run the Gosadan and accordingly infrastructure, animals and land have been taken over by the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi w.e.f. 1.4.2005. The Licence Deed of the other institutions has been renewed for a period of one year, in respect of 15 acres of land.

Re-constitution of Delhi Urban Arts Commission

6659. SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has re-constituted the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC);

(b) if so, the details of office bearers and their qualifications;

(c) the plan of action of DUAC for next two years; and

(d) the manner in which the commission is likely to address the problems of JJ cluster around palatial buildings in urban areas and unauthorized constructions in office buildings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Government has made appointments to the post of Chairman and three non-official Members of Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) on 1st April, 2005. The Commission now consists of:

(i) Shri Charles Correa. M. Arch. as Chairman (part time).

(ii) Shri Jasbir Sawhney, M. Arch. (USA) as Member (part time).

(iii) Shri Mohammad Shaheer. B. Arch., PG diploma in Architecture and Urban Design, MA (Landscape Design) as Member (part time)

(iv) Smt. Narayani Gupta, MA (Modern History), Ph. D. as Member (part time).

(v) Shri P.K. Pradhan, Joint Secretary (Delhi & Lands), Ministry of Urban Development, as Official Member.

(c) DUAC considers proposal referred to it by local bodies, in terms of its mandate. The Commission also initiates *suo-motu* studies relating to aspects concerning Delhi. Studies that have been taken up by the Commission are:

(i) Road Geometry at 'A' point crossing at ITO and 'W' point crossing connecting Mathura Road, Sikandra Road and Tilak Marg.

(ii) Impact of Metro Rail Transport System (MRTS) on Urban Development in Shahdra area.

(d) Action on the issues relating to JJ clusters and unauthorized construction is taken by the concerned local bodies and land owning agencies.

Upgradation of Stadia

6660. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade some stadia under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation before the commencement of Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports also proposes to contribute any amount towards the cost of upgradation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of NCT Delhi has forwarded an Action Plan regarding infrastructure development and beautification of Delhi, which inter-alia includes a tentative allocation of Rs. 50 crores on account of upgradation of Talkatora and Shivaji Stadium besides improvement of roads around these stadia with the request to facilitate the provision of additional funds over and above their normal budget. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports would facilitate the matter.

Transfer of Surplus Land

6661. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka for transfer of surplus land of Government of India Text Book Press,

Mysore to the Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA); and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Principal Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Kannada and Culture Department has made a request for transfer of 5 acres of land from the Government of India Text Books Press, Mysore to Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA) vide letter dated 31.12.2004.

(b) In view of a proposal for retention/modernization of the Government of India Text Books Press, Mysore actual requirement of land cannot be assessed at present. Therefore, decision on the request of the State Government of Karnataka for transfer of land has not been taken.

Poverty Alleviation in Karnataka

6662. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for poverty alleviation in tribal districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the details of funds allocated for poverty alleviation schemes to the States during the Tenth Five Year Plan, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Ministry has received two proposals from the State Government of Karnataka under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan during the year 2004-05.

(c) Grants amounting to Rs. 899.97 lakhs, has been released to the State Government as per their entitlement during the year 2004-05.

(d) The Planning Commission allocates year-wise funds under the Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan. A statement indicating details of funds released to various states during 2003-03 to 2004-05 is enclosed.

Statement

Statement showing Funds Released under SCA to TSP

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	2002-2003 Amount Released	2003-2004 Amount Released	2004-2005 Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2732.80	2459.52	2459.52
2.	Assam	3058.99	2753.09	2064.82
3.	Bihar	556.56	500.90	250.45
4.	Gujarat	3930.91	3743.09	3537.82
5.	Himachal Pradesh	643.53	612.79	750.87
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	971.94	925.50	874.75
7.	Karnataka	771.33	694.19	899.97

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Kerala	273.70	260.62	319.35
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7833.22	7458.93	9139.70
10.	Maharashtra	3723.83	3351.45	3351.45
11.	Manipur	761.96	725.55	685.76
12.	Orissa	6495.30	6184.94	7578.63
13.	Rajasthan	3649.56	3284.60	3284.60
14.	Sikkim	108.02	102.86	126.04
15.	Tamil Nadu	323.32	290.99	377.25
16.	Tripura	1041.03	991.29	1214.66
17.	Uttar Pradesh	32.10	30.57	37.45
18.	West Bengal	2202.57	1982.31	1982.31
19.	Jharkhand	5870.24	5283.22	5283.22
20.	Chhattisgarh	4626.18	4405.12	5397.76
21.	Uttaranchal	92.91	88.47	83.62
22.	Andaman & Nicobar*	200.85	0.00	0.00
23.	Daman & Diu*	99.15	0.00	0.00
	Total	50000.00	46130.00	49700.00

*From the Year 2003-04 onward the SCA to TSP meant for UTs has been budgeted with the MHA.

Funding to Integrated Tribal Development Agencies/ Plans

6663. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is 100% utilization of funds under Tribal Sub-plan Schemes during the last three years and thereafter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Scheduled Tribes families benefited from this scheme during the said period;

(d) the reasons for not funded directly to Integrated Tribal Development Agencies/Integrated Tribal Development Plans by the Central Government;

(e) whether the State Governments are not allowing the flow of the funds to TSP areas completely;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government Coordinating and monitoring the expenditure of Tribal Surplus funds; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) 100% of funds available under BE/RE have been released by the Ministry under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) and under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India as per details given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	SCA to TSP		Article 275(1)	
	B.E.	Funds released	B.E.	Funds released
2002-03	500.00	500.00	300.00	300.00
2003-04	461.30 (R.E.)	461.30	252.70 (R.E.)	252.70
2004-05	497.00	497.00	330.00	330.00

(c) The number of Scheduled Tribes families benefited under various schemes as indicated in the statement enclosed.

(d) The proposal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for direct funding to Integrated Tribal Development Agencies/ Integrated Tribal Development Projects has not been agreed to by the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

(e) and (f) There are cases of state governments not allocating T.S.P. funds as per ST population for various reasons like non-divisibility of certain plan funds.

(g) and (h) Ministry of Tribal Affairs is coordinating and monitoring the Tribal Sub-Plan Funds, by making following efforts:

(i) Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained.

(iii) Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the State/UTs to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes.

(iv) Meetings/Conferences are convened at Central level with State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare to ensure timely submission of proposals for release of funds and to speed up implementation of schemes and review physical & financial progress.

(v) At the State/Field level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Council, Project Implementation Committees of ITBPs at Block levels and Panchayat Samities also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes.

(vi) To avoid delays in disbursement of funds by the State Plan/Finance and Tribal Welfare Departments to the line Departments/ Implementing agencies, the guidelines for allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP has since been revised with the provision of ITDA/ ITDP-wise earmarking of SCA funds. It has been provided in the Guidelines that all States/UTs should ensure that assessment of actual programmes/schemes implemented under TSP on the socio-economic condition of tribal covered under ITDPs, MADAs, Clusters, PTGs, as the case may be, are specially undertaken.

Statement

State-wise Scheduled tribes families benefited under Point 11(b) of 20 Point Programme during the last three years of 2002-2003, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Dec., 2004)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-2003 ST families economically assisted	2003-2004 ST families economically assisted	2004-2005 St families economically assisted (upto December, 2004)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96440	1,71,538	—
2.	Assam	42928	42,667	23223

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	5429	6,588	3998
4.	Gujarat	96762	1,35.482	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4888	4743	99060
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	216	6328
7.	Karnataka	16589	29,106	—
8.	Kerala	1066	5,269	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	220299	197,408	504
10.	Maharashtra	53799	26,574	105615
11.	Manipur	2425	Nil	—
12.	Orissa	75732	89,458	33150
13.	Rajasthan	87217	88,167	1500
14.	Sikkim	3979	6,192	41063
15.	Tamil Nadu	9870	29,843	48583
16.	Tripura	10616	9,772	3454
17.	Uttar Pradesh	486	130	107546
18.	West Bengal	32234	30,422	1066
19.	Jharkhand	—	—	886
20.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	918
21.	Uttaranchal	2415	1,091	17802
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1881	1,630	326
23.	Daman & Diu	783	772	1113
	Total	765838	8,77,018	496135

[Translation]

Amendment in Human Rights Act

6664. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals to amend the protection of Human Rights Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has suggested certain amendments to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Government has initiated action in the matter.

[English]

Indian Trade Promotion Organisation

6665. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some portions of land owned by Indian Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) was allotted to Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) has not been handed over so far and has delayed progress of Metro Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Land measuring 13373 sq. mtrs. allotted to ITPO has been resumed by the Land & Development Officer, Ministry of Urban Development for handing over to the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) on "as is where is" basis on 27.4.2005 for construction of Metro Station viaduct by DMRC.

Citizenship Identity Cards

6666. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minorities Commission and leaders of the Minorities in Assam and other North-Eastern States have been lately pressing their demand for issue of citizenship identity cards and land pattas in respect of land occupied by the minority community people in the ravine areas, particularly those who migrated from Pakistan now parts of Bangladesh prior to 1971;

(b) if so, the Government's response to this demand and whether the Election Identity Cards issued by the Election Commission and the Electoral rolls are considered sufficient proof of citizenship of such migrants; and

(c) the total estimated population of such migrants settled in the ravines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) National Commission for Minorities has informed that they have not made any demand for issue of citizenship identity cards and land pattas in respect of land in riverine areas occupied by the minority community people, particularly the Bangladesh migrants in Assam and other North-Eastern States. Leaders of minorities in Assam have demanded issue of pattas in respect of land occupied by the people of minority community in the reverine areas.

(b) Action is taken by the State Government in accordance with relevant laws.

(c) No survey has been undertaken to estimate the number of migrants settled in the riverine areas.

Funds for Mangaldoi-Bhutiachang Road in NE Region

6667. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of Rs. 5.99 crores approved cost of the Mangaldoi-Bhutiachang Road in Darrang District, Assam under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources only Rs. 1.21 crores were released in 2002-03 and no funds were released in 2003-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) had released Rs. 1.21 crore out of the estimated project cost of Rs. 5.99 crore to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) as per their requirement of funds during 2002-2003 for implementation of Mangaldoi-Bhutiachang Road in Assam.

(b) and (c) The improvement works between Km 43.30 to Km 52.00 of this road project were completed by BRO in December 2003 within Rs. 1.21 crore released by the Ministry of DONER. The balance amount of Rs. 4.78 crore for replacement of 6 S.P.T. bridges has not been requisitioned by BRO as these bridges were in good condition and replacement was not considered necessary.

Indo-German Joint Commission

6668. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any statement has been issued after the Indo-German joint commission meeting held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of Indo-German Trade at present alongwith its fields and extent to which it is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes Sir. A Joint Statement was issued on 5th April 2005 after the conclusion of the 15th Session of the Indo-German Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 4-5 April, 2005.

(b) The 15th Session of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Corporation was held in New Delhi on 4-5th April, 2005. The German delegation was headed by Mr. Wolfgang Clement, Federal Minister of Economics and Labour and the Indian delegation by Shri P. Chidambaram, Union Finance Minister.

During the meeting, both sides were in agreement about the key role played by industrial cooperation and investment in the on-going development of Indo-German economic relations. Both sides were of the view that outlook for cooperation in the fields of information technology, biotechnology, telecommunications, environmental technology, chemicals, pharmaceuticals etc. is promising. The need for cooperation in the area of small and medium enterprises and in those fields of physical infrastructure in which Germany has expertise was stressed. Both sides saw opportunities for India to study the experience of Germany in the production and use of bio-diesel, in which Germany is a pioneer.

The Indian side brought to the notice of the Government of Germany various issues of concern to the Indian business including visa procedures, one language documentation, issues of work permits for IT professionals, difficulties faced by Indian exporters of agriculture and marine products and sought support from Germany with regard to European Union's anti-dumping measures against India and It's Registration Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) proposals.

Both sides acknowledged that knowledge-based sectors like information technology, biotechnology, and nanotechnology will play a significant role in expanding bilateral trade and cooperation in future.

(c) Indo-German bilateral trade during the year 2003-04 was of the order of US $ 5433.66 million, a growth of 20.45% over 2002-03. The bilateral trade during April-February 2004-05 was the order of US $ 5,735.62 million, a growth of 18.59% over the same period of 2003-04.

Indo-German bilateral trade basket include textiles/clothing products, machinery and instruments, drugs/pharmaceuticals, chemicals, leather goods, machine tools, transport equipments, manufactures of metals, electronic goods, gems/jewellery etc.

[Translation]

National Productivity Council

6669. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of productivity services being provided by National Productivity Council to different sectors of National Economy;

(b) whether there is a provision of giving loan and grant to programmes being implemented for these services;

(c) if so, the year-wise and State-wise details of funds allocated during Tenth Five Year Plan to each State and Union Territory; and

(d) the places where training programmes/seminars were organized by the Council in different States during Tenth Five Year Plan along with the dates on which said programmes/seminars were conducted and the medium thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) NPC provides the following productivity services to various sectors of the national economy:

— Consultancy Projects in Productivity

— Training Programmes for Personnel at all levels

— Publications

— Seminars and conferences

— Productivity research and surveys

— Productivity Awards

(b) and (c) NPC provides the services based on fees charged to the clients and there is no provision to

provide Government loans and schemes for the above services.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Selection of Persons for Prime Minister National Award

6670. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the persons selected for Prime Minister National Award for "urban planning and designing" for the year 1998-99;

(b) whether the above selected persons have since been awarded by the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) the details of the persons who though selected for the said award but could not receive it alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following persons have been selected for Prime Minister's National Award for Urban Planning and Design for 1998-99:

CATEGORY-I Implemented Urban Planning and Design Projects signifying built environment of an exceptional quality.

FIRST PRIZE-JVSL Township, Bellary (Shri Gerard do Cuncha, Architecture Autonomous, Goa).

SECOND PRIZE-Agriculture Produce Market Complex, Turbhe, Navi Mumbai (City and Industrial Development Corporation , Navi Mumbai)

CATEGORY-II Innovative Ideas/Concepts and Plans in Urban Planning and Design where the Projects are still in the pipeline or at Implementation stage.

FIRST PRIZE-Sabarmati River Front Development Project (Sabarmati River Front Development Corporation, Ahmedabad).

SECOND PRIZE-Restructuring the Historic Core, Hyderabad (Vastu Shilpa Consultants, Ahmedabad).

(b) to (d) Date for conferring the Prime Minister's National Award for Urban Planning and Design is being finalized.

[English]

Retirement Benefit to PMF

6671. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up a relief and rehabilitation board for welfare of retired personnel of Para-Military forces on the pattern of Army, Naval & Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government have received a proposal for creation of a Board for Welfare and Rehabilitation of the Next of Kins of personnel of Central Police Organisations (CPOs) killed in action and those who suffer disabilities. The proposal is under consideration.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in CPWD

6672. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of compassionate appointments pending with the Central Government regarding Central Public Works Department;

(b) the date from which these case are pending with the Central Government;

(c) the number of employees died in service during 1985;

(d) the names of the deceased employees whose dependents have so far been given employment on compassionate grounds;

(e) the names of the deceased employees whose dependents have not provided the employment so far;

(f) the reasons for delay in giving appointments to the dependents of deceased employees on compassionate grounds even after lapse of so many years; and

(g) the steps being taken to clear the pending cases urgently?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of Scheduled Areas Act

6673. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3691 on 19th April, 2005 and state:

(a) whether there is a provision in Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act to amend the law by the concerned States having fifth Scheduled Areas on line with provision of Sixth Scheduled Areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government will direct the States to enact the law to provide relevant and related financial, administrative and other provisions of Sixth Scheduled Areas in the State Act as envisaged in provisions of the Panchayat (Extension of Scheduled Areas) Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Section 4 (o) of the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996 envisages as under:

> "the State Legislature shall endeavour to follow the pattern of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution while designing the administrative arrangements in the Panchayats at district levels in the Scheduled Areas".

(b) and (c) The provision of Section 4(o) is advisory and the government has no intention to compel the state legislatures to follow the pattern of sixth schedule. It is for the state governments to take a decision in this regard.

Valuation Estimate of Price of Salt Pan Land, Mumbai

6674. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any valuation estimate of price of Salt Pan Land, Mumbai has been done; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including that of the Salt Commissionerate?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Salt Pan Lands in Mumbai are under the control of Salt Commissionerate, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The DIPP have informed that no valuation estimate of price of Salt Pan lands in Mumbai has been done by the Salt Commissionerate.

[Translation]

Multi-National Companies

6675. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the Indian potential to attract multi-nationals and foreign companies;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken to promote entry of the multi-national companies in the labour intensive industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to formulate any national design policy to make India a 'designer hub' in the world;

(f) whether any consultation/meeting has been held with partners in this regard; and

(g) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not conducted any study to assess the Indian potential to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

(c) and (d) Government has put in place a liberal Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy which allows FDI in most sectors/activities up to 100% on the automatic route, including labour intensive industries. Initiatives undertaken by the Government to promote FDI in the country include progressive liberalisation of the policy; simplification of procedures; organising promotional events; and investment facilitation.

(e) to (g) Government has initiated an exercise with the intention of formulating a National Design Policy after consultations with various stakehdolders. Accordingly, interactive sessions have been held with the academia, industry and designers and this would help in formulation of the design policy.

[English]

Loss due to Natural Calamity

6676. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3100 on 20th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Implementation Report to fulfil the Assurance given in response to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3100 on 20th December, 2004 by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 21st March, 2005. It has been stated there in that as per the present Scheme for financing of relief expenditure, the State Government concerned is required to undertake relief measures in the affected areas out of the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. In case of calamity of a server nature, assistance is also provided to the State Governments from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) after following the laid down procedure.

The State of Uttar Pradesh, was allocated and amount of Rs. 177.81 crore for the year 2004-05, comprising of Rs. 133.36 crore as Central contribution and Rs. 44.45 crore as State contribution. Entire amount of Centre share was released during 2004-05.

The natural calamity of falling of trees in Achepur village in Unnao district, Uttar Pradesh, was relatively a minor and localized one and as such was not required to be reported by the State Government to the Ministry of Home Affairs and was well within the responsibility of the State Government.

Registration of Civil and Electrical Firms in CPWD Enquires

6677. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules have been framed for registration of civil and electrical firms in various CPWD enquired in Delhi and outside;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for awarding the tenders to various registered civil and electrical firms by various CPWD enquiries in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No rules have been framed for registration of civil and electrical firms in various CPWD Sewa Kendras in Delhi and outside.

(c) As per policy, original works entrusted to CPWD and some type of repair works are carried out through contracts awarded after call of tenders/quotations. Only some day-to-day repair works are normally carried out through departmental labour.

Fire Fighting Equipment

6678. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a safety audit conducted by New Delhi Power Limited (NDPL) in some parts of Delhi has revealed

that some of the schools, hospitals, cinema halls lack fire fighting equipment and found them unsafe; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make these public places safe for public use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The North Delhi Power Limited (NDPL) conducted a safety audit in July, 2002 and deficiencies in electrical installations were conveyed by them to the consumers.

(b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that the buildings of hospitals and cinema halls, constructed after enforcement of the Building Bye Laws, 1983 have the fire safety measures in accordance with the law. The buildings of cinema halls are provided with the requisite fire safety measures as per the Cinematography Rules also. As regards fire safety in school buildings, irrespective of the height of the buildings, the Education Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has issued detailed fire safety instructions to be followed by all schools.

Exploitation of Muslim Women

6679. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for a model nikahnama containing guidelines for Mulsims of both sexes; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Patent Law Issues

6680. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a technical expert group to look into certain patents law issues;

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

(c) the names of the specific areas referred to expert group; and

(d) by when the expert group will give its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) A Technical Expert Group in certain specific Patents law issues has been set up comprising:

(i)	Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	— Chairman
(ii)	Prof. Goverdhan Mehta, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	— Member
(iii)	Profesor Asis Datta, Director, National Institute for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi	— Member
(iv)	Professor Madhav Menon, Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal	— Member
(v)	Professor Moolchand Sharma, Director, National Law Institute University, Bhopal.	— Member

The terms of reference of the Group are as under:

(i) whether it would be TRIPs (Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual property Rights) compatible to limit the grant of patent for pharmaceutical substance to new chemical entity or to new medical entity involving one or more inventive step; and

(ii) whether it would be TRIPs compatible to exclude micro-organisms from patenting.

The Group held its first meeting on 29th April, 2005. The report of the Group is awaited.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Rajasthan

6681. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance released to Rajasthan for Urban Development during the last three years and thereafter till date;

(b) the amount spent for development of Jodhpur under the Urban Development schemes during the said period;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to give a special package/increase the amount of financial assistance to Jodhpur and backward district category;

(d) if so, whether any proposal in this regard is pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Assistance is provided to the State Governments for providing piped water supply to the towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991/2001 Census on 50:50 basis to be shared by the Central Government and State Governments under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP). Assistance is also provided under the scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) for providing/augmenting infrastructural facilities in towns having growth potential and population upto five lakh as per 1991 Census. The financial assistance released to the State of Rajasthan under these two schemes during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
AUWSP:	
2002-03	568.48
2003-04	1012.85
2004-05	1545.97
IDSMT:	
2002-03	282.79
2003-04	421.01
2004-05	701.67

Besides, Rs. 14.5297 crore has been released to National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) during the year 2004-05 under the Central Sector Scheme of Solid Waste Management and Drainage for implementation in the airfield town at Jodhpur to prevent bird menace to defence aircraft and loss of lives of Indian Air Force personnel.

(b) Under "Special Central Assistance" to State of Rajasthan in March, 1999 the amount spent on Urban Water Supply Scheme of Jodhpur Town during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	176.00
2003-04	773.86
2004-05	190.00

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Jodhpur district is not covered under backward District initiative of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

(e) Does not arise.

Death of PMF Personnels in States

6682. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of personnels of Para-Military Forces who belonged to Uttar Pradesh/Delhi and died in service during each of the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, force-wise and designation-wise;

(c) whether employments have been given to the dependants of those deceased personnels on compassionate ground;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Total number of Para Military Force personnel belonging to Uttar Pradesh/Delhi who died in service during the last three years.

Year	2002	2003	2004
Number	101	128	138

(b) Force wise and designation wise details of personnel who belonged to Uttar Pradesh/Delhi and died in service during the period 2002-2004 is as under:

Designation	AR	BSF	CRPF	CISF	ITBP	SSB
Second-in-Command	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dy. Comdt.	—	1	—	—	—	—
Chief Medical Officer	—	—	1	—	—	—
Asstt. Comdt.	—	2	1	—	—	—
Sub Major/OS	—	—	1	—	—	—
Inspector	—	—	4	—	—	—
Sub-Insp/SUB	3	6	11	16	1	—
Asstt.Sub Insp/NB	1	3	2	2	—	—
Head Constable	11	23	41	30	4	—
Lance Naik	1	1	—	—	—	—
Constable/Rifleman	15	47	56	37	16	1
Followers	—	6	12	10	—	—
Total	31	89	130	95	21	1

(c) to (e) compassionate appointments granted during 2002 to 2004 is as under:

CPF	Cases of Compassionate Appointment
AR	1
BSF	17
CRPF	2
CISF	42
SSB	1

In other cases either dependents of deceased have not applied or request could not be accepted as per norms.

[English]

Allocation of Funds for Earthquake

6683. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government for rehabilitation of the areas affected by the earthquake in Gujarat on 26 January 2001;

(b) the details of funds utilised/unutilised by the State Government for this purpose;

(c) the reasons for not utilising the full amount; and

(d) the details of reconstruction work so far completed in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The necessary information is being obtained from the Government.

Indo-Pak Exports to EU

6684. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan exports to the 25 nations European Union market will be treated alike from Ist April, 2005;

(b) if so, the date on which the EU is expected to introduce its revised generalized system of preferences scheme;

(c) whether under this scheme offers a new deal for vulnerable developing countries, whose economies are poorly diversified;

(d) whether this revised scheme offers a new deal for vulnerable developing countries, whose economies are poorly diversified;

(e) whether India and Pakistan are not on the list of developing countries entitled to GSP-Plus, which the EU foreign ministers are expected to adopt,

(f) whether Sri Lanka is on the list and Bangladesh is entitled to duty-free, quota-free entry for all its export under the GSP scheme;

(g) if so, whether both India and Pakistan have urged the EU to include them in the list under GSP Scheme; and

(h) if so, the reaction of the EU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In October 2004 European Commission adopted a proposal for introducing revised Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme with effect from 1st July, 2005. The proposal is under examination by the Council of the European Union. Though there was a proposal for advancing the date of implementation of revised GSP scheme from 1st April, 2005, this has not been effected.

(c) to (f) European Union extends either reduced or duty free access for a large number of products imported from developing countries under its GSP Scheme. The revision proposal of EU-GSP also includes 'GSP+' to provide special benefits for vulnerable countries that accept the main international conventions on social, human rights, environmental protection and governance, including fight against drugs and 'Everything But Arms' arrangement, giving duty free and quota free access for all products for the world's 50 poorest countries, which include Bangladesh. The list of countries eligible for "GSP+" has not been notified.

(g) and (h) Government of India has taken up the matter with the European Commission (EC) for granting duty free access to India's fishery products owing to the Tsunami disaster under the "GSP+" arrangement of the new GSP scheme. However EC has expressed its inability to grant "GSP+" treatment to separate sectors of a country as India as a country does not fulfil the conditions for such treatment.

Setting up of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters

6685. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any financial assistance from Germany for setting up of multi-purpose cyclone shelters in cyclone affected States;

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

(c) the number of such shelters set up from the said foreign aid till date, State-wise; and

(d) the terms and conditions of the said foreign assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, the Government of India has received financial assistance from Germany (KFW) for Orissa Cyclone Shelter Phase-I & II amounting to Euro 2.556 million (DM 5 million)—grant and Euro 5.113 million (DM 10 million)—grant respectively. The project, being implemented since May, 1996. The funds committed by Germans will be used for:

(i) construction of multipurpose cyclone shelters in the coastal villages of Orissa;

(ii) provision of equipment for task force members to be used in cyclone disasters;

(iii) training of target population on disaster preparedness and disaster management; and

(iv) implementation of system for shelter maintenance.

Government of India has channelled the financial contribution as grant (through the Government of Orissa) to the Indian Red Crosss Society/Orissa Branch (Project

Executing Agency). Full disbursement has been made for Phase-I of the Project and Euro 1.396 million has been disbursed for Phase-II of the Project (upto March 2005).

Setting up of Committee to look into Working of Women Studies

6686. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the University Grants Commission to set up a Standing Committee to look into the working of women's studies centres within the university system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the status of women's studies within the university system is far below than the desired level; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The Central Government has constituted a Standing Committee consisting of 5 members to go into the working of Women's Studies on a continuing basis and to submit periodic reports to the University Grants Commission (UGC). According to the information furnished by the UGC, there were 34 Women's Studies Centres in Indian Universities during IX Plan Period which were reviewed and continued in the X Plan. In addition, 21 new Women's Studies Centres in Universities and 9 Women's Studies Centres in Colleges have so far been established in the X Plan Period.

Delhi University

6687. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Delhi University has deleted an entire paper on Gandhi in P.G. Studies in Political Science;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reinstate the said paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, in the pre-revised syllabus of M.A. (Political Science), the paper on Gandhian thought and action was an optional paper. This paper was offered only by a small fraction of students and the majority was deprived of the opportunity to know and appreciate Gandhian thought. Gandhian thought and ideas have, therefore, been included as an integral part of different compulsory courses in the revised syllabus.

Affiliation by Delhi University

6688. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi University is mulling over recommendations of updating its affiliation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Delhi University has increased its affiliation fee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of colleges granted affiliation by Delhi University during the last three years and likely to be given during 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi. A Committee constituted by the University for the purpose has recommended procedural guidelines for grant of affiliation to the colleges/ institutions under the relevant provisions of the Act, Statutes and the Ordinances of the University. The Committee has also recommended levy of one-time recognition fee and the annual affiliation fee from the institutions seeking affiliation to the University ranging from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 10.00 lakh depending upon the level of courses to be offered by such institutions. The recommendations of the Committee have, however, not

yet been accepted by the competent authorities of the University.

(e) In view of the enormous size of the University and the need to maintain standards of college education, the affiliation by the University of Delhi is granted very sparingly. During the last three years, only two institutions have been granted affiliation and it is not possible to indicate the number of colleges likely to be granted affiliation during the current year.

[Translation]

Task Group for Development of SCs/STs

6689. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had constituted a Task Group on Development of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes on August 4, 2004 which has submitted its report to the main Task Group on November 9, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendations of the Group and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission had constituted an inter-Ministerial Task Group on Development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes on 4th August, 2004. The Task Group had further set up four Sub-Groups, one of which, relating to Scheduled Tribes, had submitted its Report to the parent Task Group on 9th November, 2004. Based on the Reports submitted its Report to the parent Task Group on 9th November, 2004. Based on the Reports submitted by the Sub-Groups and after further deliberations, the Task Group has prepared a Report. This Report is available on the Website of the Planning Commission.

[English]

Hostels/Ashram Schools

6690. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received request from State Government to release grants for construction of hostel buildings for boys/girls in the year 2004-05 and also upgradation of schools on the line of Ashrams;

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

(c) by when the grant is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The schemes of construction of hostel for ST Boys/Girls and Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas are two independent schemes. The receipt of proposals ashram Schools is a continuous process. The grant-in-aid under the schemes is however, released only if the proposal is complete in all respects i.e. availability of land free of cost, availability of confirmed 50% State share, Utilization Certificate and physical progress reports in respect of proposals sanctioned in previous years, and the availability of funds.

The details of grants-in-aid released to different States including Karnataka for the construction of hostels and ashram schools during 2004-05 are attached as Statement.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not implementing any scheme of "Upgradation of Schools on line of Ashrams".

Statement

Scheme: Boys/Girls hostel for STs.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grant Released 2004-05
1	2	3
1.	Gujarat	67.60
2.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00
3.	Karnataka	120.00
4.	Maharashtra	242.04
5.	Nagaland	151.00

1	2	3
6.	IIT Delhi	234.88
7.	Jharkhand	98.86
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.50
9.	Punjab University, Chandigarh	65.12
	Total	1300.00

Scheme: Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas.

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grant Released 2004-05
1.	Gujarat	86.49
2.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00
3.	Karnataka	77.51
4.	Maharashtra	86.00
	Total	550.00

Central Assistance to State Capitals

6691. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing urban development schemes that could be availed by the State Capitals;

(b) whether the Union Government is providing any kind of central assistance under urban development schemes to States Capitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether certain State Capitals are not getting such assistance; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) At present, no Urban Development Schemes exist exclusively for assisting State capitals. However, the following Centrally sponsored Urban Development Schemes are administered by Ministry of Urban Development:

(i) **Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities**

The Scheme is applicable to cities having population over 4 million as per 1991 Census and is being implemented in the following five State capitals viz. Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata.

(ii) **Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT)**

The scheme seeks to provide/augment infrastructure facilities in towns having growth potential and population upto 5 lakh as per 1991 Census.

(iii) **Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)**

The Scheme is applicable to small towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census.

(iv) **Scheme of Lumpsum Provision for the Benefit of North Eastern Region and Sikkim.**

Infrastructure development projects in North Eastern region and Sikkim (including State Capitals) are sanctioned out of 10% lumpsum provision kept annually for the purpose.

(v) **Solid Waste Management & Drainage in Air Field Towns**

The Scheme seeks to provide proper sanitation facilities, including solid waste management and drainage, in 10 selected IAF airfield towns to prevent bird menace to defence aircraft, which is a major cause of air accidents. However, none of the 10 selected air field towns is State Capital.

Details of Central assistance provided since inception till 31.3.2005 for implementing projects taken up in State capitals under the Schemes mentioned at Sl.No.s (i) to (iv) above are given below:

Mega City Scheme

City	Rs. in crore
Mumbai	311.85
Hyderabad	257.72
Bangalore	228.84
Chennai	244.28
Kolkata	291.73
Total:	1334.44

IDSMT: Details are given in Statement-I.

AUWSP: Water supply scheme for Itanagar, capital of Arunachal Pradesh. was approved under AUWSP in March, 1997 and Central share amounting to Rs. 83.29 lakh released.

Scheme of Lumpsum Provision for North East

Details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) State capitals whose population is less than 4 million/more than 5 lakh/more than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, are not eligible for funding under Mega City Scheme, IDSMT and AUWSP, respectively.

Statement I

List of State Capitals covered under IDSMT Scheme till 31.3.2005 Central Assistance Released

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	City	State	Central Assistance Released
1.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	90.00
2.	Panaji	Goa	65.50
3.	Imphal	Manipur	46.00
4.	Shillong*	Meghalaya	225.40
5.	Aizawl*	Mizoram	141.40
6.	Kohima*	Nagaland	73.00
7.	Gangtok	Sikkim	29.75
8.	Agartala*	Tripura	121.87
9.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal	105.00

*These State capitals were covered twice under IDSMT, initially under the old Scheme which provided Central assistance as a soft loan and subsequently under the Revised Scheme of August, 1995 which provide Central assistance as a grant. Accordingly, the above amounts shown include grant assistance of Rs. 185.40 lakh for Shillong, Rs. 62.40 lakh for Aizawal, Rs. 33.00 lakh for Kohima and Rs. 88.12 lakh for Agartala.

Statement II

Funds Released for Infrastructure Projects in State Capitals Sanctioned under the Scheme of Lumpsum Provision for the Benefit of Projects/Schemes in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. (As on 31.3.05).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Capital	Name of State	Funds Released
1.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	2591.16
2.	Guwahati	Assam	3660.84
3.	Imphal	Manipur	2440.62
4.	Shillong	Meghalaya	2948.82
5.	Aizawl	Mizoram	3978.60
6.	Kohima	Nagaland	1317.59
7.	Gangtok	Sikkim	3763.12
8.	Agartala	Tripura	4531.28

Introduction of Peace Education

6692. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training has decided to introduce "Peace Education" in the school curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be a separate subject for the students;

(d) whether the Government planned to integrate this peace education through in-service and pre-service education for teachers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.

FATMI): (a) to (c) The NCERT is presently is in the process of reviewing the National Curriculum Framework. One of the 21 National Focus Groups constituted by it for the purpose of curriculum review is on "Peace Education". Education for peace is central to the aims and purpose of education, and seeks to nurture values, attitudes and skills required for living in harmony within oneself and with others including nature. Peace Education is to be viewed as a concerned permeating the entire school life-curriculum, classroom environment, school management, teacher pupil relationship, teaching learning process and the entire gamut of school activities. The impediments to peace in the school system can be sourced back to the curriculum load and syllabi not suiting the development level of children, and excessively competitive examination system, leading to frustration and insecurity. Therefore, peace education is not proposed as a separate subject for students. This will, however, be integrated in the entire school curriculum.

(d) and (e) In order to enable teachers to promote and practise peace, pre-service training will also integrate the components of peace education throughout the curriculum. An optional subject on Peace Education is also proposed to be offered in the curriculum of teacher education.

Agricultural Exports

6693. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to augment agricultural exports in the supplement to new foreign trade policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith target fixed for export of various commodities;

(c) whether Government has removed the export cess on agriculture and plantation commodities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has also reduce export obligations from 8% to 6% in farms sectors under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme;

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

(g) whether Government has launched cold storage chains and warehousing parks in the country to promote exports of agricultural products and small and medium entrepreneurs; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government announced Vishesh Krish Upaj Yojana (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) in the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31.8.2004 with an objective to promote export of fruits, vegetables, flowers, minor forest produce and their value added products by incentivising exports of such products. In the Annual Supplement of the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 8th April, 2005 and updated with effect from 1.4.2005, export of "dairy, poultry and their value added products" have also been included for benefits under the Scheme.

Export being dependent on a host of factors, including external factors, no targets for exports are fixed.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved the proposal for removal of export cess on agricultural and plantation commodities with the policy perspective that taxes and duties ought not to be exported. Specific reasons for removal of cess are incentivising exports; increasing competitiveness of Indian agricultural exports, and to reduce the transaction in exporting agricultural products.

(e) and (f) The achieve the objectives laid down under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 and to increase the export competitiveness of the Agriculture Sector, certain export promotion measures have been announced for this sector under the EPCG Scheme. These include allowing import of capital goods at 5% customs duty in the case of agro units under the EPCG Scheme subject to a fulfilment of an export obligation equivalent to 6 times the duty saved over a period of 12 years from the date of issue of licence instead of 8 times the duty saved over a period of 8 years.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has provided support for establishment of cold chain and centres for perishable cargo at all major international airports. APEDA has also set up pack houses for mangoes and other fruits at

Saharanpur, Lucknow, Malda, Fatehabad, Ratnagiri, Vashi, Jalna and Sindhudurg and one for onions at Indapur. APEDA has also provided support to exporters for setting up of specialized cold storages to enhance shelf life of produce.

National Population Education Project

6694. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Population Education Project implemented with the financial assistance of United National Population Fund was discontinued in 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to continue this project during the remaining period of 10th five-year plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Population Education Project (NPEP) programme being implemented with the financial support from the United National Population Fund (UNFPA) was continued up to December 2002. UNFPA discontinued support after December, 2002 because the programme had attained its main objective of institutionalising population education in the school education system.

(c) and (d) Although population education became integral part content & process of school education and teacher's education the Government of India decided to continue the implementation of the project during 10th five year plan period with its own support because of the following reasons:

(i) It was urgently needed to integrate the concerns of Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) including the elements of HIV/AIDS and Drug abuse in the contents & process of school education and teacher's education.

(ii) The emerging population and development concerned, such as a sustainable development, gender equality and equity, reproductive rights, changing structure of family and role of family members were yet to be integrated in the curricula, syllabi, textbooks and teaching learning process of school education including teacher's education.

Tobacco Sector

6695. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major constraints faced by the Tobacco growing sector in various States especially Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the preventive and curative measures taken so far to mitigate problems;

(c) whether the entire stock of tobacco available with farmers of tobacco producing States particularly Andhra Pradesh has been purchased by Government agencies in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The major constraint faced by the tobacco growing sector in India is the excess and unauthorised production of FCV tobacco over and above the crop size fixed by the Tobacco Board.

(b) The growers are discouraged to produce tobacco in excess of the authorised crop size by imposing penalties on excess and unauthorised production.

(c) and (d) The FCV tobacco is marketed at the auction platforms of the Tobacco Board where tobacco is purchased by traders, exporters and manufacturers. In the last three years the entire produce brought to be auction platforms of the Tobacco Board has been sold.

[Translation]

Fake Caste Certificate

6696. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has recently arrested a gang involve in making fake caste certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such gangs arrested during each of the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government against such culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The requisite information is given below:

Year	Number of case registered	Number of persons arrested
2002	—	—
2003	1	4
2004	1	3
2005 Upto 30th April)	2	5

Delhi Police takes necessary legal action under appropriate sections of law against the persons found to be involved in such malpractices.

[English]

Demolition of Buildings and Unauthorised Constructions in Delhi

6697. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of buildings and unauthorised constructions demolished in Delhi during the last three years and thereafter till date, location-wise;

(b) the details of compensation, if any, granted to affected people during this period;

(c) whether no proper notice was served to most of the concerned persons for demolishing the above buildings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) DDA has reported that 561 unauthorized buildings have been demolished during the last three years, the zone-wise details of which are as under:

Rohini Zone	347
South East Zone	7
South West Zone	70
West Zone	3
East Zone	28
North Zone	106

MCD has reported to have demolished 4278 unauthorized constructions as per zone-wise details given as under:

Narela Zone	128
Shahdara (North) Zone	417
Shahdara (South) Zone	539
Civil Line Zone	363
South Zone	460
Central Zone	486
Karol Bagh Zone	376
City Zone	286
S.P. Zone	376
West Zone	310
Rohini Zone	384
Najafgarh Zone	153

NDMC has reported to carry out 100 demolitions during the period.

60 Nos. of buildings and unauthorized constructions are reported to be demolished by Delhi Cantonment Board.

(b) The relevant Acts do not provide for grant of compensation in respect of demolition of illegal and unauthorized constructions.

(c) to (e) Show cause notices are issued as per the provisions of the relevant Acts.

Spices Trade

6698. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) details of the variety of spices produced by different States alongwith the respective exports from each States;

(b) quantity of different variety of spices imported from respective country;

(c) quantity of different spices is import under duty paid;

(d) quantity imported under EOU units scheme and duty free advance licences scheme;

(e) whether fraudulent imports have also taken place;

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereupon;

(g) whether any action has been taken for imports of cloves and cardamom at Kochi Port, ICD Jaipur, ICD Delhi and ICD Rewari;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) steps taken by the Government to protect the Indian Spices Farmers, Interest on account of Duty Free Imports and under invoiced imports at various ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Closure of Training Centre of SAI in Patna

6699. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Training Centre of Sports Authority of India in Patna has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the alternative arrangement made by the Government to impart training to the sportspersons of Bihar; and

(d) the number of Sports Training Centres being run at present in the country State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The SAI Training Centre (STC) at Patna is functional and regular training is imparted to the selected sportspersons in the discipline of Football, Kabaddi, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Basketball. During 2004-05, 61 sportspersons have been given training at STC Patna.

In addition, in Bihar since the last three years, Sports Authority of India is running three NSTC Schools at Nalanda, Begusarai & Bhojpur; one ABSC centre at Danapur and three SAG Centres at Muzaffarpur, Kishanganj and Giddhaur. The talented sportspersons from the State are trained in the discipline of Football, Kabaddi, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Athletics, Hockey & Wrestling in the above SAI Centres. During 2002-03, 248 trainees; 2003-04, 348 trainees and 2004-05, 364 trainees were trained under the SAI Schemes in the State of Bihar.

(d) Sports Authority of India is presently running 57 SAI Training Centres all over the country. The State wise location of SAI Centres is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

State-wise/Region-wise List of the SAI Centres

Sl.No.	Name of the State(s)	SAI Centre(s)	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	STC, Secundrabad	175	38	213
		STC, Eluru	53	-	53
		STC, Vishakhapattanam	40	68	108

1	2	3	4	5	6
		STC, Medak	18	—	18
		STC, Kurnool	62	_	62
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	SAG, Port Blair	70	38	108
3.	Bihar	STC, Patna	61	—	61
		SAG, Muzaffarpur	61	02	63
		SAG, Kishanganj	40	—	40
		SAG, Giddaur	31	—	31
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	Regional Centre-STC, Chandigarh	—	68	68
5.	Chhattisgarh	STC, Rajnandgaon	42	—	42
6.	Delhi	STc, Delhi-Ext. Centre Johri	155	93	248
		COX, Delhi	02	01	03
7.	Gujarat	STC, Gandhinagar	113	27	140
		COX, Gandhinagar	34	02	36
8.	Goa	STC, Ponda	87	81	168
9.	Himachal Pradesh	STC, Bilaspur	52	—	52
		STC, Dharamshala	—	82	82
10.	Haryana	STc, Bhiwani	89	—	89
		STC, Kurukshetra	81	—	81
		STC, Hissar-Ext. Centre Chauthala	47	52	99
11.	Jharkhand	SAG, Ranchi	36	32	68
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	STC, Udhampur	49	—	49
13.	Karnataka	Regional Centre, STC, Bangalore	178	64	242
		STC, Dharwad	66	19	85
		STC, Mediker	—	29	29
		COX, Bangalore	77	25	102
14.	Kerala	STC, Kollam	93	95	188
		STC, Trivandrum	73	35	108
		STC, Trichur	54	40	94

1	2	3	4	5	6
		STC, Calicut	63	01	64
		SAG, Alleppey	27	34	61
		SAG, Tellicherry	33	70	103
		COX, Trivandrum	06	08	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Regional Centre, STC, Bhopal	93	14	107
		STC, Dhar	91	59	150
		STC, Jabalpur	104	105	209
		STC, Tikkamgarh	20	20	40
16.	Maharashtra	STC, Mumbai	103	25	128
		STC, Aurangabad	96	12	108
17.	Orissa	STC, Dhankenal	57	—	57
		STC, Cuttack	57	25	82
		SAG, Jagatpur	25	18	43
		SAG, Sundergarh	31	25	56
18.	Punjab	STC, Patiala	76	08	84
		STC, Badal	—	66	66
		STC, Mastana Sahib	50	—	50
		COX, Patiala	57	27	84
19.	Pondicherry	STC, Pondicherry	90	—	90
20.	Rajasthan	STC, Jodhpur	55	—	55
		STC, Alwar	87	03	90
21.	Tamil Nadu	STC, Chennai	85	42	127
		STC, Salem	97	24	121
		SAG, Nagercoil	38	09	47
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Sub-Centre/STC, Lucknow	105	70	175
		STC, Raibarielly	49	03	52
		STC, Safai Etawah	71	—	71
		STC, Agra	08	15	23
		STC, Barielly	14	31	45

1	2	3	4	5	6
		STC, Jhansi	26	—	26
		STC, Allahabad	50	29	79
		COX, Lucknow	13	11	24
23.	Uttaranchal	STC, Kashipur	74	20	94
24.	West Bengal	Regional Centre, STC, Kolkata	108	59	167
		STC, Burdwan	27	—	27
		STC, Siliguri	48	12	60
		STC, Lebong	28	—	28
		COX, Kolkata	27	34	61
		Total:	4028	1770	5798

Number of SAI Centres Operational in the North-Eastern States

Sl. No.	Name of the State(s)	SAI Centre(s)	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Assam	STC, Golaghat	34	43	77
		Sub-Centre/STC Guwahati	57	50	117
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	SAG, Naharlagun	55	27	82
3.	Manipur	Regional Centre/STC, Imphal	123	101	224
		SAG, Utlov	84	—	84
		SAG, Imphal	186	150	336
		COX, Imphal	27	49	76
4.	Meghalaya	STC, Shillong	114	37	151
5.	Mizoram	SAG, Aizwal	62	70	132
6.	Nagaland	STC, Dimapur	71	08	79
7.	Tripura	SAG, Agartala	76	12	88
8.	Sikkim	SAG, Namchi	46	—	46
		Total:	945	547	1492

[English]

Popularisation of Kannada Language

6700. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to formulate any action plan to propagate and popularize Kannada language;

(b) if so, the details of the same along with the term of the above action plan;

(c) the funds likely to be allocated to implement the above action plan; and

(d) the details of the schemes formulated to propagate and popularize Kannada language during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to the development and promotion of all Indian Languages including Kannada and has several ongoing schemes and programmes formulated for the purpose, being implemented by its various organizations such as Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore and National Book Trust (NBT) under the Minister of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary & Higher Education and Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture. CIIL, Mysore is engaged in publication of books and materials (including audio-visual material), research, teaching and training of teachers in Kannada language under the Three Language Formula, Grant-in-aid to the individuals and voluntary organisations for publication, bulk purchase of books and support to little magazines etc. Awards are also given to the outstanding works in Kannada language by CIIL, Mysore. NBT and Sahitya Akademi promote the Kannada language alongside other Indian Languages by publishing books and translations, organizing book fares, book exhibitions, Reader clubs, holding workshops, conferences and awarding the accomplished writers etc. Eminent Kannada writers and personalities are associated with the above mentioned organizations.

(d) Apart from implementing these regular programmes for development and promotion of Indian Languages including Kannada during the last three years, CIIL, Mysore has launched Kannada Online Learning Programme in April 2005. During the last three years CIIL, Mysore, NBT and Sahitya Akademi have awarded prizes to the outstanding works/authors in Kannada including translation of Kannada works in others languages. Several seminars, conferences, workshops and book-exhibitions etc. have been organized to promote the Kannada language. Several books and translation from Kannada in various languages were published by NBT, CIL, Mysore and Sahitya Akademi.

Import of Marine Products

6701. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of fish/sea foods have adversely affected our domestic market in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether export of Indian marine product has recently been banned by any country because of substandard quality;

(d) if so, remedial measures taken thereupon;

(e) whether there has been any decrease in export of sea foods; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Export of Indian marine products has not been banned recently by any country.

(e) and (f) As per the provisional export figures provided by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the exports of marine products from India during the year 2004-05 amounted to US$ 1330.76 million showing a growth of 6.05% over the corresponding period last year.

Repatriation of DDA Officers

6702. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has repatriated some honest whistle-blowers for detecting a serious land scam related to Group Housing Society in Delhi involving an amount of Rs. 4000 crores reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 26, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken against the erring officers in this regard;

(d) whether Central Vigilance Commission has issued guidelines for protecting the interest of whistle-blowers;

(e) if so, whether such guidelines were considered before issuing repatriation in respect of above referred officers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) DDA has reported that no such action has been taken.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) to (c) above.

Technology Upgradation

6703. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps for Technology Upgradation to advance Indian Industry vis-à-vis global players technologically; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with current status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A Scheme "Technology Upgradation and Modernisation" in the domestic industries was formulated for implementation during the Tenth Plan period. The Scheme envisaged 30% capital subsidy and 10% interest subsidy to the industrial units for technology modernisation. It has now been decided to merge this Scheme with another Scheme, "Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme" (IIUS) being implemented by the Government. The IIUS also has components relating to Technology Upgradation in the approved industrial clusters.

Loan Provided by HUDCO

6704. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan provided by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) the people of the economically weaker sections in the country particularly in Gujarat during the last three years and thereafter till date, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total number of persons benefited, State-wise;

(c) the housing loan proposed to be provided particularly for the people of the weaker sections in the country during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has received loans from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other foreign funding agencies for the housing sector during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details of the same; and

(f) the loans provided to each State out of the total loans extended by the above said banks for the purpose of housing to the people of the economically weaker section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Housing & Urban Development Corporation has sanctioned loan of Rs. 863.19 crore during the last three years for the economically weaker sections in the country out of which a loan amount of Rs. 23.77 crore is for the State of Gujarat. No loan has been sanctioned during the current financial year, 2005-06 so far. The total number of dwelling units sanctioned during the last three years is 6,84,255. The State-wise/year-wise details are enclosed as statement.

(c) Housing loans are sanctioned by HUDCO on the basis of the proposals received by them from the State Governments. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the amount of the housing loan proposed to be provided during the remaining two years of the present Five Year Plan (10th Plan). Information for the first three years of the current Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Statement

Statewise Housing Loan/DUs Sanctioned Under EWS (Urban) Category during the last three years

(Rs. in Crores)

States/UTs	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
	Loan	DUs*	Loan	DUs*	Loan	DUs*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Andhra Pradesh	29.42	46267	0.00	19066	0.00	23732
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Assam	0.20	0	5.56	1111	0.63	81
Bihar	0.00	128	0.00	512	0.00	0
Chandigarh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Chhattisgarh	24.20	11000	24.20	10000	0.00	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Delhi	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Goa	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Gujarat	0.00	18136	23.14	9259	0.63	793
Haryana	6.85	3263	0.00	0	0.00	0
Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	0.00	794	0.00	1032
Jharkhand	0.00	10531	40.00	20000	0.00	0
Karnataka	217.45	84595	85.23	43052	222.43	51455
Kerala	47.00	56540	8.38	10486	0.00	7698
Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	7.25	4664	0.86	1983	13.47	6839
Maharashtra	0.00	7166	4.50	33488	0.00	38031
Manipur	10.00	780	0.00	0	0.00	253
Meghalaya	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Mizoram	0.00	0	2.00	115	0.00	0
Nagaland	4.00	323	0.00	603	0.00	240
Orissa	0.00	0	0.00	267	0.00	202
Pondicherry	0.00	0	0.00	408	0.00	903
Punjab	12.56	4050	0.00	0	0.00	0
Rajasthan	0.00	0	0.00	700	25.00	12335
Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Tamil Nadu	28.00	17644	0.00	11214	4.41	67559
Tripura	0.54	801	0.00	976	0.00	0
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	5711	5.27	9709	0.54	8629
Uttaranchal	2.14	890	3.89	1985	3.44	1806
West Bengal	0.00	6468	0.00	4340	0.00	3642
Total	389.61	278957	203.03	180068	270.55	225230

*Including DUs sanctioned under VAMBAY.

Allocation of Brass Scrap

6705. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities have come to the notice of the Government involving MMTC in regard to allocation of Brass Scrap released by Ministry of Defence to it during this financial year;

(b) whether there exist a Cartel involving officials and agents that cornors all deals thus depriving other eligible agents to get their due quota; and

(c) if so, action taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A few complaints have been received in regard to allocation of quantity with respect to handling of Brass Scrap, released by Ministry of Defence to MMTC.

(b) and (c) MMTC sold 520 metric tonnes of brass scrap, allotted by Ministry of Defence, to 24 registered Small Scale Industries (SSI) units based on the indents along with full advance payment from them during FY 2004-05. The matter has since become *sub judice* as one of the parties has filed CWP before the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court. MMTC has, therefore, suspended this business pending decision in the matter.

Cement Plants

6706. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of cement plants in various States have been closed during each of the last three years;

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

(c) the number of cement plants functioning each State;

(d) the details of the demand and supply of cement in the country as on date;

(e) whether the Government has find out the reasons for closure of various cement plants in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps taken by the Government for revival of closed cement plants;

(h) whether there has been sharp increase in the cement prices recently; and

(i) if so, the role of the Government and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No large cement plants were reported closed during the last three years.

(c) A statement showing the number of large cement plants functioning in each State is enclosed.

(d) The details of the demand and supply of cement in the country for the year 2004-05 are as under:

(Large + Mini Cement Plants)
(In million tonnes)

Capacity installed	Production	Domestic consumption	Export Cement	
			Cement	Clinker
161.24	131.56	127.07	4.07	5.99

(e) to (g) In view of the (a) & (b), does not arise.

(h) and (i) Cement is a delicensed and decontrolled commodity and its prices are determined by the market forces of demand and supply in the country. Prices have been more or less stable in the recent years. The Government monitors the prices of cement regularly.

Statement

Number of large cement plants functioning in the country

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Punjab	3	3	3
Rajasthan	13	13	13
Himachal Pradesh	3	3	3

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	1
Assam	1	1	1
Meghalaya	1	1	1
Bihar	1	1	1
Jharkhand	3	3	3
Orissa	3	3	3
West Bengal	4	4	4
Chhattisgarh	7	7	7
Andhra Pradesh	18	18	18
Tamil Nadu	13	13	13
Karnataka	6	6	6
Kerala	1	2	2
Gujarat	8	9	9
Maharashtra	8	8	8
Uttar Pradesh	4	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	9	9	9
Total	107	109	110

[Translation]

Handing Over of Land to Builder and Slum Mafia by DDA

6707. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has reprimanded Delhi Development Authority for trying to hand over approximately 12 hectare land meant for park in Kalkaji, South Delhi to builder and slum mafia and issued instructions to remove encroachment with in six weeks in April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority has taken any steps to remove the encroachment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has conducted or propose to conduct any enquiry to find out the involvement of the officers of Delhi Development Authority in the said episode;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against guilty officers of Delhi Development Authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it had settled jhuggie dwellers from different jhuggie clusters in one room tenements temporarily at transit camp Govindpuri, Kalkaji in 1984-86. Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide order dated

22.9.2004 in WP. (C) No. 6324/2003 and further order dated 4.4.2005 in CM No. 14228/2004 in LPA No. 1063/2004 directed DDA to remove the transit camp and other construction/encroachment in the area meant for District Park and restore the land to that use. Some of the effected persons in the Transit Camp have moved application before the Court and the matter is sub-judice.

In the meanwhile, action has been taken to demolish 265 structures pertaining to migrants who had also been temporarily settled in the area and had later been allotted flat by DDA.

[English]

Swimming Pools in KVs

6708. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi having swimming pools;

(b) the details of accidents/deaths occurred in Kendriya Vidyalayas swimming pools during the last two years; and

(c) the corrective measures taken to prevent accidents/deaths in these pools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The details of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi having swimming pool are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the K.V.
1	2
1.	AGCR Colony, Delhi
2	Andrews Ganj, New Delhi
3.	J.N.U. Campus, New Delhi
4.	Paschim Vihar, Delhi
5.	Sec-8, R.K. Puram, New Delhi
6.	Sec-8, Rohini, Delhi
7.	Sec-2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi
8.	Sec-3, Rohini, Delhi
9.	Sainik Vihar, Delhi
10.	Lawrence Road, Delhi
11.	Janak Puri, New Delhi
12.	Vikas Puri, New Delhi
13.	Tagore Garden, New Delhi

(b) A boy accompanied by his mother came to the swimming pool of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Andrews Ganj at 7.00 p.m. on 14th April. After swimming for about 10-15 minutes, he complained of chest pain and was rushed to Hospital, where he was declared dead. The post mortem of the body reflected that his death was not due to swimming, as there was no water in his lungs. No case of death due to drowning has been reported from any swimming pool at Kendriya Vidyalayas during the last two years.

(c) As the swimming pools are run by private individuals on Build Operate & Transfer basis, the operators are made responsible to provide lifeguards, coaches, instructors, first-aid etc.

[Translation]

Scheme to Check Cheap Imports

6709. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to check cheap imports in the country to improve the economy of domestic industries in the country;

(b) if so, its likely impact on the market of domestic producers and also loss suffered during last three years;

(c) whether such products have been identified, which are sold on heavy subsidy in the country; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the steps taken or to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) With a view to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and consequential injury to the domestic industry, the Government has set up Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) to investigate into the allegations of dumping. Anti-dumping investigations are initiated on the basis of applications filed by the domestic industry alleging dumping, injury and causal link between dumping and injury. The DGAD investigates the existence and degree of dumping, identifies the dumped article, and submits provisional and/or final findings to the Ministry of Finance recommending, where appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied. Application alleging dumping and injury submitted by domestic industry is processed as per the procedures and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the rules made thereunder.

From 1992 till 4.5.2005, the DGAD has initiated 181 anti-dumping investigations. In these 181 cases, final findings have been issued in 158 cases, preliminary findings in 3 cases, 11 cases are under investigations for issue of preliminary/final findings and 9 cases have been closed after initiation.

[English]

Prosecution of DDA Officers

6710. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation had sought to prosecute DDA officers allegedly involved in corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of officers against whom sanction granted and those against whom sanction withheld; and

(d) the details of DDA officers placed under suspension and dismissed due to inquiry of CBI?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that CBI has sought sanction to prosecute 19 of DDA officials involved in 18 cases.

(c) DDA has reported that it has granted prosecution sanction in respect of 17 officials involved in 17 cases. In one case involving three officials, prosecution sanction has been kept in abeyance, on the request of CBI.

(d) DDA has reported that in the last three years, eight of its officials have been placed under suspension and four officials have been dismissed as a result of CBI inquiry.

Export of Auto Components

6711. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of country's auto components;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify the market in the international spheres where there is growing demand for the automobile parts manufactured in India;

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of automobile parts to these countries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The export of auto components out of India in financial year 2004-05 is expected to be US$ 1.4 billion, which is about 16% of the total turnover of the auto component industry. In 2003-2004, the export was US $ 1 billion and hence, the export growth in the last one year has been 40%. According to a recent Automotive Components Manufacturers' Association (ACMA) and Mckinsey & Co study, India has the potential of achieving export of auto-components to the tune of US $ 20-25 billion by 2015. The largest share of this export would come from North America and Western European countries, which today accounts for more than 60% of India's Export of auto components.

(b) to (d) ACMA has undertaken many initiatives to identify the export opportunities as well as to create the necessary linkages between the Indian suppliers and the large OEM and Tier 1 buyer of USA and EU. Country

market studies have been conducted by ACMA and an integrated export strategy has been prepared. ACMA also organises sector specific business Missions to these countries and receives buying Missions from these countries. They also participate in major automotive trade shows and has been organising customer focussed Buyer Seller Meets and Business Development Events. Special focus has also been given to large potential markets of Russia and Iran. In addition, the Government is promoting exports through Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC)'s various export promotion measures such as organizing as well as taking part in trade exhibitions, organizing Buyer Seller Meets both in India and abroad, sponsoring trade delegations etc. The Government has been operating export promotion mechanisms for engineering products including auto-components, such as Duty Drawback scheme, and other promotion Schemes under Foreign Trade Policy.

Vacant Posts for Regional Languages in Delhi University

6712. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that posts for lecturers of Regional Languages particularly Oriya and Telugu under the department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies of Delhi University are lying vacant;

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

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up;

(d) whether the certificate diploma and advanced diploma courses, M.Phil and Ph.D. courses in Telugu and Oriya are not being taught in aforesaid department; and

(e) if so, the detail and facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, no post of lecturer in Oriya is vacant in the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies of the University and the certificate, diploma, advance diploma, M.Phil and Ph.D. courses in Oriya are being offered by the Department. However, these courses in Telugu are presently not being run because of two vacancies of lecturer in Telugu in the Department. The University has already set in motion the process for filling up these vacancies.

[Translation]

Misuse of Funds under Tribal Development Schemes

6713. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the NGOs which are implementing the Tribal development schemes in Chhattisgarh along with the funds allocated and spent by these organizations during each of the last three years and thereafter, scheme-wise and organization-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the allocated funds are being used for other purposes by these NGOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government against these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The details of funds released to NGOs in Chhattisgarh during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The funds to the NGOs are released on the basis of satisfactory Inspection Report of the District Collector and recommendation of the State Government in certification of proper utilization of funds for the purposes intended under the respective Schemes.

Statement

The name(s) of the NGOs in Chhattisgarh, Schemes sanctioned and amount released during the last three year

Sl.No.	Name of the organization	Name of the Project	Funds released (in Rupees)		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	Grant-in-aid to NGos for STs				
1.	Nav Abhilasha Sikshan Sansthan, At/Po: Budhwanipara, Dongarh, District Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh	Non-Residential	463406	956453	0
2.	R.K. Mission Ashrama (Narainpur) PO Narainpur, District Bastar, Chhattisgarh	Automobile Engineering and Hostal (6 Nos.)	740652	1724974	778899
3.	Saraswati Shiksha Samiti, Behind Ayurvedic College, Saraswati Vihar, Raipur Chhattisgarh	Residential School	157500	0	0
	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets for Development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas				
4.	Vivekanand Institute of Social Health Welfare & Service (VISHWAS), Narainpur, District-Baster, Chhattisgarh	Educational Complex	973400	920400	1173400
	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups				
5.	Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jashpur, Nagar	Mobile Dispensary	578000	0	0
6.	Eternal Care, Bhopal	Mobile Dispensary	446000	0	0
7.	VISHWAS, Narayanpur, Distt. Bastar..	Construction of two units of new Hostels Compound wall	0	2515000	0
8.	R.K. Mission Ashram, Naryanpur, Distt. Bastar	1. Completion of Construction of Hostel in Narainpur 2. Construction of two Hostels at Akabeda and Kundala	0	6630000	0

[English]

PM Package to NER

6714. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the first meeting of the upgraded North Eastern Council (NEC) on April, 2005, outlined the new development initiatives for the NE Region, which forms an integral part of India's "Look East Policy";

(b) if so, the details of the new development initiatives; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in that direction and the allocation made therefor in 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the 1st Meeting of the reconstituted North Eastern Council on 12th April 2005 in New Delhi. He called upon the Council to focus on the twin issues

of development and security rather than function as fund-disbursing body, mechanically allocating Plan funds to the North Eastern States. He outlined the need of a holistic Road map covering various sectors, development of Human Resource available in NER, upgradation of skills of the work-force, development of marketing chain, value addition at the primary local level, planning Growth Centres with easy connectivity to market centres, imparting of marketing skills, streamlining procedures, road and air connectivity. He also highlighted IT, Tourism, Mine and Minerals, Gas, Oil, Downstream industries, Education and health services etc. as Potential Sectors. He desired that the income levels of the rural families be substantially enhanced by harnessing the vast potential of the Region in the fields of agriculture, including horticulture, medicinal and aromatic herbs and bamboo, water resources, wind-power resources and minerals. He also stressed that SEAN Markets provide big opportunities for NER and NEC must take full advantage of Look East Policy of the Government. He was happy that the NEC Chairman was getting an Action Plan made out for formulating a Vision Document with a 15-year perspective-Vision Document 2020.

Development of Tribal Sub Plan Areas

6715. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States already had adopted single line administration and single budget for tribal sub-plan areas so far;

(b) the reasons for not accepting and adopting this concept in principle by other states so far;

(c) whether the Government had examined the provision of Constitution relating to Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes and discussed with concerned States for implementations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Border Disputes

6716. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border disputes among the States still remain unresolved;

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

(c) the efforts made to settle the border dispute in NE States and other parts of the country; and

(d) by when a permanent solution will be found?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per available information, there are border disputes in NE States between Assam-Meghalaya; Assam-Arunachal Pradesh and Assam-Nagaland. The Central Government got a study conducted on the boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland in 1976 and constituted the Shastri Commission to deal with the dispute between the two States. Similarly, a Tripartite Committee was constituted by the Central Government to deal with the border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Government of Assam has filed two separate suits before the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding its boundary dispute with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. These cases are pending in the Court. There have been border disputes mostly arising out of claims and counter claims between Bihar-Uttar Pradesh; Haryana-Uttar Pradesh. With a view to resolve the border dispute between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of boundaries) Act, 1968 was enacted. The Haryana-Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of Boundaries) act, 1979 was enacted in order to settle the border dispute between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Further, there is a boundary dispute between Punjab and Haryana relating to the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. Three Commissions have so far been appointed to determine the areas of Punjab that should go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. However, the dispute still persists.

Further, as per available information, the State of Andhra Pradesh has boundary disputes with Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Further, the State of Orissa has disputes with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. There are also boundary disputes between Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. None of these State governments have approached the Central Government to resolve their boundary disputes.

With a view to settle the boundary dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, the Central Government constituted a one-man Mahajan Commission, which had submitted its report in August 1967. The dispute still persists since the Government of Karnataka insists on the implementation of the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission in toto, while Government of Maharashtra does not accept the Commission's recommendations. The Government of Maharashtra has filed a suit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which is pending in the Apex Court.

The approach of the Central Government has consistently been that inter State boundary disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding.

(d) It is not possible to indicate the exact time frame by when these disputes can be resolved.

Incidents of Tremors

6717. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any loss of life or damage to property is reported due to recent tremors in Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation paid, if any, to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No loss of life has been reported by the State Governments of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra due to recent tremors. However, the Government of Maharashtra has reported that the walls of 114 houses collapsed and 579 houses developed cracks in the Patan Taluka of Satara district. The State Government has provided assistance of about Rs. 4.5 lakh to 325 families for house repairs, out of corpus of CRF.

No reports of damage to property have been reported by the State Governments of Goa and Karnataka, so far.

Devdasi System

6718. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Devdasi" system is still prevailing in the temples of some States;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to abolish this system; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Devdasi system is prevailing in the temples of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka already have acts on prohibition and dedication of Devdasis. Under these acts whoever performs, promotes, abets, takes part in dedication ceremony is liable for punishment. Their harassment is taken care under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 and Indian Penal Code.

Tea Trade

6719. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea imports touched an all times high of 30 million kg. in calendar year-2004;

(b) if so, the details of tea imports made during the year 2004 alongwith expenditure incurred thereon, country-wise;

(c) the details of the present tea auction centres in India and whether there is any proposal to set up more auction centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Chinese tea industry closely studied tea auction system to replicate it in their country;

(f) if so, its likely effect on Indian Tea Industry;

(g) whether a high level Chinese delegation visited Siliguri recently and invited tea manufacturers to set up plants in China;

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

(i) whether China is keen to import black tea from India and export green tea to India in exchange;

(j) if so, the details thereof;

(k) whether any agreement has been signed with any country on tea trade; and

(l) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The total tea imports into India during 2004 was 30.52 million kg. Details of major country-wise imports of tea during 2004 along with value of imports are given below:

Name of the Country	Volume (in million kg)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
Vietnam	17.28	56.27
Kenya	3.30	27.12
Nepal	2.86	16.84
Indonesia	2.65	15.30
China	1.67	6.22
Papua New Guinea	0.52	2.96
Sri Lanka	0.47	3.78
Malawi	0.38	2.50
Argentina	0.36	1.58
Turkey	0.30	1.02
Iran	0.24	0.72
United Kingdom	0.16	2.26
USA	0.12	0.55
Germany	0.11	1.60
Others	0.10	0.71
Total	30.52	139.49

(c) and (d) Nine tea auction centers are operating in India at present. These are at Kolkata, Siliguri, Guwahati, Jalpaiguri, Amritsar, Cochin, Coimbatore and Coonoor (There are two auction centers at Coonoor including the Tea Serve auction). There is no specific proposal to open any new auction centre at present.

(e) to (h) A group from the tea industry of China visited India recently and held discussions with various segments of Indian tea industry. As per the information available, the team interacted with tea brokers to have a preliminary idea of the Indian auction system. There is no specific information regarding any offer made by them to Indian manufacturers to set up plants in China.

(i) and (j) A few Indian tea exporters have been discussing with importers in China for exporting black teas from India.

(k) No Sir.

(l) Does not arise.

Foreign Language Courses

6720. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether French, German and Spanish are now low preference charts of students studying foreign languages as compared to Chinese at the two central universities in Delhi;

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

(c) whether there has been limited seats for Language courses in these two universities;

(d) if so, the details thereof, College-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make arrangements to accommodate more and more students in Language courses in the current academic session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

U.G.C.

6721. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission had proposed a State Supervisory Model for universities in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to decentralise the affiliating structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Higher Education System consists of universities and colleges. Since the colleges do not have the authority to award degrees, these colleges are affiliated to the universities, which, in turn, award the degrees to the students studying in colleges affiliated to the universities. The UGC has no proposal to change the present affiliating system.

[Translation]

Budget Allocation for Welfare Schemes of Scheduled Tribes

6722. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budget allocation for the Scheduled Tribes for the financial year 2004-05 has been slashed;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether some schemes for tribal development have been transferred to States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Budget Allocation for various Plan/Schemes/Programmes of Ministry for 2004-05 was Rs. 1146.00 crores. However, due to a circular from the Ministry of Finance restricting the expenditure in the last quarter of the year to 33% of the B.E., the maximum amount that could be spent under the Budget was recalculated at Rs. 1069.45 crores. The Ministry requests the States to send proposals in time as per the financial allocation under the respective schemes of the Ministry, so that releases are bunched at the end of the financial year. Besides, the Ministry also convenes meetings with the State Tribal Welfare Secretaries to speed up early submission of proposals, complete in all respects.

(d) and (e) A decision was taken by the Planning Commission to transfer two Centrally Sponsored Schemes for STs, namely, (i) Boys/Girls Hostel for STs, and (ii) Establishment of Ashram Schools for STs in Tribal Sub Plan Area, to the State Governments with effect from 1.4.2005. The matter was taken up with the Planning Commission by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Planning Commission has now intimated that status quo ante in maintained meaning thereby that the schemes will not be transferred.

[English]

New Housing Projects by DDA in Dwarka

6723. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is taking up new housing projects in Dwarka despite acute shortage of potable water there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has directed the DDA to postpone/stop taking up of new housing projects till the potable drinking water is made available to the areas already developed so far; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the DDA has made efforts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that no new housing scheme is proposed in Dwarka at present.

(c) and (d) The Government had issued directions to DDA in July 2004 to the effect that proper civic amenities, water supply, power and other infrastructural facilities should be developed simultaneously to synchronize with allotment of houses/plots and that DDA should coordinate with the various agencies for timely provision of required facilities. Till such time these facilities are developed by the concerned organizations, DDA should make alternate arrangements to meet the deficiencies. Accordingly, DDA has taken up the matter of providing sufficient potable water with Delhi Jal Board. As an interim measure, DDA has put to use 10 new tube-wells to augment the existing water supply in Dwarka and has further planned to commission 15 more tube-wells. Further, to cater to the needs of erratic/short supply in far-flung pockets, potable water is being regularly supplied through tankers also.

Representation for Development of Mumbai

6724. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation through Members of Parliament inviting special attention to the need for development of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision and steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the details of various projects encouraged/ supported the Union Government for the development of Mumbai and the estimated cost thereof alongwith the amount spent for implementation of these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been made for central assistance for the Mumbai Urban Infrastructure project formulated by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal to set up National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) for select cities including Mumbai for providing reform linked central assistance for infrastructural development. Details of the Mission have not been finalized.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred for Construction of Buildings in KVs

6725. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of funds allocated/released and spent by the Government under the head relating to construction of buildings for Kendriya Vidyalayas and development of infrastructural facilities in the said schools during the last five years till date, State-wise, Region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Government of India give plan grants in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for Construction of building and infrastructure facilities for Kendriya Vidyalayas, depending upon availability of land/progress of works thereon.

Funds are not given to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) State-wise or Region-wise but in lumps sum. Funds allocated/released/utilized by the KVS for the last five years are as follows:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Funds Allocated & Released	Funds Utilized	Remarks
2000-2001	9500	12452	
2001-2002	8110	8740	Excess Expenditure in some years due to the fact that Government has permitted KVS to utilize the unspent balance of the previous years in the subsequent years.
2002-2003	8500	8797	
2003-2004	10357	10007	
2004-2005	11200	11805	

[English]

Indo-Italy Trade

6726. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Italy have decided to improve trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any meeting at the Indo-Italian business forum has been held;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the main agreements reached between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) In the 16th Session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi on 7th January 2005, both sides have agreed to improve economic cooperation including trade flows between the two countries.

(b) and (c) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with Confindustria (Confederation of Italian Industries), Italian Institute of Foreign Trade and Association of Banking Industry organised the India-Italy Business Forum in New Delhi on 15th February 2005 during the visit of the President of Italy and the accompanying business delegation. This meeting provided a platform for the business communities of the two countries to exchange views on potential sectors of cooperation to further expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

(d) A Memorandum of Understanding a fishery and aquaculture products has been signed between the two countries on 14th February, 2005.

Employment Schemes for Tribals

6727. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the opportunities created under the various schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes in the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) the number of ST families benefited from these schemes during this period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to train tribals in the art of T.V. repair, car driving and similar other jobs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Programmes for the socio-economic development of tribals in all the States/UT mainly for income and employment generation, vocational training, infrastructure development, ensuring fair prices for minor forest produce, educational development and promotion of voluntary efforts, etc. The details of these schemes are available in the Ministry's Annual Report. The funds under these schemes are released to the departments in

charge of tribal welfare, who are required to ensure that these reach the beneficiaries.

(b) The Scheduled Tribes families economically assisted under point 11 (b) of 20 point programme, during the last three years, are as under:

Year	Families assisted
2002-03	765838
2003-04	877018
2004-05*	496135

*Upto December, 2004.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has been implementing the scheme of Vocational Training Centres for employment generation of tribal youths under which training is provided in five vocations in each centers including the T.V. repair, etc.

[Translation]

Water Supply in Jhuggi Jhonpri and Small Settlements

6728. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic facilities such as water supply are not available in various Jhuggi Jhonpri and small settlements in NCT of Delhi and people are forced to consume impure and disease-prone water; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide potable water in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Slum and JJ Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that infrastructure for water supply is available in all the resettlement pockets developed by them.

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has reported that mostly water supply in slum colonies is through public water hydrants, Deep Bore Hand Pumps (DBHPs) and Tube wells. In case of shortage of water, the same is supplemented by supplying drinking water through tankers. Regular sampling is done by DJB to ensure the quality of water.

[English]

Pension Scheme for NVS Employees

6729. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce the Pension Scheme for Employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Teachers resigned during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The number of teachers resigned during last three years are as under:

Year	No. of teachers resigned
2002	157
2003	183
2004	191

Teachers resigned mainly due to personal reasons and for outside employment.

Ekal Vidyalayas

6730. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ekal Vidyalayas are being run for many years in Jharkhand with Central Grant in Aid;

(b) if so, the total grants provided to these schools by Union Government during the last three years;

(c) whether a four member inquiry committee set up by the Ministry has revealed that grant is being misused;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to stop such misuse of central funds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Under the Innovative & Experimental (I&E) Education component of the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education, the Voluntary Organisation Friends of Tribal Society (FTs) was being provided financial assistance for their project for One Teacher Schools in Jharkhand since the year 1999-2000.

(b) Grants given to FTS for their Jharkhand project during the last three years is as follows:

2002-2003	:	Rs. 49,97,376/-
2003-2004		Rs. 33,40,656/-
2004-2005		Nil

(c) and (d) The four member Inquiry Committee set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India for verification of activities and utilisation of funds sanctioned to FTS under I&E Scheme has revealed that the grant was not being used as per parameters of the Scheme.

(e) The release of grants to FTS has been stopped.

[Translation]

UNESCO Global Monitoring Report

6731. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO in its recent global monitoring report, has expressed concern regarding the adverse impact of corruption in the field of education;

(b) whether the Government has examined this report; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the report. The report is not India specific. However, steps are taken to ensure transparency and minimize corruption in the centrally assisted programmes in the education sector, which include, provisions regarding community ownership and monitoring of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), independent monitoring by academic and professional institutes, as well as statutory audit of all accounts by chartered accountants and external audit by C&AG.

[English]

Incidents of Unwed Motherhood

6732. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the situation arising in several States due to the increasing incidents of unwed motherhood;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has received a large number of complaints by victims;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to punish the responsible persons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No data is being maintained by the Government in this regard.

(b) No, Sir. As per the information furnished by the National Commission for Women, it has received only one petition in this respect.

(c) No separate legislation is contemplated for the purpose.

(d) Does not arise.

Naxalism

6733. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to form a standing committee of Chief Ministers of the States affected by naxalism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A Standing Committee comprising Chief Ministers of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttaranchal, has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister. Minister of State in-charge of Internal Security in the Ministry of Home Affairs is also a Member of the Committee.

The Standing Committee will meet periodically and discuss all naxal related issues and other relevant aspects and work out a coordinated policy and specific measures to tackle the menace of naxalism on political, security and development fronts.

FTA with WTO Countries

6734. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries who are at present members of WTO;

(b) whether the Government has signed any free trade agreement with WTO member countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of agreements signed so far, separately; and

(d) the list of commodities which are accorded any duty concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) A statement indicating the names of the Members of WTO is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Bilateral Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 28th December, 1998 and has been in operation since March, 2000. The agreement seeks to establish a Free Trade Area (FTA) through elimination of tariffs in a phased manner as under:

(1) India's Commitments: India would reduce tariffs to zero on 1350 tariff lines immediately on implementation of the Agreement. For the rest, except 429 items included in the Negative List, across the board duty free access would be given over a period of 3 years from the date of implementation of the Agreement. There is a tariff rate quota on tea for 15 million kgs. and on garments for 8 million pieces. From 18th March 2003, India's commitment of duty reduction has been completed. The items in the Negative List of 429 tariff lines at 6 digit level of Harmonised Code are from various sectors like rubber and rubber products, paper and paper boards, plastics and products thereof, coconuts, alcoholic beverages and textile items, etc.

2. Sri Lanka's Commitments: Sri Lanka would give 100% duty concessions on 319 tariff lines on the date of operationalisation of the Agreement. In addition, it has given 50% tariff concessions on 839 tariff lines on the date of operationalisation of the Agreement. In addition, it has given 50% tariff concessions on 839 tariff lines on the date of operationalisation of the Agreement which has been deepened to 100% as on today. For the remaining items, Sri Lanka would reduce tariffs to zero percent over a period of 8 years in three phases i.e. by 35% & 70% & 100% before the expiry of 3rd, 6th and 8th year respectively. In other words, India's exports on these items get 35% duty concessions from Sri Lanka as on today. Sri Lanka's Negative List comprises of 1180 tariff lines.

Statement

148 members of the World Trade Organisation

Sl.No.	Member	Date of Membership/Accession
1	2	3
1.	Albania	8 September 2000
2.	Angola	23 November 1996
3.	Antigua and Barbuda	1 January 1995
4.	Argentina	1 January 1995
5.	Armenia	5 February 2003
6.	Australia	1 January 1995
7.	Austria	1 January 1995
8.	Bahrain, Kingdom of	1 January 1995

1	2	3
9.	Bangladesh	1 January 1995
10.	Barbados	1 January 1995
11.	Belgium	1 January 1995
12.	Belize	1 January 1995
13.	Benin	22 February 1996
14.	Bolivia	12 September 1995
15.	Botswana	31 May 1995
16.	Brazil	1 January 1995
17.	Brunei Darussalam	1 January 1995
18.	Bulgaria	1 December 1996
19.	Burkina Faso	3 June 1995
20.	Burundi	23 July 1995
21.	Cambodia	13 October 2004
22.	Cameroon	13 December 1995
23.	Canada	1 January 1995
24.	Central African Republic	31 May 1995
25.	Chad	19 October 1996
26.	Chile	1 January 1995
27.	China	11 December 2001
28.	Colombia	30 April 1995
29.	Congo	27 March 1997
30.	Costa Rica	1 January 1995
31.	Cote d'Ivoire	1 January 1995
32.	Croatia	30 November 2000
33.	Cuba	20 April 1995
34.	Cyprus	30 July 1995
35.	Czech Republic	1 January 1995
36.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 January 1997
37.	Denmark	1 January 1995
38.	Djibouti	31 May 1995
39.	Dominica	1 January 1995
40.	Dominican Republic	9 March 1995
41.	Ecuador	21 January 1996
42.	Egypt	30 June 1995
43.	El Salvador	7 May 1995
44.	Estonia	13 November 1999
45.	European Communities	1 January 1995
46.	Fiji	14 January 1996
47.	Finland	1 January 1995
48.	Former Yogoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	4 April 2003
49.	France	1 January, 1995
50.	Gabou	1 January 1995
51.	The Gambia	23 October 1996
52.	Georgia	14 June 2000
53.	Germany	1 January 1995
54.	Ghana	1 January 1995
55.	Greece	1 January 1995
56.	Grenda	22 February 1996
57.	Guatemala	21 July 1995
58.	Guinea	25 October 1995
59.	Guinea Bissau	31 May 1995
60.	Guyana	1 January 1995
61.	Haiti	30 January 1996
62.	Honduras	1 January 1995
63.	Hong Kong, China	1 January 1995
64.	Hungary	1 January 1995

1	2	3
65.	Iceland	1 January 1995
66.	India	1 January 1995
67.	Indonesia	1 January 1995
68.	Ireland	1 January 1995
69.	Israel	21 April 1995
70.	Italy	1 January 1995
71.	Jamaica	9 March 1995
72.	Japan	1 January 1995
73.	Jordan	11 April 2000
74.	Kenya	1 January 1995
75.	Korea, Republic of	1 January 1995
76.	Kuwait	1 January 1995
77.	Kyrgyz Republic	20 December 1998
78.	Lativia	10 February 1999
79.	Lesotho	31 May 1995
80.	Liechtenstein	1 September 1995
81.	Lithuania	31 May 2001
82.	Luxembourg	1 January 1995
83.	Macao, China	1 January 1995
84.	Madagascar	17 November 1995
85.	Malawi	31 May 1995
86.	Malaysia	1 January 1995
87.	Maldives	31 May 1995
88.	Mali	31 May 1995
89.	Malta	1 January 1995
90.	Mauritania	31 May 1995
91.	Mauritius	1 January 1995
92.	Mexico	1 January 1995
93.	Moldova	26 July 2001
94.	Mongolia	29 January 1997
95.	Morocco	1 January 1995
96.	Mozambique	26 August 1995
97.	Myanmar	1 January 1995
98.	Namibia	1 January 1995
99.	Nepal	23 April 2004
100.	Netherlands	1 January 1995
101.	New Zealand	1 January 1995
102.	Nicaragua	3 September, 1995
103.	Niger	13 December, 1996
104.	Nigeria	1 January 1995
105.	Norway	1 January 1995
106.	Oman	9 November 2000
107.	Pakistan	1 January, 1995
108.	Panama	6 September 1997
109.	Papua New Guinea	9 June 1996
110.	Paraguay	1 January 1995
111.	Peru	1 January 1995
112.	Philippines	1 January 1995
113.	Poland	1 July 1995
114.	Portugal	1 January 1995
115.	Qatar	13 January 1996
116.	Romania	1 January 1995
117.	Rwanda	22 May 1996
118.	Saint Kitts and Nevis	21 February 1996
119.	Saint Lucia	1 January 1995
120.	Saint Vicent & the Grenadines	1 January 1995
121.	Senegal	1 January 1995
122.	Sierra Leone	23 July 1995
123.	Singapore	1 January 1995

1	2	3
124.	Slovak Republic	1 January 1995
125.	Slovenia	30 July 1995
126.	Solomon Islands	26 July 1996
127.	South Africa	1 January 1995
128.	Spain	1 January 1995
129.	Sri Lanka	1 January 1995
130.	Suriname	1 January 1995
131.	Swaziland	1 January 1995
132.	Sweden	1 January 1995
133.	Switzerland	1 July 1995
134.	Chinese Taipei	1 January 2002
135.	Tanzania	1 January 1995
136.	Thailand	1 January 1995
137.	Togo	31 May 1995
138.	Trinidad and Tobago	1 March 1995
139.	Tunisia	29 March 1995
140.	Turkey	26 March 1995
141.	Uganda	1 January 1995
142.	United Arab Emirates	10 April 1996
143.	United Kingdom	1 January 1995
144.	United States of America	1 January 1995
145.	Uruguay	1 January 1995
146.	Venezuela	1 January 1995
147.	Zambia	1 January 1995
148.	Zimbabwe	5 March 1995

National Award for Welfare of Child

6735. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the institutions and individuals for conferring National Award for Child Welfare for the year 2004 have since been selected;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for their selection and the names of recipient of such awards during the last three years; and

(d) the incentives being provided to the awardees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Performance of the nominees in terms of quality and quantity as well as the duration of the work done in the field of child welfare. A list of the recipients of the Award during last three years (2000, 2001 and 2002) is given in the Statement enclosed. The selection has not been made for 2003 and 2004 so far.

(d) The Award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakhs and a citation in respect of institutions and Rs. 1 lakh and a citation in respect of individuals.

Statement

National Awards for Child Welfare 2000

Individuals.

(i) Dr. Nannapaneni Manga Devi,
Founder Secretary,
Sri Venkateswara Bala Kuteer,
Shyamalangar, Guntur,
Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) Md. Nurul Amin Chowdhury,
Vill. Chota Rupahi, (Noor Nagar),
P.O. Herapati, Distt. Nagaon,
Assam-782002.

(iii) Miss Bertha Gyndykes Dkhar,
Shillong,
Meghalaya.

Institutions

(i) Child Foundation of India
Adman. Office, 36-46-51,
Kancharapalem Main Road,
Visakhapatnam,-530008.
Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) SOS Children's Village Association,
Bal Niketan,
Sector-2, Panchkula,
Haryana-134112.

(iii) Wangjing Tentha Farmers' Development Association,
Tentha Village,
P.O. Wangjing-795148.
Thoubal District, Manipur.

(iii) Nivedita Gramin Karma Mandir,
At & P.O. Manikpara,
P.S. Jhargram,
Distt. Midnapore,
West Bengal-721513.

(v) Pope Paul Mercy Home,
Peringandoor, P.O. Thrissur,
Kerala-680581.

National Awards for Child Welfare, 2001.

Individuals

(i) Dr. Arun Ghosh
43, Kankulia Road,
Kolkata, West Bengal-700029.

(ii) Late Shri Vineet Khanna
934, Sector 40/A,
Chandigarh

(iii) Smt. Rozario Lopez
Tura Arimile
West Gharo Hills-794001
Meghalaya.

Institutions

(i) Vimukti Jati Abhydaya Sangha
Abhyudaya Ashram, Water Works Colony,
Morena (Madhya Pradesh)-476001

(ii) Mazzarello Mission Home,
Garobadha
West Gharo Hills,
Meghalaya

(iii) Gandhi Orissa Balashram
At P.O. Garadpur
Via Bhadrak
Distt. Bhadrak, Orissa-756100

(iv) Sahayog Kushtha Yagna Trust,
Rajendranagar, Cross Road,
Himmatnagar, Distt. Sabarkantha, Gujarat

(v) The Women's Welfare Society
2015, Kore Galli, Shahapur,
Belgaum,
Karnataka.

National Awards for Child Welfare, 2002

Institutions

(i) Fr. Angel Niketan (Boys Home)
Pilar P.O. Goa-403203.

(ii) Mizoram Hmeithai Association
Mizoram Widows Association,
Upper Republic Road,
Aizawl-796001

(iii) Human Development Foundation of Sikkim (HDFS)
Tashi Khar, Chungyal Complex,
M.G. Marg, Gangtok,
Sikkim

(iv) Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission
7, Riverside Road,
P.O. Barrackpore,
Distt. North 24 Parganas,
West Bengal-743101.

(v) Sivananda Math,
Fort Munger, Bihar-811201

Individuals

(i) Smt. Archana Bankimbhai Desai
Shishu Vihar,
Morarji Kaka ni wadi,
Tithai Road, Valsad-396001,
Gujarat.

(ii) Dr Edward Lobo,
Nirmala Shankerpura,
Udupi Distt.-574115.

(iii) Shri Ram Snehi
Abhyudaya Ashram, Water Works Colony,
Morena,
Madhya Pradesh.

Special Economic Zone

6736. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group of Ministers on the central legislation for Special Economic Zones has finalized its stand;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations made by the group of Ministers has been forwarded to the Union cabinet for final approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) On the basis of recommendations of the Group of Ministers, a proposal for introduction of a Special Economic Zones Bill in the Parliament has been approved by the Cabinet and further steps are being taken to introduce the Bill.

Foreign Assistance for Environmental Improvement Projects.

6737. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments including Maharashtra for availing the assistance of foreign donor agency for environmental improvement projects in slum/ urban areas during the last three years and thereafter till date;

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

(c) the status of such proposals, State-wise; and

(d) by when a final decision on the said proposals are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has received the following three proposals seeking foreign assistance for environmental improvement during the last three years.

(i) "Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor Programme" received in the month of May, 2003 seeking assistance from Department for International Development (DFID) of the Govt. of United Kingdom. The estimated cost of the project is Pound 102,000,000 and duration is from 14.1.2004 to 31.3.2011.

(ii) "Urban Services Improvement Project, Orissa in the month of February, 2003 seeking assistance from DFID.

(iii) A project proposal from the Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Government of Maharashtra requesting for grant/credit/loan for implementing Slum Sanitation Programme and Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II.

(c) and (d) (I) The project at S.No. (i) above has been approved by DFID and is now in operation.

(II) DEA has informed DFID's inability to support the project at S.No. (ii) above.

(III) As regards (iii) above, DEA was requested to pose this proposal before the world Bank. The DEA has now informed the following:

Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra has been requested on 1.3.2005 to include the Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project-II and Slum Sanitation Works, in the design of the comprehensive multi sectoral plan proposed for Mumbai city for its transformation into a World Class City with World Bank assistance, since the State at

present does not appear to have any additional debt capacity. The multi sectoral team of experts from World Bank has already visited the State during March 22-31, 2005 in connection with transformation of the Mumbai City into a World Class City and they also had a meeting with Secretary (EA) on 30.3.2005.

Leather and Textiles Export

6738. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Leather and Textiles are two industries which by virtue of their exciting growth prospects promise to increase India's share in the respective global trade;

(b) if so, the present share of leather and textiles industries in the global market as compared to the last three years;

(c) whether large investments and participation of large organizations will be required to capitalise on the tremendous growth opportunities that existed in the leather and textiles industries;

(d) if so, the Government's response thereon;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the 16% target growth in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Leather and Textiles are two important industries from the point of view of exports. Both these industries have good future prospects emanating from supply and demand factors like availability of abundant raw-material, cheap labour and the lifting of the Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA) since 1st January, 2005. According to the International Trade Statistics Yearbook: UN 2004. India's share in world leather, leather manufacturers & dressed fur skin trade was 3.3%, 3.4% and 3.4% in 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively. In these three years India's share in world trade in textile yarn, fabrics, made-ups articles was 3.6%, 3.4% and 3.6% respectively.

(c) to (f) Recognising that modernisation and technical upgradation is import for enhancing competitiveness, the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09 has announced special focus initiatives for these two sectors which include duty free imports, identification of towns of export excellence and support to marketing initiatives under Market Access Initiatives/Market Development Assistance (MAI/MDA) Schemes. Besides, a number of key strategies have been adopted in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and its annual supplement which will benefit these sectors as well. These include simplification of procedures, reduction in transaction cost, neutralisation of incidence of levies & duties used for production for exports and development of global hubs for manufacturing, trading & services.

Setting up of Committee to look after cases of Sexual Harassment

6739. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to all Universities to set up a committee to look into the cases of sexual harassment in each of the colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken by colleges thereon;

(d) whether some colleges have claimed that such orders do not apply to minority institutions; and

(e) if so, the details along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission has, vide its circulars dated 9th June, 1998, 26th March, 1999 and 30th May, 2001, requested the Vice-Chancellors/ Registrars of all the Universities/Deemed to be Universities, to set up permanent Cells in their Universities and the Colleges thereunder, the combat sexual harassment and violence against women.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Production in Plantation Sector

6740. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coffee, tea, rubber and pepper in India during the last three years, commodity-wise alongwith the area under cultivation;

(b) the price obtained by farmers for these crops, year-wise during the past three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the farmers and plantation workers are facing huge problems resulting in reduction in production of these commodities;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to solve the problems faced by the farmers and plantation workers;

(e) whether poverty deaths have occurred in some plantation areas; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Production of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Pepper (in thousand tonnes) was as given below:

Commodity	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Coffee	275.27	270.50	275.50#
Tea	837.60	850.49	765.15*
Rubber	649.43	711.65	750.00@
Pepper	63.95	N/A	N/A

#Final estimates. *Till January, 2005 @Provisional.

The Area Under Cultivation* (in Hectares) (approx.) was:

Coffee	Tea	Rubber	Pepper
354840	517655	578000	213870

*As per latest available information.

(b) The year-wise price of Coffee, Tea, Rubber and Pepper (in Rs.kg.) was as follows:

Year	Coffee (Planation A)	Coffee (Robusta Cherry AB)	Tea
2002	56.86	27.92	55.95
2003	56.18	33.58	56.03
2004	72.16	34.94	64.57

Year	Rubber	Pepper
2002-03	39.19	88.32
2003-04	50.40	74.11
2004-05	55.71	69.16

(c) There is no such significant reduction in production.

(d) to (f) Some cases of suicides have been reported in the past in the plantation areas due to financial difficulties; however, various other socio-economic reasons may also be responsible for such cases.

Measures taken to help the tea growers include the withdrawal of the additional duty of excise of Re. 1 per kg on tea in the Union Budget for 2004-05, setting up of a special fund with collections of additional duty of excise on tea of Re. 1 per kg during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the long term development and modernisation of the tea plantation sector, implementation of a Special Tea Term Loan (STTL) for the tea sector, implementation of a price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a four month period from February to May 2004, implementation of a price sharing formula between small tea growers and manufacturers of tea w.e.f. 1.4.2004 etc.

Measures taken to help the coffee growers include re-phasement/restructuring of loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks by way of Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) and interest subsidy to large and small coffee growers on repayment of working capital loans taken from financial institutions.

Government has approved Rubber Plantation Development Scheme for implementation during the tenth plan. Government of India has set up a Price Stabilisation Fund for the benefit of growers of Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Tabacco.

Government also implements through the various Boards welfare programmes and activities for the benefit of the workers and their dependants.

Non-Tariff Barriers

6741. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought Belgium initiative to settle the issue of non tariff barriers (NTBs) faced by Indian exporters in the European Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these NTBs were being created on supposed grounds of health, sanitary and phytosanitary standards;

(d) if so, whether concerted efforts have been taken to bridge the gap between approvals and actual flow of foreign direct investment from Belgium;

(e) if so, whether Indo-Belgium bilateral trade during 2003-04 stood at $5.7 billion against $5.37 billion during 2002-03; and

(f) if so, efforts being made to improve the trade between India and Belgium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Issues of Non-Tarriff Barriers faced by Indian exports in European Union (EU) on the grounds of health and sanitary/phytosanitary standards were inter-alia taken up during interaction with the delegation led by the Prince Philippe of Belgium, which visited India between 12th and 19th March 2005. During interaction with their Indian counterparts, the Belgian businessmen had shown interest in expanding their economic relations with India in potential sectors. these initiatives would have a positive effect on the flow of foreign direct investment from Belgium.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Efforts to improve trade between India and Belgium include maintaining regular dialogue at Government level for addressing hurdles in bilateral trade, facilitating the Indian industry to carry out among others, market studies, participation in trade fairs, buyer-seller meets etc.

Shifting of US based Call Centres

6742. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some US based call centres in India are planning to shift their base to some other Asian countries;

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

(c) the terms and conditions laid while granting them license for operating call centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A news report published in Hindustan Times on 24.1.2005 mentions about the decision of an individual company, 'Sykes Enterprises' to shift its outsourcing business from India to some other undisclosed destination. The main reason for the migration of the business has been reported by the newspaper as a purely financial decision of the company. This news report is in the knowledge of the Government.

(c) The Department of Telecommunications does not grant any license for operating call centers in the country. However, such cases are registered by the Department of Telecommunication under 'Other Service Provider' categories. The terms and conditions required for registration are available on the website *www.investindiatelecom.com.*

Doha Round Achievements

6743. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has achieved all major objectives in the frame work agreement of the World Trade Organization in Doha round of trade negotiations adopted in August last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to safeguard the interests of farming sector; and

(d) the names of the like minded countries who supported the India's views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Framework Agreement adopted by the WTO General Council on 1st August, 2004, by consensus, lays down the principles and criteria for further negotiations, covering Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access, Trade Facilitation and specifically development-related issues. The issues relating to Trade and Investment, Competition Policy and Government

Procurement stand removed. In respect of services and development-related issues, it recognizes the importance of their development aspects and establishes time frames.

The Government had drawn attention to specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations, including on Agriculture. India has made concerted efforts to develop common positions and strategies with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 Alliance on Agriculture (an alliance presently consisting of 21 developing countries that includes Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Thailand) and the G-33 Alliance on Special Products (an alliance presently consisting of 42 developing countries that includes China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zimbabwe). These efforts have served to ensure, *inter alia*, that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed Framework on Agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible end date for elimination of their export subsidies, and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs.

The Framework Agreement of 1 August 2004 duly addresses India's interests and concerns. The efforts of the Government are to ensure that India's interests are safeguarded through appropriate engagement in the negotiations and through coalition building with like-minded WTO Members and Members' groupings, such as the G-20 and G-33.

The Framework Agreement is only an interim stage towards conclusion of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations. The next step would be finalization of modalities which would result, *inter alia*, in agreement on formulae for reduction in domestic support a long with formulae for tariff reduction and setting up the actual date for elimination of export subsidies for agricultural products. Government is determined to ensure that our concerns continue to be adequately addressed as negotiations proceed.

Product Patenting

6744. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications are pending for the grant of patent on products in various sectors especially in Pharma Sector;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the process of grant of patent on a product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, no application for a patent is required to be examined unless a request for the same is made. Presently, Patent office has 4384 requests pending for disposal covering both product and process in all sectors of technologies. Out of these, 2280 are in the category of pharmaceuticals and are currently under process.

(c) In order to accelerate the process of grant of patent, the Government has taken up comprehensive modernisation of Patent Offices. Its major components include review of existing procedure and development of new user-friendly procedures, computerisation of the procedure for grant of patents, development of human resource capabilities by recruiting additional examiners and their training, networking of offices, strengthening novelty search facilities, awareness and outreach activities. These are in addition to legislative measures, such as, simplification of procedure and rationalization of time-lines for processing of patent applications.

Transfer of CPWD Officers

6745. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the normal tenure of position of officers of the level of Junior Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Executive Engineer in Electrical, Civil and Horticulture Division in CPWD at a station is 3-4 years;

(b) if so, the number of officers in these grades who are over-staying at Delhi station and the number out of them not relieved despite transfer orders;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being initiated/taken for immediate transfer of such officers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir; the normal tenure for posting of a Junior Engineer and an Assistant Engineer at Delhi is 12 and 10 years, respectively, while it is 5 years in the case of officers of the level of Executive Engineer.

(b) Details are available as per the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The number of posts in different grades available at stations other than Delhi is much lower. Therefore it is not possible to transfer all officers exactly on completion of tenure at one station and bring in an equal number of officers who have completed their tenure at other stations. Transfers are done on the basis of period of stay at each station. Many times officers are allowed to continue at one station beyond their normal tenure on medical or compassionate grounds, administrative expediency or pending retirement within 2 years.

Statement

The details of number of officers in different grades who have overstayed at Delhi and officers in whose cases transfer orders have been issued but who have not been relieved.

Name of Post	Officers who have over stayed in Delhi	Officers who have not yet been relieved.
Executive Engineer (Civil)	40	9
Executive Engineer (Electrical)	10	3
Assistant Engineer (Civil)	249	36
Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	52	15
Junior Engineer (Civil)	245	69
Junior Engineer (Electrical)	246	23
Deputy Director (Horticulture)	2	—
Assistant Director (Horticulture)	—	—
Section Officer (Horticulture)	3	—

Special Package and Concessions

6746. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned special package and concessions for special category States during 2002-03;

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

(c) the details of the criteria for selection of State under the said category;

(d) whether the Government is aware that Orissa and Maharashtra are the most backward States;

(e) if so, the reasons for not covering them under the said category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Government had announced a New Industrial Policy and other concessions for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal on 14.06.2002, 23.12.2002 and 07.01.2003 respectively. Under the Policy package various

concessions have been allowed to industrial units in the State which include development of industrial infrastructure, excess and income-tax exemption and subsidies under various Schemes like Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, Central Interest Subsidy Scheme and Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme. The package(s) for these States were announced keeping in view that these States are hilly, remote and inaccessible. As the States of Orissa and Maharashtra do not face such geographical adversities, there is no proposal to extend any incentives for industries in these States.

Expenditure on Government of India Stationery Office

6747. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenses incurred on monitoring the procurement wing of Government of India Stationary Office are commensurate with its workload;

(b) if not, the break-up of its budget allocation and the work performance during the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether the Government proposes to abolish it or manage with the similar procurement agency with the Director General Supplies and Disposals under the Ministry of Commerce;

(d) whether the budgetary allocation to Government of India stationary office is based on their requirement; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir. Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended for closing down of Government of India Stationary office, Kolkata. However, this Ministry has not agreed with the said recommendation and the matter regarding continuation of the Organisation is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance. Until a final decision regarding closure/continuation is taken, adequate budget provisions are not being provided by the Government. At present a comparison regarding budget grant for procurement of material and supply viz-a-viz establishment expenditure cannot be made under the above circumstances.

(b) Budgetary allocation and expenditure during the last three years and thereafter are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The subject of Printing and stationery has been allocated to Ministry of Urban Development in the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules. The Government of India Stationery Office Kolkata procure stationery stores through open general tenders as well as through directorate General of Supplies & Disposal Rate Contract. A present all items procured by Government of India Stationery Office are not available on Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal Rate Contract. Therefore, the question of managing the affairs of Government of India Stationery Office by a similar procurement agency with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal does not arise.

(d) and (e) Budgetary allocation based on the requirement of Government of India Stationery Office is linked with Expenditure Reforms Commission's recommendation regarding closing down of the Organisation and may be considered once a final decision regarding continuation or otherwise is taken.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	Budget Estimates			Actual Expenditure		
		Material Supplies	Establishment	Total	Material Supplies	Establishment	Total
1.	2002-03	20.00	8.78	28.78	14.39	8.34	22.73
2.	2003-04	15.00	9.07	24.07	13.32	8.42	21.74
3.	2004-05	5.00	9.13	14.13	5.10	9.21	14.31
4.	2005-06	5.00	9.57	14.57	—	—	—

Foreign Trade

6748. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has started a scheme "Served from India" for some manufacturers to increase foreign trade;

(b) if so, the details of the manufacturers covered under this scheme;

(c) the amount of total foreign exchange to be earned by the manufacturers to become eligible under the scheme;

(d) whether the meat traders are likely to be benefited under this scheme;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Served from India Scheme was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 on 31.8.2004. The objective of the Scheme is to accelerate growth in export of "Services" so as to make a powerful and unique Served from India brand, instantly recognised and respected world over. All such service providers who have a total foreign exchange earning of at least Rs. 10 Lakh in the preceding and the current financial year are eligible to qualify for duty credit entitlement. However, for individual service providers, the eligibility criteria is Rs. 5 Lakh in the preceding financial year.

All service providers (other than Hotels & Restaurants) are entitled to duty credit equivalent to 10% of foreign exchange earned by them in the preceding financial year. This entitlement is however restricted to 5% for Hotels of one star and above (including managed hotels and heritage hotels) and 20% for stand alone Restaurants.

(d) to (f) No Sir, as the Meat Traders do not get covered under the Served from India Scheme, which caters exclusively to Service Exports and not exports of goods.

Bar Girls of Maharashtra

6749. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bar girls from Maharashtra have requested the National Commission for Women to take up the matter regarding imposition of ban on their performance in dancing bars etc. in the State;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women and National Human Rights Commission have taken up the matter;

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

(d) whether National Commission for Women and National Human Rights Commission have requested the State Government to make alternative arrangements for the employment of the persons affected after such ban;

(e) if so, the reaction of the State Government thereto; and

(f) the remedial steps taken up by the Union Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Commission for Women (NCW) has informed that a representative of the Bar Girls' Association had met a Member of the Commission requesting intervention of the Commission in the matter.

(b) to (e) The NCW has constituted a committee to study the matter and the said Committee has left to Mumbai on 2.5.2005. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has informed that a complaint was received by it on 12.4.2005 from the Bhartiya Bar Girls Union, Thane with a request that the Government of Maharashtra be directed not to close the complaint, on 12.4.2005 directed that the complaint be transmitted to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra for his comments within four weeks. Accordingly, the directions of the Commission have been conveyed to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra with a request for his comments within four weeks from the date of receipt of the Commission's letter. The comments of the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra are awaited by the NHRC.

(f) the matter falls under the purview of the State Government.

[Translation]

Establishment of CIPET

6750. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in the country wherein CIPET has been set up;

(b) the contribution of Central/State Governments therein separately;

(c) the manner in which its revenue expenditure is borne;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has been requesting the Union Government for the last 6-7 years for setting up of a CIPET in Jaipur, Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not accepting the request of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) has been set up in the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal Bihar, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. CIPET centres in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab have cost sharing in the ratio of 50:50 by the State and Central Government during 7th and 8th Plan period. The CIPET centres at Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Manipur have been set up on equity participation from State Government and Central Government during 9th and 10th plan period.

(c) The revenue expenditure during the project period of 3 years was borne by State & Central Government on 50:50 sharing basis for all CIPET centres. On completion of the project period, the revenue expenditure is met through Non plan grant-in-aid by Central Govt. till the Centre becomes selt sufficient in meeting the revenue expenditure.

(d) and (e) Central Government had approved in 1997 the proposal to set up a CIPET Centre at Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan). However, the Central could not be established due to various reasons. In the year 2003, Government of Rajasthan expressed willingness to set up a CIPET Centre at Jaipur. Government of India has approved the proposal in February 2005 at a total cost of Rs. 23.76 crores to be shared on equitable basis between State and Central Government.

[English]

Trade Barriers

6751. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developed Nations have accused India of setting Trade barriers that is having their industrial interest;

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

(c) details of the countries and products against which trade barriers have been established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India does not impose any trade barriers. Some countries raise issues about our domestic regulations affecting their exports to India, from time to time.

(b) and (c) There are domestic regulations are conditions which apply on imports into India and may sometimes be deemed by exporting countries to be adversely affecting their ability to export to India.

[Translation]

Reconstruction of Steel Well

6752. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether reconstruction work of historic steel well Highway connecting the Punnanh province of China with Myanmar and India to boost the increasing trade relations with India is proposed to be started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per available information, there is

no move at this stage to start reconstruction work of Stilwell highway connecting the Punnanh province of China with Myanmar and India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Issuance of Identity Cards to DDA Employees

6753. SHR RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has decided to digital its employee's record and issue identity cards to prevent touts from entering DDA offices;

(b) if so, the number of employees who have been issued such identity cards so far;

(c) the time required to cover all the employees of DDA; and

(d) the extent of success achieved to prevent touts from entering DDA officers so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it has decided to computerize employees records as a part of Personnel Management Information System. DDA has been issuing Identity Cards to its employees and during the last five years, 20,549 Identity Cards have been issued/renewed. DDA has also reported that no request for issue/renewal of Identity Card is pending.

(d) DDA has reported that Identity Cards are checked at all the entry gates and the system has been effective in discouraging entry of unauthorized persons.

Computer Literacy Programme

6754. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons trained by Indira Gandhi National Open University Under Computer Literacy Programme in the country, State-wise particularly in Assam during each of the last three years and thereafter till date; and

(b) the names of districts of Assam accorded priority during selection of districts in the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) regarding the number of persons trained under their Computer Literacy Programme in the country during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The districts accorded priority for running of Computer Literacy Programme in the State of Assam are Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Dibrugarh, Sibasagar, Darang, Tinsukhia, Barpeta, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Cachar, Bongaigaon, Hailakandi, Goalpara, Karbi Anglong and Nowgong.

Statement

Names of the States in which IGNOU has operated Computer Literacy Programme

Sl.No.	Names of States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	202	464	146
2.	Nagaland	137	52	30
3.	Manipur	—	326	742
4.	Mizoram	78	398	315

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Tripura	97	544	845
6.	Assam	36	497	448
7.	Meghalaya	112	428	206
8.	Sikkim	—	20	195
9.	Orissa	—	—	391
10.	Bihar	—	—	815
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	430
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	125
13.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	12

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

6755. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the export of iron ore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether iron ore exporting companies are reportedly violating export provisions;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereupon;

(e) whether deposits of iron-ore in the country are insufficient; and

(f) the impact of this ban on the foreign trade of iron ore by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A joint team of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) had conducted test checks of consignments of iron ore, wherein only one consignment was found to have exported iron ore containing Fe content more than 64% without having valid permission for exporting the same, and under Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, orders for fiscal penalty have, accordingly, been passed on the firm.

(e) The iron-ore resources in the country are adequate to meet the domestic demand.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment by STC

6756. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) invested Rs. 2.15 crore in two aquaculture projects during 1995 against the opinion of an expert agency and resulted in the loss of the entire investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the losses so suffered;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the STC proposes to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) STC entered into two separate aquaculture joint venture agreements with M/s. Bluegold Maritech International Limited and M/s Richfield Aquatech Limited with an equity investment of Rs. 1.60 crores and Rs. 0.55 crore respectively on 15.9.1995 with a view to develop captive supply base for exports. The participation was decided after thorough appraisal of the projects and also taking into account the advice of expert agency.

(c) and (d) Since the decision was taken in the best commercial interest after careful consideration of all aspects including advice of expert agency and since this was a case of usual business loss with no malafide intention involved at any level, no individual responsibility could be fixed.

(e) Promoters were under obligation to buy STC equity holding on cost plus interest basis as per the agreements with the parties. However, the amounts were not paid by promoters. Hence arbitration/recovery proceedings have been initiated.

Gemological Institute

6757. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 93% of the diamond sold in the world market is cut and polished in India;

(b) if so, whether is any proposal to start gemological institute to train manpower to change designs and enhance the quality of its product to compete in the growing world market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to promote ready-made jewellery export which has the potential to earn foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India is accounting for about 92% of the world's cut and polished diamond market in terms of pieces. However, our market share in the cut & polished diamonds is about 60% by value.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present under the consideration of the Government to start any Gemological Institute. However, setting-up of any such Institute does not require any specific approval from Ministry of Commercial and Industry.

(d) In the existing Foreign Trade Policy export of gem and jewellery including ready-made jewellery has been identified as a thrust sector and has been extended the following facilities:

(i) Import of gold of 8k and above shall be allowed under the replenishment scheme subject to the import being accompanies by an Assay Certificate specifying the purity, weight and alloy content.

(ii) Duty free import entitlement of consumables for metals other than Gold, Platinum shall be 2% of FOB value of exports during the previous financial year.

(iii) Duty free import entitlement of commercial samples shall be Rs. 300,000.

(iv) Duty free re-import entitlement for rejected jewellery shall be 2% of the FOB value of exports.

(v) Cutting and polishing of gems and jewellery, shall be treated as manufacturing for the purposes of exemption under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act.

Some other facilities extended to the Gem & Jewellery export sector include duty and license free import of rough diamonds, direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries, creating training infrastructure in this sector with the financial assistance from the

government to impart skills in designing in jewellery sector, participation in international fairs and organizing buyer-seller meets abroad.

Construction of Tunnel

6758. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to construct a tunnel between Ring road and Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium before the commencement of the Common Wealth Games;

(b) if so, the cost of the tunnel project;

(c) whether the Government has examined its adverse impact on Ring Road; and

(d) if so, the details thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Public Works Department of Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that there is a proposal to construct tunnel based road between NH-24/Ring Road Intersection and Neela Gumbad before the Commonwealth Games, 2010. However, the proposal is at the initial planning stage only and no details have been worked out.

Gender Disparity

6759. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of gender disaggregated data on various development indicators, at the State and District levels has been a major problem in monitoring the progress made in improving the status of women towards achieving equality at par with men;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Survey conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation on women indicates that 51 per cent of women's work is not recognized and, therefore, remain unpaid;

(d) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the concerned authorities/organizations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the extent to which the success has been achieved during the first three years of Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to reflect the women work in the National Accounts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Although gender disaggregated data for all development indictors are not available at all levels, yet State-wise data are available in respect of some critical areas such as sex ration, literacy rates, school enrolment ratio, dropout rates, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Political participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. Some of these data are also available at district level. Availability of such data have become very useful in monitoring the progress made in various development indicators.

(c) to (e) The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) conducted a Time Use Survey in 1998-99 in the six States of Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa and Tamil Nadu with a view to assessing the contribution of men and women in the national economy through their household work. The survey reveals that amount of unpaid activities was 50.52 percent for females as compared to 33.15 percent for males.

The CSO undertook the exercises of 'Valuation of Unpaid Household Work and Community Services' and 'Estimation of Work Force' using the results of Time Use Survey. The concept papers based on the above two exercises were deliberated in National Seminar on 'Application of Time Use Statistics' held during 8-9th October, 2002 in New Delhi attended by many International experts.

The CSO has constituted an Expert Committee on Applications of Time Use Statistics to review the Classification of Activities used in Time Use Survey.

(f) Keeping in view the importance of the Gender Statistics in the country, a number of steps have already been taken for improvement in its collection and compilation. The CSO has prepared a National Plan of Action identifying a number of indicators to measures the achievement of National goals relating to gender issues and the Organisations to bring out the specific gender related data. The follow-up of the NPA has already resulted in better availability of sex-disaggregated data on some indicators such as land ownership by sex, availability of credit facilities from bank by sex, maternal mortality rate etc.

(g) The National Plan of Action for Improvement of Statistics on Gender Issues also contained an Action Point relating to contribution of women which stipulated that the National Accounts Division of the CSO can work out the contribution of women in the National Accounts and the relevant statistics may be published every five years.

The National Statistical Commission has also made a number of recommendations for improvement in the Indian System of National Accounts (National Accounts Statistics).

Export Earners Foreign Currency

6760. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to allow 100 per cent convertibility in the Export Earners Foreign Currency Account for exporters operating outside export oriented units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No proposal to allow 100 per cent convertibility in the Export Earners Foreign Currency Account for exporters operating outside EOU units has been received in the Department of Commerce. As on date, under the Exchange Earners Foreign Currency Account Scheme, following categories are allowed to credit 100% of the foreign currency to their EEFC Account:

(i) 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit/a Unit in Export Processing Zone/Software Technology Park/Electronic Hardware Technology Park;

(ii) A Status Holder Exporter; and

(iii) A resident in India for professional Services rendered in his individual capacity.

Export of Flowers

6761. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity/value of different variety of flowers exported/imported during the last three years alongwith the names of the countries;

(b) the measures taken to promote export of each variety of flowers;

(c) whether there is a steady increase in the export of roses particularly from Bangalore and Hosur;

(d) if so, details on the various variety of roses exported during the last three years from the country particularly from Bangalore and Hosur;

(e) whether there is a great demand in the international market for Bangalore and Hosur roses;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith special measures taken to boost export of different variety of roses from Bangalore, Hosur and other places in India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) (i) The quantity of flowers exported from the country during last 3 years is given below.

Quantity in metric tons, Value: Rupees in crores

2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
4646.00	37.99	4355.00	43.23	3140.00	45.74

Source: DGC&IS.

Variety-wise data is not maintained. The flowers were mainly exported to Japan, Netherlands, USA, UK, Germany and Italy.

(ii) Based on available data the value of import of floriculture products during the last three years including cut flowers is given below.

Value: Rupees in crores

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
5.71	11.28	9.01

These have been imported mainly from Netherlands, China and Thailand.

(b) Measures taken to promote floriculture exports include setting up of six Agri Export Zones, cargo handling and cold storage facilities at international airports and participation in important trade fairs. Financial incentives are being extended to exporters through schemes for Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Quality Development, Research and Development and Transport Assistance. Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers.

(c) to (e) State-wise or variety-wise data on export of roses is not maintained. However, available information suggested that the demand for Bangalore & Hosur roses in the international market is increasing. These are finding market in Japan.

(f) and (g) Measures taken to boost floriculture exports from the country have been explained in reply to part (b) of the question. Measures taken to boost export of roses from Bangalore and Hosur include setting up of Agri Export Zones, a floriculture infrastructure park at Hosur, cargo handling facilities at Bangalore and Chennai airports.

Review of Legislation on Women and Children by NCW

6762. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women and the task force on women and children have reviewed the existing enforcement legislation on women and children;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the NCW and the Task Force; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments to amend the existing legislation or enact new legislation for empowerment of women and development of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Task Force on Women and Children had reviewed various legislations affecting women from a gender perspective. The list of legislations reviewed by the NCW and the Task Force is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government has constituted a committee to review the progress of examination and implementation of the recommendations made by the NCW and the Task Force with regard to amendment in the laws. The Committee has representatives from the Ministries/ Departments administratively concerned with the laws as well as from women voluntary organizations.

Statement

Review of Legislation on Women and Children by NCW

Sl.No.	Name of Act	Whether reviewed by	
		NCW	Task Force
1	2	3	4
1.	The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987	Yes	Yes

1	2	3	4
2.	Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	Yes	Yes
3.	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	Yes	Yes
4.	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	Yes	Yes
5.	Family Courts Act, 1984	Yes	Yes
6.	Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976	Yes	Yes
7.	Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970	Yes	Yes
8.	Employees State Insurance Act, 1948	Yes	Yes
9.	Equal Remuneration Act, 1976	Yes	Yes
10.	Factories Act, 1948	Yes	Yes
11.	Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979	Yes	Yes
12.	Legal Practitioners (Women) Act, 1923	Yes	Yes
13.	Maternity Benefit Act, 1961	Yes	Yes
14.	Minimum Wages Act, 1948	Yes	Yes
15.	Relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code	Yes	Yes
16.	Relevant provisions of Code of Criminal Procedure	Yes	Yes
17.	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986	No	Yes
18.	Payment of Wages Act, 1936	No	Yes
19.	Plantations Labour Act, 1951	No	Yes
20.	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923	No	Yes
21.	Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966	No	Yes
22.	Cinematograph Act, 1952	No	Yes
23.	Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971	Yes	No
24.	Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994	Yes	No

1	2	3	4
25.	Juvenile Justice Act, 1986	Yes	No
26.	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929	Yes	No
27.	Foreign Marriage Act, 1969	Yes	No
28.	Guardians and Wards Act. 1890	Yes	No
29.	Indian Succession Act, 1925	Yes	No
30.	Married Women's Property Act, 1874	Yes	No
31.	Hindu Marriage Act, 1955	Yes	No
32.	Hindu Succession Act, 1956	Yes	No
33.	Indian Divorce Act, 1869	Yes	No
34.	Hindu Minority & Guardianship Act, 1956	Yes	No
35.	Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956	Yes	No
36.	Special Marriage Act, 1954	Yes	No
37.	Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937	Yes	No
38.	Relevant provisions of Indian Evidence Act	Yes	No
39.	National Commission for Women, Act, 1990	Yes	No
40.	Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866	No	No
41.	Mental Health Act, 1987	No	No
42.	Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981	No	No
43.	Mines Act, 1952	No	No
44.	Christian Marriage Act, 1872	No*	No

*NCW has given certain comments on the draft Christian Marriage Bill, 2000 proposed by the Legislative Department.

Intellectual Property Rights

6763. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up ten additional Intellectual Property Rights chairs to generate capacity within the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has decided to set up ten additional Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) chairs in the

country. Three of these chairs will be set up in the Indian Institutes of Management (IIM)—one each at the IIM at Ahmedabad, Kolkatta and Bangalore in the area of Intellectual Property Management; five chairs will be set up at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)—one each at the IIT at Delhi, Kharagpur, Chennai, Mumbai and Kanpur in the areas of IPRS pertaining to patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications; and the other two chairs—one each—at the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and at the School of Economic Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in the area of Intellectual Property and Development.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House..

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Shri Pramod Mahajan has told about our Gujarat that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you trying to do? You sit down. You will have to go outside this House, if you interrupt like this. What is all this going on? It is not a matter of merrymaking. Do not smile! You are interrupting the Speaker, when he is making an announcement. Who has told you to do all this?

12.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Business transacted during the previous week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the previous week, that is, from 2nd to 6th May, 2005.

Out of the 100 Starred Questions admitted, 21 were answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 955 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

Hon. Members raised 56 matters under Rule 377. Besides, 57 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour.

After a thorough discussion which lasted for over 10 hours 21 minutes, spread over three days, in which as many as 32 Members participated, the House passed the Finance Bill, 2005. The House also devoted over 4 hours 14 minutes to the consideration and passing of important Legislative business, namely, the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2005; the Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha; the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha; and the Prevention of Money-Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

The House spent 6 hours 35 minutes on the Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding Electoral Reforms.

Two Private Members' Resolutions were discussed. One moved by Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair, on 16th July, 2004 was discussed and negatived; and the other moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan, remained part-discussed.

The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 12 Reports to the House.

Hon. Members, during the previous week, the House sat late for as many as 4 hours 50 minutes to transact essential business.

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor

General of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No. 6 of 2005)-Public Sector Undertakings-Petroleum Sector, for the year ended the March, 2004, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2149/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2150/05]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2003-2004, along with Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2003-2004.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2151/05]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2152/05]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2153/05]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2154/05]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administrations, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tibetan Schools Administrations, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2155/05]

(13) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Shantiniketan, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2156/05]

(15) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2157/05]

(17) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2158/05]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2159/05]

(21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2160/05]

(23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2161/05]

(25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2003-2004.

(26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2162/05]

(27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2163/05]

(29) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 40 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985:—

(i) Notification No. IG/Admn/(G)/Registrar/2003/1706 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004 containing amendments to the statutes 5(6) (ii) and (iii), sub-clauses (b), (c) and (d), 9(vii) and 10(1)(iv) regarding the position of Registrar.

(ii) Notification No. IG/Admn/(G)/Ord. 14/2000/1710 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004 containing amendments to the statutes 1(3) to Ordinance No. 14 on Admission, Eligibility. Duration and Structure of various Degrees, Diplomas and Certificate Programme and Courses.

(iii) Notification No. IG/Admn/(G)/Registrar/2003/1765 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004 containing amendments to the Regulations for the meetings of Academic Council and Planning Board of the University.

(iv) Notification No. IG/Admn/(G)/(Ord. 2/2000/1804 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2004 containing amendments to Ordinance No. 2 on Regulating Leave to Employees (Including Teachers and Academic Staff).

(v) Notification No. IG/Admn (G)/Ord. 5/2003/1802 published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2004 containing amendments to Ordinance No. 5 on Recognition of Examinations/Degrees.

(30) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2164/05]

(31) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2165/05]

(33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bal Bhavan, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2166/05]

(35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2167/05]

(37) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1997-1998, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1997-1998.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2168/05]

(38) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1998-1999.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2169/05]

(39) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2170/05]

(40) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2000-2001.

(41) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (40) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2171/05]

(42) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(43) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (42) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2172/05]

(44) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(45) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (44) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2173/05]

(46) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, for the year 2003-2004.

(47) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (46) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2174/05]

(48) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2002-2003.

(49) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (48) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2175/05]

(50) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, for the year 2003-2004.

(51) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (50) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2176/05]

(52) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya Karnataka, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya

Karnataka, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(53) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (52) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2177/05]

(54) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the State Mission Authority, Sikkim, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the State Mission Authority, Sikkim, for the year 2002-2003.

(55) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (54) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2178/05]

(56) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

(57) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (56) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2179/05]

(58) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004.

(59) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (58) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2180/05]

(60) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme), for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme), for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

(61) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (60) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2181/05]

(62) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority Punjab, Chandigarh, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Authority Punjab, Chandigarh, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

(63) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (62) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2182/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2183/05]

12.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2005."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2005.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'The Cantonments Bill, 2003'.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

(I) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 152nd and 157th Reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 152nd and 157th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in pursuance of Direction 73A of hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 1, 2004.

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay the Statement, unless you want to read it particularly. I appreciate your laying it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: I lay it on the Table of the House.

*The Standing Committee on Human Resource Development examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for the year 2004-05 and laid their report in this regard on the Table of Lok Sabha on 26th August, 2004. The Report contained 62 valuable observations and recommendations of the Committee on programmes and policies being implemented by the Ministry. These recommendations mainly related to issues such as re-appropriation of funds from Plan to Non-Plan budget; higher budget allocation for the Ministry at RE stage; full and proper utilisation of allocations; gender based budget analysis, delayed settlement of accounts by States/Union Territories in respect of release of fund under National Service Scheme; adequate staffing and better functioning of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan; evaluation of national Reconstruction

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2184/05

Crops Scheme; expansion of the Scheme of National Integration Camps; speedy implementation of the pending youth hostel projects and adequate publicity of the youth hostel facilities; higher allocations for scheme of rural youth and sports clubs; early finalisation of new schemes relating to adolescents and National/State Youth Centres; adequate academic staff and physical infrastructure at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development; mechanism for regular monitoring of the programmes undertaken by NGOs; supplementing Ministry's budgetary requirements through Education Cess for schemes like NSS and sports facilities in schools; optimum utilisation of fund by Sports Authority of India; streamlining of measures for dope testing and related research/training and education; re-look on the mandate and organisation structure of Sports Authority of India; decentralised mechanism for monitoring of Ministry's schemes; better coordination and cooperation among the Ministry, Sports Federations, Indian Olympic Association and other stake holder in sports; separate unit in the Ministry for implementing schemes in North-East Region.

All the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee were considered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Action Taken Report was submitted to the Committee.

In its 157th Report laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 23rd March, 2005 the Committee has considered the Action Taken Report submitted by the Ministry.

Out of the 62 Recommendations/Observations in the 152nd Report of the Committee 6 have been accepted by the Ministry and Committee has decided not to pursue 29 recommendations in view of the replies of the Ministry submitted to the Committee.

The Committee has not accepted Ministry's replies to 26 Recommendations/Observations made in its 152nd Report. One such recommendation related to Gender Budgeting. Ministry has worked out the Gender Budget for the year 2005-06 and the same has been published in the Annual Report (2004-05) of the Ministry, though it was not possible to include it in the Demands for Grants (2005-06). Ministry is further re-examining other such Recommendations/Observations and updated responses on many of such issues have also been submitted to the Committee in the course of the examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for the year 2005-06.

(ii) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the First and Fourth Report of Standing Committee on Urban Development pertaining to the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation*

MR. SPEAKER: Depending on the length of the statement, you can lay it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): It is about two and a half pages.

With your permission, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, this will be circulated to the Members.

KUMARI SELJA: I rise to make the Statement in pursuance of your direction dated 24.09.2004 issued in terms of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, which reads as under:-

> "The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the reports of Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committees of Rajya Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

I would like to inform for the benefit of the Hon'ble Members of the House that the First Report of the Standing Committee of the 14th Lok Sabha on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation was laid in the Rajya Sabha on 23.08.2004. There were 38 recommendations made in this Report. Action Taken Notes on these recommendations were submitted by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation on 31.12.2004.

The 4th Report of the Standing Committee was laid in the House by the Committee on 11.03.2005 after examining the replies of the Government contained in the Action Taken Notes on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

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*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2185/05

The Hon'ble Committee has divided the Action Taken Notes on the 38 recommendations contained in its First Report in the following categories:-

(i)	Recommendations accepted by the Government	—	27 Nos.
(ii)	Recommendation which the Committee would not like to pursue in view of the Government's replies	—	1 No.
(iii)	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	—	6 Nos.
(iv)	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	—	4 Nos.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that in respect of 27 recommendations which have been accepted by the Government, further follow up action, where necessary, will be taken and intimated to the august House in due course of time. In respect of one recommendation which the Committee does not wish to pursue in view of the replies furnished by the Government, no further action is required to be taken by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

The Hon'ble Committee has not accepted the replies of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation in respect of 6 recommendations and final replies are yet to be furnished in respect of 4 recommendations. The Committee has desired that the final replies to the recommendations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government should be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of the report, *i.e.,* 3 months with effect from 11.03.2005. I wish to assure the House that these replies will be furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation by the stipulated date.

12.06 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Situation arising out of non-implementation of instructions and Guidelines for regularizing the forest land being cultivated by the farmers prior to 1980 and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of non-implementation of instructions and guidelines by the State Governments, issued by the Environment and Forest Department for regularizing the forest land being cultivated by the farmers prior to 1980 and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, a brief statement is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, you cannot lay it. You have to read it. What is this?

SHRI A. RAJA: It is a lengthy one.

MR. SPEAKER: You are evolving a new system. You have to read it. This is Calling Attention.

SHRI A. RAJA: Since it is lengthy, I thought I can lay it with your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe, it is lengthy. What can be done? You should have been precise in preparing that statement.

*SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the National Forest Policy, 1988, protects the rights of forest dwellers including customary rights of tribals on forest land. These rights also include rights to collect fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce, construction timber, grazing rights and any other specific right enjoyed by a particular community prior to notification of forest areas. The policy also protects the rights and concessions enjoyed by the people living on forest fringe areas.

To achieve the commitments enshrined in the National Forest Policy, 1988, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 paved the way for recognition and regularization of land rights of genuine forest dwellers on forest land. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory and not a prohibitory Act. This Act is a development oriented Act with a balancing mechanism. The Act aims to conserve the natural wealth for future generations on one hand and on the other, allows the judicious use of pristine forest land for developmental activities to meet the requirement of the mankind. ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Also placed in library. *See* No. LT 2186/05.

MR. SPEAKER: Where are you reading from? My copy is a different one.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we had circulated the same copy.

MR. SPEAKER: You have circulated something else.

SHRI A. RAJA: The same paper I am reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, let us start with paragraph no. 3.

What is your paragraph no. 3 ?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, this starts from National Forest Policy, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the first paragraph. You come to the third paragraph.

SHRI A. RAJA: It starts with "This practice of diversion of forest lands..."

MR. SPEAKER: But, where are you reading now?

SHRI A. RAJA: I will come to this.

After Independence, between 1950 to 1980, about 45 lakh hectare of pristine natural forest land was diverted for non-forestry purposes by the various State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. About half of this land was under encorachments. Since forest lands have easy access and are treated as open resource, these are prone to encorachments. Prevalent land hunger compounded the problem of forest land management complex in the country. Further, State/UT Governments are also prone to suffer with local pulls and pressures.

This practice of diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes continued unabated for about 30 years, which resulted in increasing destruction of forest cover leading to heavy erosion of topsoil, erratic rainfall, recurring floods and droughts straining the ecological balance. Central Government took serious note of the situation and "Forests" were brought under "Concurrent List" from State List in 1976. In April 1976, States/UTs were asked that any proposal for removal of forest cover should be invariably got assessed by Inspector General of Forests when any such diversion of forest area for non-forestry purposes was contemplated. In August, 1976, States/UTs were told that they may divert forest area up to 10 hectare for non-forestry purposes for public utility projects. In 1978 Government of India suggested the States/UTs to seek concurrence of Central Government prior to diversion of more than 10 hectares of forest land. But situation did not improve in the States/UTs and continuous reduction of forest cover went on.

Then, hon. Prime Minister of India raised her concern with Governors and Chief Ministers of different States on 20.04.1980 regarding dismal state of country's natural wealth. It was felt by the collective political wisdom of the country that a 'regulatory act' was the need of the hour. Therefore, in 1980, an ordinance was brought for regulation of diversion/de-reservation of forest land for non-forestry purposes, which was later replaced by Forest (Conservation) Act, w.e.f. 25.10.1980.

MR. SPEAKER: No whispering please. It is an important subject.

I think you better read from paragraph 5. It is concerned with the present position and not the entire history.

SHRI A. RAJA: I will come to that.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory and not a prohibitory Act. This Act is a development oriented Act with a balancing mechanism. The Act aims to conserve the natural wealth for future generations on one hand and on the other, allows the judicious use of pristine forest land for developmental activities to meet the requirement of the mankind.

The Act, as anticipated, brought desired visible results. During 1950-80, the rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes was to the tune of 1,50,000 hectares *per annum.* But, after enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose came down to less than 38,000 hectares *per annum* and that is mostly for developmental projects like railways, irrigation, roads, hydro-power, thermal power, transmission lines, mining, settlement of rights including regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encorachments of forest dwellers including tribals and conversion of forest villages into revenue villages on forest lands. Hence, besides development, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 paved the way for recognition and regularisation of land rights of genuine forest dwellers on forest land.

In conformity with the commitment made by the Central Government in the National Forest Policy, 1988 for the protection of rights of forest dwellers, including

[Shri A. Raja]

tribals on forest lands, detailed guidelines for regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encroachments, conversion of forest villages into revenue villages, and settlement of disputed claims of tribals, pattas, leases, etc., have been issued by the Central Government after approval of the Union Cabinet on 18th September, 1990 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. These guidelines have been evolved after national consensus and approval of the Union Cabinet. These guidelines have been reviewed by the Union Cabinet and reiterated in 1991 and 1992.

From 1990 to 2002, proposals have been received for regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encorachments from 8 States/UT Governments, and for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages from 2 States, namely, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. No proposal has been received from any of the State/UT Governments for settlement of disputed claims. After examination of the received proposals, the Central Government has regularised pre-1980 eligible encorachments over 3.66 lakh hectare of forest land in respect of 8 States/UTs namely, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa, Tripura and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Central Government also converted 384 forest villages of MP and Maharashtra, into revenue villages, out of existing 2690 forest villages in the country (as per information furnished by the States/UTs). Since, no proposal has been received from the State/UT Governments for settlement of claims of tribals, no progress could be made in this regard.

Thus, the Central Government has been effectively implementing the 1990 guidelines for settlement of land right over forest land. The process of settlement of rights on forest lands came to a sudden halt due to the intervention of the hon. Supreme Court. Apex Court banned de-reservation of forests/national parks/sanctuaries *vide* order dated 13.11.2000, and also restrained the Union Government from further regularisation of encroachments on forest lands *vide* order dated 23.11.2001.

While examining the issue of settlement of disputed claims of tribals and forest dwellers on forest lands, and eviction of in-eligible encorachers from forest lands in pursuance of the Supreme Court order dated 23.11.2001, it was observed by the Central Government that the State/UT Governments were not able to distinguish between the encroachers, and the original tribals and other forest dwellers living on forest lands.

Further to protect the rights of the tribals on the forest lands, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued directions to all the State/UT Governments on 21.12.2004 and requested them not to resort to the eviction of tribal people and forest dwellers other than in-eligible encoraches, till the complete survey is done for the recognition of such people and their rights, after setting up of District level Committees involving a Deputy Collector, a Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, and a representative of Tribal Welfare Department, by the State/UT Governments as reiterated in guidelines dated 18.09.1990 and 30.10.2002 of the Central Government.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have already issued directions to all the State/UT Governments on 21.12.2004 and requested them not to resort to the eviction of tribal people and forest dwellers from forest land in absence of verification and determination of their land rights.

The Ministry found it appropriate and, therefore, re-iterated that the cut-off date for settlement of land right including regularisation of encroachments on forest lands, of forest dwellers, including tribals, should be 25.10.1980, that is, the date of enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as indicated in the guidelines issued on 18th September 1990.

Further, to clarify on the eligibility and in eligibility criteria, it may be mentioned that forest dwellers including tribals, who have occupied forest lands prior to 25.10.1980, that is, the date of enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, shall be eligible for settlement of land right, including regularisation of encroachment on forest land irrespective of the fact that the State/UT Government has taken a prior decision or not. Forest dwellers including tribals, who have occupied forest lands on or after 25.10.1980, shall be in-eligible.

Further, to boost the infrastructure development in forest areas, Central Government vide letter dated 03.01.2005, has granted one time dispensation/general approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and permitted the State/UT Governments to proceed with strictly need based diversion of forest land below one hectare in each case, in favour of Government Departments for construction of schools, dispensary/hospital, electric and telecommunication lines, drinking water projects, water/rainwater harvesting structures, minor irrigation canal, non-conventional sources of energy, skill up-gradation/vocational training centre, power sub-stations,

communication posts, and police establishments like police stations/outposts/border outposts/watch towers in sensitive areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs).

This dispensation is aimed at providing basic developmental facilities for tribals and other dwellers of forest fringe villages. The general approval is subject to fulfilment of certain stipulated conditions to meet the environmental requirements, and is valid till 31.12.2006.

The matters, that is, regularisation of pre-1980 encorachments, dereservation of forest lands, settlement of rights on forest land are *sub judice* in the Supreme Court. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is already seized of the matter and pursuing vigorously to get these orders modified or stay vacated by the court at the earliest. After modification/vacation of the orders, the settlement of rights on forest lands could be smoothly undertaken under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been pursuing with the State/UT Governments to look into the settlement of land rights of forest dwellers/tribals including regularisation of pre-1980 encroachments on forest lands proactively and adopt a transparent system for verification and determination of their land rights.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Thank you very much for the statement but I am not particularly happy with the statement made by the hon. Minister. It shows the Department's helplessness. It looks *vis-a-vis* the State Governments are not very keen to implement the very guidelines issues by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. A number of States were to regularise the pre-1980 cultivation, I will not use the word encroachment.

We are discussing an issue concerning 80 million people of this country, living in Central India, part of the Northeast and so on. In my own State there are about 15 per cent tribals, in Rajasthan $12^1/_2$ per cent, in Maharashtra nearly 12 per cent, in Orissa almost 22 per cent, in Madhya Pradesh more than 20 per cent. They have been there for centuries. In late 18 century, the Britishers brought all these forest laws. In 1927 the Indian Forest Act came into existence. By the stroke of a pen the entire forest development has been made as a State subject. The people who had been living there have to prove themselves that they are the very owners of this land.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the tribal people have an old tradition of not keeping any record. There is no one who has the records with him. You will not find any record in the whole of the tribal area of the country. In 1952 the Forest Policy was issued, which clearly stated that we cannot compromise the national interest or the national interest cannot precedes the local interest. As a result, the tribals who were cultivating this land for centuries were denied their right at that time. The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 further strengthened the arms of the Forest Department of the number of States when for the first time the forest subject was brought under the Concurrent List. Any State who wanted to give the forestland to the tribals has to ask for the Central Government's permission. In 1990 a guideline was issued in this regard.

What I am concerned about is, after issuing that guideline, after issuing the October 2002, December 2004 and February 2005 Circulars of the Union Government, a number of States, where the settlement process had not started, had to start the settlement process to regularise all pre-1980 cultivation in the entire country. For years this was not carried out by a number of forest departments of the States and as a result, people in Madhya Pradesh were evicted. More than 7000 families were evicted in Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister says that the matter is *sub judice.*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Even in that matter the Supreme Court did not stop them from regularising pre-1980 forestland. The Supreme Court had ordered that post-1980 cultivation or encroachment should not be regularised. The Supreme Court judgement did not say that and I dispute the statement made by the Minister or the Department. I was a Member of the Standing Committee concerning the Ministry of Environment and Forests, of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. We pressurised it very hard. The Committee visited a number of States and found that these people had been deprived of their legitimate rights and were being harassed.

It is happening simply because the Department of Forest did not carry out proper steps. I want to know from the Minister what exactly the Department is doing in this regard. This is not a new land.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would like to know what steps he intends to take in this regard. I would also like to know whether he is going to do this in a time-

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

bound manner. Would the Ministry of Environment and Forests like to go in for one time settlement within a year or two to see that all this land which has been cultivated by the tribals and the forest dwellers of this country—which is in their possession—is regularised. They are not cutting the trees. It is their land and they have been cultivating it for years. It does not even come under the Census. I would like to know from the Minister what action he is proposing. They are being subjected to harassment by the officers. They are at the mercy of officers.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring in officers.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I would just like to know from the Minister what action he is proposing to see that these are regularised.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said that. Why are you repeating?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The *sanads* and *pattas* should be given. Even they do not have the forest offence register. The definition of the forest offence which is defined under the law is so wide that you can punish anybody living in the tribal area even for bringing sand or tree or anything. I would like to know from him what action he is proposing even for those who do not have any written document as has been proposed by the State of Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Now it has become rather common. One hon. Member gives notice and others will give notice after seeing his Calling Attention. That is not the purpose of allowing five hon. Members. Everyday the Chair has to apply his judgement. Only five Members are permitted under the Rule but you have to find out to get supporters. I hope, in future, I will be a little more strict.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, the Chair could be liberal.

MR. SPEAKER: The liberalisation is because of non-compliance with the Rules and I would not permit that.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Sir, I had given notice regarding this.

This is regarding the eviction of forest dwellers from forest area. I would first set the record straight because the hon. Minister—when he began speaking—made a mention about the numbers of hectares of forest land which have been degraded. Most of this forest land has been degraded not by the forest dwellers but by the unscrupulous miners, by the timber *mafia*, and by other people in connivance with those who have been in charge of actually protecting these forests. I do not think this should, in any way, come in the way of forest dwellers who have actually protected the forest cover over centuries.

In 1990, the Ministry gave a direction to settle the land rights of tribals. Now 15 years have lapsed but the fact is that the Ministry of Environment and Forest has failed to settle rights of tribals and forest dwellers till today. Even today in many States forcible eviction is taking place. This was done at a time when there was no Ministry for tribal affairs. Now in the mid-nineties, a new Ministry for Tribal Affairs also has been formed in the Central Government. I think it should now devolve upon the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to look after these matters. What I would like to know from the Minister is that in the Godhaburaman case, they submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court where the Ministry of Environment and Forest—I do not want to take the time of the House by quoting from that—had made specific observations with respect to forest dwellers and the rights of tribals who have traditionally been living in these areas. It is not charity that we are asking for. These are not encroachments. The forest dwellers have been co-existing flora and fauna for centuries eking out their livelihood from there. So, it is in their interest that the environment and forest have been protected. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry would stand by the affidavit submitted in the Supreme Court or they would retracted from what they have filed in the court.

Secondly, today it should devolve upon the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to look after the interest of the forest dwellers and tribals. I would like to know from him whether his Ministry will cooperate or come in the way because we have got the feeling that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has today become a big stumbling block for settlement of rights of these poor people living in these areas.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, I would like to ask a very simple question. In the affidavit presented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest to the Supreme Court, repeated references have been made to the recognition of rights of people who are living in the forests. This policy has been in vogue since 1952 and subsequently some changes were made in the forest policy in 1982.

Although, all the time, it has been very clearly written that rights of tribal people living in the forests need to get recognised and documented, yet the State Governments without ever doing anything about it, constantly are making moves to evict people and do all kinds of things to these poor people who are living in the forests.

Is there any move in the Ministry to finally give one time recognition to these people living in the forests and settle the issue? In a democracy the recognition of rights of our citizens is the most important and critical factor. Whatever else the Government wishes to do with the forest land comes only after the rights of these people living in the forest land are recognised and documented.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the situation has assumed grave proportions after the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing now?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Thousands of tribal people were evicted from their land even after issuance of instructions by the Central Government on 21.12.04 to the effect that the State Governments should not resort to eviction of tribal people, other than ineligible encroachers, from the forest land. There were cases of eviction of tribal people in the State of Madhya Pradesh only 15 days back. Thousands of tribal people were evicted out of the forest land even after issuance of instructions from the Central Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating any enactment of a law so that the interest of the tribal people, who are born in these forest lands and grow up in these forests lands and finally die in these forest lands, could be protected.

About eight crore tribal people live in forest lands and if they are today, evicted from their dwellings, where will they go? Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of bringing in a legislation to protect the interest of these tribal people so that in future the tribal people who are living in the forest lands would not be evicted out of their dwellings. Also, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the tribal people who have already been evicted from their dwellings in different States, like in the Waynad district in Kerala, in Karnataka, would be re-settled or not.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know—what scheme the Government propose to formulate for economic and social development of tribals who have been living on forests land for generations, right from their birth? If there exist any environmental difficulty in that case whether the Ministry has prepared any alternative plan to rehabilitate them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am making one exception today. I am allowing Shri Giridhar Gamang.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Sir, one of the reasons for discontentment amongst the tribal people today is because of non-recognition of their rights to forest land and there is a lot of unrest because of this in different parts of the country.

Sir, I would like to ask two important questions. First, a forest village should have been recognised before 1980. But the word 'encroachment' that has been incorporated has been largely misinterpreted. A forest village should have been recognised at par with a revenue village.

Sir, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests should have a coordinated approach as regards the forests as well as the tribals, as forests and tribals go together. Therefore, I want to know whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests will go through the proposed Bill by which the rights of the tribals in forests will be given and whether the unrest which has resulted due to the non-recognition of the forest rights of the tribals will be set right.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, broadly speaking, people who are living in the forest villages can be classified into three categories. This has been recognised by the Indian Forest Act itself by way of various rules and guidelines framed therein.

The first category are persons who are living within the forest area before 1980 because demarcating line was drawn at that time. In 1980, the Forest (Conservation) Act came into existence. In other words, I can safely say that as on the date of the existence of the Act, those who are residing within the forest areas have been classified as forest encroachers as per the Forest (Conservation) Act. This is the first category.

The second category is the people residing in forest villages. Of course, these people who are residing in the forest villages may or may not be tribals. I think these people have been brought from outside the forest areas

[Shri Giridhar Gamang]
during the British period when the Forest Act 1927 came into existence to regularise the forests. These people are residing in the villages which are being called as forest villages. These forest villages have to be converted into revenue villages. This is the second category.

The third category is, there are some disputed claims. These claims have to be settled by Settlement Officers who have been appointed under the Indian Forest Act. These are the three categories existing for whom the rights have to be substantiated by law.

There is a misconception in the minds of many hon. Members that the Indian Forest (Conservation) Act is a prohibitory Act prohibiting the rights of the tribals to substantiate their claims within the legal purview. The Act is not prohibitory; it is a regulatory one. As a matter of fact, I can say that, right from the inception of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, so far 3.66 million hectares of land have been handed over to the people recognising them as tribal people living within the forest areas. It is not only that. Out of 2600 forest villages now present in the forest areas, so far, more than 384 villages have been converted into revenue villages. It is needless to submit that, for all these reasons, 3.66 million hectares have been converted into forest villages for tribals and 384 villages have been converted into revenue villages. This clearly shows that the Forest Act empowers and permits that forest tribal rights can be converted into revenue right or civil rights. There is no doubt about it. The problem has arisen as there are even now three stay orders issued by the Supreme Court. We issued guidelines. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you do not have to answer him. Please answer to questions which are already put to you.

SHRI A. RAJA: The law is having its own competency. We are having our own laws to provide recognised rights to tribals. There are no two opinions on it.

MR. SPEAKER: You are held up by some proceedings.

SHRI A. RAJA: The problem is, when we issued guidelines in 1990 with regard to pre-1980 encorachments, it was stayed by the Supreme Court. Again, we issued guidelines for converting forest villages into revenue villages and that had been stayed by the Supreme Court. Notwithstanding the political situation in the country, the erstwhile Government issued broad guidelines in this regard. I do not know whether it has been approved by the Cabinet or not. I think it has not been approved by the Cabinet. On this score, the guidelines issued by the erstwhile Government permitting 12 years possessory title was challenged *amicus curiae* before the Supreme Court. I am talking of those persons who are having 12 years of possessory title in the forest area. Whether it is before 1980 or after 1980, a person having at least 12 years of possessory title can be substantiated as having tribal right.

This was challenged before the Supreme Court on the ground that it was politically motivated. Hearing this argument by the *amicus curaie,* the Supreme Court gave a total ban whatsoever, whether it is prior to 1980 or after 1980 or whether it is 12 years or 10 years. Under the apprehension that these guidelines may denude the forests, they gave a total ban on this process. It is being stayed by the Court. The only stumbling block, the only deadlock before us is the Supreme Court order. I twice met personally the Solicitor-General of India to vacate the Stay Order. Of course, he suggested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot vacate it.

SHRI A. RAJA: No, Sir. He appeared before the Supreme Court. He suggested that the affidavit filed earlier was very rigid; we can modify the affidavit. Accordingly, we modified the affidavit. It has been filed.

MR. SPEAKER: Another affidavit!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, the Supreme Court does not ask for eviction of the pre-1980. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, what you are suggesting is that the hon. Minister has misled the House. If he has misled the Hose, there are methods open to you. You can take recourse to them.

SHRI A. RAJA: Accordingly, we modified the affidavit whatever be the conditions, whatever be the apprehensions in the mind of the Supreme Court. If the legal rights of the tribals are going to be substantiated under which the forest laws will be diluted, such apprehensions will be removed by stipulating any conditions because the Central Government is ready to abide. We took an undertaking before the Supreme Court. Notwithstanding all this judicial process before the Supreme Court and the process going on with the State and the Central Governments, I can share with the hon.

Member that we issued a categorical direction to the State Governments on 21.12.2004. All this process is happening before the Supreme Court. We have asked the State Governments not to evict anybody from the forest land unless and until a clear-cut direction comes from the Supreme Court. This is the standing order given to the State Governments. We are optimistic that as soon as the stay order is vacated, we will give the rights to the tribals. This Government is committed to it, and even in the CMP it has been committed.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have just one clarification. I would like to know whether the Minister would issue standing instructions to all the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: It has already been implemented.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It has not been implemented. If the States violate this, then what kind of action he wants to take? This is what I wanted to know.

SHRI A. RAJA: It is a State subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

12.37 hrs.

BILL—INTRODUCED

(i) Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): With your permission, on behalf of my colleague, Shri K. Natwar Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit unlawful activities, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you show that, that is a gross breach of privilege.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, just let me regulate the proceeding. I have got two Notices—one from Shri Mohd. Salim at 1103 hours and another from Shri Rupchand Pal at 1153 hours for opposing the introduction of the Bill. They are all very senior hon. Members. We are bound by the rules. The rule says, which has been amended and applicable to all:

"Notice to oppose introduction of a Bill shall be addressed to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the objections to be raised and given by 10.00 hours (10 O'clock) on the day on which the motion for leave to introduce the Bill is included in the List of Business."

The rule was amended as also approved by Shri Rupchand Pal. As these notices are contrary to the rules, I now put the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave been granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit unlawful activities, in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Bill was not circulated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Please refer to Rule 74. I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: After the matter is disposed of, there is no point of order. The matter has been disposed of.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Bill was circulated on Sunday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There was an international commitment.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That is okay. We have also committed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bills were circulated on the 8th of May, 2005. If there is something, come to my Chamber; I can try to solve it.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): All sections of this House should have been consulted.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the place to discuss whether mutual consultation will take place or not. That is a matter which should be decided elsewhere.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.5.2005.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is not a parliamentary matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whether there should be consultation among the parties *inter se* is not a parliamentary matter.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman to raise the issue now.

12.41 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

***Re*: Spread of Meningitis in Delhi and other States**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a very important issue. I have requested the hon. Minister to be present. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please raise this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of information. I don't want to say much in this issue. I have given notice for Short Duration Discussion with regard to Matters of Urgent Public Importance about that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, it is true. I myself drew your attention to the provision of the rule. That does not speak of Rule 193. You have to give a specific motion with regard to the particular authority. That is not a motion. A separate motion has to be given. Rule 193 is not the relevant rule for that. You come to me. I shall explain. We would discuss with you how to do it. You know it very well. You are a very distinguished Member of the Panel of Chairmen.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that certainly I would consider it but you should give a proper motion. There is no question of my denying permission to you. The question is that of compliance with the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the case of Meningitis or Meningococcemia was reported in Delhi on 1 May. And it is spreading constantly. The medicines available for its treatment are missing from the market. Turnover of such medicine was to the tune of Rs. 750 crore and now fifty percent of the medicines are not available in the market. The condition has become so bad that a vaccine now costs Rs. 800. This issue has been raised in the House 2-3 times. Serious concern was expressed about its spread. Hundreds of patients are suffering from it in Delhi. Today, not only Delhi, the disease has spread to Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Bihar. Shri Hannan Mollah and I raised this issue. Hon'ble Minister in his reply on 6th stated that "There are sufficient stocks of medicines". On the contrary all newspapers have reported prominently that 50 percent of the medicines for its treatment are missing from the market. On 6th May, it was also stated that, "the situation is under control and it is being regularly monitored".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand how the Government claim that the situation is under control and that the medicines are available. Whereas, neither the situation is under control nor the medicines are available and nor any emergency action plan has been prepared. I would like to say that how can a poor fellow who is suffering from this disease afford to buy a vaccine worth Rs. 800. It is a very serious problem. I would like to charge the Government that it has failed to take this issue as seriously as required. Consequently, the disease, besides Delhi is spreading in other states also. The most important point is—non-availability of vaccine and other related medicines. Newspapers have been regularly reporting that the proper facilities for treatment for the poor people are not available.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is Parliament and we come here so that we can raise the issues concerning masses so that attention of the Government could be drawn towards them so that it could take positive steps to resolve the problems. I would like to know whether our being Member of Parliament does not serve any purpose. I am very sorry to say that though this issue has been raised in the House many a times yet the Government is not discharging its responsibility in checking spread of such dangerous disease.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I solicit your protection and would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government so far. Has the Government prepared any action plan? The disease is assuming epidemic proportions and what steps the Government has taken to

check it? Has any arrangement been made to provide medicines to the poor patients who can't buy them? Have vaccines been arranged for them? Blackmarketeers have cornered 50 percent medicines and poor people have been deprived of medicines. I want the government to reply this question. Has the government prepared any plan to check spreading of this disease to other states.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate on this issue. Earlier also I had raised this issue. The disease is spreading quite fast. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a Minute. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

Please sit down. You know that whatever you speak without my permission will not go on records.

[English]

The importance of the matter is acknowledged. That is why, yesterday, in spite of an elaborate discussion, because of the urgency, I have requested the hon. Minister to be here to respond immediately. He is here and I am thankful. I am sure you will get appropriate response.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I understand the concern of the hon. Member, other hon. Members of the House and your goodself also, Sir. You have been repeatedly saying to control this issue.

I strongly deny the statement made by the hon. Member that the Government is not doing anything to prevent this outbreak. The Government of India, as well as, the Government of Delhi are very much concerned about this issue. We are trying our best to control this issue and as such this has not been an epidemic. Till today, we have about 214 cases of Meningitis and Meningococcemia. Till today, we have about 16 deaths. In the last four days we have just one death and in the last 24 hours we do not have any death as such. This outbreak last occurred in Delhi in 1985-86 where about 800 persons died at that point of time, nearly 20 years ago. This bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, is not a virus. This is a bacteria and this is very easily curable. This bacteria prevalent in about 20 per cent of general population throughout the year. Throughout the year, this is prevalent. Sometimes, due to climatic conditions there is an outbreak. There are two categories; firstly, if it goes to the brain it is Meningitis and if it goes into the body, it is called Meningococcemia. There are simple anti-biotics, cost effective anti-biotics, which are available in plenty in the market. I deny the statement that no medicines are available. Just one dose of Ciprofloxacin anti-biotic for the adults and Rifampicin anti-biotic for the young children and Penicillin injection is enough to save the patients and to treat completely this disease. There is no question of medicines not being available at all. These medicines or anti-biotics Ciprofloxacin, Rifampicin are available in plenty everywhere and all the Government hospitals are giving them free.

There are two parts. One is the treatment part and the other is the prevention part. Prevention part is for vaccines. At this point of time, vaccination is not necessary for all the population in the affected areas. We vaccinate only those persons who are involved with the patient, who is known to have got this disease, surrounding relatives or other patients. Among all the 214 cases till date in Delhi, we have gone there personally to about 137 households in Delhi till today. We surveyed and vaccinated them. We have given them Ciprofloxacin. Just one tablet of Ciprofloxacin of 500 milligrams a day is enough for them to save themselves from having this disease. Since this is a bacterial disease, this can be easily treated and can easily be controlled.

The Government is taking all steps. Everyday we are having a meeting. The Director-General of Health Services is conducting meetings and even on Sundays he is there to have these meetings. We are having regular meetings with the officials from Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also. We are coordinating with the State Governments and we are going through the print and visual media for creating a lot of awareness. With drums and loudspeakers, people are going around and telling that if someone has a fever or a headache, he should go to the nearest doctor and get these anti-biotics. Vaccination is necessary when there is an unhygienic crowded place like hostels or some jails and like that. Vaccination is necessary in unhygienic areas. This infection is transmitted through droplet infection, through the air. We are propagating just basic hygienic methods. We have issued these so-called notices. We have circulated posters and pamphlets all round on how to prevent these diseases. We are very concerned about even one death. We will have to prevent these deaths and we are coordinating it very closely. There is no need to panic.

Even today, I am saying the same thing. In the statement also, I said, "There is no need to panic." Today

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

also, there is no need to panic. This disease is waning at this point of time. Due to summer season and high temperatures also, the spread of the disease is now coming down. Even though we are getting more cases of meningitis, yet we are taking care of that not even a single death should occur. The Government is very much concerned about it.

As far as the question of vaccine is concerned, I would like to say that there is sufficient vaccine available. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has got about 18,000 vaccines. We have given 10,000 vaccines to the Government of NCT of Delhi. There is a Pharmaceutical company called Bio-Med. It has about 1,60,000 vaccines available. There is one another company called Aventis. It has about one million vaccines available in France. At a short notice, they could be flown in. We are closely monitoring. I am sure, sir, and I would like to assure the House that there is no need to panic. The Government is very seriously looking into this. Everyday, we are closely monitoring it. The Lt. Governor of Delhi, the Chief Minister of Delhi, the Health Minister of Delhi and we are all coordinating along with the Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government claims that the situation is under control. The number of patients is increasing. After all, what is the outcome of these meetings. Earlier the Government told that the situation is under control.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: A vaccine is costing Rs. 800. How can a poor man buy it? If the situation in under control why the number of patients is increasing? *...(Interruptions)* What is the outcome of meetings. How can poor man buy a vaccine costing Rs. 800 ?

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on?

[English]

He has explained everything.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: No medicines are costly. These are very less expensive antibiotics, which are already available in all the hospitals. Ciprofloxacin is not a costly antibiotic. In fact, we are giving free supply to all the patients involved. This is easily treatable. This is not a viral disease; this is a bacterial disease, and it is easily treatable.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am not satisfied with the reply of hon. Minister. Therefore, we walkout from the House.

12.52 hrs.

(Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot convert it into a debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute please. Because of the importance of the matter, I have allowed the Minister. He has made a full statement. He has said everything. We should also not participate in a manner, which may create a panic in this country.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, I would like to say one thing.

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a doctor. That is why I am allowing you.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, whatever the hon. Minister has said is all right. There are two types of meningities—bacterial meningitis and viral meningitis. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are technical matters.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, as far as the bacterial meningitis is concerned, whatever the hon. Minister has said is absolutely correct. It could be treated by antibiotics. As far as the viral meningitis is concerned, it will not be amenable to regular antibiotics infection. It can only be restricted by having hygiene and containing the droplets. I would like to ask the hon. Health Minister one thing. Every year, it is becoming a serious problem. Unless some preventive measures are taken in slums, this viral meningitis infection could not be stopped. We know very well in which season viral meningitis will occur. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an epidemic. Let us not make it an epidemic by words.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: That is my effort also. When the season will be coming, when the virus will flare up, preventive measures should be taken so that it would be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I will allow only Doctor Members. These are all exceptions. It should not be treated as precedent.

Dr. Ram. Chandra Dome.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Sir. This is a suggestion. The disease is curable by antibiotics. It is a matter of concern for us as to why these 16 deaths have occurred, when antibiotics are available. This is the main point of concern.

MR. SPEAKER: Why 16 persons have died?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: It is in the Capital of India. That is the main concern. Something is lacking in the timely identification of the patients and their hospitalisation or giving proper antibiotic care.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody should fall ill in this country!

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: There must be some. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You respond about vaccination in the slum areas. Then, why these 16 people died?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: It should be looked into whether proper steps are being taken.

MR. SPEAKER: They are all very friendly and good suggestions.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, these 16 deaths which occurred could have been prevented if they had gone to the hospitals earlier. Since the outbreak of this disease meningococcemia, the Government is creating an awareness among the public that if somebody has some headache or fever or develops some rashes or has stiff neck, he should immediately go to the doctor. These 16 deaths occurred because they did not go to the doctor to get themselves treated quickly. This disease meningitis will become meningococcemia within 24 hours. That is the nature of this disease. After the outbreak of this disease, we have gone in for a massive awareness campaign to prevent it.

Now, we are going in for a new programme called, Integrated Disease Surveillance Project. It is a World Bank-aided project, estimated to cost around Rs. 400 crore and this will take about three years to be implemented throughout the country. After this project is implemented, the Government of India as well as local State Governments will be notified within five to six hours of occurrence of any deaths due to any disease and so we can immediately take steps to prevent the occurrence of such deaths.

Since a lot of hygienic issues are involved in this, good public hygiene is required in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hope that there would be no more deaths due to this disease.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir. We are doing our best in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission regarding the answer given by the Minister of Finance in response to Call Attention Discussion on the disinvestment of Centaur Hotel at Juhu Beach, Mumbai.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me see. I will go on upto 1.15 p.m. Please wait for about 20 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: So I will have to wait for another 20 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You are the leader of your party. You have to show the way to other.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of Valmiki Community have not been given their just rights even after 56 years of independence. Their only source of livelihood was sanitation and that is also being privatised. The privatisation of job relating to sanitation is a blow for the Valmiki community. Through you, I request the Government to formulate a special scheme for the improvement of life standard of this community so that the security of that community might be ensured and they could have access to means of livelihood.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is how everybody has to cooperate with the Chair.

Shri Yerrainnaidu, please be very brief.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring a very important matter to the notice of the Ministry of Water Resources. The Government of Maharashtra is planning to construct 12 irrigation projects. In the month of January they started the construction of Babli irrigation project. This is built by the Government of Maharashtra across the Godavari river which is detrimental to the interest of the State of Andhra Pradesh. They have already got 250 TMC of water under the Godavari Tribunal Award and they have utilised that. Now, without the permission of the Central Water Commission they are constructing all these projects. If all these projects are completed, the State of Andhra Pradesh will lose around 50 to 60 TMC of water according to the official sources. It will severely affect the water flow into the Sri Ram Sagar Project and it will affect Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts of Andhra Pradesh. We have to stop the construction of the Babli irrigation project. Otherwise, in future they are planning to construct another 11 small irrigation projects in the upper stream of Godavari river. Now, the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the Telengana region, are suffering a lot. So, the Government of India should ask the Central Water Commission to stop the construction of the Babli irrigation project. This is my humble request, through you, to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Sir, I would request you to kindly request the Water Resources Minister to respond to this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel anybody.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, but I cannot compel any Minister to respond.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to associate myself with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Your names will be associated.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this matter appeared in the newspapers about a week ago. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, you know that I cannot compel anybody. Your matter is important. That is why I have allowed it to be raised.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is present here. I am sure he has heard you. But I cannot compel any Minister to respond then and there.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Water Resources Minister is a dynamic Minister. I would appeal to him, through you, to respond to this matter.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is our general policy in the Ministry now that if a complaint from anywhere reaches us that any project or any programme is being carried out without the concurrence of the Central Water Commission, we immediately step in, examine and find out the merits of the matter from both the States and then take a decision.

13.00 hrs.

Since it is brought to our notice, I will look into it.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, you know that the farmers in different parts of our country, like Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and West Bengal are in great distress because of two reasons. One is because of severe hailstorm during the last 15 days, the farmers of

the districts of West Bengal, like Birbhum, 24 Parganas, Burdwan, North Bengal District, Howrah have suffered damages to the crops. The farmers are in great distress. The Government should take into account all these things.

Secondly, in other parts, there is a huge production of mustered seeds. In Rajasthan, there is a production of about 34 lakh tonnes of mustered seeds. But the Government and NAFED purchased only ten lakh tonnes of it and now the NAFED has stopped purchasing it. These two things are there. I would request that the farmers should be adequately compensated and their dues should be paid immediately in Rajasthan and other parts of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter was particularly with regard to hailstorm only.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MUMRU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the non-availability of foodgrains and the problem of lifting the foodgrains under "Food for Work" Programme in the districts of Sahibganj, Pakud and Godda in Jharkhand.

Sir, this scheme is an effective step in the direction of poverty alleviation and removal of unemployment but this programme is getting deviated from its targets and objectives due to non-availability of foodgrains or due to transportation thereof even if it is available which is creating quite a wrong impression about the performance of the Government and its intention to implement the schemes. The people of the country have high expectations from the present popular Government, particularly the present alliance in power.

The ground reality is that when we make recommendations for a scheme involving Rs. 50 crore then Rs. 25 crores only are sanctioned there against.

I, therefore, request the Government to issue necessary instructions to the officer concerned to make foodgrains available in each district of the country, particularly in Sahibganj, Pakud and Godda according to the funds allocated in the budget provisions under "food for work" Programme and to ensure lifting of entire quantity of foodgrains so that we can succeed in mitigating the anguish of the poor and unemployed persons and be successful in feeding them through this programme.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the recent decision of Rajasthan High Court banning elections to students association. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How is it a Central matter?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, it is a violation of article 19.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not become a Central matter because the Constitution is violated.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am not referring to any article and I am not going to criticise anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to criticise.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. I would only like to know how the Central Government is involved in this.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am only requesting the Central Government...

MR. SPEAKER: To interfere with the State Government?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If the Rajasthan Government is not going in for an appeal, I request the Central Government to go in for an appeal against the decision of the Rajasthan High Court banning elections to the students organisation.

MR. SPEAKER: They are not parties to it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the teachers and staff councils are also banned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: How can the Parliament of India be involved in this? I wish, if there were a Central University involved, I could have allowed it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in response to a Calling Attention Notice, the hon. Minister of Finance on 4th May...

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It was raised yesterday also. The same matter cannot be raised again.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: It may be important, but we cannot discuss the same matter everyday. Please briefly indicate your matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the hon. Minister replied to the questions raised on the floor of the House that there had been irregularities in selling two hotels, particularly, the Juhu Centaur Hotel.

What he said is that when CAG Report will come, he would definitely consider it. What we demanded is that this should be inquired into by CBI. CAG Report has been presented.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not read it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: CAG Report stated about gross irregularities in regard to the relaxation in the transaction, and repeated extensions granted to the bidder.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Ministry—it is very serious intervened to facilitate the financing of the deal; the Ministry did not charge interest on delayed payment.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed a full discussion on it here. It was raised yesterday. Again, you are reading the same thing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Finance Minister has also said that the Minister of Disinvestment showed active interest in regard to selling out this particular hotel. We demanded that this should be inquired into by CBI. When this Report has been presented, and CAG has also come out, it means now it is crystal clear. When the Minister of Finance has given an assurance. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He said that the question of taking action will arise after the CAG report is presented.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We would like to know whether this should be handed over to the CBI.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal to associate.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): But I want to say very briefly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have also demanded that the agreement should also be cancelled, and action should be taken against the person responsible for this corruption.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will go on record. Shri Rupchand Pal.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to you, Shri Acharia, to please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know whether the Government would hand over this to the CBI for an inquiry and would take action against those persons who are responsible for that, and the agreement would also be cancelled.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Very briefly, I am making my point. The assurance given by the hon. Finance Minister on the 4th of May was that as soon as CAG gave the final Report, he would act upon it. Our demand was that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He did not say 'as soon as'.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Only three days are left. On Friday this particular Session is going to be concluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Make your demand.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government should come out with its assurance that they are going to take action on this gross irregularity. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You know it very well that I cannot compel any Minister to make a response immediately.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: An assurance was given on the floor of the House.

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: He did not say 'as soon as it is received'. He did not say that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not holding a brief for the Government; I am only concerned with running this House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dome, please sit down, nothing is being recorded. Nothing else will be recorded except Shri Ram Kripal Yadav's statement.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu, your statement is not being recorded.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): If you are kind enough. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not kind enough.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member speaking while sitting is gross impropriety. Nobody should speak unless recognised by me. It should better be understood.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious issue. A survey was carried out in 32 big cities of the country. It is a matter of concern that 200 suicides have taken place this year in Delhi itself that is the capital of the country and the seat of power and from where the whole nation is governed. It is a matter of grave concern. In most of the cases, the boys in the age group of 14-29 have committed suicide. These boys belonged to poor and middle class families.

Almost 4 suicides are taking place everyday, it is a serious issue. I believe that this matter needs to be considered as to why these boys are committing suicide. We need to find out the reason. Concrete measures need to be adopted to protect them, the Government should consider this issue so that the capital of the country might not become infamous for suicides. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised an important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to request the Government to take immediate action in this regard. The police also do not take notice of such cases, apart from the police, National Crime Record Bureau too does not take notice of them. The rate of suicides might increase if attention is not paid in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made it. Please be brief so that other hon. Members can participate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, suicide rate is increasing by 20 percent per year all over the country. Therefore it is my request that the Government should take action in this regard Immediately. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your request is accepted.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should accede to it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing more to add to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, immediate action should be taken in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No Government can respond immediately.

Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh is not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you just co-operate, I can accommodate many hon. Members.

Now, Mr. Karunakaran, be quick.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasaragod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of some of the serious problems prevailing in the higher education, especially in the private and self-financing institutions. It is really related with the fee structure and also the admission policy. In February, 2005, a Conference of the Education Ministers was convened. Also, it was decided to bring a comprehensive legislation on this case. Before the TMA Pai case of Karnataka with regard to the admission of the students, the admission was done purely on merit basis. Following the case of Unnikrishnan *vs.* Andhra Pradesh case, even the private institution had recruited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have patience please.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: It was unfortunate to state that following the TMA Pai case, though it was referred to the minority issue, it was extended not only to the minorities but also to the private management. As a result, there were a number of agitation's in different parts of the country. Also, some petitions have come in the High Court. As a result, the Supreme Court also formed a new five-member Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have made your point.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: On the basis of the Commission, new committees were formed in the States, but this Report was also questioned by the students, parents, teachers and even the management. So, a new Commission has come again, that is, the seven-member Commission of the Supreme Court.

The main issue is that there is a need for a comprehensive legislation on national basis. The UPA Government in the initial stage itself had promised that the Government would bring a comprehensive legislation in the Budget Session itself. There are only four days left. We know that it is not possible. So, if there is no such legislation for the next academic year also, there should be problems like strikes and also there will be cases filed in the court. So, I would like the Government to bring such a legislation before the beginning of the academic year itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the topsy-turvy condition of the public distribution system. With liberalisation policies, the successive Central Governments have virtually dismantled and destroyed the public distribution system throughout the country. It has hit the poor the hardest. The worst affected people are in the tribal areas where hunger and starvation deaths have become a regular feature. Hence, there must be universalisation of the public distribution system at subsidized rates so that the vast majority of the poor people can afford. I would strongly demand from the Government that all the essential commodities and adequate quantum of foodgrains should be distributed through the PDS which should be equipped with an expanded network of fair price shops in each State.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not really a matter for 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Corruption must be rooted out in the PDS system. More number of fair price shops should be opened in the tribal areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter to be raised in the 'Zero Hour'.

It is a matter for a proper discussion. This is matter concerning the country, and the poor people. I agree, it is important, but not this time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri, Sarbananda Sonowal.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, to a rape case in Delhi. As you know, Delhi has become a most unsafe city for women in India. Girls from North-East who have either studied in Delhi or worked have awful memories. The worst thing is that there seems to be no protection for those who are already hindered by their inability to speak in Hindi.

Sir, the rape of a college girl on Sunday has brought to the fore the vulnerability of students from the North-East in Delhi. There are many instances of abuse and humiliation, most of which go unreported. They are often subjected to undue humiliation and made to feel alienated.

Sir, a 20 years girl from Venkateswara College was abducted by a gang of four persons near Dhaula Kaun at around 2 a.m. on Sunday. She was released about 4.15 a.m. near Moti Bagh Gurudwara. For about 2 hours, the car had free run on the roads, but no help came from police till she was released. This happened despite

police being immediately informed by the victim's friend. Although the car drove unstopped through length and breadth of the city, including the highly guarded Rajghat area, yet the police which prides itself on having a network of PCR vehicles throughout the city, could not stop the car. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All the details of the incident are not necessary. They have come out in the newspaper.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, it is very serious matter because the students from North-East come all the way from those areas to the National Capital to study. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. You do not have to press on this.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, they need protection. The Delhi-ites must develop a positive mindset to protect the interests of the students from North-East. The police also must be careful, and they must be serious to the cases of students from North-East.

That is why, Sir, I urge upon the Government to take drastic measures to nab the culprits and punish them severely. I also earnestly appeal to the Government to review the security system because Delhi police has decisively failed to protect the security of the citizens. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: I am coming to the point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now you are coming to the point after five minutes. This is not fair.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, this is a matter of security, and particularly to the students from North-East who are often subjected to such harassment. The Home Ministry should pass on instructions to Delhi Police to take this kind of matter seriously, and also security should be ensured to students from North-East. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed the matter to be raised.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Shri Anwar Hussain and Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma associate with this matter.

The House stand adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Launch at twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

BILL—INTRODUCED

(ii) Bihar Value Added Tax Bill, 2005*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before I call Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance, to seek leave of the House to introduce Bihar Value Added Tax Bill, 2005, I have to inform that the hon. Finance Minister *vide* his letter dated 10th May, 2005 has intimated that the President, having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed Bihar Value Added Tax Bill, 2005, has recommended under clause (1) of Article 207 of the Constitution the introduction of the Bill in Lok Sabha.

Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move fore leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods in the State of Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:-

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods in the State of

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10.5.2005.

Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce@ the Bill.

14.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item No. 11. Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. I think, they will be treated as part of the proceedings of the House today.

(i) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Rajasthan for Setting up of Dairy Development project at Alwar

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are ample possibilities of Dairy development alongwith agriculture in my parliamentary Constituency, Alwar. The continuous decline in rainfall during last years and the rapidly decreasing water level is leading to continuous decline in agricultural production. Therefore, during the time of famine and scarcity the poor class people in rural area can earn their livelihood through the Dairy industry.

Alwar Co-operative Milk Dairy located at merely 100 kms from Delhi in this districts supplies large quantity of milk to Delhi. Even now there are immense possibilities of dairy industry in villages.

The Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for the approval of Dairy Development Project involving the expected cost of around Rs. 5 Crores in Alwar district under Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

I would request the Minister of Rural Development to sanction the Dairy Development Project in Alwar district immediately. Keeping in view the ample possibilities of rural employment there.

(ii) Need to provide additional dwelling units and civic amenities to the people living in slums under S.R.A. Scheme in Mumbai, Maharashtra

SHRI GOVINDA (Mumbai-North): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, Mumbai is the financial Capital of the country, it contributes Rs. 60 thousand Crores as tax to the Government and the people get employment, respect and everything that is required to them there so they settle down over there. Skyscrapers with inadequate facilities, unemployment, diseases and miseries which has been increasing continuously are a bolt on the beauty of this city.

It is my humble request if the Government cannot provide funds in lieu of money received from Mumbai, it should at least provide facilities over there.

The Government should bring out laws to provide more facilities in the buildings being constructed under the S.R.A. Scheme so that the poor can become a partner to the builders. If the Government extend assistance then how is it possible that the face of the city remain unchanged? Because the city has good people, only its look has to be changed. The city which changes the destiny of people still awaits its own destiny to be changed.

Hai justjoo ki khoob se khoobtar kahan
Ab Dekhiye, Thaharti hai Jakar Nazar Kahan.

(iii) Need to include study material relating to North-Eastern States in educational text books in the country

[English]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): This august house is aware, that the North Eastern region is an important, integral part of our country. However, I feel we must do more to educate the average Indian about the culture, history, customs, traditions of the people living in the North Eastern states. There is lack of adequate information about this far flung corner of India.

One thing we need to do is to ensure that in our schools and colleges the textbooks and the syllabi have enough material relating to the North East. It is my

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@Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Treated as laid in the Table of the House.

impression that in schools, not enough matter relating to the North East is studied or taught. The youth must have and ought to have an opportunity to learn and to understand the geography, the tribal culture, the various languages, and the lifestyles of the people in these states.

It is of utmost importance what we sensitize and educated ourselves about the needs and aspirations of the people from all parts of the country, so that they can constructively engaged themselves in nation building. This will go a long way in removing the feeling of alienation that may exit in some parts of the North East.

Therefore, I would through you sir, urge the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to take adequate steps to inculcate in our educational institutions, more courses, more information, study material and matters related to the North Eastern region and its people.

(iv) Need to take steps for uninterrupted supply of power in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had privatised the power sector with a view to improve the situation of power in the Capital it had expected from the private power distributing companies namely BSES and NDPL to improve the power situation in the city but the situation has deteriorated further. The common people have to bear power failure for hours together. The situation particularly in the unauthorised colonies, rehabilitation colonies and villages is worsening day by day. Private companies, BSES and NDPL seem to fail to achieve the target for which power sector was privatised in Delhi. Though summer season this year was not at its peak, even then the situation was so poor. There is a possibility of the conditions to worsen further in future.

I would like to request the Union Government to interfere in this matter to ensure regular supply of power in the coming days.

(v) Need to increase customs duty on finished gold and dispense with the customs duty on imported gold materials

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a number of drawbacks in the import policy of gold. This policy is going to close down the gold Refinery Companies in India and is going to increase unemployment in the country. At present 2 percent custom duty is imposed on finishing gold whereas 5 percent custom duty is levied on the import of raw gold material in India due to which only finishing gold is being imported in the country. People do not import raw gold material because 5 percent custom duty is levied upon it and that is leading to the closure of all the 10 gold refinery companies and the nation is not getting the benefit of Rs. 700 crores that has been invested in those companies and all the employees working in those companies have been rendered jobless.

Through the House, I would like to request the Union Government to raise the custom duty on finishing gold from 2 percent to 5 percent and to withdraw the custom duty on raw gold material so that the companies that have been closed could be revived and people can get employment there. Along with this, the material that is extracted from raw Gold material should also be utilised.

(vi) Need to lay a railway line between Lohardagga and Gumla via Korba in Jharkhand

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON (Lohardagga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jharkhand is a tribal dominated state. This state has abundant forest wealth and mineral deposit. But there are many areas which are not connected with the railway line. Gumla District is one of them. It is located at the border of Chhattisgarh state. If the railway line that has already been laid upto Lohardagga is extended Upto Korba, Chhattisgarh via Gumla then the Gumla district can be connected with Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh via Lohardagga, Ranchi and Korba.

Therefore, I demand that a railway line should be laid from Lohardagga to Korba via Gumla so that this tribal area can be developed.

(vii) Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Banaskantha and Patan districts of North Gujarat

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of water in Banaskantha and Patan district of north-Gujarat. Drinking Water is not available to the people and cattles over there. The people have to cover a distance of many kilometers to fetch water. In many areas of North-Gujarat

[Shri Harisinh Chavda]

only saline water is available and the Government supplies drinking water through pipelines which remains dry for days together. Since the pipelines are very old, they have been damaged at many places due to which water does not supply to all places. Due to all these reasons the people of these areas migrate to other places alongwith their cattles that has adverse impact on their children's education.

I would like to request the Union Government to review the work being carried out for providing water in Banaskantha and Patan Districts of North Gujarat so as to provide water in all the villages.

(viii) Need to redress the grievances of employees of NABARD

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): NABARD employees in the country are protesting against the unjust discrimination and the move of the Union Government against NABARD to dilute its crucial functions and status of Development Financial Institution (DFI). The Government is acting overtime to do away with DFI status of NABARD and dilute its inseparable organic linkage with the RBI. The main demands of NABARD employees are regular flow of concessionary funds from RBI for low interest credit to farmers, non-dilution of its public sector character and full-scale parity in the service conditions of the NABARD employees with their counter-part in RBI.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to refrain from such measures and meet the just demands of the NABARD employees.

(ix) Need to accord Central University status to Tripura University

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): The people of Tripura and the State Government have long been demanding for conversion of Tripura University into a Central University. The Tripura University was established in 1987. But due to paucity of funds it has not been possible to develop necessary infrastructure and diversify the courses to provide quality education, academic excellence and innovative research and development programmes. There are Central Universities in the North-East region at Kohima, Silchar, Tezpur, Aizawal and Shillong which are in a better position to provide infrastructure and academic facilities mainly because of Central funding. This peculiar situation has created huge imbalance in educational facilities within region. The Human Resource Development Minister has introduced a Bill 'The Manipur University Bill, 2005' in the Rajya Sabha proposing to convert the Manipur University into a Central University. Considering the backwardness and remoteness of Tripura, it is urgently necessary to convert the Tripura University and also to minimize the imbalance in education facilities available in the North-East Region. I, therefore, strongly demand that the Union Government should take immediate step to convert the Tripura University into a Central University.

(x) Need to extend the passenger train No. 565 running between Balia and Varanasi upto Allahabad

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of Union Government and Railway Ministry towards the operation of Passenger train No. 565, running between Balia and Maduadeeh via Varanasi. After a half of one or one and a half hours this train departs for Allahabad with a new number and a new rake. The passengers of Balia, Ghazipur and Audihar would have been greatly benefited if this train had been operated directly from Balia to Allahabad via Varanasi and Maduadeeh. Earlier, when this railway line was meter gauge line, a train named Highcourt used to run between Balia to Allahabad that was very convenient for the passenger travelling to Allahabad. Now after the conversion of the above said railway line into broad gauge line there is no other passenger train to Allahabad from Balia, Ghazipur, Audihar and other places. As a result, people have to travel by buses and they have to change buses at two or three places.

Therefore, I would request the Government and Minister of Railways to run the Passenger train No. 565 from Balia to Allahabad via Varanasi directly.

(xi) Need to admit students in Standard-I in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency, Deoria there is a Kendriya Vidyalaya Studies and teaching in that school are going on smoothly. This year admissions in Standard-I have suddenly been discontinued, which has increased the problems of local people. An apprehension is prevailing amongst the people that the Government

might close down the Kendriya Vidyalaya itself. This is causing unrest among the people.

Therefore, I would urge the Government that Kendriya Vidyalaya, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh should be run properly. The admissions in Standard-I should be started immediately and proper arrangements should be made for the construction of a building for the school.

(xii) Need to revive closed sugar mill in Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the only Unit of Bihar State Sugar Corporation in Hathua Sub-division of my parliamentary constituency Gopalganj, Bihar. That is lying closed since 1997.

At present 1300 employees are working in this mill and Rs. 10 Crores as wages of the employees are outstanding against mill. Around 16 employees have died in want of food and medicines as they have not been paid their salaries.

Approximately Rs. 2 Crore 5 Lakh of 23,000 sugarcane farmers of 784 villages are outstanding against this mill. Even after getting the approval thrice since 1997 from the Cabinet of the Government of Bihar, this mill could not be revived.

Therefore, Sir, through you I would urge upon the Government to revive the said sugar mill at the earliest and the outstanding amount payable to the workers and farmers should be disbursed as soon as possible.

(xiii) Need the review the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in certain blocks of Dumariaganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumariaganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a few sub standard roads have been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in development blocks falling in Dumariaganj, parliamentary Constituency. These are as under:—

(1) From Pilibhit—Bahraich Marg to Vasachak Development block, Dumariaganj, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(2) From D.D. Marg to Jhakhiya, Semra Marg, Development Block Etawah, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(3) From D.D. Marg to Pakdihawa Marg, Development Block Badhni Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(4) From Soharatgarh-Demura Marg to Tulsiapur-Bhutheeya-Jhamhawa Marg, Development Block Badhni, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(5) Form Sohas Lotan Marg to Bheetpara Marg, Development Block Uska, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(6) From L.D. Road Bhagwanpur, Development Block Vadharpur, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

(7) All the above mentioned roads from serial 1 to 5 were constructed in the end of the year 2002. Whereas the road mentioned at number 6 was constructed in the end of the year 2003.

The Government funds have not been utilised properly for the construction of above said roads. As a result, the roads have started to get damaged within two years itself which is causing unrest among the common people.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to review the work done in this regard.

(xiv) Need to solve the problems being faced by the exporters in the Country

[English]

SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SEVLI (Tiruchendur): People, both in India and abroad, face grievances with Government of India run undertakings and Ministry, approach Members of Parliament for redressal. Members of Parliament being Public's Representative take up the genuine issues with concerned officials. But the officials do not solve the issues and keep them pending.

I had given representations to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and FCI on the matter of increase in price by them on supply of wheat to exporters after concluding sales and receiving 100% amount from exporters in advance towards such sales. MMTC Ltd. and Grossland Marketing (2000) Pte. Ltd., Singapore had submitted refund of such increase in price from FCI. But FCI and Ministry did not act. Further, I had given representations to MMTC Ltd., New Delhi on the matters of wrong collection of sales tax, market fee from Associate Exporters and decisions contrary to agreement such as holding storage rental charges,

[Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi]

difference in CHA rates. Because of wrong decisions and inactions of Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings, public lose confidence on Indian Bureaucracy and Members of Parliament, Public continue to suffer.

I request the Government to look into the matter.

(xv) Need to address the problems of foodgrains exporters in the country

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): MMTC, Public Sector Undertaking is responsible for overseas operations of foodgrains by the Indian exporters. A contract regarding rates of foodgrains is entered between MMTC and exporters. But when execution of export, MMTC violates agreement of rates and increases the rates of foodgrains causing huge loss of money to exporters. The aggrieved exporters go to courts for justice. The number of cases against MMTC is rising. The legal expenses for both sides is tremendously increasing. It also collects Sales Tax on gunny bags which are not mentioned in the agreement resulting further loss to exporters.

I urge upon the Government to remove the difficulties being faced by the exporters and instruct MMTC not to violate contract agreement such as holding storage rental, difference in CHA rates.

(xvi) Need to charge rentals applicable to rural areas on telephones in Kolhapur and Echalkaranji Parliamentary Constituencies, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Echalkaranji): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the irregularities being committed by the Telephone Department in the Kolhapur and Echalkaranji Parliamentary Constituencies of Maharashtra. Sir, the Government have fixed lower rate of installation charges and monthly rental in the rural areas in comparison to the Urban areas. Telephone Department is charging the said amount from the rural people equal to that chargeable from the Urban People.

Therefore, I demand the Government to take immediate action in this regard and remove these irregularities. Besides, the additional rent and deposit money be refunded to them. I also demand the Government to charge lower call rates from the people living in the rural areas of the country so that the Government's liberal policy of installing telephones in rural areas could be implemented successfully.

(xvii) Need to take steps to accelerate literacy rate in the country

[English]

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Though India has progressed in many fields and achieved many targets but is very much backward in the matter of education as we see from the literacy rate data. Literacy rate is very poor. Government of India have also identified 146 districts in 12 states which speaks itself the poor state of affairs.

The Government should earmark a list of districts with no Institution from among Kendriya Vidyalayas and community Polytechnic. Such schools should be opened in priority basis.

Central Government should relax the norms and accordingly also instruct the State Governments for opening primary schools, providing scholarships/ fellowships, uniforms. stationery. School bags, reservation of seats in admission in educational institutions, relaxation in cut off marks in admission, primary Education Programme, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, opening of residential schools, educational complexes in low literacy pockets and opening of hostels for SC/ST students. Special coaching to improve academic skill, preparation of text books in tribal languages and opening of educational complexes in low literacy pockets for girls belongings to SC/ST and OBCs should be well though of.

Apart from this, the Government should open more residential schools community colleges, ITIs, evening schools and night learning centers.

Sir, I am confident that if the above steps are taken, the literacy rate will go up not only in the backward districts but also in all parts of the country.

(xviii) Need to take steps to check pollution caused by mining activities by CCI in Bokrao district, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through the House, I would like to bring to the notice of the Union Government that due to coal mining and transportation by C.C.L. in Bokrao district of

Jharkhand the environment of Govindpur, Katahara, Bodia, Jarangdeeh, Aasnapani, Jareedeeh, Karo, Baidhkaro, Aagloo, Dhutiatand, Kukarpania, Bairmo Basti, Char Number, Turiyo, Tarmi, Bhadaridah, Kalyani, Rajabeda, Chandrapura, Fusaro, Dugdha, Karmatand, Sijuva has been polluted. Besides, the transportation of coal and coal ashes of B.T.P.S. and C.T.P.S. of D.V.C. has also pollutted the environment of the colonies located over there. It is on account of that, various types of diseases are breaking out, wells and ponds have become polluted and cultivable land has become barren there. It has become difficult for the local people to walk on the roads because of the coal dust that raises by the trucks passing from there. People are getting killed due to the accidents taking place there.

Therefore, I request the Government to take appropriate measures to check the pollution further.

(xix) Need to include fishermen community of Andhra Pradesh in the list of scheduled tribes

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of fishermen community in Andhra Pradesh due to non inclusion of this community in ST category. It is learnt that after independence since 1952 this community was included in STs category in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa and some other states except in Andhra Pradesh. Actually the fishermen community's request is genuine because their livelihood depends upon fish hunting. In case any problem comes in the way during the hunting of fish, there is no food for their families on that day. In this connection the Fishermen community people from Andhra Pradesh staged many dharnas before the Parliament House on the issue of their community's inclusion in ST category. I have also submitted many representations to the Government in this regard but no action seems to have been taken so far.

I request the Government to consider inclusion of fishermen community of Andhra Pradesh in STs category.

(xx) Need to withdraw restriction on piecemeal booking of gunny bags from Tezpur Railway Station by Assam Cooperative Jute Mills Limited

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): I would like to inform you that the Assam Co-operative Jute Mills Limited is the only composite Jute Industry in the State of Assam. Thus Jute Mill was rehabilitated by the financial assistance from the Central Government under the terms of the Assam Accord. Out of the new State Level Public Enterprises, which are earning profit at present, this Jute Mill is one of them.

You are well aware that the industrial backwardness of the North-Eastern Region and the problems of marketing the products due to transportation bottleneck. This mill is dependent on the Central Government requisition orders of gunnay bags under Essential Commodities Act.

The gunny bags are dispatched through rails from Tezpur Railway Station to different destinations since last 10 years in piecemeal booking system, but from the last February, 2005, the Railway Board, New Delhi has imposed the restriction on piecemeal booking of gunny bags.

The co-operative mill is providing employment opportunity to about 1000 local people. On the other hand, the local raw jute growers are also dependent on this mill to sell their raw jute produce. But, this restriction has come as a deathblow and my campel to close the shutter of this jute industry, as the mill has no other economically viable alternative to dispatch the gunny bags.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to immediately take up the matter for finding a solution to the unemployment problem of the State.

14.23 hrs.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item No. 12. Hon. Minister is to move that the Right to Information Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for people to secure

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Suresh Pachouri]

> access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Common Minimum Programme of UPA made a solemn pledge to the people of India to provide honest, transparent, responsive and accountable governance and an administration that is sensitive to their needs at all times. The Common Minimum Programme also promised to make the right to information more progressive, participatory and meaningful. The Right to Information Bill, 2004 introduced by me in this House on 23rd December, 2004 was a step forward in redeeming this pledge.

Sir, under the able and enlightened guidance of UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the dynamic and forward looking leadership of our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, we have come up with a new and improved legislation on the right to information. We believe that the new legislation would radically alter the administrative ethos and culture of secrecy through ready sharing of information by the State and its agencies with the people. An era of transparency and accountability in governance is on the anvil. Information and more appropriately access to information would empower and enable people not only to make informed choices but also participate effectively in decision-making processes.

Sir, the necessity of providing people with the Right to Information, in order to enable and empower them, has indeed been recognised for a long time now. As early as in 1980, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi tracing the origin of the idea stated:

> "Modern societies are information societies. Citizens tend to get interested in all fields of life, and demand information that is as comprehensive, accurate, and fair as possible. The idea of right to information has, thus, come to be advanced."

The Bill was referred to the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, and its Report was laid on the Table of this House on 21 March 2005. Besides, the Committee, which made certain key recommendations, the Government also received valuable suggestions from the National Advisory Council, headed by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. The Government has been greatly benefited by these proposals. In our sincere endeavour to provide the ordinary citizen with an easy and effective access to public information, the Government has accepted a majority of these suggestions.

The notice for official amendments has been circulated to all hon. Members, and they would agree with me that the amendments go a long way in strengthening the information regime, and in making the Right to Information substantive, and meaningful.

The Right to Information has been held by the hon. Supreme Court as inherent in article 19 of our Constitution, thereby, elevating it to a fundamental right of the citizens. The Bill, which seeks to create an effective mechanism for easy exercise of this right, has, therefore, been appropriately titled as 'Right to Information Bill.' Some of the provisions of the Bill shall come into force as soon as it is enacted, while the remaining provisions shall become effective on the 120th day of its enactment. It shall, therefore, be incumbent on the public authorities to develop the necessary infrastructure for providing the information to the citizens within this period. The term information has been comprehensively defined in clause 2(d), and includes within its ambit material held in electronic form also.

The scope of the Bill is being extended to authorities and bodies under the Constitution or other law, and *inter alia* includes authorities under the Central Government, State Governments, and the local bodies. The non-Governmental organisations substantially financed, directly or indirectly, by the public funds are also being brought under the ambit of this Bill.

In clause 4 of the Bill, a duty has been cast on every public authority to provide, *suo motu,* public information as prescribed therein as well as other information, so that public has minimum resort to the use of this legislation to obtain information. Duty has also been assigned to the public authority to maintain its record duly, catalogued and indexed, in a manner and form so as to facilitate access to information by the citizens, as provided under this legislation.

The procedure of securing information, provided in clause 6 of this Bill, is very simple. A citizen has to merely make a request to the concerned Public Information Officer or Assistant Public Information Officer specifying the particulars of the information sought by him. He is not required to give any reason for seeking an information or any other personal details, except those necessary for contacting him.

The request for information can be made either in Hindi or in English or, in the official language of the State. The fee payable shall be reasonable. Moreover, consistent with our Government's concern for the poor, provision has been made to provide information free of cost of the member of the below poverty line (BPL) families. For connivance of the citizens, provision has also been made for appointment of Assistant Public Information Officer by every public authority at each sub-divisional level to receive the application for the information or an appeal. A duty has further been cast on Public Information Officer to render reasonable assistance to the persons seeking such information, and in case the person is unable to make the request in writing, to render assistance to him in making his oral request converted into writing. Further, duty has also been cast on him to forward the request to the concerned Public Information Officer in case the information sought is held by any other public authority.

Sir, to ensure that the information sought is provided quickly, clause 7 of the Bill makes it obligatory for the Public Information Officer to provide the information requested for and permissible under the Bill, not later than 30 days. However, where the information requested concerns the life or liberty of a person, it has been made mandatory to provide it within 48 hours of the receipt of the request. In case of a request to provide information relating to a third party, clause 11 of the Bill, requires a written notice to be given to such party and the party would have 10 days to respond to it. The Public Information Officer, after giving an opportunity to the third party, is required to decide the matter within 40 days.

Sir, the Government is keenly aware that even the most ambitious legislation often remains confined to the law books for want of an effective regime to implement and enforce its provisions. We were determined to save the Right to Information from such a fate. To ensure that the Government officials and all public authorities provide high priority to requests for information from citizens, deterrent penalties have been provided for failure to provide information in time or, for refusing to accept application for information or, for giving incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or, destroying information and so on. The penalty would be Rs. 250 for each day of delay and will go up to Rs. 25,000. A high-level Information Commission has been set up and has been authorised to impose the penalty and adjudicate all such matters in a time bound manner. The onus of proving innocence is on the public servant. In addition, the Commission may also recommend disciplinary action against the Government servant under the relevant service rules. The provision for penalty is contained in clause 17 of the Bill.

Sir, clause 16 of the Bill contains a two-tier mechanism for appeal. The first appeal lies to an officer within the organisation who is senior in rank to Public Information Officer. The second appeal lies to the Information Commission. Jurisdiction of the lower court is barred under clause 20 of the Bill.

The categories of information exempted from disclosure are a bare minimum and are contained in clause 8 of the Bill. Even these exemptions are not absolute and access can be allowed to them in public interest if disclosure of the information outweighs the harm to the public authorities. Such disclosure has been permitted even if it is in conflict with the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. Moreover, barring two categories that relate to information disclosure—which may affect sovereignty and integrity of India etc., or information relating to Cabinet papers etc.—all other categories of exempted information would be disclosed after twenty years.

Clause 21 of the Bill exempts security and intelligence organisations from the provisions of the Bill. In cases of allegation of corruption and human rights violation, however, exemption would not be available even to these agencies. In the event of allegations of violation of human rights, information would be made available after the approval of the Information Commission. Another remarkable feature contained in clause 19 of the Bill is that the provisions of this Bill shall have overriding effect in the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Bill and the Official Secrets Act, 1923, or any other law for the time being in force.

I believe that the provisions of the Bill will be a watershed in the evolution of the right to information in our country, and will bring India at par with only a handful of the countries which have enacted such legislations. In several respects, ours, when passed, will be a law far more liberal and advanced as it resolves the conflict between the State and the citizen in favour of the citizen. It is coming just in time when India is emerging and claiming its rightful place, as a major global player in the comity of nations. But, most important of all, through this legislation, we are seeking now to redefine governance by shedding the age-old inhibitions and by reaching out to the people through breaking down the walls that

[Shri Suresh Pachouri]

separate the Government from the governed. This legislation will be a spur to the evolution of the citizen by making him more aware and of the Government, by making it more accountable.

I am confident that the Bill which aims to bring a radical transformation in the lives of the citizens of this country will receive support from each hon. Member of this House. With these words, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for people to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to initiate the discussion on this important Bill. This is a very important Bill in the sense that it is directly connected with article 19 of the Constitution.

This is not our first attempt—previously also we attempted—to codify the Right to Information which is embodied in the Constitution. In the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, I think, we passed a similar statute called the Freedom of Information Act, 2002. That legislation, that statute, did not meet the requirements of the situation. There were many loopholes in it. The Act itself was defective in many ways. For want of time I am not going into the details. So, the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 was finally decided to be amended. The Government of India decided to amend the Freedom of Information Act, 2002.

Now this new Bill is brought before the House. A separate legislation is required. Mere cosmetic amendments are not required. A thorough change or overhauling of the statute passed by this House was found necessary. So, it is decided or it is prudent or even expedient to have a separate legislation instead of amending the statute, which was not implemented during the previous NDA regime. The Right to Information Bill, 2004, which was brought, is entirely different from the Freedom of Information Act. The Right to Information Bill is, in many ways, very important. I am not going into all the details. But, at the outset, I may point out that the hon. Minister did not do justice to the House. As per rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure, the Minister ought to have given sufficient time for studying the amendments. Amendments introduced in the Bill look more or less like a separate Bill. This is a very lengthy process. Sufficient time is not given to the Members to study the Bill which is very important. No time was given to the Members. It was circulated only in the morning. It is quite unfortunate. It ought to have been circulated two days before, as per the rules. That they have not done. It was circulated only today.

This Bill contains amendments to each and every Section, which are important. For example, this Bill provided for the Information Commission only for the Central Government. Now amendment is provided in the provisions for the State also. This is entirely a different thing. You will not find provisions which are there in the original Bill, which was introduced in this House. All these provisions are new. They are all new amendments. I can put it this way that the entire overhauling has taken place as far as 2004 Bill is concerned. I agree with the provisions because I am one of the Members who studied the Bill in the Standing Committee. It was, at my instance, that certain amendments were brought. That is why, I am supporting this Bill. I am in the know of things. But other Members have not been provided with sufficient time. They should also know as to what are the amendments proposed in the Bill. There was no time because it was circulated only today. It is very unfortunate as this is a very important Bill. We are making a law which is applicable throughout India, including the States. We must understand that States like Maharashtra and some other States have already Information Act and have already implemented this Right to Information statute. There is a Citizens Charter in those statutes. So, where is the question as to whether it is in the Concurrent List or whether it is exercised by the Union Government alone? States claim that they have the right to bring in a legislation That is why State Assemblies have passed such a Bill on the understanding that it is a Concurrent subject. So, I would like to say that there are States where this Information Bill or Act is in force. What will happen to them? Will there not be a question of federalism being affected? What will happen? Which will prevail—this Act or the State Act? If the State Act is to prevail, it goes against the provisions of this Act; if the Central Act is to prevail, it will sometimes go against the provisions contained in the State Act. Such a situation may come. We will have to overcome this difficulty. Of

course, we can have a provision to the effect that the Central Act will prevail over the State Act for the time being. But it is for the court to decide which Act will prevail. That is another matter. Since, it is a matter concerning the States also, since Legislative Assemblies have passed statutes, it would have been prudent and proper to have obtained their opinion also. But, that was not done in the instant case. That is one aspect.

I may again point out why we have deviated from the 2002 statute. If there was no penal provision in the 2002 statute. If there was a violation, there was no penal provision. It was only advisory in nature. No action could be taken. Supposing, a citizen required a piece of information from the public officer and if he refused to give that information, no penal action was possible in the previous Act passed by this House. There is a deviation in this Bill. It has been made a penal offence. Suppose, some responsible public authority refuses to divulge an information, now he can be punished, he can be prosecuted. This is not merely a watchword, this is something to be enforced. If there is any violation, he will be penalised. That is a difference in this particular Bill.

Now I come to appointment of the Information Commissioner. He is to be appointed by the President, by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. This committee will have to appoint a person as Chief Information Commissioner. Now, this 'Chief' is a deviation from the original Act. In the original Act, he was only a Central Information Officer. Now, we have three persons in the Central Information Commission—the Information Commissioner and two others to assist him. Their age is kept at 65 years as in the case of the Supreme Court Judge. These are some of the provisions which have been brought in the present Act by the amendment circulated now.

There is another aspect about which information is to be made public. We had a lengthy discussion and it is correctly provided in the amendment under clause 8 of the Bill. The following information shall be exempted from disclosure which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India; which has been expressly forbidden; which may result in a breach of privileges of Parliament or the Legislature; and also information pertaining to defence matters. They are listed in clause 8 from (a) to (g). There are exceptions to this clause. Where it is considered necessary that the information will be divulged in the interest of the State, that will be done. There must be transparency in public life. There must be transparency in administration and people must have a right to know what has actually transpired in the secretariat of the State as well as the Union Ministry. A citizen will have a right because it will be safe to prevent corruption. Many things are done behind the curtain. Many shoddy deals take place in the secretariats of the Central and State Governments and the information will always be kept hidden. Such practice should not be allowed in democratic country like ours. Ours is a republic. The citizenry should have a right to know what transpired in the secretariat. Even Cabinet papers, after a decision has been taken, must be divulged as per the provisions of this amendment. It cannot be hidden from the knowledge of others. It must be divulged. But before taking a final decision, the Cabinet papers can be kept secret. But what information is to be divulged and what should not be, is a matter to be decided by the Chief Information Commissioner. And if at all there is any dispute or if at all there is any complaint against the decision of the public information officer, that appeal will lie.

So, 'appeal' provision is also there in the Bill. These are the major changes that the Minister has brought forward by way of amendments in the original Bill which was introduced in this House in December, 2004, if I am correct. It is to be amended as 2005.

There are some limitations in the original Bill for information which are exempt, because the officer can take a position that some particular information need not be divulged in public interest. That should not be the case. The public authority should not be the person to decide whether that particular information is to be divulged or not. This is to be decided according to the 'exempt' clause of the Bill. That alone will decide it and no officer can take his own decision whether any particular information is in public interest or not. So, it has been made clear.

People should get information at the earliest and no person will be allowed to refuse any information when it is applied of. For getting information, expenditure is also involved. For getting justice from the court, we will have to spend thousands of rupees; for getting information from a particular public authority, the expenditure must be made cheap. He should not be taxed. A person below poverty line should get the opportunity to get information without any stall and without even any remittance of fees. Otherwise, it becomes meaningless. So, when a poor

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

man approaches the public authority for getting a particular information, that officer should furnish him the information and he should not insist upon any payment of fees for that purpose.

Furnishing of information need not be delayed. Information delayed is injustice, as 'justice delayed is justice denied'. That way, when we seek public information, it should be the bounden duty of the person concerned to furnish the information at the appropriate time in an appropriate manner.

But still I feel that there may come some difficulties with regard to the Central and State jurisdictions. There may come some difficulties when the States have already gone into the matter and if we delay it. Parliament is coming into the picture at a later stage. Some States have gone further ahead. So, there may come a time when there may be some disputes with regard to the federal structure of the Constitution and to decide whether it could be construed as an enroachment of the States' rights—it is a matter to be decided only through experience and only through the implementation of this particular Statute.

There are two sectors—Central and State; there will be a Central Commission as well as a State Commission. The nature of appointment will be the same. The Committee for the State will be headed by the Leader of the Opposition in the State or in some cases the Chief Minister or the Governor or even the Chief Justice, whichever may be the case. There will be a Committee to appoint the Chief Information Officer in a particular State as well as in the Centre. Those provisions are there and if they are worked out properly, it will be a good thing for us.

After independence, the Constitution came into being on 26th January 1950; till date, we have not given the fundamental right to information to the citizenry. Many things are done without their knowledge. They have a right to know. We are accountable to the people. The Government as well as the Parliament, as also everybody is accountable to people. It includes Judiciary also; and everybody is accountable to the people. They must know and they are entitled to know what actually is taking place in the governance of the country.

This Bill has been brought for that purpose. This is a very noble attempt and this must be hailed by all sections of the community. This Bill must be passed even though the hon. Minister has committed a mistake as he did not care to circulate the Bill sufficiently early to allow the mistake as he did not care to circulate the Bill sufficiently early to allow the Members to study it and give valuable suggestions. That opportunity has been denied by the Minister by having circulated it only today. There was another attempt by the Finance Minister to move a Bill on Bihar VAT. He has made an attempt today to introduce that Bill. These are not parliamentary practices. The Opposition is not here. I have met them; and I cannot take things lightly. In the absence of the Opposition, I would urge the Government not to repeat such action. As a man of experience, both in the Assembly as well as in this House, I again request the Government not to repeat this practice hereafter and circulate all the amendments early. All these amendments should have been circulated sufficiently early and not today morning. Do not repeat such things. I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, are you in your seat?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will have to first seek the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would permit any Member only after he has sought permission.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Radha Krishnan was speaking from the seat of Shri Ramji Lal Suman. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this right to information *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, if you are not ready to speak just now may I request some other Member to speak?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a commendable effort to the part of the Government to bring this bill regarding the right to information. Shri Radhakrishnanji has said right now that the Government propose 147 amendments in the bill. Hon. Minister Shri Suresh Pahauri is here, it would have been better had these amendments been circulated as a meaningful debate could have been held. The amendments proposed to be incorporated have not been circulated so I am not aware what are those amendments. It is a commendable effort but the moot question is to what extent the Government would be able to benefit the common man through this bill. The right to information has been granted to every citizen by the Constitution. Shri Inder Kumar Gujralji was Prime Minister in the year 1996, he had stated that the people should have right to information and it was unfortunate that the common citizen of India had not got right to information even after 55 years and did not have access to the desired information. At Shri Gujrals instance, the draft of a bill was prepared in collaboration with the Press Council of India and was given the form of a bill in 2002 later by the NDA. But that bill could not meet the requirements of the common man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that even this bill is not going to achieve the objective with which it has been introduced. The significant point is that the armed forces have been kept out of the ambit of this bill.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are well aware of the *modus operandi* of our police force. They detain innocent persons and do not even tell them what is their offence? If their families are not given the information to which they have a right, then definitely this bill would become meaningless. I would like to submit that there is a need to modify the *modus operandi* of the police force of our country and they should also be brought within the ambit of this bill on right to information.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the way in which a certain official have been entrusted the right to impart information or withhold it, is tantamount to concentrating all the power in the hands of the bureaucracy. Entrusting any such person the power to interpret the law is not justified at all. The complain that a particular person or officer is not divulging required information would be lodged with the Information Commissioner but he would not have the power to penalise the guilty official. As per the act the case would go to the court. The bill provides that the case would be brought up before a court after the Information Commissioner has been notified and it would be disposed off within a stipulated period of time.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raised an issue 7-8 days ago. Fast track courts were functioning in the country which have been closed down. 11th Finance Commission had provided funds for them but no such allocation has been made by the 12th Finance Commission. A total of two and a half crore cases are pending in the lower courts, high courts and the Supreme Court as on date. I doubt whether the overburdened judiciary would be able to dispose of the case within a stipulated time that would be referred to it by the Information Commissioner who does not have the power to penalise the officials guilty of not divulging the information. Already a large number of cases are pending. According to the learned advocate of Supreme Court, Shri Prashant Bhushan, the jurisdiction of the act extends only upto the officials of the Government of India which means that this act on right to information would not include in its ambit the local bodies like Zila panchayat, gram panchayat, block with which maximum problems of the general public are related. That is why I want to say in all humility that it is an incomplete piece of legislation. The problem of the common man are of local nature and are related to the local bodies like gram panchayats; Zila panchayats and blocks etc. If he does not have right to information at the local level then I do not think that this bill would achieve its objective. No arrangement has been made in this bill about the common citizen of India who is facing problem every day and has a right to information. Besides, the Bill does not clearly define the scope of divulging information leaving it to the convenience of the official to interpret it in on his own and to give justification for not divulging the information. Therefore, there was a need to explicitly define these things.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that though it is being said that in this age of information,

[Shri Ramji lal Suman]

TV, mobile and Internet have become the tools of globalisation. I want to know from the Government as to whether 80-85 per cent people of the country has got anything to do with TV and Internet. What facilities the common man has through which he would be disseminated the information. He has never come across Internet, the Government would have to ensure how the right to information would become relevant to common man. I believe that the common man is deprived of facilities.

In the end I would like to submit that common man of this country does not have much use for Internet. He is more concerned knowing as to why does not he get remunerative prices for his yield, post harvesting; why does not he get prices for his produce in accordance with the increasing cost of production, the rationale behind this discussion on subsidy and also why are efforts being made to deprive him of his right. He also wants to know the justification for the hike in the prices of inputs like diesel, petrol, fertilizer, electricity and water in the country. Through you it is my request to the Government to make the common man focal point in this bill. The should have the poor, starving and destitute people as its focal point.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have also said and I want to repeat that the Government has proposed 147 amendments in it, what are those amendments. These amendments have been neither circulated nor any information has been given in regard thereto. Unless the House is apprised of the said amendments, it would not be possible to have meaningful debate in this regard. I am sure that the shortcomings and loopholes of this bill would be removed. India is known by its villages and poor people, unless this bill covers villages and the poor, this right to information would have no meaning and rationale. It is all I wanted to submit.

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South): Sir, with your permission, I am speaking from a little ahead of my seat.

Sir, I rise, on behalf of the Congress and the UPA, to support, in my opinion, this very important Bill. The hon. Minister has rightly said in his speech that it is a watershed legislation. In one word if this Bill could be summed up, it is empowerment—it is empowerment of one billion Indians to make them free; to allow them a great deal of autonomy, a great deal of transparency and more importantly, access to accountability, which, in my opinion, has not been there for many years in India.

The fundamental value of political science or politics, the reason we all are here as Members of Parliament, is to ensure delivery of justice. Justice is procedural in nature; justice is social in nature. This Bill will strengthen the process and delivery of procedural justice, which often precedes social justice.

Sir, this Bill is in accord with article 19 of the Indian Constitution which gives us the right to free speech, free expression and, as often interpreted by the Supreme Court, the right to receive and impart information. This is going to allow India to be at par with the best global practices and we will join the league of 43 countries like the United States, England and even Third World countries like South Africa.

As we enter the global arena, someone spoke about globalisation, someone spoke about internet telephony. This will actually thrust India into the global arena with much more confidence and better and improved systems. Max Weber, a major theorist of bureaucracy—a lot of people in the Left would know about his writings and works—wrote the following about bureaucracy and I quote:

> "Bureaucracy is a way of organising the activities of an institution so that it functions efficiently and impersonally for public good."

In my opinion, the Right to Information Bill, 2004 is the most significant example of the UPA Government's commitment to administrative reforms and to bureaucratic reforms to ensure, in keeping with the aims of Max Weber, that the bureaucracy functions efficiently and impersonally.

Sir, the late visionary Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi two decades ago had spoken about 15 paise out of a rupee reaching the people for whom it was intended to. He was essentially talking about the problems, the inefficiencies and perhaps even the failures of the Government's delivery mechanism. Finally, I take great pride to say this, under the leadership of Shrimati Gandhi, the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council and Dr. Manmohan Singh, for the first time, the Central Government has taken up the initiative to strengthen these reforms—bureaucratic and administrative—to ensure what the late Rajiv Gandhi spoke two decades in implementing and seeing that the delivery system is made much more accountable.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, spoke about his concern about outlays versus outcomes.

This is a Bill which will help translate those outlays that are debated in Delhi for billions and billions of dollars or thousands and thousands of crores of rupees into outcomes. We may keep in mind that India is a country where we spend Rs. 40,000 crore per year on poverty alleviation programme and yet, we have 300 million people living below the poverty line. This clearly means that something is wrong with the implementation or that something is wrong with the delivery mechanism. In my opinion, this Bill can be a solution for that.

This Bill is also a manifestation of the transparent nature of India's current leadership and to enact such a bold and audacious piece of legislation, the Government of the day must be confident in its integrity and must be committed to public service. In my opinion, this is one of the reasons why the NDA Government did not see the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 through. After the Freedom of Information Act, the Bill was tabled in Parliament in 2000 and it was with the Select Committee for two years. In 2002, the Supreme Court had realised and had given a judgement saying that right to receive and impart information is also a fundamental right. Only after the Supreme Court or only after the Judiciary intervened, the NDA Government did see the Bill through in December, 2002. But after it was signed by the President of India and made into a law, from 2002 to 2004 when they lost power, they did not declare it in the Government's official Gazette for two full years and hence it remained an Act or a law only on paper. It was a victim of bureaucratic red-tapism. However, the UPA Government, upon insistence of the Chairperson, Shrimati Gandhi, the National Advisory Council, made a definite time frame of 120 days to see that the Bill is through.

More importantly, the difference between the NDA and the UPA is, they saw it as freedom of information and we see as right to information. We see it as a fundamental right and not as freedom of information.

There are many benefits that people can utilize this Bill for. Of course, the rules are based on the Government's decisions. From crime rate, food safety, details of benefits like senior citizens grant to the criteria upon which a job application was rejected or even how much money was spent in a particular constituency are certain things on which citizens of India will have information available at their finger tips. And this Bill is the key to empowerment.

I also believe that it is going to unleash a new era of objectivity and accuracy into the system and it would not leave any room for irresponsible news channel and perhaps even a politician. Anyone who relies on sensational statement with little credibility and substance will find no place in this Bill. This will allow us to be better informed and take better decisions. Recently, even the Supreme Court, in the form of annual report just like the companies do, published some statistics pertaining to the number of cases disposed and number of cases pending. So, they also want to join the Government in the process of making all these things transparent.

There is a similar analogy to this. Just as shareholders of a public company demand more accountability from the management who they pay, the Indian taxpayer who is the stakeholder in the Indian Government demands more accountability and transparency from his Government. In 2003 alone, 3.2 million requests were made in the US from their right to information counterpart. There are several reports which have proved that the US's right to information counterpart has actually increased their productivity in nation, has brought down the cost of Government and the cost of doing business.

Similarly, in India, what we are enacting today will go a long way in ensuring that openness and transparency in our system will bring down implementation cost and eventually bring down the cost of the Government which will lead to better quality of governance in the system.

There are many fundamental differences between the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 and the RTI Bill. I think it would be unjust and unfair to compare them. But I would say something to perhaps allay the fear raised by you, Sir, in your speech, you initiated the debate on how do we create this Commission. This Bill aims to create an independent Commission similar to that of the Election Commission. The Chief Justice will no longer make decisions. The decision to elect the National Information Commissioner will be made by the President of India upon the advice of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha and the Minister nominated by the Prime Minister of India.

This will go a long way in ensuring that it remains bi-partisan and clear of any kind of political interference.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chief Justice is mentioned. But the Chief Justice is one of the three members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MILIND DEORA: The amendments on which you had a concern, were not given in time.

Similarly, the Bill aims to hold the officers who are in charge of making information public much more accountable. If the information is not furnished within 30 days, the applicant will not have to pay a single paisa to receive the information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Persons below the poverty line need not pay.

SHRI MILIND DEORA: That has also been included. I am coming to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have also mentioned about that.

SHRI MILIND DEORA: That is very important. Sir, I represent you on this side. The annual reports will be tabled in Parliament explaining as to how much information was received, how many cases are pending, why was not the information given out, etc. This will allow the MPs to scrutinize it. If the MPs can scrutinize it, who are the representative of the people, the public will get to scrutinize how this Information Commissioner is functioning. So, the Government also is committed to spreading the awareness, to advancing public understanding of the Bill because that will lead to empowerment. So, their aim is to conduct educational programmes, especially in backward areas.

Sir, at the outset, the Standing Committee that you mentioned and that you are a Member of the Standing Committee, I congratulate you and all the Members for the Committee's report. It is a very progressive report. A lot of your progressive suggestions have come out in the report, many of which have been implemented by the Government.

Sir, one such issue was expressed by another Member, and for which I quote the Committee's report. It says:

> "Sub-clause 'C' of Clause 2 should be amended "in such a manner as may bring the States and local bodies or authorities under its purview."

Sir, in the amendment, now State local bodies along with Central public authorities have been made available to provide information to the public. By doing this, we are essentially only codifying the citizens' fundamental right to information. There is one point that I would like to add over here. The Congress Party, under Mrs. Gandhi's leadership, has taken a very determined stand on this issue. Today, nine States have passed the Right to Information legislation. Most of those States have enacted this Right to Information legislation under the Congress Government. We in the UPA believe in transparency; we believe in increased devolution; and we believe in subsidiarity. The Panchayati Raj Ministry has recently been set up. It aims to increase subsidiarity in the country. More importantly, we believe in redirecting our focus towards the implementation authorities. This is what will answer Shri Rajiv's concern about 15 paisa reaching the people out of Re. 1 and 85 paisa getting lost somewhere along the way. Sir, you had could be merged into one. Perhaps, there could be one all-India Act which covers every Department in the country. So, this Bill is very progressive. It aims to take every Department in the country into account.

I have some suggestions for the Minister and the Government. Although this Bill is very positive in the interest of our democracy, there are some ways to make it even more globally competitive and even more progressive. For example, take the Preamble. To touch upon the Standing Committee's observation about the Preamble, the Standing Committee quoted:

> "That the Preamble does not explain the democratic ideals which the Bill seeks to enforce."

I would not like to quote the report of the Standing Committee, but they have taken this into consideration. They have ensured in the Preamble that it talks about transparency being the fundamental right of the citizenry. It talks about how this will strengthen the democracy. I congratulate the Government for that.

However, Maharashtra's Right to Information Act is very progressive in this area. because in this Right to Information Act—if I may quote it—the Preamble to the Act clearly talks about the right to information being a fundamental right under article 19 of the Constitution of India. It says:

> "...whereas the Right to Information has been recognized by the Supreme Court as a part of the fundamental right guaranteed to the citizens under article 19 of the Constitution of India, if something like this could be added into the Preamble, perhaps this would go a long way. If ever this Bill once gets the presidential consent and becomes a law, if it is ever to be debated for a lacuna, the Preamble will take precedence as far as the interpretation goes."

This will strengthen the Bill.

Now, I come to the issue of third parties. It provides that the third parties will have to give consent before disclosing the information.

Sub-clause (1) of the amendment does state this. I quote:

> "...disclosure may be allowed if the public interest in disclosure outweighs in importance any possible harm or injury to the interest of such third party."

Although this has been included, although the interests of the public are kept before those of the third parties, yet there is a debate within the intellectual circles outside of Parliament and those concerned with it that this third party clause might damage the Bill slightly.

Here, I would like to give two or three examples of this. In Mumbai, where I come from, we have an activist by the name Shri Shailesh Gandhi who regularly uses the Maharashtra Right to Information Act to dig out statistics and information pertaining to the BMC, the local Municipal Corporation, their lease agreements with several third parties. He regularly uses the Right to Information Act to find out information from the Collector and their lease agreements with several parities. Now, if he were to wait for the third parties' consent, whether it is in ten days or many days, he would have to wait for hundreds of third parties to come in and consent. Only then the third party information will be available.

In a similar example, if a road contract were to be given to a contractor, if we really want to understand the criteria upon which the contract was given to a particularly party, the information will only be allowed if the third party gives his consent. It might not expose certain vested interests. In Canada, for example, the biggest users of the Right to Information are companies. I think, 41 per cent of the users of Canada's right to information counterpart are companies. They regularly use this piece of legislation to expose corruption, to expose how another competitor of theirs got the contract from the Government. So, the importance lies in not who is asking the question, whether it is the Government, the public or the media but the importance lies in information and the answers we get from the Government. Therefore, in my opinion, allowing the third party information to be more readily available will actually deter people and companies from any wrong-doings whatsoever.

As per the experience of the nine States that already have a Right to Information legislation, I am sure, we can consult them. But I do not think there have been any cases where third parties have been affected or where there has been a witch-hunt against the third parties because there are enough safeguards for individual's privacy in this Bill. If the Government does intend to have this third party clause, if it is not to be excluded, I would perhaps propose that we may create some sort of a mechanism, something like an eminent persons' group in which each area could determine if the public interest is greater or if the damage to the third party is greater.

In terms of penalties, I think the Government needs to be congratulated for doing a fantastic job of creating bold and very effective deterrence in place which will not even allow the process of imposing penalties to be escalated. By imposing a fine of Rs. 250 per day on a Public Information Officer, Central or State-the Minister has just spoken about that—for every day's in providing information, my opinion, is a great deterrent. The penalty that the Central or the State Information Commission will impose on the officer.

> "...allows him a reasonable opportunity of being heard prior to the Central/State Information Commissioner imposing any penalty upon him or her."

So, we are also safeguarding the interest of the Public Information Officer concerned. The Maharashtra Right to Information Act has this clause of Rs. 250 as fine. The Standing Committee has also observed that. It has acted as a very successful deterrent in my State. After all, you cannot empower the people of India without empowering the Information Commission. The Government has taken a very conscious, a very acceptable and a welcome decision of empowering the Information Commission by allowing justice first to reside within the Commission and then go out in the public realm—whether it is the court or judicial magistrate. There are enough and innumerable delays that could cause delays. As you said, justice delayed is justice denied. I am quoting you.

Also, the amount of penalty if an officer is found guilty for persistent default in providing information within the time prescribed, providing incomplete or incorrect information, for refusing to accept an application for information, the fine would be between Rs. 2000 and Rs. 25000. In my opinion, I am almost hundred per cent certain that we will never reach a stage where the officer

[Shri Milind Deora]

will be charged Rs. 25,000. The amount of Rs. 250 as penalty, and if we go by the Maharashtra example, will automatically make sure that people disclose information on time.

I will now make very few suggestions very quickly. to increase the awareness of the Right to Information Bill, as I said, the Government is committed to conducting educational programmes in the backward areas.

I have a few examples to give, which I think would go a long way in allowing the people, especially, the poor to access this. I would like to come back to my State for the first example. The Maharashtra Government has included Right to Information in its civic syllabus for 6th, 7th and 8th standard. It is the first State to include the Right to Information in academics. I think if we could do this in the Centre, this would actually create quite a revolution of sorts. It would actually empower students from an early age and once they are mature enough to understand how to use it optimally, they can use this. Similarly, in my opinion, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has a very important role to play through Doordarshan, perhaps, by conducting shows on Right to Information. I do not think there is any reason, why if we have an ambassador for polio or for AIDS, the Government cannot have an Ambassador for Right to Information. Similarly, the Panchayati Raj Ministry, whose entire aim and whose entire objective is to increase devolution, perhaps, could work with RTI activists and allow them to proliferate the message and the value of this important legislation.

Lastly, coming to awareness, I think that it has been provided in the amendments that a website in the form of FAQ—Frequently Asked Questions database should be there. It would allow any information, that has been disclosed, to be made public. This would save the Government's time. So, if there is any request for information, it is similar to the one already received, it would save the Government's time in disclosing that information, searching for it, giving it to the public.

My last suggestion to the Government is keeping in mind that around 60 per cent of Indians live on less than Rs. 100 a day. I am very grateful to the Government for ensuring that people below the poverty line will have access to information free of cost and will not have to pay one single paise to access any information from the Government. This is the concern expressed by you, Sir. We must make sure that Government has said, it will be suitably priced but the Government cannot make money out of providing information to the people, that rightfully belongs to them. I come back for the last time to Maharashtra where the cost of application is Rs. 10 and information is provided at the rate of 50 paise to Rs. 2 per page. If we want people to truly use this important piece of legislation, it must be cost effective. For those who have a concern that this will lead to more cost for the Government, that the officers in-charge of giving information will spend all the time on disclosing information, searching for that information rather than doing the job they are entitled to do, we must keep in mind the examples of other countries. Once the use of this Bill matures, it will actually bring down the cost of Government. This is not a cost increase for the Government. This is going to reduce the cost of the Government, this is going to reduce implementation cost and this is going to ensure that quality service is given to the people of India.

To sum up, I would like to quote one thing. I believe it was Woodrow Wilson, the former President of United States who said, "No matter who we vote for, the Government always gets in". The point I am making is that we as Members of Parliament over here today, we are part of the transitory Government. This Bill, this piece of legislation, it has one fundamental objective of holding both the transitory Government, as well as, the permanent Government, the politicians, as well as, the bureaucracy much more accountable. So, I agree with what you said earlier that we are really debating something as immense as, perhaps, the Constitution of India. A Bill that has the power to completely transform India from an indirect representative democracy to a direct participatory one, where people are much more involved in the decision making process.

It is very shameful it hurts me as a young and first time Member of Parliament, that the NDA is not participating in this mammoth and very important piece of legislation, simply with the excuse that the UPA Government is not inviting them to the House or the UPA Government does not want them in the House. They must realise that it is not us, who determine whether they should be in the House or not. It is their constituents, their voters who have voted for them and they are the ones who are demanding that they should behave like a responsible Opposition.

Sir, with that I thank you for your time, I thank the Chairperson of NAC, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and I thank the

Government for really piloting this Bill very passionately and ensuring that it gets more teeth. This will ensure that our democracy is strengthened. I thank the Government for allowing me to initiate this on their behalf.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Right to Information Bill. This is a very important matter. There is a need to hold a detailed discussion on this important issue based on democratic values.

I understand that under the cover of check that have been put on the release of information for many years, many irregularities have been committed in the country whose negative impact has been observed in recent past. On pretext of maintaining secrecy, corruption and immorality have been allowed to flourish for the long time. Many institutions have been set up. In some cases these institutions observe secrecy. However, under the guise of this secrecy irregularities have been committed. That is why, I hope that while making amendments it would be kept in view that the democratic process should be made transparent for common people. Approximately 200 year's ago this kind of system was adopted in Sweeden, that has yielded very good results. I understand that Right to Information has been provided to us under fundamental Rights in Article 19 as the Right to Social Justice and Reservation has been conferred upon there under for a long time. But practically, various kinds of disparities have also been observed in the case of Right to Information as exist in entire country.

I would like to draw your attention towards a few points. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister how far common people have right to seek the information or clear the doubts related to matters that come under the purview of constitutional bodies. I would like to state that if there is transparency in information related to constitutional bodies then credibility and dignity of those bodies would be endangered in the near future. I want that Government should consider these points seriously and make an amendment to this effect so that if there is any doubts about a constitutional body, then clarification in that regard should be given to common people, poor people of the village or beneficiaries of that body. There is a need to give assurance in this regard. Many examples of corruption and immorality under the cover of secrecy can be observed in many places. It is prevailing everywhere whether it is a constitutional body or elsewhere. I would like to tell when Shri George Fernandes was Minister of Defence, Tehlka episode occurred, many things were put under the carpet in the name of secrecy and many slogans were raised. All this happened on pretext of secrecy. I would like to say that Right to Information was not implemented properly hence Tehlka episode occurred. Therefore, the process of making information public should be meaningful.

I fully agree with the views of Shri Ramji Lal Suman that information should be provided to the poor and the people living below poverty line without any charge. The fee should be charged from businessmen and traders. No fee should be charged for information related to Fundamental Rights of the people. In this country many issues related to human rights are raised. There are many cases related to the human rights. Our value system is based on the principles of Gandhi, Lohia and Nehru ji. We claim to follow those principles, but human rights are often violated, because of non-implementation of Right to Information. The atrocities in Police Station and other such actions are outcome of non-implementation of Right to Information. Many applications are pending with the Human Rights Commission. The people who are conscious file application there otherwise they suffer atrocities and lead miserable life. Therefore, I would like to say that Ministry of Home Affairs should specially pay its attention towards these facts. Alongwith it, the system should change, there should be clarity. Similarly, the police atrocities need to be controlled, they should adopted balanced approach. When the poor would fully get Right to Information, I think that Police and common people will definitely control corrupt people. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for bringing this bill. I would like to commend the UPA Government for taking important initiative in this direction. The Right to Information is the issue of opposition, but they are not present in the House. The UPA Government has shown courage to present this Bill in the House. Many times, the Government do not want to implement the Right to Information because their intention is not noble. But now it is clear that the intention of UPA Government is noble and it want to implement the Right to Information in its tenure.

While supporting this amendment Bill, I conclude.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Chairmam, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the Government for introducing this important bill in the Lok Sabha. As my colleagues have said and I also understand that this

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

Bill is capable for bringing revolution in the entire county and society. Right to Information is in vogue in 25 country of the world. The previous Government have presented Freedom for Information bill on 25 July, 2000. The Bill was passed, the President has also given his assent to it, but the Government could not notify it. But present bill brought by UPA Government has provision that this bill be implemented within 120 days and the common people of this country would be able to take its benefit. One thing is very clear from this Bill that the intention of UPA Government and our party is quite clear how transparency in the administration and politics of this country could be brought. At the same time, I am proud to say that our Government have brought this important bill in this House even before completing one year in the office.

We want to empower the poor, farmers and people living in far flung areas of this country for asking questions from officers of the administration. They should be so empowered that through this right they may get information from the officers about the policies framed for their welfare, the amount spent there on the way funds are being spent and the manner in which those schemes are being implemented. The Government wants to tell through this Bill that it is our responsibility to provide information, whatever it is to the common people in the country which they want from the officers of Administration. This responsibility should be discharged suo moto. It is also our responsibility to implement this Act. Our respectable Prime Minister, Congress President and UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi have emphasised the importance of this Bill many times, and we have been speaking on this issue for many year. This party and UPA Government is committed to empower the poor and farmer community of this country. We devote most of our time to consider this issue how this Government can be made transparent and make the officers of the entire country accountable to the people. I would like to read Article 19 of our Constitution.

> "The freedom of speech and expression of implicitly include the right to receive and impart information."

This information is very important and the major amendments which have been incorporated in this bill after much consideration make it clear that the Government, our Party and ruling coalition have only one goal, and that is to provide the sought for information to the people and that can be done by only such Government as have good intentions. The Government which want to hide something from the people and want to bring transparency in its working style need not introduce such kind of bill, but this Government have the courage to bring such a strong bill. We want that people should ask us questions. Young people ask us how the youth and common people can participate in the working process and functioning of the Government. The Member of Congress Party who spoke before me, had rightly said that when people would start asking questions, they would demand their rights. Irrespective of the higher or lower rank of the Government officers in the country, the people can ask them as to under which policies and programmes, their day-to-day problems are being solved. Our Government is working for empowerment of the people. I am proud to tell this fact and I want this August House, where representatives of entire country are present, to give a message to the people that it wants to empower the poor of this country and that is why the UPA Government have brought such an important legislation in this House.

Just now it was being said, that, the poor would have to shell out some money to seek information, so they would not seek information. But this bill has provision that the information would be made available free of any cost to the people living Below Poverty Line. This is an important feature of the bill. A penalty of Rs. 250 per day would be imposed on such Officers as would not impart he demanded information to the people. This is also an important provision of the bill.

The Government come and go in the country, but this legislation will put pressure on bureaucracy to apprise their countrymen of their work and if there are any short-comings, or irregularities in their working, these should also be revealed to the people. It will put pressure on bureaucracy. I understand that this task of bringing transparency can not be accomplished by the Government only, but the Government and Society should collectively work for this purpose. Through this bill we will empower the people but a balance would also be maintained. Whether the Union Government or State Governments, at all level government and mainly the people of the society will participate, in this process and this bill should be used intelligently. Sir, with your kind permission I would like to cite an example. A person named Nanhu, a resident of East Delhi lost his ration card in January, 2005. He lives Below Poverty Line. As per Government's Legislation, in case of loss of ration card, a new ration card should be issued within 15 days. But that poor man

in rags ran from pillar to post for 3 months, but nobody listened to him. Then he used his Right to Information and asked who are the official concerned and the progress made so far in his case. I would like to tell you that on fourth day, Food Inspector visited his house and handed over him the ration card and tendered apology for delay and also assured that it will not be repeated in future. This happens when pressure is exerted on officers, leaders, Minister and the entire administration. This is a very important bill.

Sir, I would like to give a suggestion to the Government that as in amendment motions moved here seeking to keep sub clause 8 (a) and (i) of clause 8 out of the ambit of the bill. I want that sub-clause-8 (c) which has provides privileges to Parliament and State Legislatures should also be kept out of this ambit.

My another suggestion is that the Right to Information should be given only to citizens of India. Any citizen who is a resident of the country, who has Indian Passport should be given this right. The people born in other countries, like England, America, Canada should not be given this right so that they may not be able to misuse the information made available through this legislation. I, therefore, would like to request the Government to consider this aspect.

Sir, our party and the Government had promised to support the poor and to meet the expectations and aspirations of crores and crores of the people of this country. Through this bill we have proved to the country and the world that there is no difference between our saying and doing, between our policy and intentions I regret to say that opposition are not present in the House. They has also tried to bring this bill, but due to unknown reasons they were not able to notify it even after having been consented to by His Excellency, the President. I would like to recite one line to the Members who are not present here: "Silsile Tod Gaye Ve Sabhi Jate Jate, Yah Mumkin Na Hota Agar Ve Aate Rahte".

I would like to request the opposition to support this Bill. At the same time I would like to thank our respectable Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thanks to you also for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Government for bringing a very revolutionary Bill on the right to information, which will bring a lot of changes in our democracy. Information is the oxygen to democracy, and the functioning of democracy is very much dependent on the information availability in our country.

In fact, it is too late a Bill, but better late than never. After 58 years of Independence, we are bringing this Bill because all these years we were continuing under the British colonial legacy that the information was limited to the Government and the officials alone. Now, we have come to realise that the information is for the citizens of this country.

These new amendments, which have been brought with the advice of the National Advisory Council, have got very good proposals which are strengthening the right to information. I congratulate the Committee and I congratulate the Government for accepting the very important changes in the right to information Bill. Compared to the previous Bill, this is really useful.

I would like to mention two or three important things in this regard. I agree with the Chairman's observation that the concurrence of the different States is also necessary to bring such a Bill because according to clause 14A, which is a new addition, it makes the States obligatory to bring the Information Bill in every State. It is very much useful, very much necessary but at the same time, to strengthen the federal spirit, there should have been consultation and concurrence of the States before introducing such a Bill in the Lok Sabha. I believe even now it is not too late that the Union Government should take the initiative to bring some sort of acceptance from all the States. Already nine States have got the Right to Information Bill. But each State has got different type of Bill. Now, there should be some uniformity. When there is such uniformity, there should be acceptance from the States.

Then two or three other important things, which have been suggested by intellectuals and civil rights activists, are also being introduced now. For example, earlier the right to information was there but the cost of seeking the information was very high. Only yesterday one voluntary organisation was telling me that in Madhya Pradesh they had asked for information about the National Food-for-Work muster roll. The concerned officer had asked them to pay Rs. 6,75,000 to provide this information. Now, the present amendment gives an excellent opportunity that the cost is reasonable. That is number one. Second, for the people below the poverty line, it should be supplied

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakhar Reddy]

free of cost. I think this is really a very useful amendment. This will make the common people to utilise the opportunity of the right to information.

But here I would like to say that the right to information need not be only on demand. There is a provision that every year some of the organisations have to print the information, but many important changes have been brought because of the information technology. Every Department should be asked to provide the information whatever is necessary, whatever is available on online so that the people can take it whenever it is necessary. Without asking also, it should be available. Up to the Panchayat Raj level, this should be made available. At the same time, through all the Government media, the right to information should be popularised and it should be made a part of the textbook to inculcate the idea among the people that it is their right and this consciousness should be developed among the people so that democracy can function more properly.

But, Sir, regarding the exemptions that are being given, I feel that though some more amendments have come, still the list is too long. I do agree that regarding some sensitive things, like the Defence, security and all these things, there should be always exemption.

But regarding the Defence purchases, etc, there is no necessity to keep it totally secret. Here, I would like to say one thing. In the foreign newspapers, in some of the top economic newspapers, we read in advance what is it that the defence department is going to be purchased. But it is not available to the public. It is available to foreign countries. It is available to newspapers. But it is not available to the public. It is available to foreign countries. It is available to newspapers. But, it is not available to only the citizens of this country. This type of exemption should be reduced as much as possible, if the right to information is to be properly utilised. Greater and effective information is certainly available. Transparency and accountability is provided. But, it should be very properly available to the common people so that this type of exemption should not stand in the way.

Then, I also appeal that the concurrence of the States should be made available; it should be somehow sought so that this federal spirit should not be undermined.

Sir, I appeal that the information relating to human rights violations, etc. are also being brought. That is a good thing. Information regarding corruption, these human rights violations has been made available. I really feel sorry that the principal Opposition Party is missing this opportunity when the Parliament is passing such important legislations which are very useful for the strengthening of democracy. From the CPI side, we support this Bill totally, and I once again congratulate the Government for bringing this sort of Bill.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I do not want to repeat those things which have already been spelt out by different colleagues. I feel that this is a historic Bill so far as the empowerment of the people is concerned. After the 73rd and 74th Constitutional (Amendment), this is one of the most important legislation which is to be taken up by this House. Again, I join all my other colleagues in expressing my dissatisfaction as the entire Opposition has boycotted this Parliament, and they have not joined. They have not taken part in legislating this historic legislation.

Sir, it took 57 years for us to empower the people more and more. Through our own experience, we have decided to empower the people in much more effective and meaningful manner for which this piece of legislation has been brought about before this House. In fact, this process was initiated in the year 1997 when the United Front Government was there. On the 2nd January, one Working Group was formed, and in the same year within the stipulated timeframe in the month of May, that particular Working Group placed its Report. Then, in the same month, all the Chief Ministers were there in a conference who discussed about the Report of that Working Group. But, unfortunately, just after the approval of the draft Bill by the Chief Ministers of the different States, the United Front Government fell down.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, in the year 2000, when the NDA Government was there, they placed the Bill. The Bill was subsequently referred to the Standing Committee. It is all known to us. The Standing Committee submitted its Report in 2001. That is also quite known to us. After that the Bill was placed before the Lok Sabha. We, being in the Opposition, had rendered our full support though there were a lot of loopholes. We had some apprehensions that with those loopholes, this piece of legislation cannot serve in its best way in empowering the people. But then also, being the responsible Opposition, we rendered cooperation in this House so that the Bill is passed. But unfortunately, may be due to the lack of political will, the then NDA

regime did not follow the other procedural requirements so that this Act comes into existence. So, again after the formation of the UPA Government, we, the Left and our Party, demanded that the Right to Information Bill must be placed before the House, must be discussed at the appropriate level, with all concerned, and this right should be conferred to the people. We are thankful to the UPA Government as they have fulfilled their commitment to the National Common Minimum Programme and they have brought this piece of legislation.

At the outset, I have said that I do not wish to repeat the points which have already been made by the hon. Members. I just wish to associate myself with this important Bill. But one of the important points which I wish to make before this House and through you to the Minister is as to why we are bringing this piece of legislation. We want to make this Government more accountable to the people; we want to make this Government more progressive; we want to make this Government more meaningful to the people; and we want to empower the people. But now, particularly after the liberalisation, the non-governmental organisations, the non-State organisations are also playing a very important role in contributing to our economy, to our polity, to the society and to the culture. But the question is how they are to be taken within the purview of Right to Information.

Nowdays many services are being rendered by the private sector. I would like to know whether the people should not have the right to have all the information from them. I would also like to know whether the people should not have the right to have the information about the transactions which are taking place over there.

In this House we have debated many things which show how lack of transparency is there in the corporate governance. There is a debate not only in our country but also throughout the world about the corporate governance. They are playing a large role in our country too. So, I would urge upon the Government that they should consider how to bring them within the purview of this Right to Information Bill.

We must make people aware about their rights. Simply by making legislation, it will not make things very meaningful. So, on the one hand, we have to make aware the people and, on the other hand, we must empower the people.

I am thankful to the Government that they have provided an opportunity so that people from the lower income strata can get the information free of cost or at a reasonable cost. I hope, the Government will consider this point also.

Then, there are some other points which I wish to place before this Government though I do not know whether all these things have been incorporated in the amendments because the original Bill is of 22 pages and the amendments are running into 17 pages, and we have received them in the morning only.

How are the local bodies being incorporated or covered within the purview of this law? Definitely, the Minister will clarify this. What sort of autonomy is this Commission going to enjoy? Now will this Commission be more reachable to the people? What kind of awareness programme will be promoted by the Commission so that people come forward, so that people become aware of their right? I wish to have clarifications on these points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request the hon. Members to make limited speeches because their is another Bill to be taken up for discussion today. The Minister's reply will be tomorrow. So, if you co-operate, these two businesses can be transacted. The difficulty is that we have only three days before us till the Session concludes. So, I seek your co-operation. I do agree that it is a very important Bill, but the time is limited. The Business Advisory Committee has taken such a decision. So, please co-operate.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Right to Information Bill, 2004. First of all I would like to congratulate hon'ble Minister that this Bill has been brought after a long gap of 57 years of independence. This Bill is very important in itself. Today we are present in the House to discuss such an important Bill and it would have been really good if the Members of the opposition had also been present here. Ideally this Bill should have been brought by the NDA Government but the UPA Government has brought this Bill thus I would like to congratulate the UPA Government for this. Today in the age of technology, revolution we have everything from Telephone, Mobile, Internet, Newspaper, Television and the entire world is turning into one Global village. Today in this age of revolution of information technology we will have to think especially about the rural areas as far as the Right to Information is concerned. We will have to ponder over bringing transparency in the

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

Right to Information. Through this Bill we will have to particularly think about the illiterate, poor, starved-homeless, exploited labourers, tribals, dalits and nomads of our society and country. All the hon'ble Members have collectively opined that the people living Below Poverty Line should be provided free information under the Right to Information Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, secondly, I would like to say that our's is predominantly an agriculture country. The development of the country lies in the prosperity of the farmers. In this jet age of fierce competition there is a need to disseminate the information to the farmers in rural areas about the company that is creating the threat of acquisition of their land and about the company that is creating the threat of acquisition of their land and about the quality of inputs like good seeds and also which crop can fetch them remunerative prices etc. The right to information will have to be made amenable to the needs of the rural areas. Therefore, Hon'ble Minister should make provision in this Bill for providing special concession to farmers.

16.10 hrs.

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many things relating to Human Rights have been said here. It is a fact that a number of such complaints have been lodged with Human Rights Commission but we are not aware of them. Therefore, I want to say that we should be aware of such things. When we ourselves are not aware of these things then what can be said about the common man or it is not hard to imagine as to what would be the fate of the complaints being lodged by the people living in rural areas. We want that these people should have easy access to the information.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, mention has been made of the functioning of the police force personnel goes to a person's home with a summon in his hand but he does not inform what the summon is about and the person gets to know about it only when he appears before the court. Therefore, this aspect should also be addressed in the Right to Information.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude you speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: A common man should have the right to be informed about the offence committed by him. I am of the opinion that this law should be strictly implemented at local body level and especially at the level of Panchyati Raj. Today the Local bodies talk about all types of development work but we do not know what kind of development has taken place and where or how it should have been done or where was the money utilized. Therefore, we should have such information. The local bodies should be included under the ambit of Right to Information Bill, so that the information can be easily available to us.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of confidentiality is also related to this Bill. Therefore, I demand that hon'ble Minister should ensure that the said Bill contains the provisions which could do away with the confidentiality clause of some of the government departments especially those that the people could have information easily as to what are the Government or the department has been doing.

With these words, I welcome the Bill presented by Hon'ble Minister.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I rise to support the amendments in the Right to Information Bill. If I may say, it is a, revamped Right to Information Bill.

The Right to Information Bill had taken an arduous path before being implemented because the Bill had originated in 1997. But after having a long and unreasonable sojourn, it is now going to be implemented. You are also aware that the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has pledged for a meaningful, progressive, and participatory nature of Information Bill.

Decades earlier, the dream of the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our beloved leader, was the devolution of power to the people. His slogan was: "More power to the people." Now, under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who happens to be the Chairman of the NAC, the dream has been realised. Now, the people of India will be able to exactly know about all that is taking place in their periphery, including in the local bodies, State and all national public affairs.

Right to Information was first introduced in Sweden in the year 1776. It is in the course of evolution that we are now getting ready to accept this Bill with a view to providing more transparency in our governance. Henceforth, the Government will be more accountable to the people.

I would like to refer to certain pertain points with regard to this issue. I would also like to draw the attention

of the concerned Minister to the original Bill on the Right to Information with regard to the constitution of the Central Information Commission. It was stated that the Information Commissioner and the Deputy-Information Commissioner shall be appointed by the hon. President on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India.

But in the amended version of this Right to Information Bill, it has been stated, "Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister." I urge upon this Government to reconsider this clause because it will invite criticism from various corners saying that there is political interference.

Sir, we are a responsible Government, but that does not mean that all the State Governments and all other Governments will follow the same line as is followed by the Congress Government or by the UPA Government.

The salient features of this Right to Information Bill are minimum exceptions, penal mechanism, appeal mechanism, and easy access to information. In the original Bill, it was stated that:

> "Notwithstanding anything contained in section 20, where the Commission at the time of deciding any appeal is of the opinion that the Public Information Officer has persistently failed to provide information without any reasonable cause within the period specified under sub-section (1) of section 7, the Commission may authorise any officer of the Central Government to file a complaint against such Public Information Officer before a Judicial Magistrate of First Class."

But here in the amended form, the Government has deviated a little bit from what has been stated in the original Bill. It has been stated that:

> "...obstructing in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall recommend for disciplinary action against the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, under the service rules applicable to them."

It is a well-known fact that under the pretext of service rules, many deterrent penalties could be violated. Therefore, Sir, I think, more stringent measures must be adopted against those officers who intentionally delay or obstruct the process of information because our country is still having the hangover of imperialism. Still, we are bearing the imperialistic hangover in our bureaucracy. Our bureaucracy has been very much sustaining and surviving on their passivity and they always come in the way of implementing any transparent measures in our country. Therefore, Sir, I think, more stringent measures must be provided in this Bill so that people are not harassed and those who are responsible for obstructing any kind of information are punished.

Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether this Central legislation will prevail over all existing legislations which may come in conflict with the contents, tone and tenor of this bill because there is the existence of the Official Secrets Act and the Indian Evidence Act? Once upon a time, Justice Lyer commented that the Official Secrets Act must be sentenced to death. Therefore, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether it will be inconsistent with the prevailing law?

There are so many undaunted officials in our country who often take the rise of their lives to disclose the nefarious activities, to disclose the underhand activities that go on in various Departments. To protect those undaunted officials, is the Government going to take any measures? Is the Government going to take any measure to protect those courageous officials in performing their own job without any disturbance?

According to the Bible, "You shall know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free". We are a democratic country. Democracy cannot be sustained without having an informed population. This Right to Information Bill will play a contributory role. This will help the people in coming forward to participate in our democracy meaningfully. Therefore, I am thankful to this Government for introducing this Bill in a revamped way. I am thankful to the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council who took special interest in the introduction of the Bill in this manner.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Right to Information Bill, 2004. At the outset, I wonder as to why this Government does not make the right to information a Fundamental Right under the Constitution of India. If it is made a Fundamental Right, then the citizens can go to the court and get information. However, the Government has brought this Right to Information Bill, 2004.

There is the Official Secrets Act and some of the provisions of other Acts which debar citizens from acquiring information, or the empowered authority to

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]
withhold the information on the plea of security and safety. So, there is a lot of demand for a long time in our democracy and people want repeal of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. The Government of India appointed the Mathew Committee which also gave some recommendations to amend the Official Secrets Act.

In a democracy, people are great. In a democracy, all institutions have to provide information to the citizens of the country. So many people have given so many suggestions. The Government has amended one Section relating to the appointment of Central Information Commission. We have appointed a Committee with the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. That is a correct proposition. However, the Government now seeks to amend the Bill to the effect that instead of Chief Justice of India, one Union Minister should be appointed by the Prime Minister irrespective of whose Government it is. With this amendment, the representation of Government increases to two. The Government brought all the sections, clauses and transparency and everything, but by putting two persons from one side the whole transparency is lost. There is no genuineness. That is why the Chief Justice of India at the Centre and the Chief Justice of the High Courts at the State Information Commission should be ensured.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): If you permit me kindly, we are on leverage to always separate Executive from the Judiciary. Executive functioning is the responsibility of the Government. The Government is not arrogating any power to itself. It is only the appointment of the Commission and nothing else.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Otherwise, you put the Lok Sabha, Speaker instead of a Cabinet Minister.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There are so many organisations which come under the executive function of the Government. Government cannot give up its functions. There is a clear separation of functions.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Functions are different. We are talking about right to information.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the larger interest, we should rather keep the Chief Justices away from these appointments. This is all the function of the Government. In fact, we are going a step forward to include the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Bansalji, you brought this Right to Information Bill to ensure more transparency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: They want to reduce corruption.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is only about Commission. Information is to be provided by the others. If somebody does not provide information, then the appeal goes to the Commission. There is no 'political decision-making' by this Commission.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am talking about the appointment of the Commission. The second point is, people want more information from the local bodies and from the State Governments. So, this Bill will be binding on the State Governments and the local bodies. If any State Government is not following the provisions of this Act, there is a remedy or a constitutional obligation—this is to be clarified. Tomorrow, the State Government may not notify the State Commission. By this Act, we can empower that or not—this is also to be clarified. Most of the citizens want information. If the gram *panchayats* cannot provide records, by passing this Bill, they would get more information.

The States should also formulate Commissions and event he local bodies should be brought under the purview of the State Commission. Otherwise, the purpose will not be served. Eighty per cent of the population lives in the villages and they have no access to information. By this, they would get information from the local bodies.

The third issue is this. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, they are going in a big way for the construction of irrigation projects. The MLAs, the MPs and people demand the records, but the Government is denying it. After the passage of this Bill and after 120 days of notification, they are entitled to get records from the State Government—this is one more point that has to be clarified.

When Shri Chandrababu Naidu was the Chief Minister in the Internet Age, what did we do? We did put all the files relating to tender process on the Internet. After putting information on the Internet, the meetings between the common man and the bureaucracy got reduced. if anybody wants to know information, they get into the Internet and go through the files. This happened, even when there was no Right to Information Bill. We made

available all the information to the citizens in Andhra Pradesh.

Now, there is a lot of controversy going on the Andhra Pradesh. We are saying that the files are to be put before the Speaker; we want all the records. We see that by evening of a day, the project cost was Rs. 500, but the very next day, it is increased to Rs. 700 crore. How was it done and how was it increased—we want to have the records, but the Government is denying them. It is because there is no law at the moment. Whether, after passing this Bill, it will apply to the whole of India and to the local bodies, the Minister has to clarify. Otherwise, there is no use of this Bill. This is my contention. If you want to bring in a Bill, it should apply to the whole country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate with the Chair and conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The information should be available to the citizens free of cost. Only the income taxpayers should pay something; other than the income taxpayers, it is the right of the citizens to get the records, if he has applied for it. We have to make it mandatory.

Lastly, there is no penal provision. If the Information Officer denies giving information, after application, they are imposing a penalty of Rs. 250, which may go up to Rs. 25,000. But there is no penal provision. We have to provide for a penal provision also. Otherwise, they may not give proper response; they may not give information. So, a penal provision should be incorporated saying that if any Information Officer violates the rules and regulations, he will be penalised. This is my request to the hon. Minister.

With all these suggestions, I support this Bill.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri): On behalf of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, I rise to support this Right to Information Bill, 2004.

At the outset, I congratulate the UPA Government for fulfilling one more of its commitments made in its CMP. This is a big step in the democratic process and I hope that our bureaucracy which had been more than a stumbling block for development, would become more responsible, more accountable and more importantly, more responsive.

Just a couple of days ago the President of Russia quoted the functioning of our democracy to justify his own actions in his country. This being the stature of our country, I think this Bill will actually help the image of our country in the international arena. Having said that, there are a few doubts that I have.

The first one, which other Members have also expressed, is regarding relationship of this Bill to the already existing Bills in a couple of States, including Tamil Nadu. I think the amendment No. 5 clearly says that the appropriate Government means Central Government, Union Territory and State Government. Amendment No. 87 clearly describes the State Information Commissioners' job. I think this Bill should overwrite the already existing State legislation and I hope the hon. Minister will clarify on this.

Coming to the individual clauses, I actually congratulate the hon. Minister for making it obligatory on the authority to give details in the local language. That is very important. But what is more important is, this Bill appears to be saying that somebody wanting information from a Government authority should go to the Public Information Officer. Instead, I would actually request that the whole concept must be made that the Government hereafter is open, it is responsible and that it is the responsibility of every authority to divulge information. For example, there is an outbreak of Meningitis in the national capital. If somebody goes and asks the authority of the hospital, he should not direct him to go to the Information Officer. Instead, whoever is the official he should have the responsibility to answer the questions asked by either Media or anybody else. So, sufficient provisions should be there so that the information should not only be channelised through the public information official but any officer should have the duty to divulge information.

There is another important concern for everybody with regard to fee. I agree that people below poverty line need for pay the fee. Of course, clause 7 says, 'if more payment is needed for any information, any further fee representing the cost of providing information, the Public Information Officer shall send the information to the person making a request', meaning that there may be situations where more fee will be needed. I agree that there may be a provision for minimal fee, but this clause is not at all necessary. This is only making the things complicated.

Another thing that is totally not acceptable is the provision regarding 30 days time for giving information. It is too much and it has to be changed. With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, the right to information has been construed by the Supreme Court to be inherent in article 90 of our Constitution. Therefore, to get information is the fundamental right of the citizens. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Government for fulfilling one of its promises made in the Common Minimum Programme. I have a few queries and I hope the hon. Minister, when he stands up to reply, will put light on it.

The first one is regarding clause 8. It talks about the economic interests of the State. I would like to know what are the economic interests of the States which cannot be disclosed. In the same clause, clause 8, sub-clause (1) (i), it talks about 'other officers'. I would request the hon. Minister to delete these words because even a clerk will say that he is an officials working for the Cabinet and so he cannot part with the information.

I would like to know the state of oath of secrecy that the Ministers take. After passing of this Bill, what will be the position when it comes to the oath of secrecy of the Ministers.

The original draft of the Right to Information Bill had even given people an opportunity to ask for records from security agencies. It is as known fact that because of the security agencies, gross human rights violations have taken place. Why is it that now such power has been taken off, especially when you mention Intelligence Bureau in the Second Schedule? What happened in Gujarat is a known fact.

We would like to know what really happened. We would like to know the real facts because what we know is that in Gujarat a senior IPS officer is having diaries wherein he has recorded day-to-day events. Why could that not be produced? Moreover, why this time limit of 10 years of disclosure could not be increased to 30 years? It is because transparency is the corner stone of parliamentary democracy. These are the things I hope the Minister will incorporate because they are very much necessary.

I am sure that after passing of this Bill in this august House, Shri Lalu Prasad would really come to know what actually happened in Chhapra. He would be able to know whether the report sent by Mr. Saptharishi was right or wrong. But at the same time, one of the draw backs of this Bill is that it is not applicable to all the States of our country. It is applicable only to the Union Territories. Why could it not be applicable to every State? Limiting it to such a narrow geographical sphere will really not serve the purpose. Though a beginning has been made and I would like to thank the Government for that, but I hope that when the Minister stands up to reply, he will give a specific reply to the points that I have raised. I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, I support this Bill. I welcome this Bill as the most progressive piece of legislation initiated by the UPA Government. I thank the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for the initiative taken by her to make right to information a reality I am particularly happy and proud to be present at this moment in this august House when we are creating history.

By enacting this law, we are empowering the citizens against the State, making the society open, State transparent and democracy vibrant. This is a model legislation for other countries contemplating right to information legislation. An effective right to information should be seen as a prerequisite of a matured and genuine democracy. The Freedom of Information Act was adopted by the previous Lok Sabha but was not notified. It did not fulfil these objectives. If fundamentally failed to empower the citizens against the State because it heavily favoured the bureaucracy and paid only lip service to the people's right to know. The penalty provisions as well as an independent system of appeal make this legislation an effective one. Not only the people but the media also is getting empowered. We are infusing life into the precious fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by article 19 (1) (a). As a natural corollary, we have to scrap totally the obnoxious Official Secrets Act which is a colonial legacy. Tamso ma Jyotrigamya' is the motto. Let us lead the country from the darkness of secrecy to the sunshine of information.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important subject like Right to information. I would like to express my gratitude towards the UPA Government which has brought an important Bill like Right to Information Bill in the House according to their commitment. We should have got this Constitutional right much earlier. Though the Constitution provides for this right to citizens but it was never given the legislative

backing. With this legislation the Government has fulfilled a long pending demand of the public. I would like to thank hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for this.

16.40 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There is a provision under Section-19 of the Indian Constitution that all citizens must get a right to information but it was not happening due to which the common and illiterate people were deprived of their rights. The transparency that should have been there in the Government's working was not there. I believe that it was not a good omen for the democracy. The Right of information will empower the people and they will get back their right, that they yet not got. It would expose those officials who try to hide their corrupt-deeds in the name of secrecy and the common people will get access to correct information. Even now it seems that though the educated people will get information through various sources of information like Radio, Internet, Newspapers but how will the remaining 75 percent people who are working in fields receive information and justice. I would like hon'ble Minister to clarify this in his reply. This kind of doubt remain even after the presentation of this bill. They want to know how they are being deprived of their rights. They have many important questions in their mind, like seeds are not being sown in their fields and the fields are being leaded out to the foreigners. The Minister should answer in his reply as to how he will convince the farmers. These doubts have been lingering in the mind since long but no efforts have been made in this direction. Today the Government is trying to enact a stringent law. I believe that by doing this, the Government is trying to save the democracy. This will strengthen the democracy and increase the participation of the common people and this law will certainly enable us to get the right to seek the information that used to be concealed in the name of maintaining secrecy. It will strengthen our democracy and the public as well. The public will not longer remain deprived of their rights which had been taken away from them in one or another manner. I would want hon'ble Minister to remove the doubts from the mind of common man while giving a reply to this. He should also ensure that not only the educated people of the country but the common people and poor will also receive this information.

I would like to thank the Government and especially you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to participate in discussion on this important subject. I believe that hon'ble Minister will be able to satisfy the House and the entire country with his reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I compliment you for your reasonable suggestions.

Shri Ramdas Athawale, do you want to speak or simply express your support to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I rise to speak in support of Right to Information Bill, 2004. I would like to say that Sh. Anna Hazare had launched a movement for it in Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra have enacted a law to this effect. It is good that the Right to Information Bill has been brought to check corruption and other wrong practices rampant in the country. The UPA Government in which Hon'ble Suresh Pachauri is a Minister, has decided to provide the right to seek information to everybody. It is a revolutionary decision. The proposed legislation will help in checking corruption. As Shri Babasaheb Ambedkar had advocated for one-man-one-vote doctrine, similarly, everybody is likely to be provided right to information through this Bill. Therefore, I support it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, though there is a plethora of laws to check corruption in the country but nothing concrete in regard to weed out corruption has been achieved so far. Thus, there is a need to bring more stringent law. Today we have law to check casteism and communalism, but communalism is spreading unabated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Law should be properly enforced.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I mean it is good to enact such laws, but mere enactment is of no use. It should be properly enforced. I am sure the UPA Government would do it in its remaining four years. Further, there is a need to teach a lesson to NDA. They are bent upon destroying democracy by staging boycott of parliamentary institutions. There is a need to bring the said act of such parties under the ambit of law. Finally, supporting the Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what do you purpose to do now regarding you reply to this Bill? Do you want to reply tomorrow?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IS THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your leave I would reply to it tomorrow.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we have the sense of the House and we will take it up tomorrow.

Now, we will take up item No. 13, namely, Special Economic Zones Bill. The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. We may finish it today itself. The House may sit a little late for this purpose. I think you are all agreeable to this.

16.48 hrs.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES BILL, 2005

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I beg to move*:

> "That the Bill to provide for the establishment, development and management of the Special Economic Zones for the promotion of exports and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The Government of India had announced a Special Economic Zone scheme in April, 2000 with a view to provide an internationally competitive environment for exports. The objectives of Special Economic Zones include making available goods and services free of taxes and duties supported by integrated infrastructure for export production, quick approval mechanisms, and a package of incentives to attract foreign and domestic investments for promoting exports.

There are at present 11 functioning Special Economic Zones. In addition, approvals have been given for setting up of 35 new Special Economic Zones in the private/ joint/State sector.

While the policy relating to the Special Economic Zones is contained in the Foreign Trade Policy, incentives and other facilities offered to the Special Economic Zones developer and units are implemented through various notifications and circulars issued by the concerned Ministries/Departments. The present system, therefore, does not inspire enough confidence for investors to commit substantial funds for development of infrastructure. To provide a long-term and stable policy framework with a minimum regulatory regime and to provide expeditious single-window clearance facilities, a Central Act for Special Economic Zones has been found to be necessary in line with international practice.

It is expected that introduction and passage of the Bill will provide confidence and stability to domestic and foreign investors and signal the Government's commitment to the SEZ policy framework. It is expected that many large formations, multi-product SEZs that have so far been unable to achieve financial closure will now quickly move towards such closure. It is anticipated that the new law would trigger a large flow of Foreign Direct Investment as well as domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity, leading to creation of new employment opportunities.

The salient features of the Bill are as under:

(i) Matters relating to establishment of Special Economic Zone and for setting up of units therein, including requirements, obligations and entitlements;

(ii) Matters relating to requirements for setting up of off-shore banking units in International Finance Service Centres, especially Economic Zones, including fiscal regime governing the operation of such units;

(iii) The fiscal regime for developers of Special Economic Zones and units set up therein;

(iv) Single window clearance mechanism at the Zone level;

(v) Establishment of an Authority for each Special Economic zone set up by the Central Government to impart greater administrative autonomy; and lastly

(vi) Designation of special courts and single enforcement agency to ensure speedy trial and investigation of notified offences committed in the Special Economic Zones.

Sir, I request the Members to consider the long-term and the short-term aspects of the Bill which will very largely drive and attract the investment, and consequently, employment.

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*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment, development and management of the Special Economic Zones for the promotion of exports and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, let me candidly express that barring a few areas of reservation, broadly I support the Bill.

When our hon. Speaker was the Chairman of WBIDC and doing other assignments, had all along been associated with and promoting these ideas. If we look at the new global scenario, the attempt is to integrate the national economy with the world economy and to be competitive—internationally competitive. The governmental control in certain areas, particularly in the matter of clearance, in the matter of duty, in the matter of so many other things, Single Window Clearance has proved to be a very fruitful mechanism, particularly in areas where foreign investment and commitments to export and all these things are there.

As regards the economic philosophy, export-oriented growth is one concept to which I do not fully subscribe. But for a country like India to be too much dependent on exports for the growth, is a bad idea. Many economists have subscribed to this concept that India being an agricultural country and our agriculture being subsistence agriculture only, we need not look forward to developed countries of the world where agriculture is industry and where the agricultural produces are mostly with export in mind. But, this is not so in India. We should come up in the manufacturing sector in a big way. Of course, we had a plus point in the service sector, particularly in certain limited areas of service. But, that is a different story. If we make a comparison between India and China, China has become the factory of the world, the manufacturing hub. Their FDI and the success in this particular practice of Special Economic Zones have been because of various things which are not being addressed by this Government.

16.54 hrs.

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*]

One is their FDI is limited to, if you look at the whole investment scenario, not more than three per cent of the total investment.

Second is, their FDI is also from the Non-Resident Chinese. But this is not so in the case of India. Our RNIs are putting their money elsewhere. They are putting their money here only to have a better margin in the interest rate. But it is not coming in the form of Foreign Direct Investment. We have no objection if our own people, if our own diaspora bring back their money for the infrastructure projects, for power, telecommunication and various other projects. But that is not happening in India. That has happened in China.

In China, the Special Economic Zone concept is for the faster growth of the export economy. The primary responsibility has been given to the local Government. This is not so here. Their FDI is export-oriented. The employment generation is being done because of the selective areas of export zones and all these things. Till today, they have their own zones in Shenzen, Zhuubai, Shantou and Xiamen. They have been there since 1980. Today, 26 years have passed. For the last 26 years, they have become effective. The growth of the Chinese economy, of course, should be a lesson to us. We are selective in learning and learning only the concept, the scheme. The scheme is there from April, 2000. Let us put it into practice. We have to see how they are addressing the issues.

Without elaborating, I would like to say that I know, you know, Sir, and the country knows the differences of opinion between the Finance Ministry and the Commerce Ministry in this regard. The Group of Ministers has also been hesitating in certain areas. The hon. Prime Minister intervened. The intervention of the hon. Prime Minister is a different story. I am not going into the details of it. But what is being proposed today is only half-hearted. Why is it half-hearted?

Firstly, we have to look at the policy statement, the Foreign Trade Policy. It incorporates the policy part of it. About the other part, it says about the export/import of goods, leasing of capital goods, banking, policy part, sub-contracting and all these things. In the Indian situation, what is our experience? Because of time constraint, I am not giving many examples. I could cite any number of examples. For example, once the Government of India had one concept of hundred per cent export-oriented zones. Once I had occasion to go as a Member of a particular Committee to examine things. We found that they had nothing with regard to export. There was no obligation to export. They were enjoying all the concessions and putting the whole products in the

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

domestic market. This is what is happening today. What will happen in such cases of gross violation? Instead of exporting, they will go on marketing the products in the domestic market. What will be the outcome of it? Our domestic industry is already ailing, particularly the small industries and the medium industries. It is because of the import liberalisation that our capital goods industry, the manufacturing industries are suffering. This is the scenario. Here and there, today or tomorrow, you can say that it is looking up. It is looking up at a very low level. That is also very much unstable. What will happen if, in the Special Economic Zones, instead of promoting the export growth, they market it in the domestic market? This is what is happening. The commitments made by the foreign direct investors that they would manufacture here for export are there. Our experience is that they are never doing it. But the Chinese experience is a mix up of it. They have taken into consideration that if they leave aside the large domestic market and only concentrate on the export market, it may not be a very fruitful proposition. But their concepts and our concepts are different. In our case, our industrialists, who have been enjoying all the concessions for export, instead of exporting, are exploiting the domestic market only.

17.00 hrs.

They are destroying the market, destroying the base of the domestic industry. What precautions does this Government propose to take in similar cases? It is because it is the case of flexibility and removing the Governmental control. It is about more regulation, more concessions and more incentives, What will be applicable elsewhere will not be applicable in the case of ACJ. In the case of gross violations, a sort of proposition is being made. I am making this reference because in India they can not come in overnight. I am giving only one example. In a hundred per cent Export-oriented Zone, not even one per cent was being exported. It was just exploiting the domestic market only. While the hon. Minister is replying, I think he may kindly address this issue.

Now, I would like to say something about banking. Will the foreign banks open their branches here? Maybe, yes. Will they be regulated in the same fashion as they are being done outside the Special Economic Zone? Even in this case, we do find that the foreign banks are not subscribing to the basic banking practices. They are functioning in the most immoral manner, and without naming, I can cite any number of examples. If you look at the JPC report on Harshad Mehta Scam or JPC report on the Ketan Parekh Security Scam, you will find how many foreign banks have been involved in the whole scam. Hand in glove in the matter of repatriation, neither they are paying the income tax, nor they are fulfilling the obligations of the Government of India in respect of the private sector lending. No punishment is there. There is a historic case between a public sector undertaking, a financial institution, housing bank and a foreign bank, multi-national bank. What happened? What is the outcome? I will take little more time because. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to be brief.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Please give me some more time. I was telling you about the foreign banks. How does the Government propose to take care of these unscrupulous operators with bad track record? They have not been punished till now.

Now, what we find is that the Indian money is going abroad. We have the story of the money-laundering cases. We had a discussion on these things also. Indian money is going through different routes. Coming back through the Hawala route, coming through the Mauritius route, it is being invested in the stock market, in the sub-account of FIIs. Even in the latest report of the CAG, what do we see about FIIs, role of the FIIs and role of the sub-accounts? How does the Government propose to control these unscrupulous operators? Who will be ruling the roost in the Special Economic Zone? Special Economic Zone is taking all the advantages and not contributing to our main purpose, that is, Export-oriented Zone.

Then, let me come to several other provisions, that is, flexibility in labour laws. India is a Welfare State and we are committed to ILO Convention. There are some basic concepts. For example, all over the world, there is a concept that a worker must not work for more than eight hours a day. So much of blood has been flown on the rivers of different parts of the world. What is this May Day? I will illustrate an extreme case. If in the Special Economic Zone it is detected that some employers are asking the labourers to work for more than 20 hours a day, how does the Government propose to control it?

There are certain human rights. No one, leave alone Special Economic Zone (SEZ), in the world can deny the fundamental basic human rights. It has happened in India. It has happened in the case of certain employers. If we look at the bounded labour cases, the employers are

taking the employees and using them as bonded labour. We have to free them. We know the history of 'Swamy Agnivesh'. Laudable work has been done even in India, and it has happened elsewhere also with Indian workers. How? Take, for instance, in a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the workers have been confined in a particular place, not allowed to go out, not allowed to interact in a human manner with the family, with the friends and all these things, it is not correct. If you feel that I am giving a very extreme example, then I would say 'no'. We have seen it with our own eyes that investors have come. Dogs—trained dogs—are there instead of security. If the labour is trying to go out, the dog will jump on him, on a human being. It is happening in India. If the labour wants to flee, the goondas are there to bring him back. What will happen if there is a gross violation of the basic principle of labour rights, ILO Convention, human rights and basic rights of the labour, which are given in the Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution?

Flexibility is all right. Sometimes, Governmental control is there. It may be there. But, in the case of gross violation of the labour rights, the hon. Minister, I think, will address this issue, and I understand that he will also agree that such provision will not be there.

Clause 50 says:

> "The State Government may, for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this Act, notify policies for Developers and Units and take suitable steps for enactment of any law granting exemption for the State taxes, levies and duties to the Developer or the entrepreneur..."

This is all right. Then it further says:

> "directing that any of the provisions of any State Act relating to trade union, industrial and labour disputes, welfare of labour including conditions of work..."

There is no oxygen. If he is asked to work in such conditions where carbon dioxide is coming, where there is full of pollution, he cannot even breathe. If unhygienic conditions are there, his respiratory system is being affected. It also includes conditions of work, provident fund, social security, employer's liability, payment of wages, workmen's compensation, etc. If someone working somewhere falls down and dies, will there not be any responsibility of the employer towards his family?

It again says:

> "...invalidity, old age pensions and maternity benefits or any other activity relating to the Special Economic Zones shall not apply..."

How can it happen? Can any one deprive a working woman from maternity benefit? I would like to request the hon. Minister of Commerce to address this issue. It is not acceptable. Even in a Special Economic Zone, these basic human rights, maternity benefit, compensation and all these things should not be denied. My plea will be rather—if you want our support—then you will have to remove the part, that is, denying the basic human rights.

If we look at clause 49 (1) ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may kindly refer to the provisions briefly. Instead of 10 minutes, you have taken 20 minutes. Please be brief while referring to the points.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to intervene but kindly be brief in your points.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): One minute for each proposed economic zone may be given!

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that I am saying is please try to be brief.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am trying to be as brief as possible.

Now, I would like to make a very valid point.

Clause 49 says:

> "The Central Government may, be notification, direct that any of the provision of this Act (other than sections 54 to 56) or any other Central Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder or any notification or order issued or direction given thereunder (other than the provisions relating to making of the rules or regulations) specified in the notification—
>
> shall not apply to a Special Economic Zone..."

SHRI ANIL BASU: That means, it includes labour laws also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, it includes labour laws also. So, I think, in conformity with the demand for removal of clause 50, 50 (b) etc., here also, the part that is affecting the basic labour rights should also be removed. We agree with the provisions relating to income tax, central excise and customs, but not those relating to labour rights. The subject of labour rights is in the Concurrent List. The Government has mentioned about State Governments. But what about the basic labour rights and Central labour laws or other labour laws? So, an amendment should be there in order to protect the basic labour rights if the Government wants to have our sincere support.

Then, I now come to clause 3 (4). I do not know why this has been given here. It does not mean anything. It may mean something to the Government, to the Minister, but I am rather wondering as to why this has been incorporated. It says:

> "In case a State Government intends to set up a Special Economic Zone, it may after identifying the area, forward the proposal directly to the Board for the purpose of setting up the Special Economic Zone..."

We agree with this. Then it continues to say:

> "Provided that the Central Government may, after identifying the area, *suo motu* set up notify a Special Economic Zone without referring the proposal to the State Government concerned or the Board."

How can it be done without making a reference, at least, to the State Government in a federal set up? I can visualise a situation where an individual has come, has made a proposal for investment, the matter has proceeded for long, meanwhile there is a change in the Government and the new Government is standing in the way. In such a situation, the sovereign Central Government has a role to play to protect the interest of that new investor. But, at least, the State Governments should be consulted and the matter should be referred to them. So, my plea is that the State Governments should not be ignored in this manner because 'land' is a State matter. Land, water etc., will be provided by the State Governments and the State Governments will have their representatives in the Board. So, why should they ignore the State Governments for nothing? This is a simple thing. They can mention that they would consult the State Governments.

Sir, I will refer to two or three things more and then I will conclude. Special Economic Zones Bill is a path-breaking legislation. I call it is a path-breaking legislation and it is on an experimental stage. When the national economy tries to integrate with the world economy, 'international competitiveness' is a very relative term. If we have to be competitive, for example, in certain areas, we have to work together, pool all the energies and resources together and only after that if you find that there are delays due to governmental control, then flexible measures can be taken. I have illustrated that 100 per cent export-oriented zones have been enjoying all the facilities and marketing all their products in the domestic product.

So, I conditionally support the Bill. We are the people who are looking forward eagerly as to whether the executive control would have a statutory structure. This piece of legislation is a welcome move, but the Government should look into the basic labour interest, the ILO Convention, basic human rights, fundamental rights etc. I have given some extreme cases and examples and these are happening in our country also.

I have stated that the Chinese success story is because of certain other factors which are not being addressed in the Indian situation.

I conclude with my support to this Bill and I believe that the Government or the hon. Minister will look into the issues and the points raised by me; that he will sympathetically consider all the points and positively respond so that it becomes very easy for us to support the Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri Kamal Nath, for bringing this legislation, which is called by our CPI (M) Member, Shri Rupchand Pal, as a path-breaking legislation. It has not been stated by me, but by Shri Rupchand Pal.

I also feel the same way and I feel proud that in this UPA Government we are bringing a lot of such legislation. Just now, a legislation, The Right to Information Bill, has been brought, belongs to the same category. That was a legislation, which the earlier Government could not bring for five years. This Government could bring it immediately and this is an essential thing for the country's prosperity.

But, there is a little difference between my thinking and the thinking of Shri Rupchand Pal that I do not

consider that this Special Economic Zone is meant only for exports. Actually, we have passed the stage where the country was in shortages and we had to import even food grains. Today we are not only producing food for our country but we have surplus also. This surplus produce, whether it is agro product or manufactured product, must face the global competition.

If we were not to agree to globalisation, open economy, WTO, patenting, then our position would be different. But now, having accepted that, unless we take this route of increasing the export, we cannot compete in the international market and even our local production or manufacturing will also suffer, including agriculturists.

For example, I take the case of tobacco. Till yesterday, in some of the districts of Andhra Pradesh, the farmers have got habituated only to produce tobacco. Today, there are no purchasers for that and all of them have become bankrupt. They resorted to committing suicide. Then, they have to change the crop. This is possible only when they know what is the product they can produce and sell it in the international market in an economical way, at a remunerative price. This is possible by these economic zones.

Even my friend, Shri Rupchand Pal was telling us that a country like India should not depend on export alone. But in his own statement he stated that the Chinese started...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI K.S. RAO: The Chinese have started this Special Economic Zone in 1980. Today, the product value of the export zone constitutes 44 per cent of the total export. A country like China has done this. I am also partly with him in securing the interest of the labour, though there can be flexibility. But certainly, in the present circumstances, we have to protect the labour laws to an extent where it should not affect the growth.

But since 1991, when I went with a delegation of AICC to China, the system of hire and fire was there in China. It is not coming to the surface possibly. So it need not be taken blindly that we must go by this and all that. It must be a practical in comparison with the international situation. We are not limited to our own. If the product is made in our country, be it sugar, be it cement, if the international prices are low, there is every possibility of that getting dumped into our country. Then, our manufacturers will suffer, our industry will suffer, our farmers will suffer. So, naturally, he has to take a course where he can produce another item, which he can sell in the international market at a remunerative price.

So, the need for this Zone is very much there. I think, there are 3,000 SEZs in the world today. In our country, there are 11 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) functioning now, and 35 new Special Economic Zones are permitted. We are 16 per cent of the world population. As far as SEZs are concerned, we are not even one per cent of it. Naturally, we have to start more and more SEZs so that we can produce to suit the international competition. I wish, he must encourage as many private sector corporations as possible, and even State Governments to start more and more SEZs on their own area. Whatever incentives that can be given to them must also be given. In this context, I wish that he should not neglect to locate these zones in the areas like Andhra Pradesh where the opportunities of producing sugar, cotton, chillies, pulses, even vegetables and fruits are in abundance. Their value can be added to it and we can sell them in the international market. By that, we will be encouraging the farming community also to change their cropping pattern and to produce those items which have demand in the international market.

Today, the Internet has come. The IT industry has come into existence. The SEZs need not be restricted to only the coastal areas or to the areas where airports are there. SEZ can be in a place where local area needs it. For example, in certain areas there may be agro produce or IT or biotechnology or pharmaceuticals. So, the SEZs can be for any item that is economical in that particular area. The point of location also must be liberal.

As far as the Bill is concerned, I would like to raise some points. I appreciate the single window approval and giving so many benefits like exemptions in taxes and duties, incentives to attract foreign investment, promoting export-led growth and administrative autonomy to SEZs, which is more important. I have seen the provision. When you formed the Board, the Committee Members were nine. Now there are 11 Members. Out of the 11 Members, 10 are officers. Only one, the Developer, is a special invitee. That means, once again, the same red-tapism, the same negative thinking, the same bureaucratic set-up will be there. Then, in what manner are you liberalising the SEZs? Why do you not take some experts who are freelancers, who have got no vested interests, except the national interest, and who can advise properly? If you do so, your intention will be fulfilled. Otherwise, the same culture will continue. Similarly in SEZ, in the

[Shri K.S. Rao]

Approval Committee, you have kept nine Members. Out of them, once again, eight are Government officers. Then, where is the freedom for them to act? Where is the decision making? Why is the country suffering today? It is suffering only because of red-tapism, lack of decision-making, and negative attitude of the bureaucrats. You mentioned about so many people. In the SEZ, you can identify one good officer who is positive-minded, who is a man with proven integrity; you can give him autonomy or authority to him. He can decide the matter then and there. Your purpose or your intention will be solved. Then, more and more people will be attracted towards the SEZs to make large investments. By doing so, we will be helping our own local producers including the farming community. So, I would like to request my friend to think about it. I know that he is open-minded and dynamic, and he wants to succeed in his Ministry. More particularly, his success is his criteria. If these were to be his criteria, he should think of the provisions that he has made in his Bill.

Then, he has never mentioned anywhere about any time limit for giving the approval. With those officers there, they can play havoc once again. He would have said this is the time limit; it has to be approved or disapproved within this time from the date of application. But, no time limit has been mentioned. I would like to request for some time limit. I do not want that once again this bill be delayed for any reason. It must be passed. If not today, you come out at the earliest with whatever amendments are required at the earliest so that those lacunae are taken care of.

Similarly, I come to the suspension and transfer approval of the Board. The approval is given to the unit holder by the Board. It is agreed but no provision is made for the erring officer either in the SEZ or in the Board. There is no provision at all. That means, the officer can go scot-free. He can make any decision depending upon his own personal interest or his whims and fancies or his likes and dislikes. I wish a provision must be made in regard to what kind of punishment should be given to an erring officer.

You have mentioned about the developer. But I could not really understand this. You have not mentioned anywhere what is the minimum investment the developer has to make or what is the size or what kind of developer you want. Tomorrow a real estate man can enter into your SEZ. If it is only a question of developing a land or providing infrastructure or even if it were to be a world class facility, still it becomes only limited to development of real estate. So, I wish you please make some guidelines for the development of real estate. So, I wish you please make some guidelines for the developer also in regard to the amount of investment and the type of things that he has to do while making provisions for all the units which are going to do export-oriented business.

Similarly, my friend has raised a point about the guidelines to be given for the banking sector, for opening bank branches in that area. Under what guidelines will they have to function? Will they violate all our Indian laws? Or will they work under the international laws only? You please make some specific provision for that. You said rules would be prescribed. It should not be delayed too long and they must be made at the earliest.

Finally, I do not want to take more of your time and then disappoint you. The Minister is also interested in seeing that the Bill is passed at the earliest. I am also interested in this Bill. So, I do not want to take more time.

But my only request to the hon. Minister is that whatever provisions you have made in the Bill should encourage more and more people to start SEZ because you are giving opportunity to the corporate sector also. These are required essentially not only to earn foreign exchange but also to see that the local people's skills, talents and the resources—both natural and human resources—are put to use to compete in the international market, then import those items which are not available here and compensate it with those products which we are making through the SEZ.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar—Not present.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, let me at the beginning make it very clear that those who are in the Left are not against any economic step that will bring about rapid economic generation, re-generation or advance generation. We are not against that. We are also not against any reasonable step that the Government might take to improve India's economy. But all that should have been done is not being done. That is a separate issue. There should have been many more steps to revive, to improve, to augment the productive forces without increasing the rate of investment which is today only 24 per cent, without improving the Government investment to bring about rapid economic growth. This

additional step or artificial move that is being made may not give the desired result. We have serious differences with the economic line that is being pursued. Let us make it very clear and we do not agree that the prosperity of Indian economy largely depends on export.

India has a huge unexplored domestic market and the large domestic market to be explored needs to be taken care of by the Government by creating more employment, by creating better quality of life, by making access available to everybody.

If the purchasing power of the people does not improve throughout the country, if 30 per cent of the people live below the poverty line without having the purchasing power to purchase the minimum daily necessities, only by expanding the Special Economic Zones or only by augmenting our export, India will not make a progress. That is our basic difference with you, that is our basic difference with the Government, and that is our basic difference with the Budget. That apart, we have learnt to become pragmatic because we are not ready to be dubbed as obstructionists. We will not help Mr. Kamal Nath to say publicly that look here, these people are obstructionists in the process of setting up Special Economic Zones. We are not obstructionists. But we have a very deep suspicion. This suspicion arises out of the fact that there is a large scale violation of labour laws in the country. Let Mr. Kamal Nath take note of it, and let the Government take not of it that there are large scale violations of labour laws in the country. Minimum wage is not weighed, provident fund is denied, working hours are unduly extended in many so called new coming up industries in the country. There is no mechanism to find out the vitality which takes care of the problems of the labour throughout the country.

Only a few miles away from the Capital of India, New Delhi, there is a foreign company, Maruti, where people have been retrenched without charge sheet. Today morning, I met the Chief Minister. We met the Prime Minister. It appears that the rule of law does not apply to the foreign companies in India. Please accept that this is a genuine suspicion on our part. The foreign banks in this country are not run on the basis of the directives of RBI. If this is the given situation of India, is it wrong Mr. Minister of Commerce to raise doubts about the protection of labour? You cannot improve the country if the labourers are not given a fair deal. However justified may be your economic programme, if the labourers are given a raw deal and if the labourers are harassed and exploited to the limit, it should not be, there cannot be any success to any programme; least of all to the programme of Special Economic Zones.

Therefore, we really feel suspicious. We have our apprehensions, and we believe that the Government should take our apprehension in good spirit. Of course, I have a reason to be satisfied because Mr. Kamal Nath, and the Government he represents had agreed to delete the paragraph in page 21 from 14 to 23 lines. They have agreed to delete. We had a long discussion. We had made it clear to them that if the labour laws of the country are not allowed to be operated in the Special Economic Zones, we shall not support. But responding to our suggestion, I thank my friend Mr. Kamal Nath, he appears to be a little soft now a days. Not the Kamal Nath we found him earlier. Little soft is good. ...*(Interruptions)* Both of us are not soft. We are not soft. We are pragmatic. We are never soft. He appears to be a little soft. It may be due to special co-relation forces because we are 61, because we are together running a combination, because you cannot just brush us aside, because you feel that we have a role to play. Whatever may be the reasons, give devil its due. I do not call Mr. Kamal Nath a devil but thank him for responding to our suggestion of deleting this portion. This helps us to become a little more pragmatic. But while saying so, there are other doubts also which the hon. Minister, while speaking, should address.

Firstly, my friend from the Congress Party was very vocal. I do not find him now in the House. He was speaking for the liberalisation. After his sermons of liberalisation, he has left the House. I want to make one thing very clear here that liberalisation is not a licence. We do not accept liberalisation as a licence. ...*(Interruptions)* Many years ago on many issues, a number of parliamentary Committees, constituted by all political parties, had made this statement that during the period of liberalisation, the Government had not set up adequate monitoring system.

Now, Special Economic Zones are being set up. Who is going to monitor them? Developers are all very important. Please do not say that the State Governments will do it. No, it is your creature and it is your Bill. Special Economic Zones are your creature. Who is going to monitor them? I would like to know whether the people, who have been given the job, are doing the right thing or not. Who will monitor them? Foreigners are all very welcome. But the way in which the foreigners are

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

behaving in this country, we have a sense of apprehension about them. They are being given all help. You do it. Shri Kamal Nath believes that by giving concessions, he can draw investments. We do not stand in the way. At the end of the day, we must find out how much of additional investment has come. He will have to tell the Parliament because we are giving them all sorts of exemptions. I do not mind. India has no fund. The Government believes that they do not have any internal resources. Therefore, they must look for additional funds from the foreign countries accepting their term. you can do it. But on the basis of economics I can tell you that no country in the world has ever developed by inviting only foreign capital. No whether in the history it has been proved. ...*(Interruptions)* My friend should update his knowledge that rate of investment in China is nearly 40 per cent. They are inviting money from outside after investing 40 per cent of money. ...*(Interruptions)* It may be three per cent, but 40 per cent is the generation of domestic resources. What about India? Twenty-four per cent investment is stagnating over a decade.

We do not blame the BJP Government alone because for ten years it was not in power. For ten years, the rate of investment did not improve. Therefore, the paucity of funds may not be make good only by alluring the foreign firms. This is a piece of legislation. The entire drive, the entire direction is to allure the foreign funds by giving them most generously all types of concessions. I wish Shri Kamal Nath the very best. But at the end of the day, he has to explain to the Parliament to what extent the mechanism that he has set up has benefited the country. I wish him all the best. But he has to explain. It cannot be a free for all in foreign zones. Foreign zones cannot be free for all. There has to be adequate monitoring system. But who will monitor them? Developers have been made to become the omnipotent. State Governments are too small to take care of them. Therefore, who will monitor the developers? While monitoring, will it be on the basis of protecting the national interests because the Government did not act always to service the national interests? I do not blame him.

The C&AG Report has indicated how the Administration has acted. My friend from the Congress Party was saying do not give much power to the officers because they can make money, which means it should be free for all, a *laissez faire,* liberalised anarchy. Sir, there has to be a State, there has to be a State mechanism, there has to be law and there has to be a Government; otherwise the people who will come to India to make special zone, their only interest will be to exploit the labour, to exploit the concessions and make easy money. That is capitalism. That is foreign capital. That is what is happening all over the world. Therefore, we want protection not for the labour only. We do not speak for the labour only. Do not believe that the Left is speaking only of the labour. We do not speak of the labour only. We speak of the national interest. Who will protect the national interest? Who will protect the labour? Who will see that the concessions, which are most generously given, are being properly used or not? We wish that Shri Kamal Nath gives a specific response to us.

We wish you best, Shri Kamal Nath, but please have caution. Our task is to caution you to see that while your concessions are made use of, there should be a monitoring system also and the condition of labour has also to be protected.

We do not oppose the Bill because we do not like to be dubbed as obstructionists. At the same time, we do not say that it is going to be a liberalised zone where Indian law will not be operated. We do not believe that the Government would like foreign capital to build up its own zone, without the pale of Indian law. If that is done, that will be suicidal for India. Therefore, with a note of caution, I give my qualified support to the Bill that has been proposed.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I have only two points to make. I welcome the Bill and hope that it would speed up the process of economic growth in the country besides generating employment on a large scale. I hope that it will generate employment. I also have my two concerns. One concern has been expressed by my right, not left and that is on labour.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We are not right to you; we are Left to you.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is my right.

I also express my concern regarding the condition of labour in SEZ areas. Gujarat has vast potentialities because it has the longest sea coast, almost 1,600 kilometres. I hope that these SEZ areas declared annually do not become a State within the State. We have to see that the labourers are not employed just on contract basis so that there is no exploitation, they are paid and their working conditions are according to the laws of this country. We have also to see that whatever the

Constitution guarantees to be given to the citizens of this country and the labour of this country are implemented there or adhered to by the industries which are coming in the SEZ areas.

We have seen, especially in Gujarat, that even at the cost of this understanding, lot of labours is being brought from a number of other parts of the country. As a result, the local labour there has got tremendous resentment. So, something has to be worked our in that regard because there are certain areas in Gujarat where there is tension between local population and the population which comes in these areas to work. In fact, it has created a conflict in the industrial belt. Therefore, I hope that the local population, local people would be given priority in the matter of recruitment in the SEZ areas, but nevertheless, I strongly plead that the interest of labour as well as labour conditions are not being compromised and the laws will be fully enforced.

I would like to make one more suggestion with regard to this issue. A number of States—including my own State—are setting up hotel industries. Hospitals, amusement parks, etc. on commercial basis in these Special Economic Zone areas. The film industry is also trying to go there, and the whole service area is becoming more and more prominent. The tax benefit is being given to only the goods manufacturing industries, but all these industries that are providing services there and the services that are being used by all the people coming from outside should also get the tax benefit in the Special Economic Zone. The benefit should not be restricted to the goods manufacturing industry alone.

My next contention is that some rules should be there while establishing the Special Economic Zone areas. I am saying this because there is competition between one State and another State in order to invite or attract industries in their Special Economic Zone areas. For example, somebody is giving land or other common property resources free of cost of the structure is being made by a number of States in such a way that certain industries are tempted to shift from one State to another State and so on. So, I hope that conditions would be laid down in the law, and by the hon. Minister to provide a fair ground in every State where the Special Economic Zones are to be set up. The provision of an equal opportunity should be created by the Bill, which is not mentioned in the Bill. It would avoid unnecessary competition between one State and another State. There are very few areas in Gujarat, and I hoper that the hon. Minister will himself take special interest in the entire coastal belt of the country. I am saying this because it has a good potential of setting up the Special Economic Zone.

I hope that it would create more employment opportunities, and would not be just growth without employment opportunities. It should not be just capital intensive, but it should also create employment potential for the local people, poor people, and the unemployed people of the State. It should ensure that wealth is generated in the States, and the States flourish. This is all that I have got to say on this issue.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Special Economic Zones Bill, 2005 and through you, I would like to draw attention of the Hon'ble Minister to two-three points of the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to know whether the Bill is for upliftment of economically backward people or industrially backward areas or for economically and industrially advanced zones. I think its contours be drawn on the lines of the welfare package from the Government. There is a need to set up such authorities or zones in economically and industrially backward states.

Drawing Government's attention to backward states like Bihar, Orissa and North Eastern States, I would like to say that alongwith natural calamities some political developments of such kind took place during recent years which deprived said states of their rights and shares. After the bifurcation of Bihar and carving out of Jharkhand majority of industries went to Jharkhand. A VAT like situation of perpetual confusion has been prevailing there.

Secondly, National calamities have been gradually bringing the food grain production down. Special Economic Zones should be set up in areas where human resources are available in abundance. Shri Mistryji has told that labourers from various places migrate to Gujarat, that creates confrontation there. There are several States which are economically backward but rich in human resources but those resources are not being utilized optimally. It is one sort of conspiracy to leave such states in vicious circle of perpetual backwardness. Therefore, I would urge Hon'ble Minister that States like Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I just want to correct him. All that I have said is that it would only create tension. I never said that people from other States should not come to my State. Let him correct the misunderstanding that is there.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: With due regard to the sentiments of Hon'ble Member, I would like to say that such condition has been prevailing in a number of states. There is mass migration of labours from Bihar because of non-availability of any employment there. There is a lack of industries in Bihar. Not a single Public Sector undertaking is located in Bihar. If the Government leaves all the planning to developers they would concentrate big cities only as they are already concentrated in Metropolitans like Mumbai which is also the Commercial capital. Therefore, there is a need for the Government to pay attention to it and also to set up special Economic Zones is such areas and provide them assistance.

Tax holidays, say different types of tax holidays being provided by the Government should not be provided for more business development or to increase profitability of any profit oriented industry. These should be provided to the industry which is natural resources intensive. But such industries do not deem to be economically viable. It should be ensured that such zones should be utilized for upliftment of farmers and labourers and ultimately it should help in their betterment. The process of setting up of such industries should be made more hassle free.

I would like to remind the Hon'ble Minister that though Agro Export zones have been set up all over the country but not in Bihar. I want to ask—can Bihar lag behind any State in agriculture production if the State is provided some assistance. So far as export of potato is concerned it is produced a plenty in the State and piles of potatoes can be seen rotting in fields as the farmers do not get its remunerative price. If the Government had set up Agro Export-Zones or had extended the jurisdiction thereof in Bihar I do not think Bihar would still have been so backward.

Software Technology Parks have been set up in 6-8 States. But setting up thereof has been swayed by political considerations and to substantiate my point I would like to say that though Bihar produces more than 15 per cent software engineers in the country who have been working in different software companies functional in software technology parks of different States, not a single software technology park or private technology park has been opened in Bihar. So far as tax holidays are concerned, I would say that several states do not need tax holidays any further. They have already availed enough. So now, let it be the turn of backward state like Bihar. I would urge the Government that the present Bill should act as a Master Plan to bring economic quality in various states in the country.

Supporting the Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I welcome this Bill for various reasons; most importantly, this Bill is very comprehensive in character. It encompasses all the procedures that are required to set up Special Economic Zones—from the start of one unit, to the operation, maintenance and to the monitoring of the units under the Special Economic Zones.

Hon. Member Gurudas Dasgupta was asking a question as to where is the mechanism for monitoring the Special Economic zones. I would like to invite his attention to Chapter 7, Clause 34 which talks about the functions of the Special Economic Zones Authority. Clause 34, Subclause (c) says that this Authority will review the functioning and performance of the Special Economic Zone then and there. I think the Authority will act as a monitoring mechanism and, therefore, the Bill provides for that also.

The most important salutary aspect of This Bill is that it tries to promote exports in the country. We know that exports are engines of growth. Either you export or you perish, that is the condition in which we are living today. We have accepted, knowingly or unknowingly, a world globalised order in which we will have to be competitive. The best way to be competitive is to provide special incentives, create the infrastructure, provide all kinds of incentives for the development of those industries which would be able to contribute to foreign currency.

Today, in spite of all our efforts, the growth rate which we have contemplated has not reached the level of 20 per cent of even 22 per cent. If you are to achieve eight per cent growth rate of the GDP, we have to go to the level of 24 per cent. But the present rate is only 16 per cent with the total exports amounting to 75 billion

dollars. We have to double this over a period of time. If we are to achieve this. We will have to provide special attention and special care for the development of exports and this Bill will take care of it and there will be a greater amount of dynamism in the growth of exports.

The third important advantage of this Bill would be that it will not open up the floodgates for the foreigners to come. But, in a competitive international environment we will have to provide for the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment also. No country in the world, for your information, has developed without foreign capital, foreign aid or foreign direct investment. This Bill provides a cautious approach to the entry of foreign direct investment into the country because we are providing an environment for the development industrial economy.

China is a shining example of a country which has developed through its Special Economic Zones. Various facilities given have attracted foreign direct investment and they have gone a greater extent in developing their economy. Therefore, we need not have unnecessary apprehensions or suspicions about the way in which the foreign direct investment is coming, provided we are able to take up the cause of labourers. It is true that we have not gone in for labour law reforms in this country. If the Special Economic Zones Bill has gone consistent with the labour reforms, it would have been a happy augury for this country also. We admit it. But the special Economic Zones would provide a space for this growth also.

This Bill is consistent with the economic reforms that we have introduced in this country in terms of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. It has to be accepted that it is consistent with the international practice also. I can talk many things about the Bill and its merits. At the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Commerce some of the shortcomings in the Bill so that at an appropriate time he would be able to take care of those shortcomings.

The first things is that there are a large number of export-oriented units functioning in this country. Are we going to bring these export-oriented units into the Special Economic Zones, or are we going to allow them to develop themselves apart from these Special Economic Zones.

The Board for approval has got 19 members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramdass, please take your seat for a while.

Do I have the sense of the House to continue till the completion of this item?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I feel the sense of the House is that we continue.

18.00 hrs.

Let us please continue. We have only two more Members and then the Minister would reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one Member is left after him and then the Minister would reply. Let us conclude this business today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasgupta, I gave you enough time to expect from you that you would permit us to conclude the discussion on this.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: While the hon. Members are making speeches, have you looked at the watch? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is exactly the reason why I have said that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pondicherry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend the time for this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With everybody's permissions the time has already been extended.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Athawale, please sit down. You will be the next speaker.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The constitution of committee has said that there will be 19 Members in the Board for Approval, out of which, 18 Members are the representatives of the Central Government and the State Government has got only one nominee.

The second fallacy of this Bill is that it ignores the role of State Governments. Sir, you know that the State Government will have to pay an active role in the development of industries and development of exports. But there is only one provision in the Bill which says that the State Government will have the power to give some exemption. There is nothing more, nothing less. They have got only one representative in the Board for Approval. Therefore, this needs to be changed because without the support and cooperation of the State Governments, it is not possible to bring about much changes in the economic development of this country.

Now, with the liberal regime that is envisaged in the Bill, I still have an impression that there will be more of Government control in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadas, please be very brief.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The setting up of foreign banks must, as our hon. Member has said, abide by the rules of the Reserve Bank of India and they should not go according to what they think. I also have a lurking feeling that the country, industrially, will be divided into deemed foreign territories and other territories. The Special Economic zones will become deemed foreign territories and other territories. The Special Economic Zones will become deemed foreign territories, and the other areas will become domestic territories.

Now, if you want to speak in terms of legal equity, why should we give special concession to some industries and why not to others? Having accepted the creation of Special Economic Zones, I would only urge upon the Government to provide the same momentum, same encouragement and initiative to the industries, which are lying outside the deemed foreign territory.

One more sphere is there. As a result of Special Economic zones, the prosperous States would prosper further and the poor States will not have much of a benefit. Therefore, we should be able to think of special packages for the Special Economic zones in the poorer States also. Special Economic zones will prove to be successful if only we are able to reap the economies of large scale production, and the economies can be produced only if we are able to increase the size of the units and create greater infrastructure.

Another pre-condition is, without the skill development, special units in the Special Economic Zones will not prove to be successful.

With these little apprehensions, I find more of merits in this Bill than of demerits. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support this bill, on behalf of my Party, Pattali Makkal Katchi.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party I rise to speak in favour of special Economic Zones Bill, 2005. In April, 2005 Central Government had announced formulation of scheme for setting up of special Economic Zones in which it was envisaged to set up 11 zones, 7 by the Central Government and 4 by Private parties and State Governments. The Government have resolved to set up 33 new zones. The Bill is aimed to promote import-export (Exim) Policy.

Pandharpur area is a large producer of Pomegranates. The farmers do not get remunerative price for their produce. We need a policy addressing their problems. Indonesia has set up Skill Training Centres and trained large number of people. In India, there is a need to set up similar type of training centres and train the people. At the same time, the interests of workers should have been taken care of in the present Bill. Also, there is no mention of reservation for SCs/STs. Hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards it also.

I would like to say that the Bill should work as a platform for strengthening our economic and export policy. NDA Government created 33 new zones in 2000. But since the present Government has got an opportunity to implement the proposal, it should do it.

In the end, I would say that the interests of workers also need to be addressed. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I thank the hon. Members for participating in this discussion on the SEZ Bill. As my

friend Shri Rupchand Pal mentioned, this is a path-breaking legislation.

Sir, the UPA Government set to itself certain goals. The UPA Government came into being with a mandate not from one section of society but from all sections of society. One of the prime objectives of the UPA Government—I think, it is one of the biggest challenges today—is the challenge of creating not only additional employment but additional avenues of employment. Today, we have 600 million people engaged in agriculture. We have agriculture which is not commerce, with one hectare or one and a half hectares of land holding. And, as rightly said, our agriculture cannot be equated with agriculture in the Western world. With a population of 600 million people being involved in agriculture, where are we to create employment? It was the biggest challenge not for this Government alone but for all Government in India. It is and will remain the biggest challenge.

The SEZ Bill has been under preparation, formulation for quite some time. The question was, what kind of SEZ Bill should we have. What is this SEZ Bill? How will it not only drive investment but drive employment-driven investment? When we talk of exports, sitting in this House, all our friends here know that 14 years ago, we talked of exports because of foreign exchange. We talked of exports to ensure that we were able to pay our foreign exchange bill in 1991 when we did not have foreign exchange for more than 15 days. In this span of 14 years, we no more talk of exports to earn foreign exchange. The Foreign Trade Policy which was announced by the UPA Government—which I announced—had one sole intention. We kept the focus on how we would generate employment. Members will be happy to know that we initiated a study by the RIS to find out the number of jobs that would be generated by exports. Today, 80 billion dollars of exports in the year 2004-05 have generated employment. These eighty billion dollars represent those merchandise exports which had not been absorbed in the Indian economy. They are incremental economic activity.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But, there is, of course, a point of controversy.

SHRI KAMAL NATH; Gurudasji, I will be happy to share with you the final report, which we have done on employment generation by exports.

In fact, exports today represent one of the most important employment-generating activities. That is a fact of life. So, while formulating the SEZ Bill, when we came into Government—now it is almost a year ago—I invited suggestions. I thought why to have a legislation which does not work; why to have a legislation which is not going to meet its objectives. This draft Bill was put on the net for suggestions. Suggestions were invited and I received about 140 suggestions. I held open-house meetings to understand as to what were the ingredients needed to frame on SEZ Bill which would meet the desired objectives and also meet the objectives of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. So, that is why it took this much of time. People were looking for investment opportunities. There are Special Economic Zones all over the world. Today, India is not the only country to have SEZs. There was a mention of SEZs of China also. Sir, we cannot go the Chinese route. China is not a market economy. As we see, the difference between China and India is that in China, they sell that they produce, and in India, we produce that we can sell. Being a market economy, we cannot have an SEZ Bill driven on the Chinese pattern. On the other hand, SEZs are being set up in other countries also. So, if the format or the legislative structure of an SEZ Bill is not attractive enough, the foreign investment is not going to come to India. It will go to other countries having more attractive SEZ platforms. This really creates the structure or the platform not for foreign investments alone—they are only a part of it—but for domestic investments also. There are domestic investors who are looking at investment opportunities. There have been, as I said, a large number of proposals which have been approved. There are about 34 of them or something like that which have not yet materialised. It is because people worked to ensure that the SEZ structure in India is backed by a law passed by the Parliament of India. It is then that they get this confidence; it is then that they get the surety to invest. Today, if foreign investment is coming, it is not merely because we have a large population. There are countries with very large population. They are coming because we, this Parliament, pass a legislation which is credible. That is one of the strongest points of India. In the last one year, I had the opportunity to interact with investors and exporters. And I am happy to inform you all that today the world sees India as a credible country. Since they see it as a credible country, they are willing to invest here; they are willing to economically engage with use. People will buy and import from India if they see India as a reliable supplier; if they see India as an economy, which has credible laws and institutions.

[Shri Kamal Nath]

A mention was made about FDI in China. The FDI in China is largely export-driven. For us, the pattern has been that the FDI, which has come here, also has a large domestic component. Now, that is the Indian pattern. So, we have to have a Bill which is India-specific. The most import aspect of the Bill is that we have considered as to what will work in India, and, at the same time, what will draw investments—both domestic and foreign—and yet be able to complete with the SEZs in other countries. There are SEZs in Thailand; there are SEZs in Philippines and Bangladesh also.

They have laws. Why would somebody come here to India, if we have a truncated SEZ structure? Why should, at this point of time, we miss out in unleashing our abilities—our entrepreneurial abilities, our intellectual abilities and our technical abilities? It is this route that we chose; that is, one of our vehicles to drive this investment has to be this SEZ Bill.

Some very important points have been made and I must say that I am thankful to the Members for going into the minute details of this Bill. Shri Rupchand Pal who has walked out has said that the proposal is half-hearted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not walked out.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Okay. He has gone out. He said that one EOU has not exported at all. There may be violation; let us remember that there will be delinquencies; and if there is a delinquency, it is for the Government to act. Isolated delinquencies cannot drive the whole legislation and cannot drive the manner in which it is done.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Basically this is the point. If there is a delinquency, will the Government act or fight shy?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Shri Gurudas Ji, I will come to you. You charged me with having become soft. So, I need to tell you that we have not become soft.

It was said that these SEZs should be export-driven. SEZs are export-driven. SEZs have been and will be export-driven, and in the current SEZs that we have, 97 per cent is exported any only three per cent comes to the domestic market. So, it is not that it is going to the Indian market. There is a very large export-component to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal has walked in now!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: When Shri Rupchand Pal had gone out, I said that he had walked out. I correct myself that he had gone out.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have come back again!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: One of the concerns expressed by the hon. Members has been about labour laws. In our informal discussions which we had with various Members from the Left, they expressed apprehension about misuse or abuse of the provision of Section 50 which was there. I have accepted the amendment and I shall be moving it at the appropriate time, when we come to that Section, that is, Section 50 (b).

But I want to make one thing clear. At the outset I said that the UPA Government and the Parties supporting the UPA Government did not come to this House and did not come into the Government by the support of one section alone. When Shri Rupchand Pal and my friend Shri Gurudas Dasgupta raise this question of labour, let them remember that it is the Congress Party which come with these numbers and it is because of the support from the labour class. So, please do not attempt or try to oppose this.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Let us not go into the parliamentary rhetorics and let us confine ourselves to the Bill.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am responding to Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is all right. But you would like to prove how powerful you are! I called you soft; but I am correcting myself. You are what you are! Please do not engage in rhetorics and do not engage in vocabulary. Let us keep to the point.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am responding to Shri Rupchand Pal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gurudas Ji, you have made your point; let him finish his speech now.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I know how Congress has come into existence! Let us not have a lecture on that. We know what we are; we do not believe that anybody has a monopolistic right to represent any section

of the people. Let us not go into it; let us stick to the points on the Bill. What is the use of further enlarging it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Let me finish it with Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But please do not say so.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: One of the apprehensions, which was expressed by Shri Rupchand Pal, was violation of labour laws. It has been said that there fundamental rights, human rights and even constitutional rights are violated. I want to assure Shri Pal that Special Economic Zones Bill does not and will not allow violation of any such right. We consider workers' rights to be supreme. They will be maintained.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Not sacrosanct!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Well, I have said that they are supreme. You may use the word sacrosanct.

Another point, being raised by a couple of Members, is about clause 43. How does this Special Economic Zone work, we must look at this. Today, I think the largest player, the largest responsibility, the largest involvement will be that of the State Governments. Where the Central Government is being thought of, some phraseology is used that the Central Government can do something despite the State Governments. Today, if a Special Economic Zone has to come, it has to come in one of the States. It is the State Governments which are concerned with the taxes; the sales tax, octroi, land, municipality, panchayats, and so on. So, there is no intention. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the difficulty then in accepting our suggestion?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Clause 34 does not aim at any particular State or at introduction of new principles. This has been there all through these years and I want to assure you that no SEZ at the moment is even planned and if there is such a situation, the State Government shall always be consulted. Not only shall they always be consulted, they will have to be consulted. How will you get the land? Clause 13 says that two members of the State Government are involved. How will the State Government give octroi exemption? How will the municipality and panchayat operate? All this is going to be the role of the State Governments. Let me make it very clear that it is not humanly possible to set up a SEZ without a State Government's active support or participation.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I do not know if there is anything wrong with the drafting but it says, 'Provided that the Central Government may after identifying the area *suo motu* set up and notify a Special Economic Zone without referring the proposal to the State Government concerned'. What the Minister is saying now and what has been written in the draft is contradictory.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: What I have been trying to explain is that, while this is written, it is inherent, sovereign right, but one must look at this in terms of its objectives, its application and in terms of its practicality. Is it possible? Can you give me a single instance, even suggest an imaginary scenario where this would be possible? So, my submission to you is that while this section is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Why can you not delete it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have adequately assured you that the State Governments will necessarily be consulted in this regard.

As far as Shri Dasgupta is concerned, I am very happy to have his support and even more happier that he is looking at this as a measure of economic growth. I understand that there would be some reservation with regard to the rule of law. He has made some apprehension that the rule of law does not apply to foreign companies in India. I think one of the prime considerations of MEA approval is that any country operating in India must conform on the basis of national treatment.

If there are such cases, they will be in gross violation of the law. They are not even minor violations of the law but certainly they are violations of the law. So, the apprehension that there may be violation of the rule of law, either by design or by default, does not apply. I do not think it is valid because that is not the intention of the Government. The rule of law in our country applies to everyone operating in this country, be it Indian or a foreigner. Our Government is ensuring this. One of the most important things is that we have a very vigilant Parliament. I think the vigilance of Parliament also has played a very active role—it is recognised the world over—in ensuring that there is a national treatment to all foreign investment which takes place in the country.

[Shri Kamal Nath]

I have already elaborated on labour laws but I would like to tell the hon. Member that it is not that I have become soft or he has become soft. I think there is convergence taking place. While they may be becoming soft and practical on some things, we are also becoming soft and practical on some. So, at least, we are moving towards convergence, which I think is a happy note. Am I right?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Softness is not the basis of convergence. The political necessity and compulsion are the basis for convergence.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: If you go into that political rhetoric, I would also have to go into that. You said that we should avoid political rhetoric. I can also deal with this political rhetoric. I wish we could have started this discussion one hour earlier. Then, we both would have had a chance to deal with political rhetoric.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will you inform the Parliament after a year how much foreign funds have flown in after passing of this Bill?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We could say both foreign and domestic investment because one of the prime things which I think perhaps I have not been able to go into is the objective which is not just foreign investment. There is a large component of domestic investment also. I relates to total incremental investment objective which we would, of course, monitor critically. In fact, this is our first experience of bringing in such a Bill. This is not something we have been experienced with. As I said, we tried to get all kinds of suggestions and ideas. We tried to include them into this Bill. As we move along, if we find that there are difficulties and that we need to supplement something, certainly Parliament will consider this to make sure that the objectives of this Bill are met.

I would like to thank Prof. Ramadass for his very deep understanding on the necessity of exports. Sometimes it is thought that there is no necessity of exports. There is an issue which he raised about EOUs which are already there and how could the EOUs go to SEZs if they want to go. We have received suggestions from something called virtual EOUs because with some of the facilities which will be with SEZs, I agree that there will not be a level playing field for the EOUs. We are looking into those matters to see that the existing EOUs are not disadvantaged. But we must understand one thing that SEZ is to attract new investment and the EOUs which are already there are not new in this. But at the same time, while dealing with this, we have to also see that they are not disadvantaged and that they have a level playing field. He mentioned about the Board and approval of members, I assure you that there is no intention of ignoring the State Governments.

Another suggestion which was received was about the time limit. It will be specified in the rules that there will be a time limit.

I conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the active participation. What we are considering today is perhaps one of the most important steps in stimulation of economic activity in our country. This is an incremental step for economic activity and the Government is taking many steps to increase the economic activity.

But here today we are considering a Bill which, for the first time, is a new avenue, by a legislative process, to create a structure for Special Economic Zones that will create economic activity and employment.

Sir, with these few words, I request the support for this Bill to start a new avenue for employment generation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, what has been written in the Bill and what has been stated by the hon. Minister here are contradictory. The hon. Minister has assured the House that there will be no interference with the rights and authority of the State Governments. But what is written in clause 3 (4) of the Bill is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already referred to that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am insisting that the language should be changed, otherwise it would be difficult for us to support this Bill.

Secondly, in one place 'labour laws' have been deleted but in another place I insist that the words' except the violation of labour laws' should be included. He has agreed to that while replying. But unless there is a change in the language to that effect, it does not mean anything. I am insisting on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, unless the hon. Minister agrees to these two suggestions by way of bringing forward two small amendments to this effect, it would be difficult for us to support this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not moving any amendment. The rule stipulates that a formal amendment has to be moved according to the time schedule prescribed under the rules and only thereafter it can be admitted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let the hon. Minister assure the House that he will move amendments to this effect in the Rajya Sabha. Otherwise we will have to object to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, there is a sense of apprehension regarding the role of the State Governments. What the hon. Minister is saying here is one part of the interpretation. There is also another part of interpretation. What is the difficulty on the part of the hon. Minister here to assure the hon. Members on the floor of the House that the State Governments would not ignored and that they will be involved? Let him assure that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I think, it is on record that I have assured that the State Governments shall be consulted. Now, as per the procedure, no amendment has been moved. I have not moved any amendment. My only submission is, that is an adequate assurance and it has been recorded in the proceedings of the House. But in the rules—after all there will be rules framed—we will build in provisions—the hon. Members may have my assurance—which will adequately keep their concerns in view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that is a good proposition by the Minister.

Now the question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment, development and management of the Special Economic Zones for the promotion of exports and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House would now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 49 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 49 were added to the Bill.

Clause 50

Amendment made:

Page 21, *for* lines 14 to 23, *substitute*—

"(b) delegating the powers conferred upon any person or authority under any". (1)

(Shri Kamal Nath)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 50, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 50, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The clauses 51 to 58 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 51 to 58 were added to the Bill.

The First, the Second and the Third Schedules were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, when he has agreed to include it in the rules and when he is getting time, he can bring suitable amendment as it will go to Rajya Sabha only day after tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know the procedure. Making laws is a long and slow process. It goes to the Cabinet again and moreover, he has given you the assurance already.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When one amendment was accepted in half an hour, then what is the difficulty in accepting two amendments?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, it will be deferred for long.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Without Cabinet's approval, one amendment was accepted and one clause was deleted. What is the difficulty now when he is getting time also? He can given that much assurance now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): From this House, how can a Minister give an assurance about the other House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure, you can discuss the matter with the hon. Minister and some mutually acceptable solution would be found out.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, since morning, we are discussing and impressing upon him. We are demanding only two small amendments and these also are not being accepted.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am going to bring it in the rules as part of the Act. What more do you want?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on 11th May, 2005.

18.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, May 11, 2005/ Vaisakha 21, 1927 (Saka).

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