

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 19, 2007 / Kartika 28, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice for Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi):
Mr. Sepaker, Sir, please allow to start a discussion on the Nandigram incident after suspending the 'Question Hour' for which we have given a notice for Adoumment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.01/2 hrs.

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

Congratulating Indian Cricket team on winning the one day series against Pakistan

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I believe all sides will join me in congratulating our cricket team on winning the one-day series, which I wish to do. Let us start with something good.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you at 1200 noon.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you can make your submissions at 1200 noon.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I am not minimizing the importance of any matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not ignoring anything. Let the Question Hour go on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you at 1200 noon; immediately after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour go on. That is my appeal to you. Please allow the Question Hour to go on. I will hear you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear whatever you have to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said anything on the matter. I am only saying that I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you stand together and speak, what can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sumitra ji, I will listen to you after the Question Hour, which is only 55 minutes away. So, I will hear you after 55 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not rejected anything. I have not yet said anything on the merit. I have only said please let the Question Hour go on. After that I will listen , to you.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me whom shall I listen to! If all of you speak together, how can I listen? He is also standing. They are all standing.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please suspend the Question Hour and hold a discussion on Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not suspend the Question Hour. There is no question of suspension of Question Hour. I said I will listen to you and I will hear you. I will let you know whatever my decision. I have not made up my mind. You know that very well.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, nothing can be done before discussion on Nandigram.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour can be taken up. Question Hour can go on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You will be heard after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We have not refused. Why do you say that?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I shall listen to you after the Question Hour.

[English]

I am appealing to all sections of the House. Please allow the House to run properly. Please allow the House

to run. No issue, which is important, will be rejected. Earlier also I have said that. I will make all efforts to see that there is a proper discussion on important issues. I have not rejected your motion. Let me come to it, but if you do not allow the Question Hour even to go on, then how is it possible?

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Power Projects

*21. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the power projects have not performed properly during the last five years;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring changes in respect of these power projects;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to bring amendment in Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The performance of power plants is assessed/gauged in terms of actual generation vis-à-vis their generation target. The generation targets are fixed for the power stations on a year to year basis, keeping in view their installed capacity, age of the units, past performance, planned outages, likely availability of water/fuel (both quantity) and quality), etc. While availability of water during monsoon and non-monsoon season as well as irrigation requirements influence performance of hydro-power stations, the quality and availability of fuel have a bearing on the performance of thermal power stations. Therefore, the actual generation achieved by some power plants is at variation with the target. However, some old power plants, particularly in the state sector need improvement in performance parameters.

(b) While renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units not performing upto the required level continues to remain a long-term measure, a Partnership in "Excellence" Programme was initiated by the Ministry in August, 2005 at 22 Thermal Power Stations (TPSSs) covering 70 units with an installed capacity of 7880 MW to improve the

* Not recorded.

performance of these units operating at PLF (Plant Load Factor) below 60% through a tie-up with well performing power utilities.

Operation of gas based power stations through spot purchase of LNG and liquid fuel is also being done to the extent feasible or viable in order to enhance utilization of gas based power stations.

(c) and (d) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) are under review by the Government.

The focus of the restructured APDRP is proposed to be on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction.

**Non-Utilization of Electricity
by States**

*22. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is loss of electricity in any region in the country due to its non-utilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and also the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to utilize it fully?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) During the current year (April to September, 2007), there has been loss of electricity generation in the country due to non-utilization of generating capacity on account of inadequate supply of gas for gas based power stations; backing down of generation due to low system demand following rainfall; and high cost of generation in case of liquid fuel based power stations.

A Statement indicating the State-wise details is enclosed.

Efforts are being made to purchase Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) in the spot market as well as maximizing the transfer of power from surplus to deficit regions.

Statement

*Loss of electricity generation due to non-utilization of generating capacity
during 2007-08 (April 07 to Sep 07)*

(Figures in Million kWh)

State/Region	Inadequate Gas Supply	Low System Demand	High cost of Generation in Liquid Fuel Based Stations
1	2	3	4
Northern			
Delhi	525.77	-	0
Rajasthan	277.37	-	0
CGSs	1802.18	1492.8	0
Total N.R.	2605.32	1492.8	0
Western			
Gujarat	2797.79	612.809	0
Maharashtra	1879.64	21.418	0
CGSs	1237.70	0	0
Total W.R.	5915.13	634.227	0
Southern			
A.P	3804.42	504.09	12.26

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	N.A	1060	811
Kerala	N.A	246.12	897.22
T.N.	992.53	275.22	1000.81
CGSs	NA	260.74	707.62
Total S.R	4786.61	2346.17	3428.91
Eastern			
DVC	NA	38.318	0
W.B.	NA	23.586	0
Total E.R	0	61.884	0
North-Eastern			
Assam	603.8	0	0
Tripura	221.04	0	0
CGSs	342.17	Nil	Nil
Total NER	1167.01	0	0
All India Total	14463.73	4535.08	3428.91

CGSs: Central Generating Stations

Note: Loss of generation due to shortage of Coal is Nil.

[English]

**Cleaner Mobility in
Urban Areas**

*23. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned any pilot project on 'Cleaner Mobility in Urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the project Cleaner Mobility in Urban areas as a regular Urban Development Scheme especially in the State capitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Committee to Check the Increase
of Litigations**

*24. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to suggest the ways to check the increasing number of litigations in the corporate sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed for submitting the report by the said committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (e) The Government had, by orders issued on 4th May, 2005, constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Shri O.P. Vaish, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court to make recommen-

dations on streamlining prosecution mechanism under the Companies Act, 1956. The Group submitted its report on 19th October, 2005.

The Government has since examined the Report and issued instructions to the Registrars of Companies for close monitoring and follow up of prosecution of such cases in the Courts. The Registrars of Companies were also advised to take action under the Companies Act, 1956, for striking off the names of such of the companies in question as were found to be defunct, from the Register of Companies.

[English]

World Bank Loan

*25. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the World Bank has recently agreed to sanction a loan of \$ 944 million to India for various projects;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government has identified the specific projects on which World Bank aid would be invested;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions on which the World Bank has agreed to provide above funds and rate of interest thereon; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to repay such loans and interests?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India signed three project loan agreements on 2nd November, 2007 with the World Bank amounting to a total of \$944 million. The three projects are:-

1. Strengthening of Rural Credit Cooperatives Project involving an IBRD assistance of \$300 million and IDA assistance equivalent of \$300 million.
2. Vocational Training Improvement Project involving an IBRD assistance of \$280 million, and
3. Additional financing amounting to \$64 million for the Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project.

(d) and (e) The loan shall be governed by the standard terms and conditions governing the projects that have been agreed to between the World Bank and

the Government of India. Repayment of principal amount with interest, based on the terms of the loan/credit agreement between the Government of India and the World Bank, is made by the Government by making necessary provisions in the budget each year.

Power Shortage

*26. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute power shortage in certain areas of the country, although those areas produce huge amount of power which gets transferred to other areas, particularly in the North Eastern States;

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

(c) whether the North Eastern States are set for mega power drive as reported in the Economic Times dated August 19, 2007; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the strategies planned for the purpose therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from day to day and hour to hour, depending upon the demand and supply of power. Certain areas of the country witness higher degrees of shortage of electricity, primarily due to lack of adequate generating capacity of their own and the type of generation capacity. The shortage of power in the North Eastern Region is primarily due to the fact that the generation of power in this region is mainly from hydro power stations, which is dependent on water inflows. During the monsoon season, hydro power generation peaks while the overall demand in that region is not so high. Some States sell power to other regions. During the non-monsoon, winter months, hydro power generation goes down relative to the demand in the region, making the deficits more pronounced.

The energy and peaking shortages in the country during the period April'07 to October'07 were 7.3% and 14.6% respectively. The details of State-wise power supply position in the country both in terms of energy (MU) and peak (MW) during the year 2007-08 (upto October, 2007) are given in the enclosed Statement-I. During 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto September'07), the export of power from the Eastern and Southern Regions to other regions constituted the bulk of the inter-regional exchanges. Details of the inter-regional exchanges during

2006-07 and 2007-08 (April to September) are enclosed as Statement-II.

The main reasons for the shortage of power in the country are as under:-

- (i) Demand for power in the States outstripping the growth in their generation capacity addition.
- (ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the older thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.
- (iii) Inadequate availability of gas.
- (iv) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.
- (v) Poor financial position of State Utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary

for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) and (d) The article in The Economic Times dated 19.8.2007 appears to express the views of the author and is not based on any official press release from this Ministry.

However, the North Eastern region have large hydro electric potential aggregating 58,971 MW as per the re-assessment studies carried on by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1978-87. According to information available with CEA, the capacity addition programme during the 11th Plan period in the North Eastern Region is expected to be 4,284 MW. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Power Supply Position (Provisional)

Figures in MU net

State / System / Region	October, 2007 Energy				April-October, 2007 Energy			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (%)	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	105	105	0	0.0	941	941	0	0.0
Delhi	1,701	1,695	-6	-0.4	14,669	14,628	-41	-0.3
Haryana	2,265	2,113	152	-6.7	17,527	16,264	-1,263	-7.2
HP	467	463	-4	-0.9	3,370	3,340	-30	-0.9
J & K	865	765	-100	-11.6	6,149	4,598	-1,551	-25.0
Punjab	3,330	2,977	-353	-10.6	27,851	26,408	-1,443	-5.2
Rajasthan	2,957	2,957	0	0.0	19,304	19,255	-49	-0.3
Uttar Pradesh	4,963	4,263	-700	-14.1	36,284	31,464	-4,820	-13.3
Uttarakhand	561	561	0	0.0	3,960	3,926	-34	-0.9
Northern Region	17,214	15,899	-1,315	-7.6	130,055	120,824	-9,231	- 7.1
Chhattisgarh	1,076	1,016	-60	-5.6	8,171	7,746	-425	-5.2
Gujarat	6,472	5,456	-1,016	15.7	37,263	32,460	-4,803	-12.9
Madhya Pradesh	3,309	3,052	-257	-7.8	19,776	18,095	-1,681	-8.5
Maharashtra	10,226	8,285	-1,941	-19.0	63,469	53,646	-9,823	-15.5
Daman & Diu	157	139	-18	-11.5	1,020	919	-101	-9.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dadra Nagar Haveli	284	284	0	0.0	1,947	1,947	0	0.0
Goa	233	232	-1	-0.4	1,591	1,575	-16	-1.0
Western Region	21,757	18,464	-3,293	-15.1	133,237	11,6388	-16,849	-12.6
Andhra Pradesh	5,372	5,229	-143	-2.7	36,327	34,999	-1,328	-3.7
Karnataka	3,219	3,145	-74	-2.3	21,947	21,551	-396	-1.8
Kerala	1,287	1,262	-25	-1.9	8,882	8,743	-139	-1.6
Tamil Nadu	5,937	5,680	-257	-4.3	38,941	38,313	-628	-1.6
Puducherry	154	154	0	0.0	1,100	1,100	0	0.0
Lakshadweep	2	2	0	0	14	14	0	0
Southern Region	15,969	15,470	-499	-3.1	107,197	104,706	-2,491	-2.3
Bihar	832	711	-121	-14.5	5,344	4,849	-495	-9.3
DVC	1,146	1,115	-31	-2.7	7,822	7,679	-143	-1.8
Jharkhand	448	389	-59	-13.2	2,851	2,662	-189	-6.6
Orissa	1,633	1,597	-36	-2.2	10,738	10,571	-167	-1.6
West Bengal	2,260	2,162	-98	-4.3	17,309	16,737	-572	-3.3
Sikkim	21	20	-1	-4.8	144	141	-3	-2.1
Andaman-Nicobar	20	15	-5	-25	140	105	-35	-25.0
Eastern Region	6,340	5,994	-346	-5.5	44,208	42,639	-1,569	-3.5
Arunachal Pradesh	31	27	-4	-12.9	206	181	-25	-12.1
Assam	419	397	-22	-5.3	2,847	2,660	-187	-6.6
Manipur	58	53	-5	-8.6	317	294	-23	-7.3
Meghalaya	139	132	-7	-5.0	995	761	-234	-23.5
Mizoram	23	21	-2	-8.7	164	130	-34	-20.7
Nagaland	36	27	-9	-25.0	219	191	-28	-12.8
Tripura	69	63	-6	-8.7	448	414	-34	-7.6
North-Eastern Region	775	720	-55	-7.1	5,196	4,631	-565	-10.9
All India	62,055	56,547	-5,508	-8.9	419,893	389,188	-30,705	-7.3

Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not from part of regional requirement and availability.

Note: Both peak met and energy availability represent the net consumption (including the transmission losses) in the various States. Net export has been accounted for in the consumption of importing States.

Peak Demand and Peak Met (Provisional)

Figures in MU net

State / System / Region	October, 2007				April-October, 2007			
	Demand (MU)	Met (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (MU)	(%)	Demand (MU)	Met (MU)	Surplus / Deficit(-) (MU)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	210	210	0	0.0	275	272	0	0.0
Delhi	3,232	3,208	-24	-0.7	4,075	4,030	-45	-1.1
Haryana	4,007	3,657	-350	-8.7	4,956	4,821	-135	-2.7
Himachal Pradesh	879	879	0	0.0	879	879	0	0.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1,536	1,336	-200	-13.0	1,700	1,336	-364	-21.4
Punjab	6,565	5,354	-1,211	-18.4	8,197	7,340	-857	-10.5
Rajasthan	4,483	4,400	-83	-1.9	4,792	4,792	0	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	9,186	7,386	-1,800	-19.6	11,104	8,568	-2,536	-22.8
Uttarakhand	1,041	1,041	0	0.0	1,102	1,102	0	0.0
Northern Region	31,858	29,190	-2,668	-8.4	32,462	29,414	-3,048	-9.4
Chhattisgarh	2,110	1,801	-309	-14.6	2,266	1,853	-413	-18.2
Gujarat	12,047	8,885	-3,162	-26.2	12,047	8,885	-3,162	-26.2
Madhya Pradesh	5,789	5,470	-319	-5.5	5,932	5,470	-462	-7.8
Maharashtra	18,371	13,508	-4,863	-26.5	18,441	13,508	-4,933	-26.8
Daman & Diu	240	215	-25	-10.4	240	215	-25	-10.4
Dadra Nagar Haveli	432	406	-26	-6.0	460	406	-54	-11.7
Goa	446	407	-39	-8.7	457	408	-49	-10.7
Western Region	37,955	27,852	-10,103	-26.6	37,955	27,852	-10,103	-26.6
Andhra Pradesh	8,606	8,301	-305	-3.5	9,701	8,641	-1,060	-10.9
Karnataka	6,093	5,320	-773	-12.7	6,583	5,506	-1,077	-16.4
Kerala	2,726	2,666	-60	-2.2	2,764	2,711	-53	-1.9
Tamil Nadu	8,975	8,603	-372	-4.1	8,975	8,686	-289	-3.2
Puducherry	239	239	0	0.0	276	276	0	0.0
Lakshadweep	6	6	0	0	6	6	0	0
Southern Region	26,011	24,054	-1,957	-7.5	26,011	24,194	-1,817	-7.0
Bihar	1,529	1,244	-285	-18.6	1,529	1,244	-285	-18.6
DVC	1,768	1,738	-30	-1.7	1,787	1,757	-30	-1.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jharkhand	700	688	-12	-1.7	776	688	-88	-11.3
Orissa	2,841	2,764	-77	-2.7	2,841	2,764	-77	-2.7
West Bengal	5,104	4,582	-522	-10.2	5,104	4,854	-250	-4.9
Sikkim	60	60	0	0.0	60	60	0	0.0
Andaman-Nicobar	20	15	-5	-25	40	32	-8	-20
Eastern Region	11,430	10,548	-882	-7.7	11,430	10,562	-868	-7.6
Arunachal Pradesh	85	54	-31	-36.5	85	57	-28	-32.9
Assam	848	744	-104	-12.3	848	744	-104	-12.3
Manipur	119	88	-31	-26.1	119	90	-29	-24.4
Meghalaya	374	265	-109	-29.1	404	279	-125	-30.9
Mizoram	76	51	-25	-32.9	77	52	-25	-32.5
Nagaland	86	86	0	0.0	88	86	-2	-2.3
Tripura	158	136	-22	-13.9	158	141	-17	-10.8
North-Eastern Region	1,657	1,332	-325	-19.6	1,657	1,347	-310	-18.7
All India	108,911	92,976	-15,935	-14.6	108,911	92,976	-15,935	-14.6

Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not from part of regional requirement and availability.

Note: Both peak met and energy availability represent the net consumption (including the transmission losses) in the various States. Net export has been accounted for in the consumption of importing States.

Statement-II

April, 2006 to March, 2007

To						
From	Northern Region	Western Region	Southern Region	Eastern Region	Northern Eastern Region	Total Export
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region		289.1	250.8	18.8		558.7
Western Region	192		3.5	2.9		198.4
Southern Region	1358.8	3256.0		115.9	0.6	4731.3
Eastern Region	4664.9	5044.9	1418.1		667.7	11795.6
N-Eastern Region	337.6	174.4	7.1	49.7		568.8
Total Import	6553.3	8764.4	1679.5	187.3	668.3	17852.8

April, 2007 to September, 2007

Northern Region		385.6	297.6			683.2
Western Region	741.9		46.7	5.3		793.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Southern Region	1519.5	778.4		82.9		2380.8
Eastern Region	2947.9	1559.6	574.6		128.2	5210.3
N-Eastern Region	311.5	54.1	7.2	28.4		401.2
Total Import	5520.8	2777.7	926.1	116.6	128.2	9469.4

Statement-III*List of Projects Proposed for Likely Benefits During 11th Plan*

Sl. No.	Plant Name	State	Agency	Sector	Category	Ultimate Capacity (MW)	Type	Benefits 11th Plan (2007-12)	Likely year of Benefit
North Eastern Region									
A Central Sector									
NEEPCO									
1	Kameng	AR.PR.	NEEPCO	C	UC	600	Hydro	600	2010-11
Total (NEEPCO)								600	
NHPC									
1	Subansiri Lower	AR.PR.	NHPC	C	UC	2000	Hydro	2000	2011-12
Sub Total (NHPC)								2000	
NTPC									
1	Bongaigaon	Assam	NTPC	C	LOA	750	Coal	750	2010-12
Sub Total (NTPC)								750	
ONGC									
1	Tripura Gas ILFS	TRI	ONGC	C	LOA	750	Gas/LNG	750	2011-12
Sub Total (ONGC)								750	
Sub Total (Central Sector)								4100	
B State & Private Sector									
Assam									
1	Lakwa WH	ASM	ASGENCO	S	UC	37.2	Gas/LNG	37.2	2008-09
Sub Total (Assam)								37.2	
Meghalaya									
1	MYNTDU ST-I	MEGH	MeSEB	S	UC	84	Hydro	84	2009-10
2	New UMTRU	MEGH	MeSEB	S	LOA	40	Hydro	40	2011-12
Sub Total (Meghalaya)								124	
Nagaland									
1	Dimapur DG	NAGA	Elect. Dept.	S	UC	23	Diesel/HFO	23	2011-12
Sub Total (Nagaland)								23	
Sub Total (State Sector)								184	
Sub Total (Central Sector)								4100	
Sub Total (State Sector)								184	
Sub Total (Private Sector)								0	
Total (North-Eastern Region)								4284	

Rules under Forest Rights Act

*27. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006, have not been notified as yet;

(b) whether all the comments received on the proposed rules from the public have been examined to take a final view; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the rules would be finally notified?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Rules under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 have not yet been notified.

(b) and (c) The comments received from the public on the draft Rules pre-published on 19th June, 2007, have been examined and the notification will take place as soon as all the formalities are completed.

[Translation]

FFI's in Domestic Share Market

*28. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share market is becoming increasingly volatile owing to the constantly increasing capital inflow of foreign financial institutions in it;

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

(c) whether the share of the capital of the foreign financial institutions is increasing while that of the domestic investors is decreasing in the Indian share market from 19th September, 2007 onwards;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto along with the details of the domestic and foreign capital investment as on 30th September, 2007; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of common investors during the volatility period in the share market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The volatility in securities market is a function of the perceptions of investors – domestic and overseas, retail and institutional – about the economy,

the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including the macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments. SEBI is of the view that the investments made by various market participants and the market movement during the period 19th September, 2007 to 12th November, 2007 do not indicate a causal relationship between foreign institutional investment and volatility.

(c) and (d) SEBI has informed that foreign institutional investors had a net position of Rs. 16,454 crore on exchanges during the period 19th September, 2007 to 12th November 2007.

(e) SEBI and the Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance and various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. which reduce the scope for excessive volatility in the market. During the period of volatility, Exchanges focus on monitoring of the circuit filters and take appropriate action to modify the circuit filters for individual stocks.

[English]

Data on Malnutrition

*29. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Plan Panel has raised doubts about the data on malnutrition in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 9, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Anganwadi Centres are not maintaining malnutrition data properly in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith guidelines of the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission in the news Report of the National Daily

'Hindustan Times' of 9th August, 2007, while drawing attention to the percentage of malnourished children reported by National Family Health Survey (NFHS) -III as 46% and for the United Nation Agencies as 55%, doubts the data on malnourished children generated under ICDS Scheme, being implemented by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Variations are inevitable and therefore not comparable, as the methodology adopted for ascertaining levels of malnutrition by the Agencies, are different. Nutritional status of children below 6 years is measured in ICDS Programme by weight-for-age of the Children using IAP (Indian Academy of Paediatrics) growth standard, while the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-III/UN Agencies use weight-for-age Standard Deviation Classification (NCHS Growth Standard). These two different standards are not comparable directly.

As per the reports received from the States, the percentage of malnourished children in India varies from 33.95% to 0.57%, in varying grades of malnutrition, as on 30 June, 2007.

(c) to (e) At the grass-roots level, Anganwadi Centre (AWC) is the focal point for delivery of services under ICDS Scheme. Anganwadi Centres are maintaining malnutrition data and various registers have been prescribed for the purpose. In the existing guidelines, Growth Charts have been prescribed at the AWCs to record the Weight For Age data on malnutrition of children (0-6 years), ever since the inception of the scheme, based on Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) Classifications. Anganwadi Centres are provided with weighing scales to weight the children below six year of age. Anganwadi Workers have also been trained to record and read the data from the Growth Charts. States/Union Territories are addressed, from time to time, to ensure that proper records including growth chart/health cards are maintained properly and updated regularly at the AWCs, to monitor malnourished children.

Recently, this Ministry has also taken a decision to adopt the new World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards in ICDS Scheme which are scientific and gender specific.

Voters Identity Card

*30. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) the number of Voter's Identity Cards issued by the Government in various States as on date, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of electorate provided with Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the total cost incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which all the voters are likely to be provided with such Identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the status of number of electors issued with Voter Identity Cards and also the percentage of electors provided with the Identity Cards, as intimated by the Election Commission of India is enclosed.

(c) The Government of India has provisionally released a sum of Rs. 656,66,92,000/- from the financial years 1994-95 to 2007-08 to State/Union territory Governments as its share of the expenditure incurred towards "Issuance of Photo Identity Cards to Voters".

(d) The Election Commission of India has intimated that it has been the endeavour of the Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) scheme, and even though the efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme, various reasons such as natural calamities, engagement of administrative machinery, which also attend to works other than election work, apathy of voters themselves are some of the reasons why Progress has been uneven.

Statement

Status for the progress of Elector Photo Identity Card

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Total General Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2007 roll	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	% of EPIC issued (Column 3 & 4)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh%	49,848,636	35,278,198	70.77
2	Arunachal Pradesh**	672,916	160,094	23.79

1	2	3	4	5
3	Assam ^^ and #	17,410,558	0	0.00
4	Bihar	52,816,478	31,296,720	59.26
5	Chhattisgarh	14,457,317	4,223,015	29.21
6	Goa	1,010,207	764,774	75.70
7	Gujarat	36,528,716	30,343,437	83.07
8	Haryana	12,157,316	11,288,378	92.85
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,542,339	3,807,917	83.83
10	Jammu & Kashmir^^	6,284,658	4,276,715	68.05
11	Jharkhand	16,195,000	8,409,060	51.92
12	Karnataka^^	41,610,955	32,069,242	77.07
13	Kerala	20,929,146	20,929,146	100.00
14	Madhya Pradesh^^	38,446,833	28,473,060	74.06
15	Maharashtra	66,656,743	30,560,179	45.85
16	Manipur ##	1,701,410	763,481	44.87
17	Meghalaya	1,246,640	1,160,116	93.06
18	Mizoram	583,231	484,388	83.05
19	Nagaland ### and ^^	1,268,359	576,725	45.47
20	Orissa	27,235,112	19,661,504	72.19
21	Punjab	16,858,308	15,693,997	93.09
22	Rajasthan	34,789,794	26,721,193	79.89
23	Sikkim	305,992	222,766	72.80
24	Tamil Nadu	39,014,179	35,689,655	91.48
25	Tripura	2,005,704	1,997,757	99.60
26	Uttar Pradesh	1,14,344,263	91,300,000	79.84
27	Uttarakhand	5,961,350	5,298,723	88.88
28	West Bengal	49,458,794	46,630,101	94.28
29	A & N Islands	243,188	214,241	88.10
30	Chandigarh	354,130	354,130	100.00
31	D & N Haveli	133,250	95,645	71.78
32	Daman and Diu	90,003	60,447	67.16

1	2	3	4	5
33	Lakshadweep	40,241	37,617	93.48
34	NCT of Delhi	10,123,095	6,262,840	61.87
35	Puducherry	711,595	711,595	100.00
Total		686,036,456	495,816,856	72.27

% Except 13 ACs of Hyderabad where EPIC programme is in progress.

** Except Data of elector of AC No. 4, 46, 49 & 50 in Arunachal Pradesh.

^^ Data of Elector w.r.t. 1-1-2006 roll.

In the first phase in 1996-97, total 87,479 EPICs were prepared but not distributed. The issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam.

A total of 1033733 EPICs were issued for the photography done till 1997.

As per the survey conducted by the Dy Commissioners 90% of them are not available with the electors owing to snatching away of EPICs by the underground elements.

In Nagaland the EPIC % dropped down from 57.06% to 45.47% after intensive Revision w.r.t. 1-1-2005.

Misappropriation of Funds under Total Sanitation Campaign

*31. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints about non-utilization/misappropriation of funds allocated for construction of toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

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

(c) The action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No complaints have been received by the Ministry of Rural Development about non-utilization or misappropriation of funds released under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

TSC was launched in 1999, with the approval of projects in only 39 districts, which reached a total of 398 in 2003-04. Another 180 districts have also been approved subsequently. Census 2001 shows that only 21.92% rural households had a toilet. The coverage increased to 22.38% in 2001-02, 22.86% in 2002-03, 27.34% in 2003-04 and 30.56% in 2004-05. This rate of coverage was not found satisfactory. Some of the action taken to improve the performance and utilization of funds released under TSC are:

- Greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the implementation and giving incentive to them by institution of Nirmal Gram Puraskar.
- Revision of TSC guidelines to increase the cost of individual household toilets from Rs. 625.00 to Rs. 1500.00 for households below poverty line.

- Provision of revolving fund in each district for providing interest free loan to people above poverty line also for construction of individual household toilets.
- Introduction of provision for Solid Liquid Waste Management for improving the overall quality of sanitation in the villages.
- Increase in the allocation of funds under the programme from Rs. 400 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 700.00 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 800.00 crore in 2006-07 and to Rs. 1060.00 crore in the year 2007-08.
- Regular monitoring with States in the form of online, web-based Monthly Progress Reports, Quarterly Review Meetings with States and the Annual State Ministers Conference.

With the initiatives taken above, the coverage increased to 37.66% in 2005-06, 44.81% in 2006-2007 and is today at 48.49% in the middle of 2007-08.

The release and utilization of funds under the Total Sanitation Campaign, State-wise, is as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)			
Sl. No.	State	Release from Centre	Utilisation of Centre Share
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	27323.28	20264.07
2	Arunachal Pradesh	634.68	403.01
3	Assam	3840.23	1112.63
4	Bihar	17775.37	8025.05
5	Chhattisgarh	9045.11	7024.67

1	2	3	4
6	D & N Haveli	3.15	1.67
7	Goa	172.32	142.68
8	Gujarat	9584.98	8948.94
9	Haryana	5647.83	3639.08
10	Himachal Pradesh	850.88	751.14
11	Jammu & Kashmir	2226.27	991.70
12	Jharkhand	8780.47	5271.70
13	Karnataka	9226.18	6840.82
14	Kerala	5221.56	4382.64
15	Madhya Pradesh	17820.72	11666.98
16	Maharashtra	19608.96	15002.62
17	Manipur	990.89	115.18
18	Meghalaya	844.83	268.82
19	Mizoram	928.75	929.27
20	Nagaland	533.84	283.84
21	Orissa	19318.04	11187.04
22	Pondicherry	94.84	60.23
23	Punjab	1173.09	235.99
24	Rajasthan	8975.82	6751.03
25	Sikkim	755.35	763.90

1	2	3	4
26	Tamil Nadu	25385.07	19327.03
27	Tripura	2417.51	2285.67
28	Uttar Pradesh	43571.31	37260.98
29	Uttarakhand	1621.67	805.27
30	West Bengal	13302.64	9695.45
Grand Total		257675.64	184439.09

[Translation]

Promotion of New and Renewable Energy Sources

*32. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide free equipments to the rural people to promote non-conventional energy sources in the rural areas so as to reduce the dependence on electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) ranging between about 30 to 100% of costs for deployment of various types of renewable energy systems/devices in rural areas for meeting different energy needs depending on the technology employed, location and user category. Details of the same are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Central Financial Assistance Provided under Various Renewable Energy Schemes/Programmes

A. Off-Grid Renewable Energy Programmes:

S.No.	Scheme/Programme	Central Financial Assistance provided
1	2	3
1.	Remote Village Electrification: Electricity generation/lighting systems for households in remote unelectrified census villages/hamlets	90% of the cost of electricity generation systems subject to a pre-specified maximum amount for each technology and an overall ceiling of Rs. 18,000 per household. 100% cost of a single light SPV home lighting system for BPL households.
2.	Family Type Biogas Plants NE Region States including Sikkim (except plain areas of Assam)	Rs.11,700 per plant

1	2	3
	Plain areas of Assam	Rs.9,000 per plant
	J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal (excluding terai region), Nilgiris of Tamil Nadu, Sadar Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions of Darjeeling, Sunderbans, A&N Islands.	Rs.4,500 per plant (limited to Rs.3,500 for 1 cubic meter fixed dome type plant)
	Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe desert districts, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, terai region of Uttaranchal, Western Ghats and other notified hilly areas.	Rs.3,500 per plant (limited to Rs.2,800 for 1 cubic meter fixed dome type plant)
	All Others	Rs.2,700 per plant (limited to Rs.2,100 for 1 cubic meter fixed dome type plant)
3.	Biomass Gasifiers for Rural Areas	Rs.1.50 lakh/100 kWe – for thermal and electromechanical applications (with dual fuel engine) Rs.15.00 lakh/100 kWe – for power generation upto 1MW (with 100% producer gas engine) 20% higher subsidy for Special Category States & Islands
4.	Biomass Gasifiers for Industrial Applications	Rs.2.00 lakh/300 kWe for thermal applications Rs.2.50 lakh/100 kWe with dual fuel engine Rs.10.00 lakh/100 kWe with 100% producer gas engine Rs.15.00 lakh/100 kWe with 100% producer gas engine in institutions
5.	Industrial Waste-to-Energy Plants	Rs.50.00 lakh to Rs.1.00 crore/MWe, depending on technology. (20% higher subsidy for Special Category States)
6.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems SPV lanterns	Rs.2,400 for NE and special areas; nil for other. 100% cost of one SPV lantern for school going girl child of BPL family during entire period of school study
	SPV home lighting systems.	Rs.4,500 to 8,660 for NE and special areas, and Rs.2,500 to 4,800 for general areas, as per model
	SPV Street lighting systems	Rs.17,300 for NE and special areas Rs.9,600 for general areas
	SPV standalone power plant of capacity > 1 kWp	Rs.2,25,000/kWp for NE and special areas Rs.1,25,000/kWp for general areas
	SPV standalone power plant of capacity > 10 kWp	Rs.2,70,000/kWp for NE and special areas Rs.1,50,000/kWp for general areas
7.	SPV Water Pumping Systems	Rs.30/Wp of SPV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per system.
8.	Small Aero-Generators and Hybrid Systems	90% of ex-works cost or Rs.2.40 lakh/kW, whichever is less, in unelectrified islands

1	2	3
		75% of ex-works cost or Rs.2.00 lakh/kW, whichever is less, in other areas, for government/community use. 50% of ex-works cost or Rs.1.25 lakh/kW, whichever is less, for all other users.
9.	Solar Thermal Systems/Devices	Box type cookers; Incentive to SNA: -Rs.200 per cooker of ISI brand -Rs.100 per cooker of non-ISI brand -Up to Rs.1.50 lakh for publicity/workshops etc. -Support to manufacturers: reimbursement of 50% fees for obtaining BIS approval.
	Solar Thermal Systems/Devices (Continued)	Solar Water Heating systems: -Subsidized Loan @ 2% to domestic users, 3% to institutions and 5% to community users plus Rs.100/ square meter of collector area as incentive to motivator. -Capital subsidy @ Rs. 825/1100 per sq. m. to commercial establishments/institutions. Solar Air Heating/Steam Generating Systems: Capital subsidy @ 35-50% of the cost subject to certain ceilings. Dish / community type solar cookers: 30% of cost limited to Rs.1,500 for Dish type cookers and Rs.15,000 for Scheffler/Community type cooker.

B. Grid-Interactive Renewable Power Programmes:

S.No.	Type of Power Project	Special Category States (NE Region, Sikkim, J & K, HP and Uttaranchal)	Other States
1	2	3	4
1	Small Hydro Power Projects	Rs.2.25 crore X (C) ^{0.646}	Rs.1.50 crore X (C) ^{0.646}
2	Biomass Power Projects	Rs.25 lakh X (C) ^{0.646}	Rs.20 lakh X (C) ^{0.646}
3	Bagasse Co-generation Projects by private sector 40 bar & above	Rs.18 lakh X (C) ^{0.646}	Rs.15 lakh X (C) ^{0.646}
4	Bagasse Co-generation Projects (by cooperative/public/joint sector)		
	40 bar & above	Rs.40 lakh/MW	Rs.40 lakh/MW
	60 bar & above	Rs.50 lakh/MW	Rs.50 lakh/MW
	80 bar & above	Rs.60 lakh/MW	Rs.60 lakh/MW
		Limited to Rs.8 crore/project	Limited to Rs.8 crore/project

1	2	3	4
5	Biomass Power using Advanced Technologies	Rs.1.2 crore X (C) ^{0.646}	Rs.1.0 crore X (C) ^{0.646}
6	Wind Power projects	Rs.300 crore X (C) ^{0.646}	Rs2.50 crore X (C) ^{0.646}

C: Capacity of the project in MW;

* For new sugar mills (which are yet to start production and sugar mills employing backpressure route/seasonal/incidental cogeneration) subsidies shall be one-half of the level mentioned above.

^: raised to the power

[English]

Reduction in Fixed Deposit Rates by Nationalised Banks

*33. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalized banks have reduced the interest rates on fixed deposits while the lending interest rates have not been changed by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given freedom to commercial banks with effect from 22nd October, 1997 to fix their own interest rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities with the prior approval of their respective Board of Directors/Asset Liability Management Committee (ALCO). As such, the rates of interest on deposits are determined by the banks themselves.

With effect from 18th October, 1994, RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. two lakhs and these interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards of Directors subject to Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLR) and spread guidelines. In order to enhance transparency in banks' pricing of their loan products, banks have been advised to fix their BPLR after taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin and ensure that the BPLR truly reflects the actual cost. Individual banks, therefore, determine interest rates to be charged to a particular borrower subject to BPLR and spread guidelines. Given the prevailing credit market in India and the need to continue with concessionality for small borrowers, the practice of treating BPLR as the ceiling for loans upto Rs. two lakhs continues. However, Banks are free to determine the rates of interest without reference to BPLR and regardless of the size in respect of loans of purchase of consumer durables, loans to

individuals against shares and debentures/bonds, other non priority sector personal loans, etc.

As per information furnished by the RBI, the details of Domestic Term Deposit Rates and BPLR of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are as under:

Deposit Rates	March 2006	March 2007	August 2007
Upto 1 year	2.25-6.50	2.75-8.75	2.75-8.00
>1 year- 3 years	5.75-6.75	7.25-9.50	7.25-9.50
Over 3 years	6.00-7.25	7.50-9.50	7.75-9.50
BPLR	10.25-11.25	12.25-11.75	12.50-13.50

Foreign Direct Investment

*34. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has adversely affected the rate of inflation, value of Indian rupee and economy at large;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to restrict the flow of FDI in the country in order to offset this adverse effect on rising inflation and value of Indian rupee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no direct one-to-one relationship between the levels of FDI and the rate of inflation. The rise in FDI inflows into India has been to a great extent offset by rise in outward investment. The value of rupee, as indicated by the exchange rate, is determined in the foreign exchange market on the basis of demand and supply of foreign currency. The recent appreciation of the rupee is attributable to excess net capital inflows of which FDI is a component.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for restricting FDI inflow. FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis for progressive liberalization.

Pending Court Cases

*35. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the number of pending cases in High Courts and Supreme Court have increased during the last three years;

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

(c) the efforts made to dispose of the huge number of cases before the High Courts and the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement indicating the number of pending cases in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, as on 31st of December 2004, 2005 and 2006, is enclosed.

(c) Expeditious disposal of cases in Courts is a matter that is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. However, with a view to facilitating disposal of cases including pending cases in the superior courts, Government reviews the Judge Strength in the High Courts periodically and ensures prompt filling up of vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. In the triennial review undertaken in consultation with Chief Justice of India, the Government has created posts of additional judges in the following High Courts:-

1.	Allahabad	65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10
3.	Bombay	11
4.	Calcutta	08
5.	Delhi	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	02
7.	Karnataka	01
8.	Kerala	09
9.	Madhya Pradesh	01
10.	Punjab & Haryana	15
11.	Jharkhand	8
12.	Chhattisgarh	10
Total		152

The Government is implementing a scheme for application of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Judiciary which, inter-alia, provides for upgradation of the ICT infrastructure in the Supreme Court and the High Courts to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.

Statement*Detail of cases pending in Supreme Court*

Name of the Court	As on 31.12.04	As on 31.12.05	As on 31.12.06
Supreme Court	30151	34481	39780

Detail of civil & criminal cases pending in High Courts

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	As on 31.12.2004		As on 31.12.2005		As on 31.12.2006	
		Civil cases	Criminal cases	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Civil cases	Criminal cases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Allahabad	544655	175993	565500	198922	600272	214898
2	Aruncahal Pradesh	164915	17226	141249	18570	136896	13367
3	Bombay	288454	37330	315020	36310	326361	36589
4	Calcutta	212448	40270	179175	28726	229522	38836
5	Delhi	60353	10772	63655	14724	66062	16739
6	Gujarat	113505	25962	100488	30897	85585	28926
7	Gauhati	50442	6939	54405	7419	52148	6991
8	Himachal Pradesh	17939	5600	18011	5760	20090	6272
9	Jammu & Kashmir	42417	2435	39529	2444	41499	1803

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	Karnataka	118899	10754	73157	12754	78837	14797
11	Kerala	113652	21752	109316	24060	92511	25038
12	Madras	275730	23029	334383	29168	372973	33985
13	M.P.	141785	59133	130259	55759	127120	56665
14	Orissa	91996	14553	186113	17717	203112	18940
15	Patna	63290	21658	66549	25033	71217	25007
16	Punjab & Haryana	218457	46845	201151	42320	199295	42973
17	Rajasthan	146447	57901	158318	47867	157091	51004
18	Sikkim	50	5	29	13	42	9
19	Uttaranchal	29850	6048	30437	7163	21311	6836
20	Chhattisgarh	42158	21574	49521	23382	60690	24933
21	Jharkhand	20865	14947	25085	18785	26030	21583
Total		2758307	620726	2841350	647793	2968662	686191
Grand Total		33,79,033		34,89,143		36,54,853	

Encouragement of Young Scientists/Students

*36. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to encourage/promote young scientists including students who discover and continue research with their new technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the Government organized competitions to trace out such talent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science & Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. A number of schemes have been instituted by the Government for encouraging Young Scientists, and also for talented students in the form of SERC Programme for Young Scientists and Fellowships like Swarnajayanthi Fellowships, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Fellowships, K.S. Krishnan Fellowships, Ramanna Fellowships and J.C. Bose & Ramanujam Fellowships for practicing young scientists & techno-

logists, and CSIR programme on Youth for leadership in Science (CPYLS), Diamond Jubilee Research Interns Award Scheme, Junior/Senior Research Fellowships (JRF/SRF), Biotechnology Post Doctoral Research Associateship & Overseas Fellowships, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), National Science Olympiad Programme etc. for attracting and retaining young talented students in R&D. In addition, the young scientists including students have been exposed to new technologies through schools, workshops etc. to encourage them to discover and/or experiment on new technologies including the emerging fields like nanoscience & nanotechnology, biotechnology etc.

The Government, in the XI Plan is launching a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and, (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public private partnerships. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in Higher Education (SHE) will be initiated in the XI Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc

courses. These initiatives are aimed at generating interest in youth to conduct more and more research and produce valuable results.

The identification and selection of talent in these fellowships/schemes is through a rigorous competitive process including peer review.

Weather Forecasting

*37. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has studied the technologies used in countries like Germany and other European countries where exact minute-by minute weather related forecasting is done;

(b) if so, the outcome of such studies; and

(c) the efforts made to adopt such technologies in India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the assessment and our own modernization plans both in respect of observational infrastructure (Land and Ocean platforms) and forecasting capabilities involving advanced prediction models, the following activities are already launched:

1. A comprehensive modernization programme of India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) is being taken up with following components:

(i) Procurement of high performance computers for forecasting.

(ii) Enhancement of observation systems including Automated Rain Gauges (ARG), Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), improved Radiosonde systems for upper level data, acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) etc.

2. The following efforts have already been made to improve the accuracy of weather forecasts:

(i) 125 automatic weather stations (AWS) have been made operational for monsoon season of 2007.

(ii) An improved numerical model with 50Km resolution, has been implemented.

(iii) Additional satellite observations are being assimilated in the numerical models for improving the forecast since May 2007.

(iv) Experimental real-time implementation of weather research forecasting (WRF) model at 27Km grid resolution taking input and boundary fields from 50Km grid global forecast model.

(v) A multi-model Ma-Machine-Mix approach has been adopted for improving the forecast skill.

Some of these initiatives have resulted in improvement of the short and medium range weather forecasts during the monsoon season of 2007.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

*38. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Permanent Court of Arbitration based in the Hague, Netherlands, is to open its regional centre in India by the end of this year;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) whether the site has been identified for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Secretary General, Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague for opening its regional facility in India and the same will be discussed with the representatives of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Doesn't arise.

Education Loan

*39. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received in regard to disbursement of educational loans to poor rural students;

(b) if so, whether there is a wide disparity among Rural and Urban areas in the matter of disbursement of educational loans by Public Sector Banks in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to eradicate the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Some complaints have been received from time to time regarding non-sanction/non-disbursal of education loans by banks in rural and urban areas. These have been taken up with the concerned banks for remedial measures and for ensuring that no deserving/meritorious student is denied the opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial support.

(b) and (c) According to information received from Public Sector Banks, there is a gap between rural branches and urban branches of banks with regard to disbursal of education loans but this gap is reducing over time. As per latest data, education loans sanctioned by bank branches in rural areas as a share of total education loans disbursed by public sector banks increased from 15.50 percent in 2004-05 to 18.30 percent during 2007-08 (upto September, 2007). The Government closely monitors the progress of disbursal of education loans and advises banks to take prompt remedial measures in case of denial of such loans to deserving and needy students. Chairman & Managing Directors of

Public Sector Banks are also advised to ensure that the existing guidelines of the Model Education Loans Scheme are strictly adhered to.

[Translation]

Corruption in DDA

*40. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of corruption booked in DDA during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for increase in the incidence of undetected and un-reported corruption still prevailing in the DDA and the action taken by the Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As reported by Delhi Development Authority (DDA), details of cases of corruption booked in DDA during the last three years, are as under:-

2004-05

Sl.No.	FIR No. and date	Agency	Status	Accused
1	2	3	4	5
1.	PE/DA1/04/a/0012 7.4.04	CBI	RDA/Compulsory retirement	Satyavir Singh, UDC
2.	206/04 23.4.04	PS KM Pur	Under trial	1. H.C. Verma, AD 2. Mahipal Singh, UDC 3. Satyapal Singh, UDC 4. Vinod Kr., LDC
3.	Rc- 24 (A) /04/DA1 6.5.04	CBI	Under trial	Hari Mohan, JE
4.	29/04 2.7.04	ACB	Under trial	Iqbal Singh Man, Patwari
5.	13/05 11.3.05	ACB	Under trial	R.S. Negi, Asstt.
6.	Deptt.	DDA	RDA	1. Narender Kr. Gupta, JE 2. Pawan Kumar, Mate
2005-06				
1.	RC/DA1/2005/A/0031 27.6.05	CBI	Under trial	O.P. Rai, EE
2.	Rc/45/A/05/DA1 9.8.05	CBI	Under trial	1. P. Uniyal, Surveyor 2. Sri Ram, Mate

1	2	3	4	5
3.	RC/AC-1/2005/A/0006 12.9.05	CBI	Under trial	Mehroz Khan, JE
4.	42/05 5.10.05	ACB	Under trial	K.R. Batnagar, UDC
5.	17/06 20.2.06	ACB	Under trial	Mohinder, Kr. SK
6.	RC-7 (A) /CBI 6.3.06	CBI	Under trial	Rakesh Kr. Sharma, Patwari
2006-07				
1.	33/06 19.4.06	ACB	Under trial	1. Sh. Ram Mahesh Yadav Patwari 2. Brahm Singh, S/G
2.	36/06 15.5.06	ACB	Under trial	Rohtash, Khallasi
3.	67/06 29.8.06	ACB	Under trial	Virender Verma, S.O. (Hort.)
4.	RC/SIJ/2007/A/0001 23.1.07	CBI	Under investigation	Ajay Shrotia, JE
2007-08				
1.	RC/DA1/2007/A /0025 24.7.07	CBI	Under trial	1. A.K. Mishra, DD (Retd.) 2. J.R. Gaur, AD 3. Shyam Babu, AE 4. S.K. Sharma, JE 5. Ajay Kr. Sharma, Asstt.

DDA has also reported that there is no pattern as regards increase in the incidences of undetected and unreported corruption cases.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that corruption cases in DDA are dealt with firmly and criminal cases and disciplinary proceedings are instituted wherever found necessary. A number of measures have also been taken from time to time for improving transparency in the functioning of DDA and to reduce the scope for irregularities or corruption. Facilitation counters have been established for helping citizens in their work; senior officers are accessible to the public through public hearing for attending to their grievances; schemes, rules procedures, application forms, etc. have been put on the web site; draw of lots for allotment of houses has been computerized; posting of tender notices on the web-site has been introduced, disposal of commercial plots is done through well publicized public auction. Various other measures have also been taken to eliminate discretionary powers of offices and to bring

in objectivity and transparency in the functioning. Apart from this, review of various measures taken for quality investigation, quick disposal of vigilance cases and improving transparency in various functions is also undertaken.

[English]

Speed Post Facility in Rural Areas

*41. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) whether the Speed Post facility is available only in cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Speed Post centres in each State as on date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend such facilities to rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the functioning of this service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Speed Post facility is available in cities, towns and rural areas in the country.

(b) There are 1166 Speed Post Centers in the Country. The list of centers is given in the inclosed Statement. The details of Speed Post Centres are available at the website of the Department [www. in diapost.gov.in](http://www.diapost.gov.in).

(c) and (d) The network of Speed Post Service is extended taking into account the market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc.

(e) and (f) Review of the Speed Post service is an on going process and it is done by assessing the market challenges and emerging opportunities for postal services. Constant review aims to make this product customer friendly and competitive. Introduction of Speed Post One India One Rate, reduction in local Speed Post charges, Credit facility, Collection from the customer's premises etc. are steps taken after such reviews.

Statement

List of Speed Post Centres

State/UT	No. of Speed Post Centres	No. of State Speed Post Centres	Total Post
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	23	59	82
Arunachal Pradesh	1	10	11
Assam	6	18	24
Bihar	11	53	64
Chhattisgarh	6	32	38
Delhi	1	0	1
Goa	2	12	14
Gujarat	7	53	60
Haryana	16	2	18

	1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh		5	17	22
Jammu and Kashmir		2	17	19
Jharkhand		4	80	84
Karnataka		23	11	34
Kerala		13	11	24
Madhya Pradesh		12	80	92
Maharashtra		9	62	71
Manipur		1	25	26
Meghalaya		1	24	25
Mizoram		1	20	21
Nagaland		2	11	13
Orissa		5	38	43
Punjab		17	18	35
Rajasthan		7	37	44
Sikkim		1	0	1
Tamil Nadu		45	21	66
Tripura		1	14	15
UT of Andaman and Nicobar		1	3	4
UT of Daman & Diu		0	3	3
UT of Lakshadweep		0	1	1
UT of Puduchery		1	1	2
Uttar Pradesh		40	48	88
Uttarakhand		14	15	29
West Bengal		10	80	90
Army postal Service		2	0	2
Total		290	876	1166

Concession for Ethanol Production

*42. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare some concessions to the producers of ethanol for increasing the production of ethanol keeping in view its utility; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION: (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to declare concessions to the producers of ethanol for increasing its production.

(b) Does not arise.

Procurement Cost under Decentralised Scheme

*43. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of procurement of foodgrains under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme in some States is higher than the corresponding cost of procurement in the FCI operations;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal under its consideration to review the said scheme in the light of high procurement costs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The cost of procurement (acquisition cost) of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is no comparable with the cost of procurement by the Decentralised Procurement (DCP) States, since some incidentals which are part of the acquisition cost for DSP States from part of the distribution cost of the FCI. However, the economic cost (which includes both acquisition cost as well as distribution cost) of wheat and rice for FCI on All India basis is higher than the economic cost of wheat and rice procured by individual State Governments under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme. Procurement of foodgrains under DCP operations also results in savings in transportation cost.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Milk

*44. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of milk production in each of the last three years and during the current year in the country and the quantum of milk used for manufacturing milk powder therefrom;

(b) the extent of domestic demand met from the domestic production; and

(c) the reasons for raising the prices of milk frequently by Mother Dairy and other milk vendors despite adequate availability?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Milk production in the country during the last three years is as below:

(In million tones)	
Year	Milk Production
2004-05	92.50
2005-06	97.10
2006-07	100.9
	(provisional)

The quantity of milk produced in the current year is not yet estimated.

Milk powders are produced by the cooperative sector and private dairies at the ratio of about 50:50. The approximate quantity of milk powder produced by the cooperatives and the milk used for conversion into milk powder is as given below:

Year	Milk Powder Production* (Metric tones)	Approximate quantity of milk used for conversion into milk powder (in million Tones)
2004-05	160,031	1.76
2005-06	178,866	1.97
2006-07	171,719	1.89
2007-08	NA	NA

* Skim Milk Powder, Whole Milk Powder, Dairy Whitener and Baby Food.

(b) The milk production at National level is by and large sufficient to meet the domestic demand of milk and milk products.

(c) Increase in prices of milk by Mother Dairy and other milk vendors is mainly due to increase in its cost of production, procurement, processing and marketing.

[English]

**Production of Pulses
and Oilseeds**

*45. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage and decreasing production of pulses and oilseeds in the country is becoming serious day by day;

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

(c) the concrete steps proposed to be taken during the current year and the eleventh five year plan to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The demand for pulses and edible oils in the country has been continuously increasing and the domestic production of pulses and oilseeds has been unable to keep pace with the demand. In 2006-07 the production of pulses was 14.23 million tonnes against the requirement of 16.24 million tonnes and the production of oilseeds was 23.88 million tonnes against the requirement of 40.29 million tonnes in 2006-07. The main reasons for low production of pulses and oilseeds are that these are mainly grown on marginal and sub-marginal lands under rainfed conditions by small and marginal farmers. Their productivity is also affected adversely due to low seed replacement rate, inadequate varietal breakthrough and susceptibility to a number of insect-pests and diseases.

In order to increase the production of pulses and reduce import dependence, Government has recently launched the National Food Security Mission. The pulse component of National Food Security Mission is being implemented in 168 districts of 14 major pulses growing states of the country. Similarly, with a view to enhancing the production and productivity of oilseeds, the norms and pattern of financial assistance under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Malze (ISOPOM) have been modified.

[Translation]

Agricultural Subsidy

*46. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to the farmers in the country in comparison to the farmers of United States and other developed countries during the last three years;

(b) whether the subsidy provided to the farmers in the country has decreased regularly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide subsidy at par with the developed/developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The comparative amount of total domestic support (subsidy) provided by the United States, European communities, Japan and India for the latest available years 1999 to 2001 are given below.

Details of Comparative Domestic Support

Country	(US \$ Million)		
	1999	2000	2001
United States	74,054.4	74,200.3	72,129.1
European Communities	88,340.3	87,817.6 (marketing year 2000/01)	75,083.75 (marketing year 2001/02)
Japan	31,908.6	30,551.97	NA
India	8,221.98	8,288.28	9,048.13
(Year)	(1995-96)	(1996-97)	(1997-98)

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry) NA = Not Available.

India has so far notified its domestic support commitments to the World Trade Organization only upto the year 1997-98. These data show that India's total domestic support has not decreased.

Developed countries can afford to provide high levels of support to their agriculture sector. For a developing country like India, it is not affordable to provide subsidy at par with developed countries. However, with a view to increase agricultural production, the Government has adopted a multi pronged strategy to ensure higher production and productivity. These initiatives include launching of National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management in Agriculture, Micro Irrigation, balanced use of fertilizers, Development of Marketing Infrastructure, etc. A comprehensive credit policy was announced on 18th June, 2004 for doubling of agriculture credit in three years. Farmers receive short-term credit (upto a principal amount of Rupees 3 lakh) at 7 percent rate of interest per annum. The two percent interest subvention scheme for short-term crop loans are

in place from kharif 2006-07 onwards. Initiatives have also been taken by launching National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of rice, wheat and pulses and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the State to increase public investment in agriculture & allied sectors.

[English]

Agrarian Crisis

*47. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made on the implementation of the Prime Minister's package of Rs.17,000 crores for alleviating the agrarian crisis in 31 suicide prone districts of Vidarbha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) whether a task force headed by Shri R. Radhakrishna, Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has submitted its report and has observed many shortcomings on the implementation of this package; and

(c) if so, a summary of the salient observations in the report?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Against the approved allocation of Rs. 16978.69 crores, releases amounting to Rs. 10107.60 crores has been made by various implementing agencies upto 31st October, 2007 for implementation of the rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 identified suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness headed by Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has observed that the rehabilitation package is comprehensive in terms of coverage and problems addressed but it suffers from following deficiencies in design and implementation:

- (i) The design of some of the schemes is not based on the felt needs of households.
- (ii) There is a lack of region and household specific flexibility built into these measures.
- (iii) There are implementation and monitoring problems due to lack of proper institutional arrangements.

The Expert Group has observed that the implementation and monitoring of relief measures for distressed farmers envisaged in the rehabilitation package needs to

be addressed carefully and has recommended that the needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility and further that follow-up steps should be taken to relieve the families from distress. It has also recommended continuation of 'Non-Credit Component' of the package for two more years.

The observation of the Expert Group is not fully justifiable because the Government while approving the rehabilitation package also approved a well-designed monitoring and implementation mechanism consisting of state and district level committees, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and creation of appropriate Institutional Structures and Special Purpose Cooperatives/Community Based Organizations at local level for delivery of the package and optimum utilization of resources in a time bound manner.

Violation of Guidelines by Private Operators

*48. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private operators charge different rates from their mobile phone subscribers and these rates are higher than the rates charged by the Government companies;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of the guidelines and directions of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the erring companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Both the private operators and Government owned telecom companies charge different rates from their mobile phones subscribers under various tariff plans. Since, the tariff plans are bundled with various services, a comparison between various operators' tariff plans across the country is difficult.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under TRAI Act, 1997 has been mandated to fix and regulate telecom tariff. TRAI has also been empowered to review and modify telecom tariff. TRAI vide its Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 has adopted a policy of forbearance except for the tariff of the three categories viz., rural subscribers, roaming charges for cellular services and leased circuits. Since the policy

provided flexibility to all telecommunication service providers to fix tariff, there is no violation of TRAI's guidelines and directions in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes

*49. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Training Institute (ITIs) run by the Central and State Government in the country need upgradation;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to upgrade these ITIs with public-private partnership;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A need for upgradation of Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) has been felt in view of development of new technologies and emerging requirements of the industry, Government of India has accordingly taken up upgradation of all Government ITIs in the country as follows:

- (a) Upgradation of 100 ITIs through domestic funding at a cost of Rs. 160 crore since 2005-06.
- (b) Upgradation of 400 ITIs through World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 1581 crores since 2006-07.
- (c) Upgradation of the remaining 1396 ITIs by providing an interest free loan of upto Rs. 2.5 crore per ITI in Public Private Partnership mode with effect from 2007-08.

Close involvement of the industry has been envisaged in the upgradation of these ITIs. Accordingly, Institute Management Committees (IMCs) are being constituted to accomplish the task of upgradation. IMCs are being headed by an Industry Partner. There are four other members from the Industry on the I.M.C. The remaining five members are from the Government and Principal of the ITI is the member secretary of the IMC.

The task of upgradation of these ITIs is scheduled to be completed by the end of financial year 2011-12.

Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Non-Journalists

*50. DR. K.S. MANOJ:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Boards constituted for journalists and non-journalists have since submitted their reports;

(b) if so, the details of their recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Foodgrains

*51. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice imported in the country, separately since March 2007 alongwith the price of its import and the dates thereof;

(b) the quantum of wheat, rice and other foodgrains likely to be imported during the current year till March 2008 alongwith the price at which it is likely to be imported;

(c) the reasons for the said imports; and

(d) the distribution pattern of the imported wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Imports of wheat and rice are permitted both on Government account and on private account. Government has not imported any rice on its account since March 2007. As per data available, 1,12,949 tons of wheat and 26 tons of rice were imported by private parties during the months March-June 2007. The prices at which private imports have taken place are not readily available.

Government have imported 6,11,091 tons of wheat since March 2007. Out of this 1,76,210 tons are against

tenders finalized in the financial year 2006-07. 4,34,881 tons are deliveries against tenders finalized in financial year 2007-08. Date wise details of prices and quantity imported are given in the enclosed Statement.

Government has decided to import 23 lakh tons of wheat for the Central Pool this year out of which orders have been placed for import of 13.06 lakh tons. Out of the 13.06 lakh tons, 5.11 lakh tons of wheat has been ordered at weighted average price of US \$ 325.59 per ton C&F (FO) and 7.95 lakh tons at weighted average price of US \$ 389.45 per ton C&F (FO).

It is difficult to forecast the exact quantum and price of wheat, rice and other foodgrains likely to be imported till March 2008. Decisions on further imports either on Government account or on private account will depend upon availability of adequate quantity of wheat, rice and foodgrains for PDS an Open Market. The Import by private trade will depend upon commercial considerations while decisions on import by Government is based on considerations of food security.

(d) Wheat imported by the Government is distributed for PDS/Welfare Schemes in States other than major growing areas in the country depending on the requirement and availability.

Statement

Details of wheat imported for Central Pool through STC since March 2007 upto 14.11.2007

Date (Vessel arrived)	Quantity (in MTs)	Rate (US \$ per MT)
1	2	3
<i>Tenders finalized in 2006-07</i>		
02.03.2007	62930	199.20
05.03.2007	38057	232.00
26.04.2007	35391	199.20
08.05.2007	39832	212.75
Total	176210	
<i>Tenders finalized in 2007-08</i>		
18.09.2007	51836	329.95
06.10.2007	48250	388.00
15.10.2007	45336	329.95
28.10.2007	24951	329.95
02.11.2007	43727	324.10

1	2	3
02.11.2007	67198	317.95
04.11.2007	38498	324.10
04.11.2007	47882	388.00
13.11.2007	67201	317.95
Total	434881	
Grand Total	611091	

[English]

Employment Opportunities in Agricultural Sector

*52. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment generation opportunities in the agricultural sector in the country have dwindled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for creating additional employment opportunities in the agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWER) : (a) and (b) As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census (latest). As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment opportunities on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round). As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c) and (d) There is no scheme as such to create additional employment in agriculture. However, several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

Recently, Government has launched two schemes

viz. (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses and (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivise the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector. These Schemes are envisaged to increase employment opportunities. These programmes, apart from creating on-farm and non-farm employment are expected to improve the income realization also by the farmers.

[Translation]

Law on Water Harvesting

*53. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enact any law for implementing water harvesting programme in urban and rural areas keeping in view the day-by-day falling ground water level; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented and the sources from which funds are likely to be mobilized for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has circulated to all States/Union Territories (UTs) the Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water. The Model Bill includes provision for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water in urban and rural areas.

(b) No time limit has been fixed by the Union Government for enactment of law in this regard by State Governments and UTs. Funds for schemes relating to water harvesting are provided under both Central and State Government Schemes.

[English]

Scarcity of Water

*54. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is likely to face great water shortage by 2025;

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

(c) whether the quantum of availability of fresh water in India has dropped as compared to the position in the last few years;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage of water and to ensure proper storage in the future?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Serious water shortage is not anticipated by 2025 for the country as a whole.

(c) No, Sir. The average annual quantum of availability of fresh water in India is assumed to be constant and no trend for its reduction has been noticed. However, the per capita water availability is declining because of population growth.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The demand for water for various purpose is increasing due to population growth, urbanization and industrialization. Therefore the need for the utmost efficiency in water utilization and a public awareness of the importance of its conservation has been highlighted in the National Water Policy. The National Water Policy states that (a) the water resources should be conserved, (b) Water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent, (c) efficiency of utilization in all diverse uses of water should be optimized and (d) there is urgent need of paradigm shift in the management of water resources sector. Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development (NPP) which envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems.

Child Labour in Carpet and Glass Industry

*55. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of child labour is still working in Carpet and Glass Industry in the country in violation of the rules and laws made in this regard;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve complete eradication of child labour in the country alongwith the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) As per 2001 Census, 32,647 children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in Carpet Industry and 5,758 children in Glass Industry. Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, government is following a gradual and sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/processes. There are 15 occupations and 57 processes where employment of children is prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, which includes Carpet weaving and manufacture of Glass and glassware including bangles etc.

(c) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from hazardous work are put into Specials Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc. In addition, government is also implementing the Indo-US child labour project (INDUS) in 21 districts of the country. Under the NCLP Scheme, 4.57 lakh children and under INDUS Project 27,533 children have been mainstreamed into formal education system, so far.

[Translation]

Poor Quality Wheat

*56. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the red wheat imported recently for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been rejected by the States for being poor in quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto, State-wise;

(c) whether the samples of wheat were tested in various laboratories before import;

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

(e) whether some States have requested the Union Government for supply of domestic wheat for distribution under PDS; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) State Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have informed that the imported red wheat allocated under TPDS is not being preferred by TPDS beneficiaries. Complaints about quality of imported red wheat have also been received from State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

On receipt of complaints, officers of Department of Food & Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India jointly collected samples of imported red wheat from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra regions during second fortnight of October 2007 and got them analysed for quality. This analysis has shown all samples conforming to quality standards prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955. Comparison of results of analysis with quality parameters of indigenous wheat have also revealed that the quality of imported red wheat is comparable to that of indigenous wheat.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Before the imported wheat is allowed to be discharged from the ships at Indian ports, quality of the wheat is tested by the authorities competent under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and by the Plant Quarantine authorities. Only if the imported wheat is found conforming to all the specifications laid down, it is allowed to be discharged from the ships. Out of ships of imported wheat arrived so far during the current year, the wheat in each of them has been found to be meeting the required quality specifications.

(e) and (f) The State Governments of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh requested for allocation of imported red wheat together with domestic wheat. As per their request, imported and domestic wheat in the ratio of 50 : 50 has been issued by FCI depending upon availability. Recently, the State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have also requested for allocation of only domestic wheat or imported white wheat under TPDS. However, in view of the limited quantities of indigenous wheat available in the Central Pool, it is not possible to allocate only indigenous wheat to the States.

[English]

Switchover to organic Farming

*57. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many of the farmers in the country are slowly switching over from chemical farming to organic farming;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey on the organic farming in the country and its outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote organic farming and to provide easy financial assistance/credit to the farmers for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Some of the farmers in the country are switching over to organic farming.

(b) Although no survey on organic farming has been conducted by the government, however, according to information collected, certified area under organic farming has reached 3.12 lakh hectares, in the country.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country, wherein financial assistance is being provided for the capacity building through service providers, setting up of organic input production units of fruits/vegetables waste compost, bio-fertilizers and Vermiculture hatcheries, promotion of organic farming through training programme, field demonstrations, setting up of model organic farms and market development.

Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country from 2005-06 under which promotion of organic farming has been included as one of the components and financial assistance is being provided for organic cultivation of horticultural crops, setting up of vermi compost units and for organic farming certification.

In addition, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of

Commerce & Industry is promoting export of organic products and implementing National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). Under the Scheme financial assistance is being provided to its registered exporters for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, R&D and transport assistance.

(e) Question does not arise.

Plight of Employees in Garment Industries

*58. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the pitiable working conditions and low wages of the employees working in the Garment Industries of the country, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the working conditions and wages of employees of Garment Industries sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER-SINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) There have been no particular report of pitiable working conditions of the employees working in the garment industries of the country. However, the Central Government is in receipt of complaints from some quarters regarding non-compliance of labour-related regulations and norms by certain garment manufacturing units located in Karnataka. These reports were investigated by the authorities concerned in the State Government of Karnataka, who have reported that there have been no flouting of labour regulations and norms by the apparel manufacturing units concerned.

(c) To improve condition of the workers employed in garments industry, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, has been enacted. The State Government of Karnataka has fixed minimum wages to the workers who are working in Garments industry during the year 1978 and revised from time to time. The last revision was done on 3.11.2001. According to that, highly skilled employees are being paid Rs.101/- per day, Semi skilled Rs.98/- per day and Unskilled Rs.93/- per day. In addition to this, based on consumer price index increased variable DA is also paid from 1st April of every year.

Losses in Horticulture

*59. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Horticulture farmers in the country; particularly in Karnataka are incurring losses in their production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make horticulture cultivation a profitable venture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Increase in the production of horticulture crops coupled with a general increase in the prices of fruits, vegetables, spices and condiments in recent years indicate that the horticulture farmers in the country are not incurring losses in their production. However, occasionally, some losses do occur due to various reasons such as natural calamities and outbreak of pest and diseases.

(c) In order to make horticulture cultivation a profitable venture, the Government is providing assistance to the farmers through schemes like the National Horticulture Mission, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern and Himalayan and the National Horticulture Board. Besides, Government is providing assistance to farmers for taking up drip and sprinkler irrigation under the Scheme on Micro Irrigation. Moreover, Government is implementing a Price Support Scheme (PSS) for fixing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for crops which are not covered under the MSP operations.

MSP of Rice

*60. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from Public Representatives has been received to increase Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice to Rs.1,000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such requests have been received. However, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the year 2007-08 crop season was announced/fixd on 17th May, 2007 at Rs.645 per quintal for paddy (Common) and at Rs.675 per quintal for paddy (Grade

A). Also, with a view to enhance procurement of paddy, Government had decided on 9th October, 2007 to pay an incentive bonus of Rs.50 per quintal over and above the MSP. Further, on 15th November, 2007 an additional bonus of Rs.50.00 per quintal was approved.

Hostels for Working Women

111. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount sanctioned for "Hostels for Women Scheme" remained unutilized during the last three years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the committee set up to revamp the scheme has furnished its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b)

Year	BE (Rs. in Crore)	Actual Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
2004-2005	10.00	4.82
2005-2006	6.00	2.24
2006-2007	5.00	4.40

The non-utilization of BE was on account of lack of sufficient proposals meeting the Schematic norms and requirements.

(c) and (d) The Committee constituted to make suggestions to revamp the scheme of Assistance for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women with Day Care Centre, Chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development has submitted its suggestions for revamping the scheme. Major points thereof are as shown in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Amendments agreed to by revamping committee

1. Who can reside in hostel

- Girl students may be allowed to stay in hostel when adequate number of working women are not available. Appropriate license fee structure should be prescribed for girl students.

- Girls up to 18 years and boys up to 10 years may be allowed to stay in hostel with their mothers.
- 2. Income limit and period of stay in hostel**
- There should be no income limit. Different categories of rooms can be earmarked for different income groups. License fee/rent chargeable from hostellers may be according to the floor area provided.
 - 5 years may continue to be the maximum period of stay permissible.
- 3. Organizations eligible to apply for grant for construction of hostel building**
- Hospitals should also be made eligible.
 - Panchayats and Cantonment Boards which are local bodies should be specifically mentioned as eligible bodies.
- 4. Financial pattern of assistance.**
- Decide whether to propose 100% assistance for construction of hostel building (up from existing 75%) and 100% assistance for land cost (up from existing 50%).
 - Introduce one time grant @ Rs.5000 per woman at the time of commencement of hostel.
 - Introduce grant up to Rs.5 lakh for repairs if hostel is running satisfactorily for more than 15 years.
 - The alternative of running hostels in rented buildings should be introduced and suitable norms of assistance prescribed therefor.
 - Provide for recurring annual maintenance grant for improvement of basic amenities in the hostel and to keep effective check on NGO/hostel.
- 5. Hostel's capacity**
- No limit on capacity of hostel.
- 6. Area and cost norms**
- A norm of up to 180 sft of built up area per woman may be included in Scheme but no per capita limit should be prescribed for cost of construction (which is subject to vetting by State PWD and CPWD).
- 7. Facilities in hostel**
- Include washing machine and ironing board on each floor, geyser in bathroom and cooler/heater

in living room as eligible for equipment grant (none at present).

9. Demand survey

- State Governments to assess on the basis of the data of female employees in the organized section the numbers of women in need of hostel accommodation at different places.

10. Monitoring & evaluation

- State Government should be made especially responsible for full monitoring of under-construction hostels and functioning hostels twice a year thro prominent NGOs or other independent body.
- Scheme should provide for evaluation on all-India basis in 5 years.

11. Other measures

- Provide for penal rate of interest on Misutilisation
- Provide for mortgaging hostel land and building to Government.

[Translation]

Implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme in Bihar

112. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received from Bihar under the scheme of Swajaldhara during the last three years;
- (b) the locations where the scheme is being implemented.
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the scheme in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Under Swajaldhara Scheme, projects were invited only in 2002-03 by the Centre. Thereafter, all States were empowered to approve and implement projects at the State level, within the allocation for the year. District-wise location details are not maintained at the Centre. The districts which are implementing Swajaldhara projects in Bihar are Patna, Siwan, Bhagalpur, Vaishali, Nalanda, Nawada, Rohtas, Kaimur, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Begusarai, East

Champanan, Gopalganj, Kishanganj, Sahrsa, Supaul, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Katihar and Jamui.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the programme is regularly reviewed in the form of Monthly Progress Reports, Quarterly Review Meetings with States and the Annual State Ministers Conference.

Foreign Assistance for Urban Slums in Himachal Pradesh

113. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects operating with foreign assistance in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh to improve the urban slums;
- (b) the time by which these are operational;
- (c) whether some of the projects are yet to be started;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) There are no projects operating with foreign assistance in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh to improve the urban slums. However, three projects, one each in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh are in operation with support from DFID (United Kingdom). These projects address the provision of basic services to the urban poor and strengthening of municipal management capacity for poverty alleviation.

Housing Construction Companies

114. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many housing construction companies are putting the home-seekers in great distress due to lack of any policy/regulation;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to frame policy to regulate the affairs of housing construction companies; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Matters relating to land and housing are State subjects and come under the purview of State Governments. It is for the State Governments to regulate affairs of the Housing Construction Companies.

World Bank Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

115. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has received any assistance from the World Bank during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the project-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the developmental works carried out with the said financial assistance during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four projects have been signed with the World Bank during the last two years. The details are as under:

Name of Project	Date of signing/ closing	Amount in US Dollar
Third Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Loan (APERL-III)	8.2.2007/ 30.6.2008	150 million (IBRD) 75 million (IDA)
Andhra Pradesh (IBRD) Community Based Tank Management project	8.6.2007/ 31.12.2012	94.5 million 94.5 million (IDA)
PHRD Grant for Andhra Pradesh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	8.2.2007	680,000
IDF Grant for Strengthening Public Financial Management in Andhra Pradesh	5.9.2006/ 5.9.2009	430,000

(c) The development works are carried out by the project implementing authorities in accordance with the annual work plans that are finalized by the state government in consultation with the World Bank on an year-to-year basis.

[English]

Community Managed Drinking Water

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

(a) whether the proposal titled 'Sustainable Community Managed Drinking Water Supply Infrastructure of Rural Areas of Backward Districts of Panchmahals and Dahod in Gujarat State' has been submitted to the Union Government by the Government of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal titled "Sustainable Community Managed Drinking Water Supply Infrastructure for Rural Areas of Backward Districts of Panchmahals and Dahod in Gujarat State" was received by Ministry of Rural Development, from Government of Gujarat, for seeking external assistance under Japanese grant-in-aid programme.

The proposal was considered by Ministry of Rural Development and not found suitable for seeking such assistance, as the amount of assistance sought was very small.

[Translation]

Recovery of Loan

117. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some relaxation has been given to some persons/firms in the recovery of loans by nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details of the persons/firms getting relaxation of more than one lakh rupees during the last three years and the current year, bank-wise/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The banks take decisions in respect of relaxation in recovery of loans, on a case to case basis, in accordance with their Board approved loan recovery policies. The existing Management Information System (MIS) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the desired data.

Taxes Against Companies

118. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Direct and Indirect Taxes outstanding against foreign companies as on date;

(b) the details of notices issued to resident and non-resident such companies;

(c) the amount recovered therefrom;

(d) the difficulties being faced in the collection of taxes from them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bill for Housing Sector

119. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive bill for simplifying and streamlining the housing sector and improving its working;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft of the aforesaid bill has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the time by which the bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The subject of "Housing" comes under the purview of State Governments and it is for the concerned State Government to formulate any legislation on the subject.

However, Central Government has been formulating National Housing and Habitat Policies since 1986, which inter-alia provide development of Housing and related infrastructure and provision of adequate affordable housing in cooperation with State Governments, ULBs and other concerned agencies.

Tunnel Advertisements in Delhi Metro Rail

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

(a) whether the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has any proposal to make tunnel advertisements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd. has reported that it has entered into an arrangement with a private company for setting up equipment for carrying out in-tunnel advertisement. Installation of the same is still in trial stage and not yet proven.

Fire Insurance

121. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) has rationalized the norms for the fire insurance of buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new norms are different from the previous one; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has removed tariffs in respect of fire insurance with effect from 1st January, 2007. Consequently, the insurers are free to fix the rates based on the risk perception of the property covered. However, the terms and conditions of the insurance policies for this class of insurance remain unchanged.

Poverty Alleviation Measures by IMF and World Bank

122. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are developing a joint strategy to aid low-income countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help India in reducing the poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Joint World Bank-International Monetary Fund Management Action Plan (JMAP) to enhance World Bank-IMF collaboration was launched after the World Bank Annual Meetings held on October 20-22, 2007. JMAP is designed to improve coordination and enhance communication between the staff of the two institutions so that they can work together effectively.

(c) India is not a borrower from the IMF. There is no intention of approaching the IMF for any loan or credit under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) of the IMF.

Tunnel Between J.N. Stadium and Games Village in East Delhi

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

(a) whether the Delhi Government's Tunnel Road Project to connect NH-24, the Games Village in East Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, is likely to be delayed once again as the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) has raised certain objections;

(b) if so, the objections raised by the DUAC;

(c) the time by which the Tunnel Project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the cost of the project to be escalated on account of delay?

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

(b) The views of DUAC are:-

(i) The arrangement would make Lodhi Road and east-west connector in the City, wherein all traffic destined to NH-24 would pass through Lodhi Road, both from the South, West and North, creating congestion at all intersections on Lodhi Road and thereby demanding more flyovers at these connections.

(ii) The traffic around Race Course/Ashoka Hotel etc. would also be congested attempting to use Lodhi Road to reach NH-24.

(iii) Although flyovers at other intersections may be possible, (though not desirable at the least) but at Safdarjung Tomb, not possible, due to the heritage site.

(iv) Also an underpass is not possible at this location due to the Metro proposed underground. Safdarjung Tomb intersection would remain a bottleneck forever.

(v) The junctions of NH-24 and Ring Road, Pragati Maidan and Ring Road, as well as Mathura Road, Pragati Maidan and Central Vista system and Hexagon need to be strengthened and made part

of the overall proposal. Any proposal for linking NH-24 and Lodhi Road should be seen in the total context of the City and its total and comprehensive impact.

- (vi) The entire environment in the region of Lodhi Road would be degraded due to this proposal.
- (vii) The proposed tunnel being extremely long would be very expensive, and create great security problems.

(c) A time frame for completion of tunnel project cannot be given at this stage in view of the issues involved.

(d) Till the alignment is finalized no cost estimates are prepared and, therefore, an exact assessment of cost escalation on account of delay is also difficult at this stage.

[Translation]

**Increase in Working Days
under NREGS**

124. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made to increase the period of employment to more than 100 days under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to substitute individual in place of family under the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Rajasthan had made a demand for increasing the number of days for which employment is provided under NREGS from 100 days to 200 days for Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara districts in the State. The proposal of the State Government has not been agreed to due to the reason that from the reports furnished by the State for these districts, it was found that all households who had demanded employment during 2006-07 in these districts had not exhausted their legal right of 100 days of employment guaranteed under the Act.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. NREGA envisages enhancement of the livelihood security of rural household by providing

at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Therefore, the basic unit used under NREGA is household and not an individual. Members of the household may, however, avail other available employment opportunities in addition to the 100 days of guaranteed employment per household provided under the Act on demand.

[English]

Plantation in Villages under IAY

125. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial assistance to States for planting trees in settlements/villages covered under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the funds are likely to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Increase in the Expenditure on
Charitable Work by Companies**

126. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several companies have shown 100 percent increase in the expenditure on charitable works;

(b) whether such expenditure is being done in order to cheat the Government and to evade taxes;

(c) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) A company may contribute any amount to charitable and other funds not directly related to its business or the welfare of its employees in accordance with the Companies Act, 1956. Specific data

about expenditure by companies in this regard is not maintained.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

RGGVY

127. SHRI MOHAN JENA:

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial target via-a-vis achievement of the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) under the Rural Electrification Scheme, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the progress of RGGVY is not satisfactory in electrifying all un-electrified villages identified so far in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons thereon;

(d) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government under the Scheme; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The implementing agencies have reported that electrification works have been carried out in 65,627 villages (as on 9th November, 2007) under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) since its launch in April 2005. State-wise and year-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The implementing states so far have availed Rs.6155.91 crore uptill 9th November, 2007 under RGGVY. Year-wise and state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Year-wise targets fixed by Govt. via-a-vis achievements of village electrification under RGGVY are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(b) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), a rural electrification programme launched by Government of India in April, 2005 has so far been progressing on the expected lines. As compared to earlier rural electrification scheme where average rate of electrification has been 3,000 villages per year, under RGGVY 9,819 unelectrified villages were electrified in 2005-06 and 28,706 unelectrified villages were electrified in 2006-07 besides intensive electrification of around 12,000 electrified villages in these two years. In 2007-

08, so far 5162 unelectrified villages have been electrified and 10,063 electrified villages have been intensively electrified. Also, since the introduction of the scheme in April, 2005, 15 lakh electricity connections have been released to Below poverty Line (BPL) households free of charge.

(c) Some of the issues which came up during implementation were:-

- (i) Delay in receipt of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
- (ii) Delay in issue of tenders by state power utilities and State Government Departments due to non-acquaintance with turnkey contracts.
- (iii) Delay in forest clearance.
- (iv) Delay in land acquisition for 33/11KV sub-stations.
- (v) Limited number of good agencies able to execute turnkey jobs.
- (vi) Very high rates quoted by contracting agencies.
- (vii) Shortage of material and increased prices.
- (viii) Delays in the issue of road permit and way bills.
- (ix) Delays in taking over of physical assets created by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CSUs) under RGGVY by state utilities.
- (x) Delays in Panchyat certificates for village electrification as per revised definition.
- (xi) Lack of awareness among villagers for taking new connections.
- (xii) Very poor upstream rural electricity infrastructure in some states.
- (xiii) Authenticated BPL lists not yet prepared by some states or delay in the preparation.
- (xiv) Refusal to waive state and local taxes on materials by some states.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. 611 projects have been received by Rural Electrification Corporation for 570 districts. Projects received state-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-IV. The Government sanctioned 235 projects for implementation in Phase-I of the scheme taking into account the approved outlay of Rs. 5000 crore as capital subsidy for X Plan. Balance projects are proposed to be taken up in XI Plan after the approval of the competent authority.

Statement-I

State-wise & Year-wise no. of villages in which electrification works have been reportedly carried out by implementing agencies under RGGVY

Sl.No.	State	During 2005-06			During 2006-07			During 2007-08 (as on 9-11-2007)			Cumulative (up to 9-11-2007)		
		Electrified (Nos.)	Un- electrified (Nos.)	Total	Electrified (Nos.)	Un- electrified (Nos.)	Total	Electrified (Nos.)	Un- electrified (Nos.)	Total	Electrified (Nos.)	Un- electrified (Nos.)	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5614	0	5614	5,614	0	5,614
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
4	Bihar	0	1600	1600	0	8415	8415	0	1,542	1,542	0	11557	11,557
5	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	31	0	31	31
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
7	Gujarat	0	0	0	625	0	625	31	0	31	656	0	656
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	15	15	0	15
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
10	J&K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
11	Karnataka	350	47	397	8000	0	8000	4,067	0	4067	12437	47	12,484
12	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	15	65	50	15	65
14	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	266	29	295	266	29	295
15	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
20	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
22	Rajasthan	0	230	230	570	765	1335	0	366	366	570	1361	1,931
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	7503	7503	0	16620	16620	0	2,152	2,152	0	26275	26,275
27	Uttaranchal	0	87	87	2332	798	3130	0	219	219	2332	1104	3287
28	West Bengal	0	352	352	0	2108	2108	0	808	808	0	3268	3,268
29	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	G. Total	350	9819	10169	11527	28706	40233	10063	5,162	15225	21,940	43,687	65627

Statement-II**State-wise and Year-wise Amount Disbursed under
RGGVY as on 12-11-2007**

(Rs. In Crore)

Sr.No.	State	Amount Disbursed under RGGVY				Total
		During 2004-05	During 2005-06	During 2006-07	During 2007-08 as on 12-11-2007	
1	Andhra Pradesh			94.35	191.36	285.71
2	Assam			39.22		39.22
3	Bihar	200.24	*181.74	470.14	398.97	1251.09
4	Chhattisgarh		6.50	36.18	12.34	55.02
5	Gujarat			13.36	12.15	25.52
6	Haryana			12.33	12.34	24.67
7	Himachal Pradesh			7.48		7.48
8	Jharkhand		*3.50	285.24	136.47	425.21
9	Jammu and Kashmir			19.59		19.59
10	Karnataka		72.59	87.36	92.58	252.53
11	Kerala			5.13		5.13
12	Madhya Pradesh			104.66	60.08	164.74
13	Maharashtra			10.02		10.02
14	Manipur			13.53		13.53
	Meghalaya				12.73	12.73
15	Nagaland			4.23	0.26	4.49
16	Orissa		*3.50	63.67	52.17	119.34
17	Rajasthan	9.33	47.20	87.19	86.56	230.28
18	Uttar Pradesh	639.96	172.64	1544.41	95.02	2452.03
19	Uttarakhand		59.44	278.28	17.89	355.61
20	West Bengal	114.49	0.93	204.76	26.33	346.51
	Total	964.02	548.04	3381.13	1207.25	#6155.90

*Advance payment to CPSUs.

#includes Rs. 55.46 crore released for BPL HHs Electrification.

The amount amount disbursed during 2004-05 has been adjusted against RGGVY as Rural Electrification Scheme of 2004-05 has been merged with RGGVY.

Statement-III

Year-wise target fixed by Government vis-à-vis achievement for village electrification reported by implementing agencies under RGGVY

S.No.	Year	Target (No. of Villages)	Achievement as on 9-11-2007		
			No. of villages in which RE works carried out		
			Un-electrified	Electrified	Total
1	2005-06	10000	9819	350	10169
2	2006-07	40000	28706	11527	40233
3	2007-08	40000	5162	10063	15225
	G. Total	90000	43687	21940	65627

Statement-IV

State-wise no. of RGGVY DPRs sanctioned, approved in principle and under process

As on 12.11.07

Sr. No.	Name of State	Sanctioned & under execution (Nos.)	Sanctioned but kept on hold (Nos.)	Approved in principle (Nos.)	Under process (Nos.)	Total (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	17	-	5	4	26
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	14	0	16
3	Assam	3	4	8	8	23
4	Bihar	26	3	9	6	44
5	Chhattisgarh	3	2	-	11	16
6	Gujarat	3	6	16	0	25
7	Haryana	4	2	12	0	18
8	Himachal Pradesh	1	-	3	8	12
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3	1	6	4	14
10	Jharkhand	13	-	5	4	22
11	Karnataka	17	9	-	1	27
12	Kerala	1	6	7	0	14
13	Madhya Pradesh	8	8	5	27	48
14	Maharashtra	4	13	-	17	34
15	Manipur	2	1	1	0	4
16	Meghalaya	2	1	-	4	7
17	Mizoram	2	6	-	0	8
18	Nagaland	2	1	2	6	11
19	Orissa	4	2	3	22	31
20	Punjab	-	1	16	0	17
21	Rajasthan	25	2	12	2	41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22	Sikkim	2	2	-	0	4
23	Tamil Nadu	-	16	13	0	29
24	Tripura	1	-	1	2	4
25	Uttar Pradesh	64	-	2	5	71
26	Uttaranchal	13	-	-	0	13
27	West Bengal	13	-	-	19	32
Total		235	86	140	150	611

Source: REC

Losses of SEBs

128. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of State Electricity Boards are facing financial crisis in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds to such SEBs to improve their financial health during 2007-08;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some foreign financial institutions have also provided assistance to some of the State-Electricity Boards during 2006-07 and 2007-08; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The State power utilities are regulated by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. As per Planning Commission Annual Report (2001-02) "On The Working of State Electricity Boards & Electricity Departments" the commercial losses (without subsidy) of the SEBs had increased from Rs.4560 crores in year 1992-1993 to Rs.25,259 crores during

2000-01. After the year 2001-02, the Power Finance Corporation (PFC), which lends funds to State power utilities also, has started bringing out an annual compilation on the results of financial performance of these utilities. The latest report of PFC shows that the ever increasing trend of commercial losses of power utilities has been arrested. The commercial losses (without subsidies) in State Power Utilities, which had increased from 19,107 crores during 2003-04 to Rs. 23,88 crores during 2004-05, have reduced to Rs.19,546 crores in 2005-06. State-wise details of profits/losses of State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Power Utilities for the year 2005-06 as compiled by Power Finance Corporation are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in the year 2002-03 for assisting States in investment in strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution systems for reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising through cash grants for reduction of cash losses by State Power Utilities. It is being proposed to continue APDRP during the Xith Plan.

(e) and (f) Details of assistance provided to SEBs/Power Utilities by International Funding agencies during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Sept, 2007) are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Profit/losses (without Subsidy) of State Power Utilities during 2005-06

(Rs. in Crores)

Region	State	Utility	Year 2005-06
1	2	3	4
Eastern	Bihar	BSEB	(1,515)
	Jharkhand	JSEB	(507)

1	2	3	4
	Orissa	CESCO	(84)
		GRIDCO	26
		NESCO	(2)
		OHPC	(24)
		OPGCL	148
		SESCO	(29)
		WESCO	(8)
		OPTCL	(0)
	Sikkim	Sikkim PD	(6)
	West Bengal	WBPDC	23
		WBSEB	(257)
Eastern Total			(2,236)
North Eastern	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal PD	(90)
	Assam	ASEB	(111)
		APGCL	(51)
		AEGCL	(1)
		CAEDCL	(24)
		LAEDCL	(27)
		UAEDCL	(42)
	Manipur	Manipur PD	(226)
	Meghalaya	MeSEB	(52)
	Mizoram	Mizoram PD	(33)
	Nagaland	Nagaland PD	(98)
	Tripura	Tripura PD	(8)
North Eastern Total			(764)
Northern	Delhi	BSES Rajdhani	89
		BSES Yamuna	46
		Delhi Transco	94
		Indraprastha	(49)
		NDPL	113
		Pragati	48
	Haryana	DHBVNL	(466)

1	2	3	4	
		HPGCL	9	
		HVPNL	(110)	
		UHBVNL	(1,121)	
	Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	(56)	
	Jammu & Kashmir	J&K PDCL	26	
		J&K PDD	(1,375)	
	Punjab	PSEB	(1,402)	
	Rajasthan	AVVNL	(618)	
		JDVVNL	(671)	
		JVVNL	(340)	
		RRVNL	(3)	
		RRVUNL	(19)	
	Uttar Pradesh	DVVN	(840)	
		MVVN	(671)	
		Pash VVN	(599)	
		Poorv VVN	(1,357)	
		UPJVNL	(42)	
		UPPCL	(149)	
		UPRVUNL	(293)	
	Uttaranchal	UJVNL	(2)	
		Ut PCL	(215)	
		Ut Transco	(20)	
	Northern Total		(9,993)	
	Southern	Andhra Pradesh	AP Genco	63
			AP Transco	138
			APCPDCL	(235)
			APEPDCL	(12)
			APNPDCL	(634)
			APSPDCL	(561)
	Karnataka	BESCOM	51	
		GESCOM	(387)	
		HESCOM	(637)	

1	2	3	4
		KPCL	252
		KPTCL	(264)
		MESCOM	11
		VVNL	7
		CHESCOM	(174)
	Kerala	KSEB	(43)
	Pondicherry	Pondicherry PCL	9
		Pondicherry PD	30
	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	(2,535)
Southern Total			(4,921)
Western	Chhattisgarh	CSEB	414
	Goa	Goa PD	144
	Gujarat	GEB	
		GSECL	70
		DGVCL	(64)
		MGVCL	(84)
		PGVCL	(401)
		UGVCL	(575)
		GETCO	(14)
	Madhya Pradesh	MPSEB	84
		MPPGCL	5
		MPPTCL	(5)
		MP Madhya Kshetra VVCL	(395)
		MP Paschim Kshetra VVCL	(321)
		MP Purv Kshetra VVCL	(319)
	Maharashtra	MSEB	(291)
		MSEDCL	(304)
		MSPGCL	113
		MSPTCL	311
Western Total			(1,632)
Grand Total			(19,546)

Source: Power Finance Corporation (report on "Performance of State Power Utilities for the Years 2003-04 to 2005-06").
 Figures in () indicate loss.

List of Abbreviations

AEGCL	=	Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Ltd.	GETCO	=	Gujarat Electricity Transmission Corporation Ltd.
APCPDCL	=	Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company Ltd.	HPGCL	=	Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd.
APEPDCL	=	Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd.	HESCOM	=	Hubli Electricity Supply Company Ltd.
APGCL	=	Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	HPSEB	=	Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board
APNPDCL	=	Andhra Pradesh Northern Power Distribution Company Ltd.	HVPNL	=	Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.
APSPDCL	=	Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd.	IPCL	=	Indraprastha Power Corporation Limited
APTRANSCO	=	Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation Ltd.	JDVVNL	=	Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.
AVVNL	=	Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	JSEB	=	Jharkhand State Electricity Board
ASEB	=	Assam State Electricity Board	JVVNL	=	Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.
APGENCO	=	Andhra Pradesh Generation Corporation Ltd.	J&K PDD	=	Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department
BESCOM	=	Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd.	J&K PDCL	=	Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Ltd.
BSEB	=	Bihar State Electricity Board	KPCL	=	Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.
CESCO	=	Central Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd.	KPTCL	=	Karnataka Power Transmission Company Ltd.
CHESCOM	=	Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd.	KSEB	=	Kerala State Electricity Board
CPSU	=	Central Public Sector undertaking	LAEDCL	=	Lower Assam Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.
CSEB	=	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	MESCOM	=	Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd.
CAEDCL	=	Central Assam Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.	MGVCL	=	Madhya Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
DGVCL	=	Dakshin Gujarat Vlj. Co. Ltd.	MPSEB	=	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board
DHBVNL	=	Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.	MPPGCL	=	Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Co. Ltd.
DVVNL	=	Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	MPPTCL	=	Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Co. Ltd.
ED/PD	=	Electricity Department/Power Department	MP Madhya Kshetra VVCL	=	MP Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd.
GSECL	=	Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd.	MP Paschim Kshetra VVCL	=	MP Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd.
GESCOM	=	Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd.	MP Purv Kshetra VVCL	=	MP Purv Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd.
GRIDCO	=	Grid Corporation Orissa Ltd.			
GEB	=	Gujarat Electricity Board			

MSEB	=	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	RRVNL	=	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.
MSEDCL	=	Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.	SESCO	=	Southern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd.
MSPGCL	=	Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.	TNEB	=	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board
MSPTCL	=	Maharashtra State Power Transmission Co. Ltd.	UAEDCL	=	Upper Assam Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd.
MeSEB	=	Meghalaya State Electricity Board	UGVCL	=	Uttar Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
MVVNL	=	Madhyanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	UHBVNL	=	Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.
NDPL	=	North Delhi Power Limited	UJVNL	=	Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited
NESCO	=	Northern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd.	UPRVUNL	=	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
OHPC	=	Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Ltd.	UPJVNL	=	Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.
OPGCL	=	Orissa Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	UPPCL	=	Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.
OPTCL	=	Orissa Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.	UP	=	Uttar Pradesh
PGVCL	=	Paschim Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.	Ut. PCCL	=	Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd.
PPCL	=	Pragati Power Corporation Limited	Ut. Transco	=	Uttaranchal Transmission Co. Ltd.
PSEB	=	Punjab State Electricity Board	VVNL	=	Visvesvaraya Vidyuth Nigam Limited
Poorv VVNL	=	Poorvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	WBPDCCL	=	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.
Pash VVNL	=	Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.	WBSEB	=	West Bengal State Electricity Board
RRVUNL	=	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	WESCO	=	Western Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd.

Statement-III

The details of assistance provided to SEBs / Power Utilities of the various States by International Funding agencies during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Sept, 2007)

Sl. No.	SEB/State Power Utilities	Name of the Agency	Name of the Project(s)	Foreign Financial Assistance (Rs. Crores)	
				2006-07	2007-08 (Upto 30.9.2007)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation	Simhadri & Vizag Transmission System Project-II	4.96	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Assam	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Assam Power Development Project	75.56	93.51
3.	Gujarat	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Gujarat Power Sector Development Project	17.46	0
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Development Project	151.41	27.01
5.	Meghalaya	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation	R&M of Umiam Stage-II	2.13	2.28
6.	Rajasthan	World Bank	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	121.80	0
7.	West Bengal	Japanese Bank for International Cooperation	Purulia Pumped Storage Project (II) & (III), West Bengal Power Transmission Project, Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Units 4 & 5	730.42	183.95

**Welfare Measures for
LIC Agents**

129. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to ensure Social security to more than 10 lakh self-employed LIC agents;

(b) whether attention has also been drawn to introduce pension and welfare fund to the LIC agents;

(c) whether the Government is considering passing a bill to cover LIC agents under CPF as was covered under PF from 1956 to 1958;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it provides social security to its agents through schemes like Graded Group Insurance Coverage and Mediclaim Policy for its Club Members agents.

(b) LIC has reported that pension is not payable to its agents as there is no provision under the Insurance Act, 1938 or under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Regulations. Further, there is no welfare fund for any class of employees of the Corporation.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. LIC has reported that provident Fund is not payable to its agents as agents are not employees of the Corporation and the Provident Fund Act, 1925 applies only to salaried employees.

Fake Currency

130. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the circulation of fake currency is directly affecting the Economy of the country;

(b) if so, the amount of fake currency seized by RBI and other banks in the last one year;

(c) whether the steps taken by the Government to prevent circulation of fake currency in the country is not sufficient;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the latest strong measures proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the circulation of fake currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has informed that the Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) detected through banking channels, in comparison to the notes in circulation, is miniscule. Against 33,823 million pieces of currency notes in circulation as on 31st March, 2007, the number of FICN detected through banking channels was only 1,04,743 pieces.

(c) to (e) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes to make counterfeiting very difficult. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Latest measures taken by RBI are as under:

- (i) Process has been initiated to identify bank branches handling more volumes of cash across the country and also in the vicinity of international borders for installation of Note Sorting Machines.
- (ii) Dissemination of information to the public.
- (iii) Stepping up of training in detection of counterfeit notes for banks/other agencies.

Changes in Company Law

131. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce any changes in the Company Law simplifying various procedures for corporate governance and strengthening of small and medium enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Government had taken up an exercise for comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, 1956 keeping in view the requirements of different kinds of companies including Small and Private Companies and for laying down a structure for corporate governance of companies that would provide greater flexibility and freedom of operation while enabling accountability, protection of interests of the stakeholders concerned and compliance at a reasonable cost. A draft Companies Bill containing proposals for revised company law is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament for its consideration shortly.

Visit of World Bank Chief to India

132. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discussed some issues/Projects with World Bank Chief who visited India recently;

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

(c) the outcome of the discussions alongwith the details of new projects for which the World Bank is agreed for funding, state-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has also signed three loan agreements during his visit on 2nd November, 2007 amounting to a total of \$ 944 million. The three projects are:-

(1) Strengthening of Rural Credit Cooperatives Project involving an IBRD assistance of \$ 300 million and IDA assistance equivalent of \$ 300 million.

(2) Vocational Training Improvement Project involving an IBRD assistance of \$ 280 million, and

(3) Additional financing amounting to \$ 64 million for the Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project.

As per the norms of the World Bank, the projects are declared effective within a period of three months from the date of the signing of the project agreements.

[Translation]

Special Central Assistance to Chhattisgarh

133. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various State Governments particularly Chhattisgarh have demanded special central assistance for the construction of Ashrams, boys and girls hostels and for providing, post-matric scholarships for the development of the capabilities of tribal students and to open residential schools;

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

(c) the funds likely to be made available for these activities during the year 2007-08, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There is no provision for release of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP) to the State Governments for construction of Ashram Schools, boys'/ girls' hostels and post-matric scholarships. However, this Ministry releases grants to the States for these activities under the respective schemes. The receipt of proposals from State Governments including Chhattisgarh for release of grants-in-aid under the schemes of construction of Ashram School in TSP Areas, boys and girls hostels and Post Matric Scholarship is a continuous process. The grant-in-aid is released only if the proposals are complete in all respects including availability of land free of cost, confirmation about availability of matching share in the State budget, Utilization Certificate for grants released in previous years and physical progress reports in respect of proposals sanctioned in previous years and the availability of funds. The details of proposals received from State Government of Chhattisgarh during the current year are as under:

S.No.	Name of scheme	Details of proposal
1.	Establishment of Ashram School in TSP Areas	Proposal for release of Rs. 114.48 lakh for construction of 5 Ashram Schools.
2.	Boys/Girls Hostel	Proposal for release of Rs. 164.64 lakh for construction of 10 hostels.
3.	Post Matric Scholarship	Proposal for release of Rs. 216.11 lakh as central share. Rs. 130.24 lakh has already been released as ad-hoc grant during the current year and Rs. 81.88 lakh is lying as excess grant with the State Government.

(c) There is no provision in the schemes for State-wise allocation of funds.

Allocation of Additional Fund from IAY in Flood Affected Areas

134. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests for allocation of additional funds under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) for the flood affected areas from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) As per Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) guidelines, 5% of the total allocated funds under IAY are kept apart to meet the exigencies arising out of natural calamities such as floods, fire, etc. Requests in this regard are required to be received from the concerned State Government along with requisite information/documents such as nature and period of calamity, list of persons whose houses have been damaged due to that calamity and the State Government's commitment to release State matching share immediately after release of Central share. In addition, during the year 2004-05, additional funds were released to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal for construction of houses damaged due to natural calamities. A Statement showing the name of the State and additional funds allocated/ released during the last three years for construction of houses damaged due to natural calamities, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise additional central allocation/releases for natural calamities under Indira Awaas Yojana during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the States /UTs	Rs. in lakhs		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	112.490	210.750	150.000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	149.340		37.500
3	Assam	412.500		18.750

1	2	3	4	5
4	Bihar	40375.000	18.750	18.750
5	Chhattisgarh	151.090	4.500	
6	Gujarat	225.540	168.750	
7	Haryana	18.750		
8	Himachal Pradesh	4.125		
9	Karnataka			112.500
10	Kerala	4.500		
11	Madhya Pradesh	56.890	150.000	62.250
12	Maharashtra			454.234
13	Nagaland		18.670	
14	Orissa	309.600		25.575
15	Rajasthan	18.750		225.000
16	Tamil Nadu	543.750		
17	Uttar Pradesh	216.465	56.250	55.313
18	Uttaranchal	171.720		
Total		42770.510	627 670	1159.872

[English]

Opening of New Agricultural Accounts

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

(a) the total number of New Agricultural Accounts opened by the Public Sector Banks during the last three years as against the targets set by RBI/NABARD, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for disbursement of agricultural loans to farmers, during the last three years and the achievements made therein, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to further reduce the interest rates to agricultural/crop loans to farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the Farm Credit Package announced by the Government on 18.06.2006, 50 lakh new farmers were to be financed each year by Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks during the next three years. The number of

new farmers accounts opened by the Public Sector Commercial Banks during the year 2004-05; 2005-06 and 2006-07 were 45.50 lakhs; 42.55 lakhs and 44.52 lakhs respectively. No targets were fixed State-wise for opening such accounts.

(b) The targets fixed for Credit Flow during the last three years i.e. 2004-05; 2005-06 and 2006-07 were Rs. 104500 crore; Rs. 141000 crore and Rs. 175000 crore respectively. The disbursement during 2003-04; 2004-05; 2005-06 and 2006-07 were Rs.86981 crore; Rs. 125309 crore; Rs. 180485 crore and Rs. 203296 crore respectively. Three years State-wise details for disbursement of loans is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to ensure that farmers receive Short Term Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakh on the principal amount since 2006-07. Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks are being provided interest subvention on their own involvement of funds @ 2%. The Government is also providing interest subvention to NABARD and concessional refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for the purpose. Further, there is no proposal to lower this rate of interest.

Statement

State-wise Ground Level Credit (GLC) disbursements under agriculture and allied activities

(Rs. Lakh)

Sr. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4	5
1	Chandigarh	37245	90803	162231
2	New Delhi	242367	388227	1307623
3	Haryana	628620	864028	1084743
4	Himachal Pradesh	38232	61581	95482
5	Jammu and Kashmir	6619	11184	90545
6	Punjab	914790	1279416	1547980
7	Rajasthan	313996	517225	756234
Northern Region		2181869	3212464	5044838
8	Arunachal Pradesh	390	1257	1337
9	Assam	19129	26724	66332
10	Manipur	580	1923	5766

1	2	3	4	5
11	Meghalaya	5184	2474	5657
12	Mizoram	544	2019	2432
13	Nagaland	742	1978	2402
14	Tripura	3000	3817	8476
15	Sikkim	425	541	1169
	North Eastern Region	29994	40733	93571
16	Bihar	142172	181726	212458
17	Jharkhand	21461	40739	50588
18	Orissa	127778	198549	312919
19	West Bengal	212944	302168	644134
20	Andaman & Nicobar	385	587	1528
	Eastern Region	504740	723769	1221627
21	Madhya Pradesh	342935	529344	690396
22	Chhattisgarh	52377	78740	123321
23	Uttar Pradesh	810833	1042864	1405866
24	Uttaranchal	42589	63232	93782
	Central Region	1248734	1714180	2313365
25	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	76	158
26	Daman & Diu	0	5	40
27	Gujarat	479822	660930	1110647
28	Goa	3938	8008	13134
29	Maharashtra	528487	742083	1493814
	Western Region	1012247	1411102	2617793
30	Andhra Pradesh	1001424	1349050	2050124
31	Karnataka	532600	728127	1291353
32	Kerala	377502	571229	1032413
33	Lakshadweep	78	62	115
34	Pondicherry	6970	12716	23521
35	Tamil Nadu	695166	1020670	1948810
	Southern Region	2613740	3681854	6346336
	Others	1106755	1746835	411027
	Total	8698079	12530937	18048557

[Translation]

**Application of S & T to Improve
Living Standard**

136. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any mechanism for the application of Science and Technology to improve the living standards of people, particularly weaker and women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the societal programme of the Government of India through Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Rural Development fund science and technology based demonstration projects which aim at reaching technology to the weaker sections of the society including women. The objectives of these schemes include sponsoring time – bound projects which can demonstrate the application of science & technology in improving the living conditions of weaker sections including women by reducing drudgery, improving health and environment and by providing opportunities for income generation, thus helping the process of economic development with equity and social justice. These projects are implemented by NGOs, educational institutions and R&D institutions with the help of motivated scientists, technologists and field level workers.

New IT Law

137. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARAIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken action on the recommendations of the expert group on Income Tax laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The exercise for drafting of a revised and simplified Income-tax Law is in progress. The Bill for the new Income-tax Law will be introduced in the Parliament as soon as this exercise is completed.

[English]

Exemption of State Maritime Board from IT Act

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is considering to exempt income-tax from the State Maritime Board; and
(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No proposal to specifically exempt State Maritime Boards from income-tax is under consideration. However, any entity, including a State Maritime Board, working for the advancement of an object of general public utility with no profit motive, is eligible for exemption under sections 11 and 12 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, subject to the fulfilment of the conditions laid down therein.

Short Stay Homes Scheme for Women

139. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether targets for providing short-stay homes have been achieved during the last five years;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Central Social Welfare Board has reported that the targets for providing Short Stay Homes have been achieved with the following number of homes funded by it in the last five years:

Sl.No.	Year	Number of SSH
1	2002-2003	354
2	2003-2004	341
3	2004-2005	342
4	2005-2006	339
5	2006-2007	352

- (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Opium Policy

140. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has announced the new opium policy;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has received representation against the above policy;
(d) if so, the details thereof;
(e) the action taken by the Government thereon;
(f) whether the number of opium growing farmers have declined due to the policy; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Annual General Licensing Conditions for grant of licence (commonly called the Opium Policy) was notified vide Notification No. GSR. 590(E) dated 13.9.2007. It prescribes conditions for grant of licence for cultivation of opium poppy on account of Central Government during the Opium Crop Year commencing on the 1st day of October, 2007 and ending with the 30th day of September, 2008.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Representations have been received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament, other VIPs, cultivators and their representatives against the above said General Conditions. These representations covered issues such as requests for lowering the minimum qualifying yield (MQY), issuing licences to such cultivators whose opium has been declared as inferior, issuing licenses to cultivators who tendered water – mixed opium below 55 degrees consistence, issuing licences in villages where the number of eligible cultivators are 5 or less, and issuing licenses for 20 Ares instead of 10 Ares to all the cultivators.

The policy has been finalized for the year. The General conditions are finalized after considering all the aspects such as total requirement of opium in India both to meet the domestic and international demand, current stocks of opium held by the Govt. Opium and Alkaloid Works (GOAWs), as well as keeping in view the imperative need to control diversion of opium produce in to the illicit channels. The policy has been finalized after proper examination and analysis of data for the previous crop year. The MQY has already been kept lower than what was indicated in the previous year's policy as forewarning. In order to curb the tendency to mix water, the clause on consistence is required and in order to

consolidate cultivation and improve control, licences cannot be issued in villages with less than five eligible cultivators. The area per cultivator has been decided considering the demand and supply situation.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The cultivators who have not fulfilled the conditions prescribed in the General Conditions (Policy) for issue of licence, for the crop year 2007-08, were not be issued licences for cultivation of opium poppy.

The number of farmers who were issued licences during the past three crop years is as follows:

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Madhya Pradesh	36,352	34,151	28,283
Rajasthan	34,909	28,233	18,261
Uttar Pradesh	1,217	274	50
Total	72,478	62,658	46,594

Utilisation of Loans by States

141. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding misuse of the loans by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Confiscated Goods

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

(a) the quantity and value of gold, silver and other foreign goods which have been confiscated during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons found guilty in each case;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in these cases; and

(d) the manner in which the confiscated goods are being disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The

information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Obstruction in Delhi Metro Rail Work

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

(a) whether some stretches of the ongoing construction of Delhi Metro is running into trouble with Conservationists as a result of the existence of heritage sites in its routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to solve the issues amicably and to protect the heritage sites;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Strikes in PSBs

144. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes reported in the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) during the last one year;

(b) the effect of these strikes on the business of the banking sector alongwith the quantum of losses suffered by the banks thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the public sector banks at par with the private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to the Indian Banks' Association, the employees of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) went on strike only once during the period from November 2006 to October 2007.

(b) Losses, if any, suffered by Banks on account of nation-wide strike in the banking industry cannot be estimated. The business community dealing with the Banks gets adversely affected by the strike, as any such strike has an immediate impact on the functioning of Clearing Houses.

(c) PSBs have since been granted total managerial and operational autonomy in their day to day functioning to compete with the best of the private/foreign banks.

Relocation of Anganwadi Centres

145. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Anganwadi Centres are to be relocated as per revised population norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Karnataka Government to relocate Anganwadi Centres as per revised population norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the revised population norms are as under:

Anganwadi Centres For Rural/Urban Projects

Population

400-800 - 1 AWC

800-1600 - 2 AWCs

1600-2400 - 3 AWCs

Thereafter in Multiples of 800-1AWC

For Mini-AWC

150-400 - 1 Mini-AWC

For Tribal/Riverine/Desert, Hilly and other difficult areas/Projects

300-800 - 1 AWC

For Mini-AWC

150-300 - 1 Mini-AWC

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A requirement of 5786 AWCs and 2926 Mini-AWCs has been received from the State of Karnataka. This has been included in the composite proposal for expansion of ICDS Scheme.

Status of Commonwealth Games Projects

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

(a) the project-wise deadline for completion of works for the Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) whether the projects are setting delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Coordination Committee is supervising the work at regular intervals and is aware of such delay;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The project-wise deadline for completion of sports infrastructure works for the Commonwealth Games is as given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) to (f) An Infrastructure Coordination Committee, headed by the Chairman, Organizing Committee, Commonwealth Games, reviews the work regularly. A web based monitoring system of all the projects has also been set up by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has informed that all projects are expected to be completed as per target dates.

Statement

Completion Dates of the Projects Related to Competition Venues of Commonwealth Games 2010.

Sl. No.	Project	Target dated for completion
1	2	3
	A. Delhi Development Authority	
1.	Games Village	
	a) Residential	1.3.2010
	b) Practice Venue	1.5.2010
	c) Temporary Overlay	1.5.2010

1	2	3
2.	Siri Fort Sports Complex (Badminton & Squash)	31.12.2009
3.	Yamuna Sports Complex	
	a) Table Tennis	31.12.2009
	b) Archery	15.12.2009
	B. Sports Authority of India/Central Public Works Department	
1.	JN Stadium	
	a) Main Stadium	15.11.2009
	b) Wada Admn. Block	21.9.2008
	c) Hostels	31.8.2009
	d) Weight Lifting Hall	15.11.2009
2.	Maj. Dhyan Chand National Stadium	30.9.2009
3.	IG Stadium	
	a) Wrestling Hall	31.10.2009
	b) Gymnastics Hall	31.10.2009
	c) Cycling Velodrome	30.10.2009
4.	Dr. Kami Singh Shooting Range	31.3.2009
5.	SPM Swimming Pool Complex	31.10.2009
	C. Government of NCT of Delhi	
1.	Thyagaraj Sports Complex	19.9.2008
	D. New Delhi Municipal Council	
1.	Talkatora Indoor Stadium	30.11.2009
	E. Delhi University	
1.	Main Ground Rugby 7s	15.11.2009
	F. All India Tennis Association	
1.	RK Khanna Tennis Complex	31.12.2009

**Rehabilitation of People Displaced
by Power Projects**

147. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to bring more continuity in the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) initiatives for people affected by power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the families residing near the power projects are facing various health problems due to exposure of power generation fumes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government of India has recently notified the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 on 31st October, 2007. The main objectives of the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 are as under:

(i) to ensure adequate rehabilitation package and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the affected families;

- (ii) to ensure that special care is taken for protecting the rights of the weaker sections of society, especially members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to create obligations on the State for their treatment with concern and sensitivity;
- (iii) to provide a better standard of living, making concerted efforts for providing sustainable income to the affected families;
- (iv) to integrate rehabilitation concerns into the development planning and implementation process; and
- (v) where displacement is on account of land acquisition, to facilitate harmonious relationship between the requiring body and affected families through mutual cooperation.

(c) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Limited) have informed that no such incidence of health problems due to exposure of emissions (fumes) from any of their power generating stations have been reported by any family residing near the NTPC Power Stations. Moreover, the emission levels from the thermal power generating stations are monitored and maintained within the prescribed limits by the respective Central/State Pollution Control Board as per the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Extension of NREGS

148. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the National Rural employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) all over the country;
- (b) if so, whether ground work to extend the scheme has been completed;
- (c) the fund earmarked for the purpose;
- (d) the number of additional families likely to be covered in NREGS;
- (e) whether any suggestion/request has come from States in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has decided to extend NREGS to all the remaining rural districts in the country, including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008. A notification to this effect was issued on 28.9.2007. Funds for preparatory arrangements for new districts like IEC, printing and procurement of statutory documents, training of officials and non-officials and preparation of perspective plans have been released to the States.

(c) NREGA is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. A National Employment Guarantee Fund has been established for providing funds to the States for implementation of the Act. For the current financial year, a budget provision of Rs.12,000 crores was made for implementation of the Act. Provisions are made in the budget for implementation of the Act on the basis of funds utilized by the States and also on the basis of demand for work in the previous year.

(d) NREGA is demand driven. Adult members of any rural household may apply for employment under the Act subject to an over-all ceiling of 100 days of employment in a financial year per household. Therefore, no targets can be fixed for providing employment under the Act.

(e) and (f) Suggestions/requests had been received from various States for coverage of selected districts under NREGA. However, Government has decided to extend NREGA to all the remaining rural districts in the country including Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.

[Translation]

Outflow of Funds from the Country

149. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has maintained data regarding outflow of funds from the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years?

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

(b) Details regarding outflow of funds during the last three years from India are as under:-

(US \$ Million)

Sl. No.	Year	Current Account outflow	Capital Account outflow	Total outflow
1.	2004-05	157,209	70,517	227,726
2.	2005-06*	206,632	118,353	324,985
3.	2006-07#	255,862	182,457	438,319

* Partially Revised

Preliminary

[English]

Deployment of Personnel in SEZ

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to deployment of personnel from Customs Department in SEZs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average number of customs personnel required in SEZs and the existing number of custom personnel deputed at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to address the issue in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The norms regarding requirement of staff for SEZs including the customs staff have been finalized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which is the nodal Ministry for SEZs, in consultation with Ministry of Finance. As and when new SEZs are notified, additional posts are being sanctioned as per the norms. Recently, sanction of 662 posts (including 392 customs posts) has been issued for 63 new SEZs.

(c) As per the approved norms, 6 customs posts are sanctioned for each single-product SEZ and 13 customs posts are sanctioned for each multi-product SEZ. The data regarding existing number of customs personnel deputed to SEZs is under collection.

(d) Customs staff for SEZs is provided as per the requirement indicated by Ministry of Commerce and Industry from time to time.

Study regarding Utilisation of Funds under Rural Development Schemes

151. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Government has indicated that crores of rupees allocated under various Rural Development Schemes do not reach to the targeted beneficiaries in the villages;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise, and Scheme-wise;

(c) the details of the States that have not fully utilized the funds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the funds are utilized fully by the States and the same are accorded priority?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The studies conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development has not found that crores of rupees allocated under various rural development schemes do not reach to the targeted beneficiaries in the villages. According to the financial progress report received from the State Governments and Union Territories, the utilisation at national level in respect of major rural development programmes was 80.78% of the available funds during the year 2006-07.

(c) State-wise funds available and utilized under various rural development programmes during the year 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation of the Programmes including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, National Level Monitors, District Level Monitoring and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Level. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness, (ii) transparency, (iii) people's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels. These measures are to help in maximum utilization of funds under the rural development schemes.

Statement

Financial progress of various Rural Development programmes with respect to available funds during 2006-07

Year: 2006-07

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
State/UTs	Total Available Funds	Utilisation of Funds
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	231174.39	173634.32
Arunachal Pradesh	24473.25	13405.34
Assam	237070.10	208263.93
Bihar	471281.70	295252.75
Chhattisgarh	183616.78	153944.16
Goa	1133.00	927.00
Gujarat	75867.74	59662.03
Haryana	47693.85	35048.67
Himachal Pradesh	41615.20	43045.12
Jammu & Kashmir	52179.40	26484.44
Jharkhand	136643.95	102439.13
Karnataka	120839.36	104496.70
Kerala	39271.18	31265.73
Madhya Pradesh	404486.36	340445.63
Maharashtra	183274.66	140298.18
Manipur	11179.59	8149.50
Meghalaya	13267.63	10146.85
Mizoram	11773.21	8170.11
Nagaland	9198.96	8686.62
Orissa	219909.66	182551.62
Punjab	30036.21	24493.21
Rajasthan	299865.30	276250.14
Sikkim	7506.50	6671.89
Tamil Nadu	100287.92	90120.83
Tripura	29897.63	20653.68

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	356911.22	321871.46
Uttarakhand	33141.31	28059.70
West Bengal	169428.42	151069.63
A & N Island	3882.00	38.00
D & N Haveli	65.00	41.00
Daman & Diu	131.00	4.00
Delhi	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	254.00	61.00
Puducherry	689.00	419.00
Total	3548047.48	2866071.17

The above Statement is based on progress reports of the major schemes namely, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme (ARWSP), District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Admn, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

[Translation]

Proposal From UP

152. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of cities of Uttar Pradesh for which proposals have been received by the Union Government for providing housing to the poor, the slum dwellers as well as for urban housing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) A list of cities of Uttar Pradesh from which project proposals have been received under the Sub-mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 8 Projects from Allahabad, Lucknow, Mathura, Meerut and Kanpur under BSUP and 8 Projects from Atalgarh, Nehtaur, Ghaziabad, Dadri, Dankaur, Babupura, Raebareilly and Ujhani under IHSDP have been approved by the Sanctioning Committee at the Central level. Projects for other cities have been returned to the

Appraising Agency/State Nodal Agency, as the same were not in accordance with Scheme Guidelines.

Statement

Cities in Uttar Pradesh from which Proposals have been Received Under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

Basic Services to the Urban Poor

1. Agra
2. Allahabad
3. Kanpur
4. Lucknow
5. Mathura
6. Meerut
7. Varanasi

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme

1. Bijnor
2. Karnawal
3. Burhana
4. Raebareilly
5. Karondia
6. Katra & Badaria
7. Jaswantnagar Rail Mandi
8. Dalsinagar
9. Maharajgunj
10. Sambhal
11. Moradabad
12. Parkshitgarh
13. Dankaur
14. Rabpura
15. Ghatampur
16. Ujhani
17. Pala Sahbad
18. Rulawat Nawaria
19. Mohammadabad
20. Kamaal Ganj
21. Sirsa (Allahabad)

22. Baghpat
23. Jamalpur
24. Manjanpur
25. Kanauj
26. M.G. Nagar Bilhaur
27. Jalaun
28. Kidwai Nagar, Bilhaur
29. Maraiyya Shivnarain
30. Koran
31. Bharath Ganj
32. Jagannathpuri, Shivpuri
33. Rahatpura
34. Munni Ka Adda
35. Bharthan
36. Brijraj Nagar
37. Sant Ravi Das Nagar
38. Pakri Tola
39. Mandawar
40. Naibabad
41. Nehtaru, Chappagran
42. Nagina
43. Afzalgarh
44. Harijan Tola
45. Bhaffaki Tola
46. Chisahia
47. Rudayan
48. Datganj
49. Gaziabad
50. Dadri
51. Bilariya Ganj
52. Etawah
53. Chhata
54. Gokul
55. Raya
56. Nandgaon

1	2	3	4	5
		Dibrugarh	-do-	
		Mokokchung	Nagaland	
		Kohima	-do	
		Imphal	Manipur	
		Pashighat	Arunachal Pradesh	

8 GSI is conducting filed surveys jointly with IMD for generation of geological maps at 1:10,000 scale for a project on Seismic Hazard Microzonation of NCT Delhi.

Prediction of Monsoon

154. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy rains have lashed coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, whether the Government had predicted them;

(c) whether some predictions in the past have gone wrong; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir, Heavy rain had occurred over the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the period 27-31 October 2007.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Short term (upto 72 hours) and medium range (up to 120hrs) weather predictions have improved recently due to the implementation advanced global and meso-scale analysis-forecast systems during the monsoon season of 2007. These heavy rains were forecasted correctly and information was provided to all concerned.

However, an effort for continuous improvement of weather forecasting services is the high priority activity for the IMD. As part of modernization programme of IMD, it is proposed to upgrade the observational and forecasting systems during the XI Plan.

Modernisation of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology

155. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize and expand the infrastructure of the Sree

Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technologies at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for implementation of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposal relating to modernization and expansion of infrastructure of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology at Trivandrum include:

(i) Hostel Wing

(ii) Research Facilities

(iii) Technical Wing

(iv) Setting up of Testing and Certification Lab for Bio-medical implants and devices and other activities of the Institute.

(c) The amount shall be provided by the Government of India based on the actual needs of the Institute.

Pre and Post Litigation Disputes Settlement Centre

156. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-litigation and post-litigation disputes settlement Centers have been set up by the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the detail of pre and post litigation settled by the above authority during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being

collected from all States Legal Service Authorities in the country. The information will be laid on the Table of the House as and when the same is received.

**Implementation of Hameed
Committee Report on CAPART**

157. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted Hameed Committee on the reorganization of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

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

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the progress made by the Government in implementation of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Planning Commission had, in September 2005, constituted an Expert Committee on "Reforming CAPART/NGO-GO Interface", under the Chairmanship of Dr. (Ms.) Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has given various recommendations bearing on Mandate of CAPART; Financial Assistance to CAPART; Restructuring of CAPART; Recruitment of Director General of CAPART, Deputy Director Generals of CAPART; CAPART staff at Headquarters and Regional Committees; Transparency and Accountability; Guidelines & Procedures; Monitoring and Evaluation; Programmes to be supported by CAPART, etc.

(d) Ministry of Rural Development has reviewed the recommendations of the Committee in consultation with the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). Directions as considered necessary have been issued to CAPART to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

Faith of people in Judiciary

158. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that people have started taking law into their hands as they feel justice will not so done due to delay in judicial proceedings;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in bringing faith of people in judiciary by timely disposed of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to ensure speedy and inexpensive justice to the people including establishment of Fast Track Courts, computerization of judiciary and providing legal aid to the indigent litigants. The strength of Judges in the High Courts has been reviewed from time to time and in a recent triennial review, the Government has agreed to increase the strength of Judges of the High Courts by 152. Judicial reforms is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Auction of MIG and HIG Flats by DDA

159. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to auction MIG and HIG flats constructed by the Delhi Development Authority instead of allotting them in draw of lots;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to lead to a rise in the prices of flats;

(d) whether Delhi Development Authority is acting against the principles for which this organization was set up and it is providing housing to rich people instead of providing housing to the poor people; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Government vide letter dated 30th June, 2006 had reversed its decision dated 26.6.2006 to dispose of the

HIG and MIG flats by auction mode and informed Delhi Development Authority to continue the earlier system of allotment of flats by draw of lots.

(a) and (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) gives due importance to the construction of houses for middle class and poor people in Delhi. During the last six years, out of the total 30803 houses constructed by it, 25760 houses [4475-Middle Income Group (MIG), 13545-Lower Income Group (LIG) and 7740-Economically Weaker Section (EWS)] related to middle and lower income categories. Further, 2250 houses under MIG, 5100 houses under LIG and 21500 houses under EWS category are at different stages of planning and construction at present. With a view to constructing low cost dwelling units for lower income group and economically weaker sections of the society, the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD), 2021 provides that the developers of group housing shall ensure that minimum 15% of FAR or 35% of the dwelling units, whichever is more, are constructed for Community-Service Personnel/EWS and lower income category. Further, DDA's pilot project at Tehkhand provides for allotment of flats at reasonable rates to eligible slum dwellers.

[English]

**Independent Regulatory Authority
for NGOs**

160. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent regulatory authority for effective surveillance over Non-Governmental Organizational (NGOs) particularly for Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such body is likely to be set up; and

(d) the guidelines issued by the Union Government for self regulation of Non-Governmental Organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Rural Development for self regulation of Non-Governmental Organizations.

[Translation]

Slow Progress of Work under PMGSY

161. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the standard fixed by the Government for the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether the Government is aware that the pace of on going construction work in every State of the country under PMGSY is very slow;

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

(d) whether the Government has fixed/proposed to fix any responsibility on concerned officers for non-achievement of targets and undue delay in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(g) whether NABARD is also financing rural road; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the Guidelines issued under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), rural roads constructed should meet the technical specifications and geometric design standards given in the Rural Roads Manual of the IRC (IRC:SP20:2002) and also, where required, the Hill Roads manual (IRC:SP:48).

(b) A Statement indicating physical and financial progress in respect of projects sanctioned to the States under PMGSY is enclosed. From this statement, it may be seen that the pace of execution of projects is not very slow in every State.

(c) to (f) "Rural Roads" being a State subject, Projects under PMGSY are executed by State / UT Governments through their agencies, i.e. SRRDA (State Rural Roads Development Agency) for monitoring, financial management and coordination at the State Level and Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) for programme implementation at the district level. In the case of Bihar and Tripura, Central Agencies have also

been entrusted with the implementation of PMGSY. Some of the reasons for slow implementation of programme are:-

- Constraint of non-availability of adequate technical manpower.
- Procedural delay in tendering and award of works.
- Inadequate capacity of the Programme Implementation Units.
- Adverse climatic conditions.
- Non availability of critical construction material.

Steps have been taken for stepping up the pace of implementation of the programme through enhanced allocation of funds, augmentation of contracting capacity through modifications in Standard Bidding Document,

provision of interest free advance to the contractors for procurement of plant and machinery, training of field staff including contractor's personnel, continuous and regular monitoring of the programme. States have also been advised to increase the number of programme implementing units, wherever necessary and also ensure timely completion of the process of tendering and award of projects.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. A tripartite agreement dated 27.9.2007 has been signed by National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD), National Rural Road Development Agency (NRRDA) and Ministry of Rural Development whereby NABARD has agreed to provide credit support upto Rs. 16,000/- crore to NRRDA from a separate window under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for financing the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman.

Statement

		(Rs.in crore)							
No.	States	Value of proposals cleared (Rs.)	Amount Released upto 15.10.2007 (Rs.)	No. of Road works sanctioned	No. of road works completed (upto September, 2007)	Length of road works approved	Length of road works completed (upto September, 07)	Expenditure upto September, 2007 (Rs.)	% Exp. To amount released (upto September, 07)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	2189.94	1400.71	4968	4167	15495.73	11172.49	1275.13	91.03%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	646.71	283.68	519	365	2285.38	1498.64	233.15	82.19%
3	Assam	3719.82	1307.35	2062	903	8223.54	2981.05	1170.95	89.57%
4A	Bihar (REO)	720.53	426.82	1130	741	2840.02	1704.27	361.66	84.73%
4B	Bihar (NEAs)	4989.17	924.26	1966	168	12896.18	1517.63	754.69	81.65%
5	Chhattisgarh	3376.09	1949.63	3020	1690	14852.08	8663.80	1879.77	96.42%
6	Goa	9.72	10.00	90	72	178.16	158.70	5.32	53.20%
7	Gujarat	662.36	434.62	2002	1504	4548.68	3116.24	405.39	93.27%
8	Haryana	904.54	456.32	284	133	3279.57	2009.15	42.84	92.66%
9	Himachal Pradesh	1829.40	806.97	1764	721	10158.82	4991.37	735.54	91.15%
10	Jammu & Kashmir	844.80	217.55	420	90	2178.15	213.40	131.14	60.28%
11	Jharkhand	633.03	563.45	629	498	3362.37	2638.37	492.29	87.37%
12	Karnataka	1118.33	658.10	2170	1692	8859.98	5655.96	662.59	100.00%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	Kerala	492.32	136.97	765	256	1570.31	461.82	114.57	83.65%
14	Madhya Pradesh	7751.25	3843.98	8076	3360	36549.54	15426.16	3405.91	88.60%
15	Maharashtra	1792.67	1213.59	3707	2190	11225.92	5769.12	908.18	74.83%
16	Manipur	2273.04	180.50	849	528	1266.84	1044.05	131.64	72.93%
17	Meghalaya	185.34	123.17	373	304	917.02	720.43	112.57	91.39%
18	Mizoram	480.38	271.89	144	71	1926.32	1221.04	223.46	82.19%
19	Nagaland	320.69	161.56	237	180	2463.67	1589.37	152.18	94.19%
20	Orissa	3334.60	2351.48	3723	2236	12539.61	7432.36	1895.08	80.59%
21	Punjab	787.16	506.93	627	499	2807.94	1761.82	410.43	80.96%
22	Rajasthan	6004.38	4173.54	10329	7584	38724.70	25905.69	3650.53	87.47%
23	Sikkim	392.45	212.60	221	89	2119.21	1738.87	165.91	78.04%
24	Tamil Nadu	724.18	582.90	2604	2118	5040.68	3900.15	488.49	83.80%
25	Tripura	641.40	250.89	549	255	1561.96	613.48	143.71	57.28%
26	Uttar Pradesh	5206.06	2815.16	14366	9757	29321.72	17184.89	2560.19	90.94%
27	Uttaranchal	561.58	306.86	394	172	2713.17	722.43	248.42	80.96%
28	West Bengal	3456.80	1845.31	1718	913	10685.94	4941.55	1555	84.27%
Total (States)		54048.54	28416.79	69706	43256	250593.21	136754.30	24696.73	86.91%

REO – Regional Engineering Organisation

NEA – Nominated Executing Agency

[English]

Regularisation of Services of Part-Time Sweepers

162. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued the direction to the Nationalised Banks on May 19, 2006 that services of part-time sweepers may be regularized as full-time sweepers and that the appointments may be made only on regular basis in the future;

(b) if so, the details of banks that have implemented the above instructions; and

(c) the action taken or being taken by the Government against defaulter-banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The letter dated 19.05.2006 was, however, subsequently withdrawn, as it did not accurately reflect the record of

discussions held by the Government with the representatives of Confederation/Federations of SCs/STs employees, and fresh guidelines were, therefore, issued on 8th November, 2006, which inter-alia contained instructions 'to regularize the services of SC/ST part-time employees and to make all future appointments on regular basis only'.

(b) and (c) Most of the Banks have confirmed that the Government's instructions as given above have been implemented, the remaining banks are in the process of implementing the instructions in a phased manner and in the interim period services of such employees are being governed by the existing Bipartite settlement.

SKY Bus Metro System

163. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee to examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the Sky Bus Metro System in the country;

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

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken so far by the Government on the recommendations of said committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was set up by this Ministry under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.V. Indiresan, Retd. Director, IIT Chennai to evaluate the Sky Bus System and examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspects. The Committee has submitted its report in August, 2005.

(c) The Committee has treated Sky Bus System as a technology development project rather than finished technology. The Committee recommended extension of this project as technology development project not merely because of its novelty but also because of possibility of incidental technological benefits that may accrue to the nation through the processes developed in designing and producing the system.

(d) The Ministry of Railway has appointed a technical advisory group with ten eminent members to evaluate the novel system and guide for further development of further technology. The group has held three meetings so far. Ministry of Railways has also allocated an amount of Rs. 25 crore for conducting further trial of sky bus metro leading to certification of technology under the guidance of Technical Advisory Group.

Interest Rates on Second Home

164. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest charged on loans granted by nationalized banks and other commercial banks for construction of second home is higher than the rate applicable for construction of the first home;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind it; and

(c) the impact of higher interest rate on investment in housing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A few Public Sector Banks have reported that they are charging a higher rate of interest on home loans for the second house. It is reported by these banks that the loan for the first dwelling unit is made available at lesser rate

of interest which is not applicable to the second house as this is generally purchased for the purpose of letting out or for investment.

(c) According to the latest information available from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), outstanding credit for housing recorded a positive growth of 17 percent during 2006-07 (upto August 17, 2007) over 2005-06 (upto August 18, 2006).

Krishnapattanam Ultra Mega Power Project

165. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishnapattanam UMPP (4000 MW) power project is proposed to be set up in Southern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the States which are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As part of the initiative launched by the Ministry of Power, a coal based Ultra Mega Power Project of about 4000 MW capacity is proposed to be set up at Krishnapattanam in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh. The project is being developed on a Build, Own and Operate basis, and the project developer is being selected through a tariff based competitive bidding process. The Request for Proposal (RFP) bids have been received on 24.10.2007, and are under evaluation. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the beneficiary states from Krishnapattanam UMPP.

Condition of Primitive Tribal Groups

166. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the ethnographic profile on 'Onges' and 'Jarawas' the primitive Tribal Groups; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands has prepared a Master Plan (1991-2021) for the welfare of all the Primitive Tribal Groups of A&N Islands which inter-alia includes the details of population, dwelling and material culture, subsistence and health etc. of 'Onges' and 'Jarawas' as well.

In addition the Committee of Experts constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs got a detailed study/survey conducted on 'Jarawas' which inter-alia includes the ethnographic profile of Jarawas. This forms part of the Report of Expert Committee on the Jarawas of Andaman Islands submitted in July 2003.

**Fair Practice Code in Recovery
of Loans**

167. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some banks are flouting RBI's "Fair Practice Code for Lenders" guidelines;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is planning to set up any institutional mechanism to ensure that the Fair Practice Code is followed by banks without any default;
- (c) whether Indian Banks' Association has formulated Model Code for collection of dues and repossession of security; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide their circular dated May 05, 2003 issued guidelines on Fair Practices Code for Lenders. Banks/All India Financial Institutions were advised to adopt the broad guidelines contained in the Circular and frame the Fair Practices Code duly approved by their Board of Directors. All the banks except a few foreign banks (not having significant retail lending business) have since confirmed having framed the Fair Practices Code. Further, RBI has revised the Fair Practices Code vide their Circular dated March 6, 2007 and most of the public sector banks and private sector banks have also confirmed having modified their Fair Practices Code.

Further, the Banking Codes and Standard Board of India (BCSBI) has been set up to plan, evolve, prepare, develop, promote and publish voluntary comprehensive codes and standards for banks for providing fair treatment to their customers. The Code of Banks' Commitments to Customers formulated by BCSBI provides, inter-alia, that the collection policy of the bank be built on courtesy, fair treatment and persuasion and the bank follows a security repossession policy in consonance with the law.

(c) and (d) The Indian Banks' Association has formulated a "Model Code for collection of dues and

repossession of Security" which has been recommended to banks in January, 2007 for adoption and implementation. The Model Code, inter-alia, provides that banks commit to maintaining the dignity and respect of customers in their Debt Collection Policy and not follow policies that are unduly coercive in collection of dues.

POC, CC from DDA

168. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Provisional Occupancy Certificate (POC) from DDA is a pre-requisite for allotment of flats of the Co-operative Group Housing Society in Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether similar precondition exist in all States or Union Territories of the country;
- (c) the details of such Co-operative Group Housing Societies in Delhi which have applied for POC and Completion Certificate (CC);
- (d) the details of POC and CC granted to such Societies between January, 2004 and October 2007, date-wise, Zone-wise and Society-wise along with the details of those Societies for which allotment of flats has been made during the last three years;
- (e) the details of Societies still pending for draw of lots for flats after securing POC/CC and the number of members therein; and
- (f) the details of the societies, which are complete, but not yet applied for POC/CC?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that for allotment of flats in Co-operative Group Housing Societies (CGHSs), Provisional Occupancy Certificate (POC) / Completion Certificate (CC) is necessary.

(b) Being a State subject, various States Governments may have their own rules/terms/conditions for allotment of flats to members of CGHSs.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected/compiled.

(e) DDA has informed that draw of lots for flats is conducted on receipt of: (i) request of the society for holding such draw, (ii) certificate of completion of construction upto 90% from the architect of the Society and (iii) list of members duly cleared from the office of Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS). No such case where DDA has received requests from society and clearance of names from the office of RCS for allotment of flats is pending.

(f) Such details are not available since the responsibility for applying for POCCC is with the Co-operative Group Housing Society.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staffs for Rural Development Programmes

169. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the fund allocated for various Rural Development Programmes is lying unspent due to shortage of staffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints from implementing agencies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action being taken by the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The programme guidelines allow unspent balance upto 10% of the available funds at the end of the financial year for smooth continuance of the rural development programmes. The unspent amount under Rural Development Programmes with the implementing agencies is not only due to shortage of staff, but it is also on account of other factors like limited working seasons, natural calamities, geographical locations of various districts/villages, particularly in North Eastern States and hilly States, elections of the legislative and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received specific complaint from the implementing agencies in regard to shortage of staff on account of which funds could not be utilized.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has issued detailed guidelines for DRDA Administration, including staffing pattern to implement rural development programmes effectively and allowed to hire qualified and experienced personnel on contract basis for vacant post in Group C. The DRDAs may also assess the need for outsourcing for particular assignment.

Misappropriation of Funds under Area Development Programmes

170. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on many projects has been stalled due to non release of funds in many States particularly Rajasthan under the Area Development Programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints of misuse of crores of rupees under these programmes;

(d) if so, the details of such complaints, State-wise/Union Territories (UTs) – wise; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The Department of Land Resources implements three area development programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis. These are demand driven programmes and the funds are released in installments on the basis of complete proposals submitted by the States in respect of project sanctioned. So far Rs.79.30 crores have been released to the State Government of Rajasthan for implementation of these programmes during the current financial year. No complaint of misuse of crores of rupees under these programmes have been received by the Government.

Fast Track Courts

171. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether problems are being faced in timely disposal of cases in the absence of adequate number of Fast Tract Courts and also due to a large number of vacancies in the such courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Fast Track Courts in the Country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the vacancies in these courts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 8th April 2007, the States acknowledged the

acute shortage of subordinate judges and the need to increase their number adequately so as to enable them to reduce backlog and provide an efficient, speedy and effective justice delivery system. The States also stressed the need to fill-up the existing vacancies in subordinate courts as well as High Courts at an early date and felt that the arrears could come down substantially if all the existing vacancies were filled on urgent basis.

(c) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to establish these courts in consultation with the concerned High Courts. There is no proposal, at present, with the Government of India to increase the number of Fast Track Courts in the Country.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is the primary responsibility of State Governments to fill up the vacancies of these courts in consultation with the concerned High Courts.

[English]

Setting up of Small Power Projects

172. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to provide more tax sops to small power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to encourage private sector participation in the power generation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Presently, there is no proposal to provide more tax sops to small power projects in the country.

(c) and (d) In the recent past the Government of India have taken a number of initiatives which are expected to encourage power generation in the country through investments in public as well as private sector. Some of the major initiatives taken are:

- (i) De-licensing of thermal generation and captive generation;
- (ii) Structural reforms for State Electricity Boards;
- (iii) Formation of Central and State Regulatory Commissions;

(iv) Formation of National Grid;

(v) Open access in Transmission and Distribution;

(vi) Power trading recognized as a distinct activity; and

(vii) Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme.

Besides to encourage investment in renewable power projects, fiscal and financial incentives are also being provided by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy which, inter-alia, include capital subsidy, interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, excise duty exemption and concessional import duties, apart from preferential tariff for grid power being given in most of the potential States.

Loan to Farmers/Artisans

173. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are mandated to advance loans to farmers/artisans; including Self-help Groups at reduced rate of interest;

(b) whether certain banks have not even made a single such advance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the loans for cars and other luxury items are freely extended by the banks at rates lower than the rate at which the loan is extended to the farmers/artisans and other poor customers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (f) As per the extant interest rate policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), interest rates on loans given by commercial banks (including loans granted to farm sector) have been deregulated, except that the interest rate on loans up to Rs.2 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of the banks concerned. Commercial banks are, therefore, free to decide their lending rates on loans above Rs. 2 lakh subject to the announcement of BPLR. Banks are also free to lend at sub-BPLR rates to creditworthy borrowers based on an objective and transparent policy, subject to the approval of their Boards. Banks decided their BPLR taking into account, inter alia, their cost of funds, transaction cost and risk cost. As regards Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

and Co-operative Banks too, the interest rates on loans have been completely deregulated.

The information relating to interest rate on term loans to agriculture related activities in comparison with term loans for small business / enterprises relating to rural non farm sector activities has been collected on a sample basis from a few Cooperative Banks and RRBs. The analysis of this information reveals that the rate of interest on agriculture term loans range between 10% - 14.25% per annum, while that for Business loan ranges between 10% to 16.5% per annum. In some of the States the Governments are providing interest subvention on agriculture loan and hence these rates are lower.

To reduce the burden of interest on Crop Loans availed by farmers for Kharif and Rabi 2005-06, an amount equal to two percentage points of the borrower's liability on the principal amount upto Rs. 1,00,000/- each was credited to their account. Thereafter, from Kharif 2006, to ensure that the farmer receives Short-Term Production Credit at 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lacs on the principal amount, the Government is providing interest subvention of 2% per annum to Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks on their lending from their own resources and refinance at concessional rates to cooperative banks and RRBs on their borrowings from NABARD.

National Mission on Sanitation

174. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute National Mission on sanitation for urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Credit Availability to Small Scale Industries

175. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of Basel II norms by the banking sector will reduce credit availability to Small Scale Industries (SSIs) besides adding to their cost fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent paper of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) on 'Capital Adequacy Regime in India – an overview'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has published a paper titled 'Capital Adequacy Regime in India – An Overview' in July 2007 wherein it has been, inter-alia, stated that under the proposed Bases II norms, banks will be discouraged to lend to unrated Small Scale Industries (SSIs) because loans to unrated entities attract 100% risk-weight. The paper claims that as SSI sector in India is so far out of reach of the credit rating industry, bank lending to this sector may go down. The paper further adds that the additional cost of credit rating will affect the economic viability of a large number of SSI units. Reserve Bank of India has issued "Guidelines for Implementation of the New Capital Adequacy Framework" on 27.04-2007 to adopt the Basel II norms, taking into account the elements of credit risk in various types of assets in the balance sheet as well as off-balance sheet business and also to strengthen the capital base of banks. The RBI guidelines are intended to strengthen the financial and banking system in the country besides inculcating a sense of financial discipline among the borrowers. The guidelines also prescribe risk-weights as low as 20% in case of 'AAA' rated, 30% in case of 'AA' rated and 50% on 'A' rated corporate claims. Implementation of Basel II norms by the banking sector does not have any direct relationship with the availability of credit to any particular sector. Under Basel II norms, the capital allocation for an exposure is based on the risk weight assigned to that exposure. Moreover, risk weight is only one of many parameters which influence the banks' lending decisions. Further, as most banks have already been using some kind of ratings/grades to price the borrowers including SSI borrowers, the introduction of Basel II norms may not make any significant difference to the cost of funds for the SSI borrowers.

[Translation]

WPI and Inflation

176. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN"
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has constantly increasing during each of the last three financial years;

(b) if so, the break up of average annual rise in the rate of WPI during the above period;

(c) whether the rate of said rise has been more than three percent against norm of RBI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the rate of inflation based on WPI has declined to five year low in September, 2007;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the rising rate of WPI and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Sir, the details of average annual rise in WPI and monthly break up during the last five financial years is indicated in the Table 1.

Table 1

Month	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Apr	6.59	4.51	5.91	3.86	6.28
May	6.51	5.02	5.55	4.73	5.46
June	5.40	6.68	4.32	5.12	4.53
Jul	4.65	7.61	4.29	4.83	4.71
Aug	3.95	8.46	3.66	5.12	4.14
Sep	4.90	7.92	4.06	5.38	3.32
Oct	5.13	7.27	4.71	5.51	3.02
Nov	5.42	7.52	4.21	5.50	
Dec	5.80	6.73	4.45	5.68	
Jan	6.50	5.54	4.08	6.37	
Feb	6.14	5.01	4.03	6.36	
Mar	4.78	5.39	3.85	6.61	
Average	5.48	6.47	4.42	5.43	

(c) RBI has not fixed such a norm.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The inflation is decelerated due to supply side improvements in some essential items like wheat and sugar; strengthening of the rupee leading to a decline in rupee prices of imported goods; monetary and fiscal

measures initiated by RBI and Government; and administrative measures including import of commodities like wheat and pulses through the public sector agencies. Stability in petroleum prices at the February 2007 level also contributed to the lower head line inflation.

[English]

Recovery of Loans

177. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding illegal and coercive ways adopted by banks for recovery of outstanding loans from defaulters;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received by the Government during 2006-07 as on date, bank-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government on such complaints; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such practices of banks for recovery of their outstanding loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that incidents of alleged use of coercive methods by some banks for recovery of loans in case of default has come to their notice. However, details in this regard are not collated by RBI.

(c) The complaints in respect of use of muscle-men and harassment of the defaulting customers are taken up by RBI with the concerned banks for comments and appropriate action. In case of any violation of extant guidelines by a bank, appropriate regulatory action is taken by RBI.

(d) As per RBI guidelines on Fair Practice Code for Lenders issued in May, 2003, it is inter-alia, stipulated that in the matter of recovery of loans, the lender should not resort to undue harassment viz. persistently bothering the borrowers at odd hours, use of muscle power for recovery of loans etc.

RBI has also issued instructions to all commercial banks/NBFCs (excluding Regional Rural Banks) in November, 2005 regarding Credit Card Operations, which inter-alia, stipulate that their agents should not resort to intimidation or harassment of any kind, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts.

This includes acts intending to humiliate publicly or intrude the privacy of the credit card holders, family members, referees and friends, making threatening and anonymous calls or making false and misleading representations.

The Code of Bank's Commitments to Customers formulated by Banking Codes and Standard Boards of India (BCSBI) provides, inter-alia, that the collection policy of the bank be built on courtesy, fair treatment and persuasion and the bank follows a security repossession policy in consonance with the law.

The IBA has formulated a "Model Code for collection of dues and repossession of Security" which has been recommended to banks in January, 2007 for adoption and implementation. The Model Code, inter-alia, provides that banks commit to maintaining the dignity and respect of customers in their Debt Collection Policy and not follow policies that are unduly coercive in collection of dues.

Further, in the Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement (dated October 30, 2007), RBI has observed that in view of the rise in the number of litigations against banks for engaging recovery agents in the recent past, it is felt that the adverse publicity could result in serious reputational risk for the banking sector as a whole. RBI has further observed that an urgent need has, therefore, arisen to review the policy, practice, procedure involved in the engagement of recovery agents by banks in India. RBI has urged banks to follow prescribed specific considerations while engaging recovery agents. RBI has stated that complaints received regarding abusive practices followed by a bank's recovery agents would invite serious supervisory disapproval. RBI would consider imposing a temporary ban (or even a permanent ban in case of persistent abusive practices) for engaging recovery agents on those banks where strictures have been passed/penalties have been imposed by a High Court/Supreme Court or against its Directors/Officers with regard to the abusive practices followed by their recovery agents.

Rural Electrification

178. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI MOHAN JENA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to complete electrification of the villages having power projects nearby;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages in the country still deprived of electrification till date; State-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor and the time by which the Government are likely to electrify these villages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of India, under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has envisaged electrification of over one lakh un-electrified villages as also intensive electrification of already electrified villages in the country for providing access of electricity to all the rural households by 2009. The salient features of the scheme are given as under:

- The scheme aims at electrification of about one lakh villages (excluding villages to be electrified by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) and providing access of electricity to 7.8 crore rural households including 2.34 crore BPL households.
- Ninety percent capital subsidy is provided for overall cost of the projects under the scheme.
- States must make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.
- For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States is obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for:-
 - deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme.
 - the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.
 - Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.

(c) As on 09.11.2007, there are 99,841 un-electrified villages in the country as per Central Electricity Authority and Rural Electrification Corporation reports. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The main reasons attributable for lower level of village electrification in some of the States are:

- Poor financial health of State Power Utilities.
- Non-remunerative nature of rural electrification.

- Non-availability of resources including work force.
 - Geographical spread of the balance villages including far-flung areas.
 - Very low population density.
- All the un-electrified villages are envisaged to be electrified by 2009 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, except remote villages to be electrified under the programme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Statement

Status of village electrification as per revised definition of Village Electrification

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Total Inhabited villages as per 2001 Census	Villages electrified as on 31.3.2006		No. of villages electrified during 2006-07 under RGGVY and other schemes	Balance villages left for electrification as on 31-3-07	Villages electrified during 2007-08 under RGGVY uptill 09-11-2007	Balance villages left for electrification as on 09-11-2007
			Numbers	%age				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh	26613	26565	99.8	0	48	0	48
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3863	2195*	56.8	0	1668	0	1668
3	Assam	25124	19660*	78.3	81	5383	0	5383
4	Bihar	39015	20610\$	52.8	8415	9990	1542	8448
5	Delhi	158	158	100.0		0	0	0
6	Jharkhand	29354	8923*	30.4	196	20235	31	20204
7	Goa	347	347	100.0		0	0	0
8	Gujarat	18066	17908*	99.1	0	158	0	158
9	Haryana	6764	6764	100.0		0	0	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	17495	16915*	96.7	254	326	0	326
11	Jammu & Kashmir	6417	6304	98.2		113	0	113
12	Karnataka	27481	27125	98.7	0	356	0	356
13	Kerala	1364	1364	100.0		0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	52117	50213	96.3		1904	15	1889
15	Chhattisgarh	19744	16456*	83.3	18	3270	29	3241
16	Maharashtra	41095	35541	86.5		5554	0	5554
17	Manipur	2315	1930	83.4	12	373	0	373
18	Meghalaya	5782	3428	59.3	0	2354	0	2354
19	Mizoram	707	570	80.6	0	137	0	137
20	Nagaland	1278	822*	64.3	1	455	0	455
21	Orissa	47529	26235	55.2		21294	0	21294

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22	Punjab	2278	12278	100.0		0	0	0
23	Rajasthan	39753	25845*	65.0	765	13143	336	12807
24	Sikkim	450	425	94.4		25	0	25
25	Tamil Nadu	15400	15400*	100.0		0	0	0
26	Tripura	858	491	57.2		367	0	367
27	Uttar Pradesh	97942	66879*	68.3	16620	14443	2152	12291
28	Uttaranchal	15761	14737*	93.5	798	226	219	7
29	West Bengal	37945	32861	86.6	2108	2976	808	2168
Sub Total (States)		593015	458949*	77.4	29268	104798	5162	99666
Union Territories								
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	501	321	64.1	5	175	0	175
2	Chandigarh	23	23	100.0	0	0	0	0
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	70	70	100.0	0	0	0	0
4	Daman & Diu	23	23	100.0	0	0	0	0
5	Lakshadweep	8	8	100.0	0	0	0	0
6	Pondicherry	92	92	100.0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total (UTs)		717	537	74.9	5	175	0	175
Grand Total		593732	459486*	77.4	29273	104973	5162	99841

* The figures have been revised based on the information furnished by the states.

§ Bihar Government has not given number of unelectrified villages as per revised definition.

Source: Central Electricity Authority & REC

Setting up of Power Projects

179. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought special financial assistance from the Union Government for construction of power projects and for strengthening the energy accounting and auditing systems in their States;

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

(c) whether some projects are being implemented in some States with the world Bank's Loan; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tsunami Warning System

180. SHRI RAYAPTI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of establishment of the instrument for warning signal to the coastal areas before Tsunami;

(b) whether the Government has taken the assistance of other countries in this regard; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) An Early Warning System for Tsunami for Indian Ocean has been set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. Early Warning Centre inaugurated on 15th October 2007, receives near real time seismic signals for monitoring

earthquakes capable of generating tsunamis, observes real time changes in the sea level and validates propagation of tsunami waves, if any, through Bottom Pressure Sensors placed at sea bottom in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. The system is capable to generate alert and warning advisories for tsunami.

(b) No, Sir. India developed the system on its own without any assistance. However, seismology and ocean tide gauge data is received from other countries also.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Renewable Energy

181. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Banks and some financial institutions are providing loan through Integrated Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) to promote renewable energy sources in the Country;

(b) if so, the details of loan provided with criteria for the same;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the funds released for the purpose under the IREDA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has been mobilizing its resources to support renewable energy projects/systems through Government equity, tax-free bonds and taking loan from national and international banks/financial institutions.

(b) IREDA has so far mobilized through various lines of credit an amount of Rs.2910 crore. Criteria includes creditworthiness, past performance and future plans of the borrower.

(c) and (d) The loans secured and disbursed are periodically monitored by the Board of Directors of IREDA. This apart, IREDA appoint nominee directors and concurrent engineers/auditors to monitor physical and financial progress in the projects.

Operation of Foreign Law Firm in the Country

182. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign Solicitor firms to participate in Indian Judicial process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bar Council of India has been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the suggestion given by the Bar Council of India;

(e) the reaction of the Government on the suggestions of Bar Council; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There is no proposal to allow foreign solicitors to participate in Judicial process.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue of allowing foreign law firms to establish their offices to give legal advice and assistance on Foreign Law is being discussed with all the Stake holders including the Bar Council of India.

(d) Views of the Bar Council of India are being awaited.

(e) and (f) The government will take a decision after considering the views of Bar Council of India in the best interest of the legal profession.

External Debt

183. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's external debt has increased nearly by 23% during 2006-07;

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

(c) the total external debt during the last three years and as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the external debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) India's external debt rose by US \$29.0 billion or 22.7 percent during 2006-07 to reach a level of US \$156.6 billion at end-March 2007.

(b) The main components of external debt which rose over the year were External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) (by 59%), Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits (by 14%) and short-term debt (by 38%). The stock of ECB increased mainly due to higher access to international capital markets by Indian corporates owing to lower interest rates abroad. NRI deposits surged during 2006-07 partly due to the preference of NRIs to park their savings in deposits with the Indian banking system and partly to the appreciating rupee which not only stimulated the inflow but also affected the outstanding balances under Non-Resident Rupee Account. Short-term debt increased because of a higher level of imports, particularly oil imports.

(c) The details of India's total external debt for the last three years are given in the Table below:

Table: India's External Debt

		(US\$ billion)			
		At end			
Sl. No.	Components	March 2005	March 2006	March 2007	June 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
A	Long-term	116.7	118.9	144.6	152.4
B	Short-term	7.5	8.7	12.0	13.0
C	Total (A+B)	124.2	127.6	156.6	165.4

(d) Prudent external debt management policies are pursued by the Government to maintain external debt within manageable limits. These include emphasis on raising sovereign loans on concessional terms with longer maturities, prepaying high cost loans, rationalizing interest rates on NRI deposits, restricting end-use of external commercial borrowings, monitoring of short-term debt and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

Display of BPL List

184. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of BPL families is not being displayed at public places in some States despite the instructions issued by the Union Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the names of the States where list of BPL families is not being displayed at public places;

(c) whether the Government has given any deadline in such States for displaying the said list at public places;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government against the defaulting States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development issued the detailed guidelines to States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census 2002 to identify BPL households in the rural areas who could be targeted under various programmes of the Ministry. In order to ensure transparency, it was provided to display the draft BPL lists at the prominent place of the village before being approved by the Gram Sabha. The States and UTs have also been requested to post the BPL list on the website and the printed copies are to be kept in the Panchayats. The New BPL list could not be finalized as it was envisaged because the matter was subjudice. The process of finalizing the new BPL list was re-started after the vacation of the stay by the hon'ble Supreme Court on 14.2.2006. Further, a provision of two-stage appeal mechanism was also made to redress the public grievances. Many States reported to have received a large number of complaints and it took considerable time to finalise the BPL list. In some cases where the number of complaints was very high, the State Governments carried out a fresh survey in the specific areas due to which, the finalization of BPL list was further delayed.

As per the latest available information, 19 States and UTs have already finalized the BPL list on the basis of BPL Census 2002. The process of finalizing the BPL list is in progress in States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, J&K, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura. The Govt. of Haryana had decided to carry out a fresh survey because of receipt of a large number of complaints. In West Bengal, the BPL list has been finalized in respect of 12 districts out of 19 districts and posted it on the website. The most of the States which have finalized the new BPL list has also posted it on the website. The matter has been taken up with the respective Chief Ministers of the remaining States to get the new BPL list finalized at the earliest possible.

**Appointment of Non-Official Directors
from SC/ST Community**

185. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to all the nationalized banks and Financial Institutions for appointment of Non-Official Directors belonging to SC/ST communities on their Boards;

(b) if so, the details of Non-Official Directors appointed by banks belonging to SC/ST categories on their boards during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the defaulter banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such directions need to be issued as the non-official directors on the boards of nationalized banks are appointed by the Central Government and not by the Banks. The approved guidelines for selection of part-time Non-official Directors, inter-alia, provide that as far as possible, representation may be given to women and persons belonging to SC/ST community. During the last three years, Central Government has appointed nine directors, including Government and Reserve Bank of India nominee directors, belonging to SC/ST communities, on the boards of public sector banks.

Losses of Regional Rural Bank

186. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), as on date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme to reduce the losses of the Regional Rural Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per provisional figures furnished by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), out of 96 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 15 RRBs incurred losses of Rs.301.25 crore during 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Government of India/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD have taken a number of measures to improve the functioning of RRBs and to reduce their losses such as:-

- (1) Amalgamation of RRBs for business consolidation, expansion etc. The amalgamated RRBs will provide better customer service due to better infrastructure, computerization of branches, pooling of experienced work force, common publicity and marketing efforts etc. They will also reap benefits of a large area of operation, enhanced credit exposure limits and enable them to undertake diverse banking activities.
- (2) Government has announced in the budget proposals for 2007-08 that the RRBs having negative net worth will be recapitalized by the stakeholders as a measure to strengthen the RRBs, financially.
- (3) Enhancement of credit to Non-Priority Sector
- (4) Expansion of non-fund based business activities such as sale of insurance policies, disbursement of pension, salaries etc. and handling of government business to increase income generation.
- (5) Opening of 'no-frill' accounts with low or minimum balance.
- (6) Extension of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI) to RRBs with a view to improve their recoveries.
- (7) Permitting RRBs to accept Foreign Currency Non-Residents (FCNR) Deposits.
- (8) Allowing consortium lending to RRBs.

Kayamkulam Power Project

187. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC Thermal Power Station at Kayamkulam has not progressed as anticipated due to non-availability of LNG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC Ltd. proposes to expand the capacity of the existing Naphtha-fired Power Plant of Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam by adding 1950 MW capacity (nominal) in Stage-II based on LNG/Natural Gas as fuel. The Feasibility Report (FR) for 1950 MW expansion had been prepared considering Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG)/Natural Gas (NG) to be sourced through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route. NTPC Ltd.

invited international bids for supply of RLNG/NG. The process could not be concluded due to inadequate/incomplete response.

(c) Subsequently, it was decided to earmark 2.1 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonnes per Annum) out of the expected quantity of LNG to be sourced by Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) at its proposed Kochi Terminal, for NTPC Ltd.'s existing RGCCPP Stage-I at Kayamkulam and its proposed Stage-II expansion of 1950 MW. LNG supplies are expected in 2013.

Setting up of Power Exchanges

188. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy/scheme for setting up and operation of power exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per the responsibility entrusted to it under section 66 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and the National Electricity Policy, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued a Staff Consultation Paper on Developing a Common Platform for Electricity Trading inviting comments from the stakeholders. Subsequently, public hearing was held on the issue on 19th December, 2006 at New Delhi. After taking into account the comments received on the consultation paper and the deliberations held in the hearing on 19th December, 2006, the CERC issued its Order dated 06.02.2007 stipulating the Guidelines for setting up of such Exchanges.

Registration of Marriages

189. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its recent verdict has made registration of marriage compulsory for all;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon;

(c) the number of States that have so far made registration of marriage compulsory;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a Central law for compulsory registration of marriage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from all States & Union territories. The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the said judgment.

(d) No decision has been taken so far to enact a Central Law in this behalf.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Linking of Villages through Metalled Roads

190. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link villages with metalled roads under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana (PMGSY); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is under implementation as a fully funded centrally sponsored Plan scheme since 2000-01. The prime objective of the PMGSY is to provide all weather connectivity to all the unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 or more persons in the plain areas and all unconnected habitations with population of 250 or more persons in Hill States, desert areas and tribal areas. As per the latest estimates, about 1.79 lakh habitations are eligible to be covered under this Scheme.

[English]

Survey regarding Rural People

191. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on food, clothing and per capita income of people living in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to implement the survey report?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation conducts regular Consumer Expenditure Surveys as part of its "Rounds" and each Round is normally of one year which covers more than one subject of study. The latest Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure was conducted through the 61st Round of NSS covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005. The data collected through the Sample Survey of Consumer Expenditure also includes expenditure on food and clothing. The details of the Sample Survey of Consumer Expenditure are available in the NSS Report No.508-Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05. The Sample Survey conducted by the NSSO through the 59th Round (January to December, 2003) includes the information on monthly income (excluding rent, interest, dividend etc.) per farmer household which has been published in Report No.497 of NSS. The data contained in the Survey Reports is used for estimation of poverty in the country and other policy formulations of the Government.

[Translation]

**Inclusion of Lavana Caste in the
List of Scheduled Tribes**

192. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposal from Government of Himachal Pradesh to declare the Lavana caste, engaged in the profession of cow-rearing, as Scheduled Tribe; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No proposal has been received in the Ministry for inclusion of "Lavana" caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh. However, a proposal for inclusion of "Labana" community in the list of Schedule Tribes in Himachal Pradesh has been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) The proposal has been processed as per approved modalities.

**False Implication in Dowry
Death Cases**

193. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has suggested not to acquit the accused of dowry death on flimsy grounds;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware of false or willfull implications in dowry cases; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Law Commission of India has submitted in October, 2007 its 202nd Report on "Proposal to amend Section 304-B of Indian Penal Code" in which recommendations have been made relating to dowry deaths. The Report is available on the website of Ministry of Law and Justice, Law Commission of India. Department of Legal Affairs has forwarded a copy of the Report to Ministry of Home Affairs for examination/implementation.

(c) The following data for the country has been furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs for the period 2004-06:-

Under Section 304-B IPC (Dowry death) .

No. of cases registered 21431

No. of cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law: 974

Under Section 498-A IPC (Cruelty by husband or relatives of husband)

No. of cases registered: 179568

No. of cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law: 19013

Under Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

No. of cases registered: 11300

No. of cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law: 615

(d) It is for the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the States to deal with any false complaint relating to dowry.

[English]

Students Undergoing CA Courses

194. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students in the country presently undergoing the course of Chartered Accountant;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to grant nod to CA students for doing articleship with non-audit companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of stipend presently being provided to CA student;

(e) whether there is also a proposal to increase the stipend of CA student from the existing level;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The number of students in the country presently undergoing the course of Chartered Accountants with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is 5,04,962.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The rates of minimum monthly stipend payable to an articled assistant are as follows:-

Classification of the normal Place of service of the Articled assistant	During the first year of training	During the second year of training	During the remaining period of training
(i) Cities/towns having a population of twenty lakhs and above.	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 1250/-	Rs. 1500/-
(ii) Cities/towns having a population of four lakhs and above but less than twenty lakhs.	Rs. 750/-	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 1250/-
(iii) Cities/towns having a population of less than four lakhs.	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 750/-	Rs. 1000/-

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The existing rates of stipend have been made effective from 17th August, 2007 only.

Withdrawal of Biometric ATMs

195. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) with biometric features are being withdrawn from the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In terms of Section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, banks are required to obtain prior approval of Reserve Bank of India for opening a new place of business. Such approvals are granted on discretionary basis, depending on the thrust of the Branch Authorisation Policy and directions issued in this regard. However, the choice of the location of the branch/off-site ATM and the nature of services offered is left to the discretion of the banks. The ATMs with bio-metric features installed by

Public Sector Banks are functioning satisfactorily and as such, there is no proposal of withdrawal of ATMs from the rural areas.

Housing Schemes for Rural Landless Labour

196. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme as "Housing for Landless Rural Labour";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and actually spent on the implementation of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the funds proposed for the scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) No scheme as "Housing for Landless Rural Labour" is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. However, under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) a financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/-

per unit in plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- in hilly/difficult areas, is provided to the rural households below the poverty line (BPL) for construction of dwelling unit. During Tenth Five Year Plan Rs.11627.5 crore were allocated for release under IAY against which Rs. 16544.66 crore were spent by the States including State share. Further, Rs.51226.9 crore have been proposed for Indra Awas Yojana for 11th Five Year Plan.

Irregularities in PMGSY

197. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of irregularities in various States under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) that have come to the notice of the Union Government, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Details of cases of irregularities in various States under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) that have come to notice of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India upto August, 2007 have been given State-wise in the enclosed Statement.

(b) In total, 142 cases of irregularities under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) have been received in the Ministry of Rural Development. All these cases have been forwarded to the concerned State Government/National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) for inquiry and appropriate action.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Cases of Irregularities
1	2	3
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4
2	Assam	7
3	Bihar	49
4	Chhattisgarh	5
5	Gujarat	1
6	Haryana	1
7	Himachal Pradesh	2
8	Karnataka	2

1	2	3
9	Madhya Pradesh	19
10	Maharashtra	4
11	Mizoram	1
12	Nagaland	1
13	Orissa	5
14	Rajasthan	14
15	Tamil Nadu	1
16	Uttar Pradesh	25
17	Uttarakhand	1
Total		142

Viability Gap Funding for Metro Project

198. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to enhance the viability gap funding for States to take up Metro Rail Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of Government of Andhra Pradesh therein?

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

(b) Under the existing 'scheme of financial support to Public Private Partnership (PPP) in infrastructure' of Ministry of Finance, 20% of the cost of a project being executed in the PPP mode is permissible in the form of capital grant at the stage of project construction as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from Ministry of Finance and balance VGF upto further 20% of the project cost can be provided by the sponsoring Ministry/ State Govt./statutory authority, that owns the project, out of its Budget. The proposal for GOI providing additional 10% Viability Gap support under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission beyond 20% by Ministry of Finance is under Inter-Ministerial consideration.

(c) The project cost estimated by the State Government is Rs. 8760 crores. The State Govt. has not specified the exact amount of Central assistance required. This amount will depend upon the amount of VGF demanded by selected bidder.

APDRP

199. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's ambitious power sector reforms have hit the skids on account of funds resulting in the holding up of the approval for the rupees one trillion Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for the 11th Plan (2007-12);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. It is being proposed to continue Accelerated Power Development and Reforms programme during the XIth Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector Scheme.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Solar Energy

200. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of solar energy generated in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give priority to solar energy over hydro power and thermal power;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds allocated to each State during the last three years to popularize solar energy; and

(e) the details of manufacturers/suppliers of solar energy systems in each State, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) India receives solar energy equivalent to over 5,000 trillion kWh per year. The daily average solar energy incident over India varies from 4-7 kWh per square meter depending upon the location. Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively.

The utilization of solar energy in the country is regularly increasing, however, the high initial cost of the

solar energy systems is a barrier in its large-scale utilization. The estimated unit cost of electricity from grid connected solar energy plant is estimated to be around Rs. 12-15 per unit, which is very high compared to electricity generated from conventional sources including thermal power and other renewable energy sources such as wind, small hydro and biomass.

A total of 33 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants have been installed in the country with financial assistance from the Ministry. These plants, with aggregate capacity of 2.125 Megawatt peak (MWp), are estimated to generate about 2.5 million units of electricity in a year.

In view of the high initial cost, at present, solar energy systems are mainly being used for stand-alone applications in lighting, telecommunication, small power requirements, battery charging, water heating and cooking etc. so far around 14 lakh solar photovoltaic systems aggregating to about 110 Megawatt peak solar photovoltaic module capacity have been installed in the country. In addition about 6 lakh solar cookers and about 20 lakh square meter collector area has been installed for solar water heating applications, which is equivalent to about 1400 Megawatt thermal capacity.

(d) The details of state-wise release of funds during the last three years for various solar energy programmes are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The state-wise details of manufacturers of solar photovoltaic cells/modules, solar cookers, flat plate solar thermal collector based water heating systems and suppliers of evacuated tube collector based water heating systems are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**State-wise Release of Funds for
Solar energy Programmes**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

States & UTs/ Financial Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	21.94	49.8	44.2
Arunachal Pradesh	0	34.81	280.6
Assam	20.22	50	0
Bihar	0	9.12	22.95
Chandigarh	0	0.08	0

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	71.54	14.16	47.7	Mizoram	43.58	110.71	100.9
Delhi	6.4	17.5	8.5	Nagaland	0	6.98	94.9
Goa	0	0	13.25	Orissa	2.8	2.26	76.48
Gujarat	37.2	36.97	280.59	Pondicherry	1.73	5.09	2
Himachal Pradesh	88.3	1.77	505.62	Punjab	4	11.8	62.9
Haryana	20.3	165.78	355.32	Rajasthan	4.95	246.16	396.82
Jammu & Kashmir	173.34	3.2	210.33	Sikkim	26	0	110.14
Jharkhand	0	5.91	0	Tamil Nadu	4.15	107.23	253.27
Karnataka	143.27	326.35	312.23	Tripura	0	1.71	0
Kerala	0.08	74.54	0	Uttar Pradesh	175.7	174.99	171.85
Madhya Pradesh	27.38	3	129.01	Uttarakhand	2.78	273.23	1246.33
Maharashtra	45.36	107.97	270.88	West Bengal	41.17	325.81	341.78
Manipur	0	24.98	15.95	IREDA / Banks/ Others	776.6	3465.76	1706.03
Meghalaya	0.08	154.76	424.78	Total	1738.87	5812.43	7485.31

Statement-II**State-wise Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Cells /Modules, Solar Water Heaters and Solar Cookers**

States/Financial Year	Solar PV Modules	Solar Water Heaters (Flat plate)	Solar Water Heaters (Evacuated tube)*	Solar Cookers
Andhra Pradesh	6	4	2	1
Chandigarh		2		
Delhi		1	6	5
Gujarat		4	2	7
Haryana			1	
Himachal Pradesh		1		
Karnataka	5	26	5	4
Kerala	1		1	1
Madhya Pradesh				1
Maharashtra		16	7	4
Punjab	1			1
Rajasthan	1			1
Tamil Nadu	2	2	2	1
Uttar Pradesh	2			3
Uttarakhand			1	
West Bengal	1		1	1
Total	19	57	29	31

* Supplies of evacuated tube collector based water heaters

**Review of the Working of
the Constitution**

201. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Commission to review the Constitution;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission in its report; and
- (c) the implementation status of the report as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution was set up on 22nd February, 2000. The Commission has submitted its report to the Government on 31st March, 2002. The Commission has made various recommendations pertaining to (i) Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties; (ii) Electoral Processes and Political Parties; (iii) Parliament and State Legislatures; (iv) Executive and Public Administration; (v) The Judiciary; (vi) Union-state Relations; (vii) Decentralisation and Devolution; and (viii) Pace of Socio-Economic change and Development. The recommendations involve amendments to the Constitution, Legislative measures and executive action. The full text of the report of the Commission has been put on the Internet [www.lawmin.nic.in].

(c) Action on the recommendations lies with the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, which are administratively concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations. Copies of the report have already been forwarded to the Ministries/Departments.

**Development of
Renewable Energy**

202. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes integrated energy policy/sector regulations with uniformity in regulations and incentive structure including taxation policies in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Integrated Energy Policy Report has under its Section relating to regulations and incentive structures, recommended that the tax structure and regulation across energy sub-sectors should be consistent and institutional arrangements should provide a level playing field to all players. However, these recommendations are yet to be accepted by the Government.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme

203. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether details of Integrated Child Protection Schemes have been finalized; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sexual Harassment of Women

204. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cases of sexual harassment noticed during the last three years. Year-wise, State-wise; and
- (b) number of cases disposed of till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Information furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs regarding cases registered, cases charge sheeted and cases convicted etc. during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 relating to sexual harassment (eve teasing) under Section 509 IPC, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19 Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	2
20 Orissa	170	161	24	255	248	31	184	166	11	293	293	12	247	214	20	311	306	20		
21 Punjab	38	32	61	43	64	66	43	18	6	42	27	7	60	43	19	75	63	29		
22 Rajasthan	41	35	28	51	51	31	28	22	17	38	38	19	31	26	16	33	33	16		
23 Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Tamil Nadu	1081	943	704	1037	1071	696	665	749	419	787	809	446	852	745	203	857	838	348		
25 Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Uttar Pradesh	2682	2644	1849	4176	4159	2351	2881	2841	1834	4469	4373	2908	2714	2715	1716	3852	3825	2312		
27 Uttaranchal	110	109	48	267	258	60	89	88	30	179	184	41	113	113	35	186	185	94		
28 West Bengal	64	42	3	90	64	3	54	52	3	66	65	3	63	51	16	76	55	20		
Total States	9820	9153	4776	12566	12271	5859	9723	9366	4079	12891	12645	5556	9765	9072	3491	12160	12051	4722		
29 A&N Islands	3	2	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	4	4	0	6	8	0		
30 Chandigarh	18	15	4	24	15	4	9	10	1	13	21	2	13	12	3	20	20	3		
31 D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
32 Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Delhi (UT)	130	129	40	137	129	40	225	219	18	255	221	35	144	114	19	163	41	33		
34 Lachhadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Pondicherry	30	30	8	41	42	10	26	27	14	30	30	14	39	38	9	70	70	9		
Total UT	181	176	52	205	188	54	261	257	33	301	274	51	201	189	31	260	140	45		
All India Total	10001	9329	4828	12771	12459	5913	9984	9623	4112	13192	12919	5607	9966	9241	3522	12420	12191	4767		

[English]

Facilities in Metropolitan Cities

205. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for the development of facilities in metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in select 63 cities inclusive of all metropolitan cities with emphasis on provision of basic services to the urban poor including housing, water supply, sanitation, road network, urban transport, development of inner (old) city areas etc. A provision of Rs. 50,000 crore has been made as reform linked Central assistance over the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06. Another Rs. 50,000 crore will come from the States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Implementation of JNNURM

206. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are lagging behind in implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement-I in respect of the States/Cities which are lagging behind in implementing the scheme so far is enclosed.

(c) Statement-II depicting steps taken by Centre to see that implementation of Mission including urban projects is speeded up in States which have lagged behind so far is enclosed.

Statement-I

States/cities which are lagging behind in implementation of the scheme can be categorized as under:

- i. States which have not yet signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with this Ministry for implementation of reforms, as prescribed under the guidelines for seeking central assistance under JNNURM and

therefore have not made any progress under the Mission are:-

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Goa
- (c) Puducherry
- ii. States which have signed MoA but are still in the process of preparation of suitable Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for funding under the Mission are:-
 - (a) Meghalaya (Shillong)
 - (b) Mizoram (Aizawl)
 - (c) Orissa (Puri)
 - (d) Tripura (Agartala)
 - (e) Uttaranchal (Nainital, Hardwar and Dehradun)
 - (f) Sikkim (Gangtok)
 - (g) Punjab (Ludhiana)
 - (h) Madhya Pradesh (Ujjain)
 - (i) Delhi
 - (j) Bihar (Bodhgaya)
- iii. States/Cities for which projects have been approved but work has not yet commenced:
 - i. Colmbatore (Tamil Nadu)
 - ii. Arunachal Pradesh
 - iii. Chandigarh UT
 - iv. Amritsar (Punjab)
 - v. Jammu and Kashmir
 - vi. Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
 - vii. Manipur
 - viii. Puducherry
 - ix. Bhubaneshwar (Orissa)
 - x. Assam
 - xi. Patna (Bihar)
 - xii. Chhattisgarh
 - xiii. Himachal Pradesh
 - xiv. Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)
 - xv. Uttar Pradesh

Statement-II

Efforts being made by the Centre to speed up implementation of projects / reforms under JNNURM for States which have lagged behind include:-

- i. Periodic reviews by Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC)
- ii. Regional Review Meetings
- iii. Monthly D.O. letters from Secretary (UD) to Chief Secretaries of States.
- iv. Day to day interaction with States.
- v. In-depth review of implementation of Reforms at State and City levels by Reform Appraisal Agencies.
- vi. Support to establish Program Management Unit (PMU) at State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNA) level to accelerate implementation of reforms, enhance the quality of physical works and improve efficiency in service delivery.
- vii. Extending financial and technical support to establish Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to enhance their capability to effectively implement projects and reforms under JNNURM.
- viii. Third party monitoring and review of the projects sanctioned under the JNNURM through appointment of Independent Review and Monitoring Agencies (IRMAs).
- ix. An indicative list of organizations has been compiled, based on the relevant technical parameters, and circulated to State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to facilitate the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)
- x. Capacity Building and Communication activities through Rapid Training Program (RTP), Peer Experience and Reflective Learning (PEARL) to foster cross learning among cities and institutions.
- xi. Award to cities and States that perform well in implementation of the Mission.
- xii. Communication Campaign.
- xiii. Engagement of Civil Society
- xiv. Community Participation Fund (CPF).
- xv. Credit Rating of Urban Land Bodies.
- xvi. Municipal Finance Improvement Programme (MFIP).
- xvii. Pooled Finance Development Fund.

Declining Number of Working Days

207. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employment among rural households has declined in terms of the number of working days between 1993-94 and 1999-2000;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government to increase the working days?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The estimates of employment and unemployment are worked out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) based on their surveys. As per quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, employment, opportunities in rural areas on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis was estimated at 238.75 million in 1993-94 (50th round) which has gone up to 251.22 million in 1999-2000 (55th round).

Recovery of Taxes

208. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the difficulties being faced by the Union Government in the recovery of direct and indirect taxes;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed the present system and formulated any targeted plan fixing responsibility for time-bound recovery of tax dues;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The difficulties being faced by the Union Government in the recovery of direct and indirect taxes are as under:

Demand pending write off; Assessors not traceable (to the extent it is likely to affect recovery); No assets/ inadequate assets for recovery (to the extent of inadequacy); Protective Demand; Cases where the Department has lost in appeal but the demand is outstanding for other years or is continuing to be raised to keep the issue alive as the Department is in further appeal; Notified persons under the Special Court (Trial of offences relating to Securities) Act, 1992; Cases admitted before BIFR; Companies in liquidation; Cases before Settlement Commission; Demand stayed by various Courts/Tribunals; Demand covered by instalments (only to the extent not recoverable during the month); Demand the recovery of which is not being pursued on

account of assessee's stay petition-pending consideration by I.T. Authorities; Cases relating to Public Sector Units pending with committee on disputes/Debt Recovery Tribunal, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken various steps for time-bound recovery of taxes due. As far as direct taxes are concerned, targets have been allocated to each Chief Commissioner/Director General of Income Tax. The Government has also constituted a Task Force under each Chief Commissioner/Director General of Income Tax to particularly monitor the demands difficult to recover and take appropriate action. In so far as indirect taxes are concerned, the Department has adopted a Task Force based approach for recovery of arrears of revenue in an effective manner. The Task Force is headed by a Chief Commissioner level officer assisted by 6 nodal officers of the rank of Commissioner. The strategy adopted for effective action in the recovery of arrears is briefly indicated below:

Immediate realization of unfettered arrears; Filing of applications for stay vacation/early hearing in Courts/CESTAT; Follow up of cases pending in BIFR/DRT/OL/COD; Timely disposal of all adjudication cases pending at the level of Commissioners; Quick implementation of favourable orders of CESTAT/Courts; Posting the list of defaulters on CBEC Website to enable all the field officers to browse the website in connection with recovery action at their end; and write off of irrecoverable cases of arrears.

The Govt. has set a target of Rs.13,501/- crores and Rs.2550/- crores with respect to Direct and indirect taxes respectively for recovery from arrears in F.Y. 2007-08.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

Development of the Outer Ring Road

209. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA), Hyderabad has sought the assistance of the Ministry to bear 50% of the cost of the project of developing the outer Ring Road and 33 radial roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Under Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) Component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) Hyderabad city falls under category A. As per financial pattern in the extant guideline of JNNURM, Hyderabad city is eligible to get 35% of the approved cost of the project as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). So far Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted four projects for developing the Outer Ring Road and radial roads. Details are given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Project Name	Estimated cost	Status
1.	DPR for strengthening and widening of Radial Road No.2 between Indra Reddy Statue on IRR and Himyat Sagar near ORR	2000.00	Deferred by Sanctioning Authority
2.	DPR for strengthening and widening of Radial Road No. 2 between Rethibowli Junction on IRR and APPA junction on ORR	2150.00	Deferred by Sanctioning Authority
3.	Strengthening and widening of Radial Road Road No. 28 from Chandrayangautta to Srinagar	5191.00	Returned for Modification
4.	Road Widening on Outer Ring Road and Inner Ring Road under Charminar Pedestrianisation Project	3510.00	Approved by Sanctioning Authority

Hydro Power Policy

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has not come out with a new hydro power policy despite repeated announcement;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the decision taken during the Chief Minister Conference held in May 2007 has not been made operational;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) A Hydro Policy on hydro power development was announced by the Government in August, 1998 which incorporates several steps and measures for expeditious development of hydro power. Amongst others, it lays emphasis on increasing private investment in the power sector through independent Power Producers (IPPs) and joint ventures. However based on the experience gained and suggestions from the various stakeholders including the host State Governments, a revised proposal duly incorporating the various suggestions made by the State Governments and the Stakeholders has been circulated to various Ministries/Departments for inter-ministerial consultation.

(c) to (e) A decision taken in the Chief Ministers Conference held in May 2007 was to constitute a Standing Group of Power Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Power Minister to periodically review the implementation of the resolutions adopted in Conference. The Standing Group of Ministers has been constituted on 30th August, 2007. The first meeting of Standing Group of Ministers to review the progress of implementation of the resolutions convened on 24th September, 2007.

On 3rd September, 2007, a Task Force on Hydro Project Development has been also constituted as a Sub Group of the Standing Group of Power Ministers to look into all issues relating to development of hydro power including issues of Rehabilitation & Resettlement of Project Affected Persons.

Purchase of Super Computer for Weather Forecasting

211. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instruments/computers available with the Government for weather forecasting, ocean information, tropical meteorology have been outdated;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to buy super computers for tracking changes in the climate of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL): (a) Not totally, Sir. Although, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been upgrading its instruments / computers from time to time, there exists an urgent requirement of rapidly upgrading and expanding the density of observational network and enhancing forecasting capabilities by employing advanced prediction models/tools.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has taken major initiative for procurement of Supercomputers / High Performance Computers (HPCs) for use in its various centres – IMD, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida (U.P.), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, (IITM), Pune and Indian National Center of Ocean Information Services (NCOIS), Hyderabad. HPC infrastructure shall be used to run advanced numerical models for weather, ocean state and climate prediction. Actions for procurement of HPCs have already been initiated.

(d) During the last 3-years, a sum of Rs. 29 crores has been spent on upgrading existing computers. A sum of Rs. 100 crores is provided for the HPC Procurements during the first 2-years of the XI plan. Allocation of Rs. 700 crores is kept for observational network modernization during the first 2-3 years of the XI plan.

Meteorology Service System

212. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade meteorology service system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the assessment of requirements, modernization plans have been evolved both in respect of observational infrastructure (Land and Ocean platforms) and forecasting capabilities. A comprehensive modernization programme of India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre of Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) is being taken up during the XI Plan with following components:

(i) Procurement of high performance computers for operating advanced forecast models;

(ii) Enhancement of observation systems including Automated Rain Gauges (ARG), Automatic Weather Stations (AWS), improved Radiosonde systems for upper level data, acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) etc. as per the following details:

Observation Instrument	Optimum Number	Existing/*Planned (IMD & *other organizations)	Required	Phase 2 & 3	
				2007-09	2009-2012
Automatic Rain Gauge	3600	250	3350	1350	2000
Automatic Weather Station	1150	200	950	550	400
Doppler Weather Radar*	68	13	55	13	42
Wind profiler	15	10	5	4	1
Aeronautical Instrumentation	50	0	50	26	24
Upgrade RS/RW	44	16	28	25	3
Upgrade Pilot Balloon	70	0	70	70	0

*This procurement may spill over to XII Plan

[Translation]

Availability of Child Care Houses

213. SHRI SUBHAS SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert 'Anganwadi' centres to 'day care cum creches';

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

(c) whether child care facility is available at workplaces for women of unorganized sectors;

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

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers, administered by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, provides child care facilities to the children in the age group of 0-6 years, of working women in all the sectors including the unorganized sector.

Presently, 30902 creches are functioning all over the country under the Scheme. State-wise details of creches sanctioned upto 31.3.2007, are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise number of Creches upto 31.3.2007

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of crèches sanctioned
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	3902
2	Arunachal Pradesh	253
3	Assam	937
4	Bihar	1180
5	Chhattisgarh	766
6	Delhi	466
7	Goa	68
8	Gujarat	1213
9	Haryana	894
10	Himachal Pradesh	771
11	Jammu & Kashmir	593
12	Jharkhand	551
13	Karnataka	1564
14	Kerala	1035
15	Madhya Pradesh	2740
16	Maharashtra	2292
17	Manipur	464
18	Meghalaya	199
19	Mizoram	257

1	2	3
20	Nagaland	132
21	Orissa	1287
22	Punjab	419
23	Rajasthan	1032
24	Sikkim	200
25	Tamil Nadu	1928
26	Tripura	340
27	Uttar Pradesh	1868
28	Uttaranchal	738
29	West Bengal	2003
30	A&N Island	103
31	Chandigarh	80
32	D&N Haveli	13
33	Daman & Diu	4
34	Lakshadweep	64
35	Pondicherry	246
36	BAJSS*	300
Total		30902

*300 Creches were sanctioned to Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi for camps, displaced, settled groups, denotified UTs, HIV/Sex Workers, North Eastern Region.

[English]

Duty on Import of Petroleum

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

(a) the details of target vis-à-vis collection of customs duty through petroleum import during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet collection targets in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Target for collection of customs duty for the financial year is not fixed for individual commodities but fixed for total collection.

Customs duty collected from import of petroleum crude and petroleum products for the last three financial years is given below:

Year	(Rs. in crore)
2004-05	13250
2005-06	11394
2006-07	14009

Equity Investment by PGCIL

215. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is planning equity investments to the tune of Rs.16,500 crore over the next five years to fund transmission projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aiming to achieve a national power grid with inter-regional power transfer capacity of over 37,000 MW during the Eleventh Plan;

(d) if so, whether the PGCIL, has decided to invest about Rs.55,000 crore on transmission infrastructure during the next five year period; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it would help in checking the power transmission losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is planning an equity investment of about Rs.16,500 crore during the XIth Plan (i.e. by 2012) to fund transmission projects. This would be met through internal resources expected to be generated from the company's operations, proceeds from the Initial Public Offering (IPO), enhanced business activities in Consultancy and Telecom, short term loans for meeting working capital requirement, sale of securitized bonds etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The development of the National Grid is aimed at optimizing the utilization of available natural resources in the country by integrating the five regions in a phased manner, matching with generation capacity addition and growth in power demand. Presently, National Grid has an inter-regional power transmission capacity of more than 16,000 MW. This is planned to be enhanced to over 37,700 MW during the XI Plan i.e. by 2012.

(d) Based on the anticipated generation capacity addition, an investment of about Rs.55,000 crore is planned by the PGCIL during the XI Plan.

(e) The present level of energy losses in the Extra High Voltage (EHV) transmission network at 220 kV and above are of the order of 3-4% which are at par with international standards.

Fund for Urban Slum Areas

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

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

(a) whether the funds allocated for the poor living in urban slum areas of the country have not been fully utilized during the last three years; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) State-wise details of funds allocated and released during the last three years under various poverty alleviation/slum development schemes are enclosed as Statement.

Statement**State-wise Funds Allocation & Released under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP).**

Rs. in crore

Sl. No.	State/UT	Planning Commission Allocation			ACA Released by M/o Finance		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00		57.84	0.00	62.89	81.85
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Assam	0.00		7.46	0.00	0.00	
4	Bihar	0.00		33.07	0.00	0.00	
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00		2.96	0.00	0.00	78.05
6	Goa	0.00		0.10	0.00	0.00	
7	Gujarat	0.00		57.65	0.00	0.00	98.68
8	Haryana	0.00		2.15	0.00	0.00	4.58
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00		1.42	0.00	0.00	1.76
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00		6.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	0.00		19.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	0.00		24.13	0.00	0.00	27.71
13	Kerala	0.00		14.32	0.00	0.00	11.84
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.00		17.72	0.00	9.25	39.54
15	Maharashtra	0.00		217.98	0.00	0.00	287.58
16	Manipur	0.00		0.79	0.00	0.00	
17	Meghalaya	0.00		1.58	0.00	0.00	
18	Mizoram	0.00		1.84	0.00	0.00	
19	Nagaland	0.00		0.39	0.00	0.00	15.51
20	Orissa	0.00		3.91	0.00	0.00	
21	Punjab	0.00		26.27	0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	0.00		23.21	0.00	0.00	24.85
23	Sikkim	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
24	Tamil Nadu	0.00		68.79	0.00	0.00	83.00
25	Tripura	0.00		0.91	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	0.00		66.95	0.00	0.00	9.64
27	Uttaranchal	0.00		4.52	0.00	0.00	
28	West Bengal	0.00		138.86	0.00	0.00	137.17
29	Delhi	0.00		96.99	0.00	0.00	
30	Pondicherry	0.00		4.88	0.00	0.00	
31	A&N Islands	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
32	Chandigarh	0.00		6.34	0.00	0.00	
33	D&N Haveli	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
34	Lakshadweep	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
35	Daman & Diu	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Total	0.00		908.78	0.00	72.14	901.77

- BUSP has been recently launched. States/UTs are in the process of implementing programmes on providing housing and basic amenities to the poor.
- In 2005-06 combined allocation of Rs. 334 crores was made for both BSUP and IHS DP for all States/UTs.

State-wise Funds Allocation & Released under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (HISDP).

Rs. in crore

Sl. No.	State/UT	Planning Commission Allocation			Total ACA Released		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00		65.38	0.00	0.00	83.33
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	0.00		5.33	0.00	0.00	5.09
4	Bihar	0.00		16.91	0.00	0.00	8.96
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00		7.00	0.00	0.00	31.26
6	Goa	0.00		1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	0.00		24.08	0.00	0.00	18.00
8	Haryana	0.00		15.01	0.00	0.00	49.61
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00		1.83	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00		9.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	0.00		11.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	0.00		15.49	0.00	0.00	14.93
13	Kerala	0.00		18.69	0.00	0.00	21.46
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.00		26.72	0.00	0.00	45.77
15	Maharashtra	0.00		54.66	0.00	0.00	55.80
16	Manipur	0.00		1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	0.00		1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	0.00		0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	0.00		0.77	0.00	0.00	9.63
20	Orissa	0.00		15.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	0.00		16.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	0.00		39.90	0.00	0.00	39.26
23	Sikkim	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	0.00		32.83	0.00	0.00	43.37
25	Tripura	0.00		0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	0.00		80.15	0.00	0.00	11.05
27	Uttaranchal	0.00		5.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	0.00		30.62	0.00	0.00	55.08
29	Delhi	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Pondicherry	0.00		0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	A&N Islands	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Chandigarh	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	D&N Haveli	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Daman & Diu	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		0.00		499.99	0.00	0.00	492.61

Note: 1. IHSDP has been recently launched. States / Uts are in the process of implementing programmes on providing housing and basic amenities to the poor.

2. In 2005-06 combined allocation of Rs. 334 crores was made for both BSUP and IHSDP for all States /UTs.

State-wise Cumulative Allocation/Release under SJSRY

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Fund Allocated Cumulative By 2006-07	Fund Released Cumulative By 2006-07	Expenditure Reported
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	22262.9	17576.84	19248.09
2	Arunachal Pradesh	797.61	293.57	760

1	2	3	4	5
3	Assam	3817.27	2987.62	2811.46
4	Bihar	6524.43	3438.7	5226.62
5	Chhattisgarh	2413.63	2413.63	1552.9
6	Goa	341.49	119.59	226.48
7	Gujarat	9132.86	6852.93	6903.69
8	Haryana	4229.02	3764.26	3830.58
9	Himachal Pradesh	1313.34	615.31	1249.09
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2594.77	1655.56	2504.06
11	Jharkhand	2311.18	886.71	0
12	Karnataka	14914.89	10025.94	13467.99
13	Kerala	6060.11	5196.41	5181.16
14	Madhya Pradesh	16662.49	13608.54	14545.74
15	Maharashtra	21338.67	14738.06	17221.11
16	Manipur	1120.71	764.67	1009.31
17	Meghalaya	677.03	352.17	478.19
18	Mizoram	2976.08	2885.5	2859.38
19	Nagaland	1407.91	1177.29	1299.99
20	Orissa	4704.49	3588.15	4173.5
21	Punjab	2280.4	910.25	2323.21
22	Rajasthan	7470.25	4310.08	6043.73
23	Sikkim	501.57	395.41	539.38
24	Tamil Nadu	17375.28	9860.63	15792.81
25	Tripura	2050.29	1952.09	1866.89
26	Uttaranchal	780.8	780.8	267.27
27	Uttar Pradesh	31963.35	24199.92	29214.32
28	West Bengal	9576.56	6897.42	9251.77
29	A & N Islands	361.49	261.06	333.8
30	Chandigarh	783.2	705.5	234.62
31	D&N Haveli	369.11	287.77	305.56
32	Daman & Diu	243.26	161.63	42.1
33	Delhi	877.73	615.2	463.95
34	Pondicherry	1403.89	1144.76	1319.65
Total		201637.88	145423.98	172554.4

Assessment of Rural Development Programmes

217. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any village based impact assessment studies to assess the collective impact of all the programmes of Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of these studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development have been conducting the Impact Assessment Studies from time to time to assess the effectiveness and impact of rural development programmes. The micro level impact assessment studies are conducted taking District as a unit. The broad methodology devised by the Ministry also includes the collection of primary sample data at the village level. Since 1999, in all 238 studies have been conducted through independent research institutions.

The findings of the impact studies broadly reveal that although there are variations across the States in terms of impact of the programmes, however, by and large, the implementation of the programmes have helped in increasing the income levels, and improving the quality of life of the people. With the creation of physical, economic and social infrastructure such as primary school buildings, community halls, houses for poor, rural roads, toilet facilities, drinking water supply etc. enabled the rural masses to have a better access to the basic amenities, better health and education facilities besides providing connectivity to the markets and also building the awareness amongst the rural people. The findings of these studies are shared with State Governments, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Wind Energy

218. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments are generating wind energy to cope up with the power crises in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of Wind Mills functioning in the country as on date State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government provides any incentives to these States to promote wind energy in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the wind power generation capacity has increased in these States during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Electricity Generated from wind power projects can supplement electricity generation from conventional source. Grid interactive wind power installed capacity aggregating to 7660 MW has been set up in various potential states as on 30.09.2007. State-wise information is given below:

State	Capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	122.4
Gujarat	806.0
Karnataka	853.2
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	57.3
Maharashtra	1622.2
Rajasthan	493.9
Tamil Nadu	3698.9
West Bengal	1.1
Orissa	3.2
Total	7660.2

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Grid Interactive Wind Power Programme is essentially private sector driven. Wind power is being given preferential tariffs in respective states. In addition, Government provides fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions. Technical support, including detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites, is provided by the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET), Cehnnal.

(e) A total wind power capacity of 1742 MW was added during the year 2006-07. State-wise information is given below:

State	Capacity added (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	0.8
Gujarat	284.0
Karnataka	266.0
Madhya Pradesh	16.4
Maharashtra	485.3
Rajasthan	111.8
Tamil Nadu	577.9
Total	1742.2

Time Limit for Construction of Houses

219. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has recently reduced the maximum permissible period for construction of various categories of plots allotted by it in the past from 25 years to 10 years and has asked the plot holders whose period of 10 years has expired to complete their construction by December 31, 2007 otherwise their plots will be cancelled;

(b) if so, whether DDA has informed such plot holders individually as well as through National Dailies at various times and by displaying this policy change through hoardings in the plotted residential schemes of DDA;

(c) whether the DDA proposes to give further relaxation of one year for completion of construction work at plot issued by DDA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Delhi Development Authority has informed that the plot holders have not been informed individually or through hoardings in the plotted residential schemes but press notice was issued by DDA in newspapers in June, 2006.

(c) and (d) The DDA has further informed that there is no proposal at present to relax the period of construction.

Inclusion of Cities under JNNURM

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

(a) the number of cities covered under JNNURM Statewise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to include some more cities under JNNURM;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) 63 select cities are covered under Sub-mission-I Urban Infrastructure & Governance of JNNURM. State-wise list of cities is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Decision to keep number of cities covered under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) about 60 was taken with the approval of Government. However, cities which are not covered under the JNNURM have been covered under another scheme of the Ministry, namely, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

Statement

List of Cities Included in JNNURM

Sl. No.	City/Urban Agglomeration	Name of the State	Population as per 2001 census (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
a) Mega Citities/UAs			
1.	Delhi	Delhi	128.77
2.	Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra	164.34
3.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	45.25

1	2	3	4
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka	57.01
5.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	65.60
6.	Kolkata	West Bengal	132.06
7.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	57.42
b) Million-plus Cities/UAs			
1.	Patna	Bihar	16.98
2.	Faridabad	Haryana	10.56
3.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	14.58
4.	Ludhiana	Punjab	13.98
5.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	23.27
6.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	22.46
7.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	12.03
8.	Nashik	Maharashtra	11.52
9.	Pune	Maharashtra	37.60
10.	Cochin	Kerala	13.55
11.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	12.04
12.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	13.31
13.	Amritsar	Punjab	10.03
14.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	13.45
15.	Vadodara	Gujarat	14.91
16.	Surat	Gujarat	28.11
17.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	27.15
18.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	21.29
19.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	14.61
20.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	11.61
21.	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	10.98
22.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	11.04
23.	Asansol	West Bengal	10.67
24.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	10.42
25.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	10.39
26.	Rajkot	Gujarat	10.03
27.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	10.65
28.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	16.40
c) Selected Cities/Urban Agglomerations (UA) (State Capitals and other cities/UA of religious/historic and touristic importance)			
1.	Guwahati	Assam	8.19
2.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh	0.35

1	2	3	4
3.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir	6.12
4.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	7.00
5.	Panaji	Goa	0.99
6.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1.45
7.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	8.63
8.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	8.90
9.	Imphal	Manipur	2.50
10.	Shillong	Meghalaya	2.68
11.	Aizawal	Mizoram	2.28
12.	Kohima	Nagaland	0.77
13.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	6.58
14.	Gangtok	Sikkim	0.29
15.	Agartala	Tripura	1.90
16.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal	5.30
17.	Bodh Gaya	Bihar	3.94
18.	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	4.31
19.	Puri	Orissa	1.57
20.	Ajmer-Pushkar	Rajasthan	5.04
21.	Nainital	Uttaranchal	2.20
22.	Mysore	Karnataka	7.99
23.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
24.	Chandigarh	Punjab & Haryana	8.08
25.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	9.88
26.	Haridwar	Uttaranchal	2.21
27.	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	3.23
28.	Nanded	Maharashtra	4.31

Demand of Workers of FCI

221. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently received a memorandum submitted by the member Workers of Food Corporation of India (Handling) regarding long pending demands of the workers of the Corporation.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their main demands alongwith the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the pending demands of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. FCI (Handling) Workers Union submitted a memorandum dated 23rd Oct., 2007 raising 10 demands to the FCI Management.

(b) and (c) The demands raised in the memorandum are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Chairman and Managing Director, FCI held a meeting with the representatives of FCI (Handling) Workers Union on 31.10.2007 to discuss their demands. The union representatives did not fully cooperate during

the discussions to make the talks meaningful. They also incited some workers to resort to violence. The situation was however controlled with the assistance of Police.

FCI Management has constituted a Committee of three officers to go into the demands put forth by the Union and submit its report within three months.

Statement

The Demands Raised by FCI (Handling) Workers Union in their Memorandum Dated 23rd October, 2007.

Sl. No.	Demand
1.	Minimum wages be guaranteed to the 'No Work No Pay' System workers.
2.	Enhancement of wages after every four year in addition to the benefit of revision of Minimum Guaranteed Wages and Piece Rate (ASOR) for Direct Payment System workers.
3.	Extension of the benefit of reimbursement of medical claim also to DPS and No Work No Pay System workers.
4.	Prevention of hiring out of the surplus godowns or sheds owned by the Corporation and de-hiring of sheds or godowns owned by the Corporation already hired out to the private parties or state agencies.
5.	Stopping of implementation of the unilateral fixation of norms for 135 bags for departmental labour in violation of bipartite settlement dated 13th March, 1999.
6.	Revocation of wrong and illegal appointments of Sardar and Mondal.
7.	Abolition of Contract Labour System in the depots where Contract workers are working and introduction of Direct Payment System in such depots.
8.	Recommendations of M/s McKinsey & Co. not to be brought in to effect.
9.	Assurance given in writing by FCI Hqrs. Letter No. IR(L)/4(31)/98-Vol.II/PF-I dated 8th May, 2001.
10.	Provision of pay to casual workers at par with DPS workers at CB Ganj and Persa-khera, Bareilly (UP).

[Translation]

Opening of Siachen to Tourists

222. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated a scheme of opening Siachen to tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether neighbouring countries have opposed the said scheme threatening that it will affect the ongoing peace-talks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) whether foreign tourists will also be permitted to visit Siachen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The area mentioned in the question falls within the State of Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral part of India. Trekking expeditions have been taking place in the area subject to appropriate clearance.

In September 2007, the Government of Pakistan protested against the trekking expeditions in the Siachen area expressing their deep concern over the media reports in this regard and stating that Siachen issue is being discussed within the framework of the Composite Dialogue.

Suitable reply was given to Government of Pakistan clarifying that trekking expeditions have been taking place in the past and India does not see how these will have an adverse impact on the dialogue process.

Directions to New Mobile Companies

223. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines for the companies emerging in the field of telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences to applicant companies as per the existing policy.

[English]

Mobile Tower in Karnataka

224. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government regarding installation of mobile towers in Chitradurga District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned for installation of 23 numbers of GSM mobile towers in the next phase of rollout (Under phase V.1 GSM Mobile project) in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Waiting List for BSNL SIM Cards

4225. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for obtaining prepaid SIM Cards lying pending with the BSNL in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the time by which SIM Cards will be available for the consumer;

(c) the reasons for delay in making SIM Cards available to them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide SIM Cards on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, number of applications for obtaining prepaid SIM Cards lying pending with the BSNL in the country is 3608. However, pendency in Uttar Pradesh is Nil.

(b) SIM cards are available on demand in all circles except Maipur and Nagaland States of NE-II circle due to capacity constraints where these are likely to be available by January, 2008.

(c) and (d) Though SIM cards are available in Manipur and Nagaland states of NE-II circle, however these are not being distributed as the network capacity in the states is exhausted. Expansion of network capacity in these states is in progress and it is likely to be available by January, 2008.

[English]

Fodder Development in Karnataka

226. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals regarding Fodder Development, Assistance to Fodder Block making units, Grassland Development and Fodder Seed Development;

(b) if so, the current status of the proposals;

(c) the reasons for delay in granting approval; and

(d) the steps taken for according approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The Government of Karnataka has forwarded following proposals during the current financial year:-

(i) Establishment of a cattle feed plant.

(ii) Fodder seed production programme.

(iii) Grassland development.

(b) to (d) The proposal for establishment of a cattle feed plant was received under the Special Package for suicide-prone districts, which does not have provision for the same. Karnataka was released an amount of Rs.100.00 lakhs in 2006-07 for the Fodder Seed Production Programme. Further funds will be considered for release only after utilization of the amount already made available to the State. The proposal for grassland development has been received on 15th October 2007 and funds for the same will be released after appraisal.

[Translation]

Telephone Upgradation Work

227. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgradation work in rural telephone sector in the country, especially in Maharashtra has been done by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued in the rural sectors due to systems adopted under upgradation work in rural telephone sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of upgradation work done in rural telephone sector in

the country and Maharashtra by BSNL during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The benefits that are likely to accrue to the rural areas are as under:-

(i) Availability of new features/services/facilities at par with urban areas.

(ii) Better monitoring for maintenance and facility creation.

(iii) Access to mobile network with better coverage and signal strength

(iv) Access to internet.

(v) More coverage of rural areas for basic telephony.

Statement

Details of Upgradation Work Done in the Country and Maharashtra for the Last Three Years

Sl. No.	Item	All India	Maharashtra
1	Conversion of C-DOT RAX into C-DOT AN-RAX (Fixed Line Exchanges)	13,487	2,510
2	Conversion of PSTN C-DOT SBMs into C-DOT RSUs (Fixed Line Exchanges)	4,093	24
3	Number of villages covered for Mobile Services	1,81,700	11,300
4	Number of Mobile BTS commissioned	14,283	1,322
5	Capacity of WLL systems (limited mobility) Created.	23.62 lakhs	2.76 lakhs

[English]

Production from Animal Husbandry

228. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of production from Animal Husbandry products especially in the category of meat, egg and wool recorded during the last three years;

(b) the growth rate recorded in the said products during the said period;

(c) the percentage of said products in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of said products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a)

Year	Production		
	Meat (million tones)	Egg (billion number)	Wool (million Kg)
2003-04	2.1	40.4	48.5
2004-05	2.2	45.2	44.6
2005-06	2.3	46.2	44.9
2006-07*	2.3	50.7	45.1

*Provisional

(b) Growth rate (in percentage)

Year	Meat	Egg	Wool
2004-05	4.8	11.9	-8.0
2005-06	4.5	2.2	0.7
2006-07*	0.0	9.7	0.4

*Provisional

(c) Percentage shares of value of output of meat, egg and wool in overall GDP at current prices for the year 2005-06 are 0.92, 0.18 and 0.01 respectively.

(d) The following Schemes are being implemented by the Government leading to improvement in quality:-

1. Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms
2. Central Poultry Development Organisation
3. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund
4. Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme: (a) Improvement of Wool Fibre; (b) Human Resource Development & Promotional Activities.

Local Call Between Delhi and Bhiwani

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

(a) whether the local call facility upto about 100 kms has been provided in almost all the cities across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing local call facility between Delhi and Bhiwani of which air distance is not more than 100 kms; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for provision of local call facility between Delhi and Bhiwani for the benefit of the people of both the cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, local call facility is provided without '0' prefix all across the country under any of the following conditions:

- Between stations within the same Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA).
- Between stations of different SDCAs by '95' dialing, if the stations fall within the same Telecom Circle.
- Between stations of two different Telecom Circles by '95' dialing if the SDCAs of the two stations are adjacent and the two Short Distance Charging Centre fall within 50 Km distance.
- Between Delhi and NCR towns and vice-versa by '95' dialing.

(b) Local call facility is provided as per guidelines at (a) above and access to Bhiwani is not covered under these guidelines.

(c) At present, there is no proposal for provision of local call facility between Delhi and Bhiwani.

[Translation]

Command Area Development and Water Management Programme

230. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets and the achievements under the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme (CADWM) during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the target fixed have not been achieved;

(c) if so, the time by which the fixed targets are likely to be achieved;

(d) whether the said schemes have been reviewed; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State-wise targets under, Command Area Development and Water Management Programme are fixed by the State Governments themselves. The State-wise details of targets and achievements of the core components covered under the Programme i.e. construction of Field Channels and Construction of Field, Intermediate and Link Drains for the last three years as reported by the State Governments are given in the enclosed Statements I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The fixed targets have not been achieved by most of the State Governments. The achievement of targets depends mainly on allocation of matching share of funds by the State Governments.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Command Area Development & Water Management Programme was reviewed during 2006-07 by a Sub-Group of Working Group of Planning Commission on Water Resources for formulation of XI Plan.

(e) The Sub-Group, inter-alia, recommended up-scaling of the Programme, enhancement of central share and withdrawal of 10% mandatory beneficiary contribution.

Statement-I*All data are in thousand hectares*

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.000	3.064	43.248	21.463	62.040	26.904
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.895	0.895	1.024	1.024	1.496	1.496
3	Assam	0.980	0.000	1.200	0.017	1.000	0.000
4	Bihar	11.400	2.292	20.100	10.173	22.000	28.458
5	Chhattisgarh	19.230	20.379	10.506	11.725	5.715	4.680
6	Goa*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7	Gujarat	125.000	38.414	155.000	88.984	200.000	90.300
8	Haryana	47.000	54.296	39.900	37.732	39.900	37.893
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.000	1.534	1.000	1.498	1.000	0.675
10	J&K	5.496	4.820	3.348	4.136	3.440	4.564
11	Jharkhand**	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
12	Karnataka	102.115	70.048	112.823	69.057	107.880	79.022
13	Kerala	11.000	1.999	11.500	1.614	7.500	1.344
14	Madhya Pradesh	10.279	10.357	8.224	8.172	11.109	8.854
15	Maharashtra	4.980	2.894	5.230	3.020	24.500	12.172
16	Manipur	3.891	2.057	4.350	3.712	1.738	1.738
17	Meghalaya	0.273	0.098	0.175	0.092	0.083	0.062
18	Mizoram	0.140	0.140	0.117	0.114	0.122	0.122
19	Nagaland	0.400	0.435	0.502	0.502	0.000	0.000
20	Orissa	11.300	2.889	6.100	3.508	11.000	9.463
21	Punjab	23.500	18.038	49.000	34.853	46.200	40.734
22	Rajasthan	71.500	71.558	71.450	60.741	57.150	42.215
23	Sikkim**	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
24	Tamil Nadu	25.695	25.857	20.372	19.792	35.120	32.851
25	Tripura	0.070	0.000	0.079	0.023	0.163	0.068
26	Uttarakhand	3.072	1.010	2.459	2.459	4.780	NR
27	Uttar Pradesh	120.000	82.143	111.000	77.938	111.000	78.173
28	West Bengal	5.144	2.637	6.000	4.066	6.600	3.599
Total		610.360	417.854	684.707	466.413	761.536	505.387

NR – Not Reported

* Works completed prior to 2004-05

** Works not yet initiated.

Statement-II*All data are in thousand hectare*

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements	Target	Achievements
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.510	0.510	0.686	0.686	1.413	1.413
3	Assam	1.150	0.015	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.000
4	Bihar	2.500	0.000	22.850	0.997	17.000	17.755
5	Chhattisgarh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
6	Goa*	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7	Gujarat	125.000	5.200	155.000	8.260	200.000	17.340
8	Haryana	11.000	11.000	14.350	7.613	14.350	5.670
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.658	1.355	1.250	0.000	1.496	0.000
10	J&K	4.590	4.128	2.392	2.752	2.940	2.849
11	Jharkhand**	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
12	Karnataka	1.250	3.600	8.063	7.277	12.987	13.000
13	Kerala	30.000	6.156	16.000	3.275	6.700	1.652
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15	Maharashtra	3.500	2.894	3.500	2.376	3.500	0.848
16	Manipur	0.750	0.230	1.351	1.012	0.731	0.731
17	Meghalaya	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	Mizoram	0.172	0.172	0.174	0.159	0.156	0.156
19	Nagaland	0.468	0.407	1.127	0.833	0.196	0.196
20	Orissa	9.500	2.270	10.000	1.120	8.690	6.226
21	Punjab	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22	Rajasthan	2.500	2.109	0.850	0.910	1.500	0.982
23	Sikkim**	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
24	Tamil Nadu	15.150	57.517	25.700	27.806	40.000	44.737
25	Tripura	0.070	0.000	0.079	0.020	0.005	0.000
26	Uttarakhand	0.000	0.000	0.535	0.535	0.680	NR
27	Uttar Pradesh	90.080	61.717	11.800	21.711	20.026	19.908
28	West Bengal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	299.848	159.280	275.707	67.342	332.870	133.443

NR – Not Reported

* Works completed prior to 2004-05

** Works not yet initiated.

Purification of Water

231. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for purification of water in villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost likely to be incurred on said scheme particularly in Rajasthan and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has no scheme for "purification of water in villages".

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of Army Commanders

232. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Commanders of Indian Armed Forces was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the terms of reference of the said meeting;

(d) whether the Government has adopted the reference of the meeting for implementation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Annual Combined Conference of the Commanders of the three Services is a regular phenomenon. The last Annual Combined Commanders Conference was held in New Delhi on 24th October, 2007. The inaugural session of the Conference was attended by the Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri among others. In this Conference, various issues related to defence and security as also important matters related to the Services are discussed. Issues raised in the Conference are looked into by the Services and wherever required, by MoD.

Private Sector in Defence Production

233. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories manufacturing arms, ammunition, missiles etc. for use by the Armed Forces;

(b) whether the quality of arms, ammunition, etc. manufactured by the Ordnance Factories is not up to the mark and their manufacturing cost is very high;

(c) if so, the reasons for opening up Defence production to Private Sector; and

(d) whether handing over Defence production to private companies would not pose any danger to the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Arms, Ammunition etc. are being manufactured in 17 Ordnance Factories (OFs) and missiles in Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), Hyderabad for the Armed Forces.

(b) The quality of arms, ammunition produced in Ordnance Factories is up to the mark and the manufacturing cost is reasonable.

(c) The Defence production was opened to Private Sector to harness capabilities of Private Sector for achieving greater self-reliance.

(d) The security concerns have been addressed by incorporating suitable provisions in the guidelines for licensing production of Defence items in Private Sector.

[English]

Upgradation of Airfields in North-East

234. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airfields in the North-East including the Tezpur Airfield are proposed to be upgraded, extended and developed in the region to make suitable for operation of multi-combat aircraft like Sukhoi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, indicating the airfields to be so upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Modernisation and upgradation of airfields including those in the North Eastern region is undertaken based on the operational requirement of the Indian Air Force. This is an on going process. Tezpur Airfield is also being upgraded, extended and developed accordingly.

[Translation]

Export of Modern and Processed Clothes

235. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry is one of the largest and most important sector in the country in terms of the production, employment generation and foreign exchange earner;

(b) if so, whether weaving and processing sector is not working satisfactorily in absence of modernisation; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to boost export of modern and processed clothes of weaving and processing sector as another value added item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to boost the export of modern and processed clothes of weaving and processing sector as another value added item, Government has taken a number of measures as furnished in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organized and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units

meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.

(v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.

(viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector were made:-

- Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 percent to 8 percent.
- Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 percent to 10 percent.
- Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 percent to 10 percent.
- Provision of Rs.189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP).

(ix) In the Budget 2007-08 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:-

- Enhancement in provision under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) from Rs. 189 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.425 crore in 2007-08.
- Continuation of the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme in the Eleventh Plan with enhanced allocation of Rs.911 crore in 2007-08 from Rs.535 crore in 2006-07.

- Enhancement in the allocation for the Handloom sector from Rs.241 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.321 crore for 2007-08.
 - Reduction in the customs duty on polyester fibres and yarns from 10 percent to 7.5 percent.
- (x) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- (xi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
- (xii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xiii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (xiv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:-
- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

National Land Reforms Council

236. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Land Reforms Council has been set up; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a National Council for Land Reforms under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Accordingly, the composition, terms of reference etc. of the Council are being finalized.

Loans Against Foodstock

237. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend loans against the stock of the foodgrains being left with farmers in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The banks in the country have been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to extend loans to the farmers against pledge/hypothecation of agriculture produce (including warehouse receipts). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides separate line of credit for Marketing of Crops to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). As per the scheme, the farmers can be sanctioned marketing credit equal to 75% of the produce pledged to the bank. Advance is sanctioned against pledge of produce kept in own/hire/private godowns or godowns of PACS/Marketing Societies, Warehouses, cold storage units owned by cooperative/other institutions. The produce pledged should be in effective custody of the financing bank/cooperative society/marketing society.

Recruitment in Defence Establishments

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

- (a) whether a decision has been taken to lift ban imposed on the recruitment in defence establishments;
- (b) if so, the details of vacancies in these establishments; and
- (c) the time by which the recruitment process would be completed against the vacancies in the establishments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) There is no ban on recruitment in defence establishments.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Special Package for Digging of Wells

239. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special package has been provided to the farmers of Vidarbha region for digging of wells;

(b) if so, the number of wells dug and farmers taking advantage of said scheme for irrigation through these wells; and

(c) the action taken so far the development of various districts of Maharashtra which are covered upto 70 percent with forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra have intimated that there is no special package for farmers of Vidarbha region for digging wells. However Prime Minister has announced a Rehabilitation Package for Vidarbha region which inter-alia includes 492 minor irrigation schemes for the 6 agrarian distress districts of Vidarbha.

Delay in Speed Post Service

240. SHRI RWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of schemes such as speed post delivery of letters sent by ordinary mail sent from one city to another is being considerably delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time taken in the delivery of letters sent from Mumbai to Rameshwaram, Delhi to Chennai and Delhi to Trivandrum;

(c) whether earlier these letters were delivered in a day or two;

(d) if so, the reasons for decline in the efficiency of the Post Offices; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. However, the incidents occasional delay in delivery of mail could be due to cancellation/late running of trains and state transport buses carrying mails, missending of mails, incomplete and illegible address of the addressee, non-use of PIN Code, non-availability of addressee, and change in the residence of the addressee without intimation to the concerned Postmaster etc.

(b) and (c) Department of Posts has fixed norms for delivery of mail across the country and has widely circulated it for information of the public. First class ordinary mail between Metro Cities has norms of delivery within 48 to 72 hours after the day of posting. Mails for states other than in which they are posted have norms of delivery within 3 to 5 days depending on the distance involved and transport links.

(d) No instances of decline in the efficiency of the post offices have been noticed with respect to (b&c) above.

(e) The Department has taken various steps to improve transmission and delivery of mail from time to time. Department of Posts has recently launched an exclusive aircraft for carriage of mails, Speed Post, Parcels and Logistics consignments across North Eastern states. Some of the important measures taken are as under:

- (i) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.
- (ii) Progressive mechanization of delivery by providing mopeds to postmen for delivery work in outlying areas of big cities.
- (iii) Rationalization/restructuring of delivery with a view to deploy adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomeration.
- (iv) Surprise checks on the delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.
- (v) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.
- (vi) Regular coordination meeting with Airlines, Railway and State Road Transport Authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of mails.
- (vii) Educating the customer for installation of mailbox on the ground floor of multistoried buildings.
- (viii) Preparation of triplicate registered list in the destination mail office for bulk mailers to reduce

the load on the delivery post office and to speed up delivery of such mail.

- (ix) To cope with the seasonal mails, separate centers with adequate manpower are opened to give expeditious handling of such mail.
- (x) Innovative use of Pin Codes, which have been in use in department since 1971 for facilitating sorting and delivery.
- (xi) Dedicated delivery staff are engaged exclusively for Speed Post delivery.
- (xii) In order to expedite the delivery of Speed Post articles, delivery staff in few cities has been provided with mopeds.
- (xiii) Track and trace facility is being provided through Speednet to enable the customer to find out the status of delivery of the Speed Post articles.
- (xiv) Same day delivery of Speed Post articles in all important towns.
- (xv) Increase in Speed Post delivery staff wherever justified.
- (xvi) Increase in nodal delivery office wherever justified.
- (xvii) Bulk delivery for corporate customers being undertaken centrally from Speed Post centers through special conveyance is metros.
- (xviii) Regular and constant monitoring at different levels to ensure efficient delivery of Speed Post articles.

Sugar Import

241. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar imported by Pakistan from India during the last three years;

(b) whether Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has declared that the sugar being imported from India is injurious to human health and unfit for human consumption and has sought ban on import of Indian sugar;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to sort out the issue with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per information received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS), Kolkata, the quantum of sugar imported by Pakistan from India during the last three financial years was as under:

(In Metric tons)		
Sl.No.	Financial Year (April-March)	Quantity
1.	2004-05	1,938
2.	2005-06	72,285
3.	2006-07	7,46,929
Total		8,21,152

(b) The Government has received no such information.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Forward Trading of Refinery Products

242. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. has made a presentation on forward trading of refinery products including petrol and diesel to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to Part(a).

[Translation]

Report on Price Rise

243. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Price Monitoring has recently submitted a report regarding rise in prices of essential commodities;

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

(c) the name of the commodities reported therein alongwith the comparative figures of their present prices and those prevailing during the corresponding period last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No. The Price Monitoring Cell only prepares and circulates notes for High level meetings such as Committee of Secretaries (COS), Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP), Cabinet etc.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

244. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families likely to cover under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana during the year 2008-09;

(b) whether the Government proposes to cover all the Below Poverty Line families in the unorganized sector during Eleventh Plan under the said Yojana; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Under 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' 1.2 crores BPL families are likely to be covered during the year 2008-09 and all estimated 6 crores BPL families by the year 2012-13.

[Translation]

Closure of Post Office

245. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Post Offices have been closed in the country specially in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the mechanism evolved for resolving the problems being faced by the people due to closure of these Post Offices;

(d) the reasons for not taking public representatives into confidence before taking the decision for closure of these Post Offices; and

(e) the reasons for discontinuance of public representatives meeting held every year at CPMG level in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. A small number of Post Offices have been closed down in the country during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. However, in Rajasthan Circle, no Post Offices have been closed down during the above three years.

(b) These Post Offices were closed down due to unavoidable circumstances e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, Court Orders for vacation of buildings and availability of Post Offices in close proximity.

(c) Before closure of any Post Office, care has been taken to ensure that other Post Offices are available in the vicinity and that level of access to postal network is not affected and customers are not put to inconvenience. The interests of customers have been kept in mind before closure of these Post Offices.

(d) The Post Offices are closed due to unavoidable circumstances as enumerated in part (b) above. Further, the Post Offices are closed as per administrative instructions aimed at right-sizing the postal network keeping in view the prescribed norms

(e) No such meeting with the public representatives is prescribed.

Amendment in Labour Laws

246. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to change the labour laws under National Minimum Common Programme in consultation with labour organizations and industry sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new mode or draft has been prepared to amend the labour laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) As mandated under the National Common Minimum Programme, in consultation with the stakeholders, proposals to amend the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 have been prepared and Amendment Bills introduced in the Parliament.

[English]

Proposal to set up Veterinary Council of India

247. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Veterinary Council of India (VCI) on the pattern of Medical Council of India (MCI);

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Consequent upon passing the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984), by the both houses of Parliament and after receiving the assent of the President of India on 18th August, 1984, the Act was published in the Extraordinary Gazette of India vide Notification No. 66 dated 21st August, 1984. Subsequently, the Union Government vide Gazette Notification S.O. No.2051 dated 2nd August, 1989 for the first time constituted the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) by nominating the Members as per the provisions of section 3 read with section 4 of the Act, and rule 23 of Indian Veterinary Council Rules, 1985. Thereafter, elections and nominations of Members to the Council have been held/made by the Union Government as provided in the said Act, from time to time.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Seeds

248. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of seeds to the farmers of the country is not satisfactory and they have to procure seeds from other sources which are substandard and crop damaging;

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

(c) the details of the total demand of the seeds in the country and the quantity of seeds supplied by the Government agencies during the last three years State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the production and supply of seeds;

(e) if so, the time when the review was done and the results thereof;

(f) whether any efforts have been made to create awareness among farmers regarding the use and purchase of seeds;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) 194.31 lakh quintals of seeds of different crops is available in 2007-08 against the requirement of 179.84 lakh quintals as reported by the State in Zonal Input Conferences. Seed production of quality seeds in country has increased by about 46.13 lakh quintals during 2006-07.

(c) to (e) Government regularly reviews the production and supply of seeds in Zonal Input Conference prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif (February-March) and Rabi (August-September). The details of total demand of the seeds in the country and the quantity of seed made available for supply by the Government agencies during the last three years State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) to (h) Under the Seed Village Programme 645350 farmers have been trained in seed production and technology in the year 2005-06 to 2007-08. Further, assistance is provided to States for the transfer of

technology, information dissemination including use of new seeds through Front Line demonstrations, field demonstrations, seed minikits, farmer's field school, seed

production, distribution of seed and farmers training under Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Central Sector Scheme of different Crop Development Programmes.

Statement

Details of Government Agencies in making available/supply certified/quality seed during last three years

State	Qty, in Lakh Qtis.								
	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	Require- ment	Govt. Agencies	Availability Total	Require- ment	Govt. Agencies	Availability Total	Require ment	Govt. Agencies	Availability Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	15.10	6.97	35.73	23.82	12.99	35.82	32.27	14.84	38.93
Arunachal Pradesh	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03
Assam	1.96	1.44	1.91	2.34	2.04	2.34	2.17	1.82	2.17
Bihar	5.41	2.44	3.73	6.31	3.89	6.10	7.19	4.21	5.58
Chhattisgarh	0.93	1.01	1.01	1.27	0.75	0.75	1.85	1.28	1.28
Goa	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.05
Gujarat	4.60	1.66	6.02	4.72	2.24	5.98	6.04	2.06	6.57
Haryana	3.68	2.95	8.51	50.03	3.46	13.45	7.25	2.90	11.81
Himachal Pradesh	0.81	0.68	0.81	0.76	0.63	0.76	0.86	0.70	0.86
Jharkhand	0.39	0.25	0.39	0.54	0.50	0.54	1.17	1.09	1.27
J&K	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	0.56
Karnataka	7.56	4.51	8.10	8.33	4.95	9.14	8.84	5.56	9.49
Kerala	0.89	1.42	1.42	0.76	0.82	0.82	0.73	0.61	0.61
MP	7.94	6.42	10.27	8.67	4.86	10.86	12.06	6.73	14.02
Meghalaya	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.08	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.07	0.10
Maharashtra	14.67	9.98	17.00	14.79	9.58	15.88	17.02	9.85	18.60
Manipur	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.08
Mizoram	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06
Nagaland	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.46	0.36	0.46	0.40	0.23	0.44
Orissa	3.00	3.20	3.27	2.99	2.91	2.91	3.48	3.93	3.93
Puducherry	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.13
Punjab	4.02	3.82	5.08	8.91	4.85	6.18	9.34	6.09	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rajasthan	8.20	3.52	8.75	10.07	4.58	10.41	13.68	5.31	14.83
Sikkim	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.08
Tamil Nadu	2.73	2.92	2.92	2.44	2.44	2.46	10.02	7.76	10.39
Tripura	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.26	0.26	0.26
Uttaranchal	0.73	3.01	3.01	1.09	2.37	2.37	1.25	2.98	2.98
Uttar Pradesh	11.91	9.90	9.90	12.73	8.18	8.18	32.32	30.21	30.21
West Bengal	10.89	5.93	11.01	11.36	5.89	11.41	11.48	2.14	11.49
Total	107.08	73.67	140.51	128.76	79.62	148.18	180.74	111.59	194.31

[English]

Study on Problems of Labourers

249. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to look into the problems being faced by the labourers in different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour has gone into and made recommendations on various facets of labour viz; review of labour laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development labour administration, unorganized sector etc., in respect of which consultations and interactions have been held with the stakeholders in various fora. While carrying out the amendments in labour laws, the recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour are also taken into account.

[Translation]

Telecom Services in Rural Areas

250. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed private telephone companies to provide telecom services in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the private telephone companies are complying with the said directions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to take the telecommunication revolution upto the villages in the country;

(e) whether as many as 18,000 villages still lack telecom facilities as per the available figures; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All the Basic Private Service Operators (BPSOs), who were issued licence in 1997, have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence (UASL) in November 2003. According to the guidelines of UASL, there is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas under the migrated UASL licence.

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

(d) Following efforts are inter-alia being made by the Government to take telecommunication revolution upto the villages in the country:-

(i) Support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provisioning of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in all the 1685 net cost positive Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).

(ii) USOF support for providing Village Public Tele-phones (VPTs) in 66,822 undisputed accessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 by June 2008.

(iii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas.

(iv) Support from USOF for the innovative scheme of infrastructure by USO Fund to set up 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in the country.

(e) and (f) In accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement entered with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) 66,822 remaining unconnected villages in the country are to be provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas. As on 31.08.2006, 30,251 villages have been provided with VPTs and as on 30.09.2007, a total of 50,520 VPTs have been provided. The remaining 16,302 villages are likely to be provided with VPT facility by June 2008, primarily due to delay in availability of satellite transponders which were allocated earlier on Indian Satellite, INSAT-4C.

[English]

Closure of Tea Gardens

251. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea garden labourers become jobless due to closure of some tea gardens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of gardens and affected labourers, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any plan to protect the interests of these labourers either by compensation or through alternate employment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, more than thirty thousand workers were effected due to the closure of 33 gardens as on 1st April, 2007. Out of these 33 gardens, 17 are in West Bengal, 14 in Kerala and 2 in Assam.

(c) to (e) The Government of India on 29th June, 2007 had announced a rehabilitation package for providing financial relief to the extent of Rs. 38.65 crores for the closed tea gardens. The package provides for restructuring of the outstanding bank dues, provision of fresh working capital with interest subsidy from Government, waiver of outstanding loan dues to Tea Board and settlement of provident fund dues in installments. It is envisaged that after the account of the gardens are regularized they would become eligible for term loan for replanting under the Special Purpose Tea Fund and upfront subsidy for the machinery items under

the Quality Upgradation Scheme of Tea Board. The Government has also constituted a Committee for evaluating the proposals received for change of management of closed tea gardens under the provisions of Tea Act, 1953.

Some of the State Governments like Government of Kerala, West Bengal Government, where the number of gardens closed are more, have provided certain relief measures in order to alleviate distress of the jobless workers and their families. Relief measures essentially includes ensuring food security and wage employment through various rural development schemes. As a measure of interim relief the Government of India on 15th October, 2007 approved the payment of lumpsum amount of Rs. 1000/- per ward of the plantation workers of tea gardens which has remained closed as on date. As on date 10 of these 33 closed tea gardens have reopened. 9 of these opened gardens are in Kerala and one is in West Bengal.

[Translation]

National Flood Control Commission

252. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Flood Management Commission; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Setting up of National Flood Management Commission (NFMC) is envisaged in the XI Plan proposal.

[English]

Sustainable Development of Sugarcane

253. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated a scheme called Sustainable Development Sugarcane Based Cropping System in the country;

(b) if so, whether such scheme has been implemented in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which such scheme is likely to be implemented in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS), under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in 23 States/ Union Territories namely; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Pondicherry to increase the production and productivity of sugarcane. The scheme provides assistance for field demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, farm implements/machinery, heat treatment plants, production of planting material and drip irrigation.

[Translation]

Raids Against FCI Officials

254. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation conducted raid at the residential premises of certain officers of Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of raids conducted and officers booked during the said period;

(c) the current status of investigations being carried on against the officers found guilty during the said raids; and

(d) the number of officers still serving under Food Corporation of India (FCI) against whom the investigations are underway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Increase in Number of Shifts

255. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase from three shifts to four shifts in factories to reduce unemployment problem in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FER-NANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allotment of Scarce Electromagnetic Spectrum

256. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allocate scarce electromagnetic spectrum to mobile companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there will be a loss of over Rs. 10,000 crore to public exchequer, if any, deviation made to existing rule for allotment of the above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The initial spectrum is allotted to the mobile telecom operators in accordance with the relevant provisions of their Service License Agreement. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted, taking into account the subscriber based eligibility criteria, justification and subject to availability of spectrum in a telecom service area.

(c) and (d) A Committee has been setup to recommend the revised subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for allotment of 2G Spectrum. However, the matter is sub-judice in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Restructuring of Agricultural Loans

257. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an outstanding loan of one lakh seventy five thousand crores against the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to waive off their loans keeping in view the helpless conditions of the farmers;

(c) whether the agricultural loans should be structured in a manner similar to other lines of business so that farmers could be benefited;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government is seriously considering to restructure the farm loans;

(e) what is the total loan amount so far distributed among the farmers during 2006-07 by nationalized banks;

(f) to what extent it has proved helpful to the farmers;

(g) what are the steps being considered to provide further liberalized loans to farmers; and

(h) whether the Government proposes to bring down the rate of interest to four percent or less for purchasing tractors and other agricultural equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The estimated outstanding agricultural loans as on June 2006 is Rs.232343 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government of India has announced a farm credit package in June 2004 which, inter-alia provides for restructuring/re-scheduling of outstanding loans of farmers in distress and in arrears and a special one-time settlement scheme for old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers to make them eligible for fresh credit.

(e) and (f) For the year 2006-07, Public Sector Banks have disbursed loans of Rs. 1,22,442.50 crore to agriculture sector under special agricultural credit plan. The increased credit flow has resulted in higher level of capital formation in farm sector and also increased purchasing power of farmers for farm inputs and implements.

(g) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(h) No, Sir.

Statement

The Government of India has, in recent years, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD, initiated several measures for providing loans to farmers. Some of the important measures are given below:

1. Banks have been advised to simplify the procedure for documentation for agricultural loans;
2. Effective from Kharif 2006-07, the Government has lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also;
3. Loans upto Rs. 50,000/- have been made collateral and margin free;
4. Banks have been advised to provide all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards to enable them to have hassle free access to credit.
5. Under Agri Clinic and Agri Business Centre Scheme, credit linked capital subsidy @25% of the capital cost of the project is funded through banks. The scheme has been envisaged with a view of provide extension and other services to farmers on payment basis. The subsidy would be 33.33% in respect of candidates belonging to SC/ST, women and other disadvantaged sections and those from North Eastern and Hill States.
6. To improve the outreach among the poor and the informal sector, the SHG-Bank linkage programme was intensified, particularly in 13 priority States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal with vast majority of the rural poor. Banks have also been advised to finance Joint Liability Groups and Tenant Farmers' Groups;
7. As part of the measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India for financial inclusion, banks have been advised to open "No Frills" accounts and issue simple overdraft facility against such accounts. Banks have also been advised to issue General Credit Cards upto Rs. 25,000/- without insisting on security and end use of funds;
8. Banks have been advised to undertake, on a pilot basis, 100% financial inclusion in at least one district in each State. Based on the success of the pilot, the State Level Bankers Committee in the States

will draw a time bound plan for achieving 100% financial inclusion in other districts of the State;

9. To improve the financial outreach, detailed guidelines for Banking Correspondent/Banking Facilitator models have been provided to banks;
10. In order to examine the issue of financial exclusion in greater depth and to suggest measures for promoting financial inclusion, the Government of India had appointed a Committee on Financial Inclusion under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan. Based on the interim recommendations of the Committee, Government has announced creation of two funds, i.e., Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial inclusion Technology Fund in the Union Budget for 2007-08.

[Translation]

Investment by MTNL

258. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO
RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has invested Rs. 100 crore in Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. and the Government has not been benefited with the said investment as the company has not gained any profit;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action against the people responsible for the said decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL has invested Rs. 100 crores in the preference shares issued by M/s ITI Limited. No dividend on these preference shares have been declared/paid due to losses incurred by M/s ITI Limited.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Preference shares are cumulative in nature. The arrears of dividend will be paid as and when M/s ITI makes sufficient profits.

Share of Public and Private Sector Companies

259. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) the share of Public and Private Sector Companies in providing Basic and Mobile telephone services in the country;

(b) whether in comparison to Private Sector, the share of Public Sector Companies is declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to face the competition from the private companies;

(e) whether the Government has any plan to ensure share of Public Sector Companies in providing this service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The share of Public Sector and Private Sector Companies as on 30.09.2007 is as follows:

Telephones	Share of Public Sector	Share of Private Sector
Basic	90.58%	9.24%
Mobile	17.76%	82.24%
Total	29.35%	70.65%

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the subscriber base of Public Sector Companies has increased from 61.08 million as on 31.03.2006 to 72.98 million as on 30.09.2007.

(c) The decline in the share of the public sector companies is because of the increasing competition and greater participation of the private telecom service providers.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched many new and value-added services in its network such as:

- 1) In landline, Calling Line Identification is given to all customers free of charge and other features are provided to high-end users.

- 2) Matching tariffs are given to counter the private players in many areas.
- 3) The franchisee network is also being expanded and all Public Call Offices (PCOs) are also being converted into multi-utility telecom points where the customers can avail of the services of the company.
- (e) Yes, Sir.
- (f) BSNL has planned to add about 100 million telephone connections during next three years.

[English]

Wadhwa Committee on PDS

260. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had appointed Justice Wadhwa Committee to look into the problems ailing the country's Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon;
- (d) whether PDS beneficiaries in some States including West Bengal have represented against corruption in PDS;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government to ensure supply of foodgrains to PDS beneficiaries in various States particularly Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has submitted report relating to Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in Delhi.

(c) Main recommendations of the Committee are abolition of APL category, identification of BPL & AAY families to check exclusion, elimination of bogus cards, strengthening of Vigilance/Enforcement Wing and Anti-Hoarding Cell, computerization of PDS operations, establishment of Helpline, introduction of E-banking, distribution of wheat flour on option, creation of

independent agency to monitor TPDS, introduction of food coupons, streamlining of FPS licences and payment of reasonable commission to them, increasing awareness among the beneficiaries about the scheme, introduction of Global Positioning System (GPS) for movement of foodgrains consignments, etc. The report has been sent to Government of NCT of Delhi for comments.

(d) Reports have been received about representations of Above Poverty Line (APL) category of PDS beneficiaries against malpractices in TPDS.

(e) Reports received have been sent to the State Government for inquiry and appropriate action.

(f) For strengthening of TPDS and elimination of malpractices under TPDS, a 9-point action plan is under implementation in all States and UTs. A revised Citizens' Charter has been issued in July 2007 to facilitate use of Right to Information Act provisions for increased transparency in working of TPDS.

Technologies for Food Production

261. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, Global Position System, Simulation Modelling have helped in increasing the food production in the country;
- (b) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed some improved varieties of crops for commercial cultivation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for the application of biosensors, biotechnology, nano-technology, etc., for improving the production of foodgrains in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) These technologies having applications across diverse fields of resource characterization, land use planning, precision farming, crop forecasting, flood & drought monitoring etc. have helped increase agricultural production in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Using radiation induced mutation and cross-breeding, Bhabha Atomic Research

Centre (BARC) has developed 29 improved varieties and released for commercial cultivation. These comprise 16 in oilseeds (12 groundnut, 2 soybean and 2 mustard); 11 in pulses (4 blackgram, 5 greengram and 2 pigeonpea) and 1 each of rice and jute.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is developing improved cultivars/varieties with high yield potential, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses and better quality traits etc. through bio-technological interventions. There is proposal for establishing Institutes on Agricultural Bio-technology, Biotic and Abiotic Stress Management during XIth plan.

The nano-technology has potential in enhancing resource use efficiency in terms of soil-water-nutrient-pesticide etc. through development of suitable nano-products and biosensors. The potential, however, remains to be harnessed.

Allocation of Spectrum

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

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate spectrum for 3G services for domestic and foreign sector;

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

(c) whether the Government has finalized the modalities and criteria for allotment of licences;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of applications for allotment of licences proposed to be covered during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The Government has announced the guidelines for 3G services which are given below and the auction will be open to all eligible parties.

- The 3G (3rd generation) mobile telecommunications is the generic name for the next generation of mobile networks that will combine wireless mobile technology with high data rate transmission capabilities. The 3G networks will be capable of providing higher data rates and will also be capable of supporting a variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services.

- 3G spectrum will be permitted in the 2.1 GHz band.
- The 3G licences would be granted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, by a specialized agency to ensure transparency in the selection process.
- Besides the initial, one time spectrum charge, it has been decided that the successful service provider would pay additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of their total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), as the recurring annual spectrum charge. The additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 years from the date of spectrum assignment.
- The roll out requirements, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalties for non compliance of the same has been stipulated.
- Mergers will not be allowed during the initial five years. No trading/reselling of spectrum is allowed.
- The CDMA spectrum in 800 MHz band for EV-DO applications would be treated separately from 2.1 GHz spectrum. If the CDMA based service provider (s) ask for the EV-DO carrier of 2 x 1.25 MHz, they would have to pay an amount proportionate to the highest bid for spectrum in 2.1 GHz band.

Production of Cotton Clothes

263. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cotton clothes produced during each of the last three years and thereafter, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether gradual decline has been noticed in the production of cotton clothes during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost the production of cotton clothes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Though State and Union Territory-wise cotton cloth production details are not maintained by Government, the cumulative cotton cloth production during the last three years in the country is as follows:-

(Million Square metre)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)
20655	23873	26225

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to boost the production of cotton clothes in the country Government has taken a number of measures as furnished in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Important Measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organized and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector were made:-
- Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 percent to 8 percent.
 - Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 percent to 10 percent.
 - Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 percent to 10 percent.
 - Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP).
- (ix) In the Budget 2007-08 the following important announcements for the textile sector were made:-
- Enhancement in provision under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) from Rs.189 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.425 crore in 2007-08.
 - Continuation of the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme in the Eleventh Plan with enhanced allocation of Rs.911 crore in 2007-08 from Rs.535 crore in 2006-07.
 - Enhancement in the allocation for the Handloom sector from Rs.241 crore in 2006-07 to Rs.321 crore for 2007-08.
 - Reduction in the customs duty on polyester fibres and yarns from 10 percent to 7.5 percent.
- (x) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

- (xi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).
- (xii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.
- (xiii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- (xiv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.
- (xv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:-
- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.
 - Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.
 - Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

[Translation]

Assistance to Handicrafts Corporation

264. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides financial assistance to Handicrafts Corporations and other NGOs/Organisations in the country for development of Handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to various States during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(c) whether the government proposes to provide special relief to craftsmen in Chhattisgarh and other States for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government provides financial assistance to Handicrafts Corporation and other NGOs/Organizations in the country through central sector schemes under which funds are allocated Scheme-wise & not State-wise for development and promotion of handicrafts. The expenditure incurred for development of handicrafts under various schemes of the Government, State-wise during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-I. The allocation of funds, Scheme-wise during the last three years and the current financial year i.e. 2004-05, to 2007-08 is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement-I

State-wise Scheme Funds Released Handicrafts scheme during 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	Export	Support Services	Design	Training	SHTP	R&D	Scheme	Bima Yojana	AHVV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.37	11.92	18.2	4.45	4.88	30.00	0.00	0.00	177.42	248.32
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.57
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	14.57	0.00	0.00	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.71	44.56
4.	Assam	27.47	49.78	43.94	10.90	70.95	0.00	1.75	0.00	326.40	531.22
5.	Bihar	3.28	9.87	3.48	0.00	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.53	34.66
6.	Delhi	568.69	287.55	0.00	1.50	0.71	34.04	0.00	0.00	33.50	825.09
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	374.77	0.00	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	375.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8.	Gujarat	5.83	43.32	57.82	0.00	4.57	20.44	0.00	0.00	108.04	238.92
9.	Haryana	0.00	39.42	0.00	1.10	2.88	4.97	0.00	0.00	31.72	80.09
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	13.38	3.63	1.14	7.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.03	151.08
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	1.27	0.84	0.00	3.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.91	16.
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	156.57	84.39	6.45	0.00	24.44	9.12	0.00	0.00	54.18	335.16
13.	Karnataka	0.00	40.03	11.16	3.56	6.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.96	102.46
14.	Kerala	0.00	10.08	0.00	0.00	5.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.32	59.82
15.	Madhya Pradesh	11.56	34.38	80.15	0.53	2.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	59.73	198.83
16.	Maharashtra	20.00	38.15	4.13	0.00	1.35	2.25	0.00	0.00	33.04	98.92
17.	Manipur	0.00	10.44	12.4	0.00	6.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.74	47.06
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80
19.	Mizoram	0.00	3.32	10.00	0.48	1.82	0.00	0.46	0.00	16.59	22.47
20.	Nagaland	0.67	5.69	35.19	1.20	14.64	0.00	1.20	0.00	12.04	70.63
21.	Orissa	0.00	46.70	60.05	0.65	6.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.79	190.48
22.	Punjab	0.00	3.67	1.80	0.00	3.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.12	24.42
23.	Pondicherry	0.00	5.55	0.00	0.00	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	6.64
24.	Rajasthan	0.00	114.03	49.88	0.00	2.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.01	254.38
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	63.11	19.39	97.75	10.25	7.73	0.00	5.25	0.00	31.15	234.83
27.	Tripura	0.00	13.87	3.60	0.00	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.09	68.94
28.	Uttar Pradesh	46.27	105.01	105.91	0.00	94.27	10.50	0.00	0.00	261.06	623.02
29.	Uttaranchal	0.00	22.49	15.23	0.34	9.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.14	68.64
30.	West Bengal	27.85	21.72	117.83	0.00	10.88	4.58	0.00	0.00	166.41	348.27
31.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2.18	14.85	0.00	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.34	38.98
Total		932.66	1051.47	1130	36.10	307	115.90	8.66	0.00	1873.34	5455.31

State-wise Scheme Funds Released Handicrafts scheme during 2005-06

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	Design	MSS	Export	SHTP inc. Trg	R&D	Bima Yojana	Scheme	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	267.74	42.50	62.70	21.67	16.35	30.00			440.96
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	8.50				8.58
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.56	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.80				29.21
4.	Assam	342.24	57.75	172.72	09.90	21.52	9.92		5.00	678.55
5.	Bihar	13.76	5.02	15.33	0.00	5.84				40.96
6.	Chhattisgarh	11.24	0	4.24	10.00	0.00				26.48
7.	Delhi	16.31	107.13	236.28	879.16	4.41				1277.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Goa	1.00	10.05	5.74		0.80				17.60
9.	Gujarat	329.61	7.55	57.28		3.76	2.94			401.22
10.	Haryana	38.57	7.55	39.10		2.52				88.44
11.	Himachal Pradesh	98.8	23.25	75.14		11.75				206.94
12.	Jharkhand	18.00	2.60	41.66		1.68				83.94
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	115.14	50.33	70.23	287.25	112.02	5.00		20.00	860.17
14.	Karnataka	65.37	5.95	11.83		3.10	3.00			89.25
15.	Kerala	98.18	0	13.81	8.79	0.20			1.10	118.08
16.	Madhya Pradesh	70.73	17.38	41.12	25.86	4.86	1.50			161.47
17.	Maharashtra	18.78	25.15	35.57		12.10			2.75	94.35
18.	Manipur	76.37	50.70	27.04		12.28			10.00	176.39
19.	Meghalaya	1.50	4.85	3.56		1.20				11.11
20.	Mizoram	0.37	0.85	0.00		0.00				1.22
21.	Nagaland	40.05	6.8	19.00		18.13				83.99
22.	Orissa	207.48	26.50	70.31		10.19				314.48
23.	Punjab	55.97	11.90	5.78		1.19				75.82
24.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	4.070		7.21				11.91
25.	Rajasthan	58.59	36.11	63.70		0.00				153.40
26.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0.00		0.00				0.40
27.	Tamil Nadu	93.76	28.92	19.70	2.43	28.96				173.77
28.	Tripura	36.76	3.60	0.00		3.93				44.34
29.	Uttar Pradesh	363.48	123.98	263.40	62.38	136.43	1.91			956.58
30.	Uttaranchal	40.13	1.70	31.88		12.20				85.91
31.	West Bengal	120.17	29.96	23.56	42.93	2.05	4.82			223.39
	Total	2520.57	690.33	1419.95	1410.37	444.54	92.83	109.00	38.85	6717.34

State-wise Scheme Funds Released Handicrafts scheme during 2006-07

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	EP	R & D	Design	Training	Marketing	SHTP	RGSSY	Bima Yojana	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	189.54	22.23		24.86	2.20	131.00	33.79			403.92
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	38.14			0.00	1.10	0.00	5.47			44.71
4.	Assam	228.13	70.93	1.35	99.30	3.30	136.41	44.73			584.15
5.	Bihar	22.7			3.60	4.15	20.64	9.38			60.37
6.	Chandigarh	0.00			0.00		35.00	0.00			35.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	11.97	16.39		1.80		0.00	0.00			30.16
8.	Delhi	46.33	825.27	18.81	107.41	6.84	181.11	20.42			1205.99
9.	Goa	1.00			0.00		3.06	4.68			13.74
10.	Gujarat	238.94	5.00		30.84	1.10	42.76	3.7			322.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11.	Haryana	59.62			6.02	1.10	34.07	11.52			112.53
12.	Himachal Pradesh	75.61			5.24	1.10	56.93	5.54			145.42
13.	Jharkhand	26.25			0.84		20.64	6.35			54.09
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	85.21	5.00		20.35	2.20	11.99	124.18			248.93
15.	Karnataka	32.30	13.48		28.69	2.36	57.11	10.47			144.41
16.	Kerala	49.23	4.90	3.09	0.00	1.10	18.77	1.52			78.61
17.	Madhya Pradesh	44.76	21.11	1.65	0.85	0.00	22.61	9.88			100.86
18.	Maharashtra	14.92			5.94		71.25	8.36			100.47
19.	Manipur	163.36	3.63	3.21	20.15	1.10	52.96	34.05			278.46
20.	Meghalaya	0.98			0.00	1.10	5.75	8.32			16.15
21.	Mizoram	36.38			0.00	1.10	0.00	2.34			39.82
22.	Nagaland	15.32			0.85	0.00	12.50	20.38			49.15
23.	Orissa	155.53			32.88	3.30	55.85	30.36			277.92
24.	Punjab	56.43			12.07	0.00	5.75	9.92			84.17
25.	Pondicherry	0.00			0.00	1.10	11.48	2.68			15.26
26.	Rajasthan	172.29	5.06		11.75	1.10	100.33	1.32			291.55
27.	Sikkim	0.00			0.85	0.00	0.00	2.23			3.06
28.	Tamil Nadu	129.31	64.40	1.35	9.2	3.05	63.67	18.18			287.16
29.	Tripura	48.15			4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			50.15
30.	Uttar Pradesh	568.43	33.48	43.91	28.53	14.58	264.02	121.82			1174.77
31.	Uttaranchal	63.89			5.96	0.00	32.56	16.20			118.61
32.	West Bengal	72.34	29.01	1.5	12.1	8.80	27.83	10.62			162.25
	Total	2646.56	1119.89	74.87	574.03	61.58	1481.14	576.42	501.00	0.00	7035.49

Statement-II*Budget allocation and expenditure during 10th Plan period*

Plan

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Rs. in crore									
		2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08
		B.E.	RE/FG	Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Exp.	B.E.	R.E.	Exp (Pro V.)	B.E.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yojana	24.48	23.03	21.10	30.70	30.20	29.75	33.00	32.00	28.13	44.00
2.	Design and Technical Upgradation	23.14	16.64	15.80	19.00	18.70	15.41	13.00	11.00	9.96	11.00
3.	Mfdg. & Support Service	10.13	13.45	15.59	19.00	18.00	18.30	18.60	18.70	18.95	42.00
4.	Export Production	14.45	14.35	9.85	12.60	13.90	14.84	15.25	16.00	11.49	6.00
5.	Research & Development	3.30	2.00	1.89	3.30	3.20	2.61	2.50	2.50	0.93	6.00
6.	Training & Extension	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.10	1.10	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.41	5.00
7.	Intigrated Package for J & K	4.00	4.00	3.74	5.00	5.00	4.82	5.00	4.00	2.71	95.00
8.	Bima Yojana for Artisans	2.70	0.52	0.52	3.80	3.70	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	
9.	Special Handicrafts training Proj	3.50	3.40	3.08	3.50	3.60	3.68	4.60	5.25	3.83	0.00
10.	Credit Guarantee Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	2.70	0.07	0.00
11.	Workshed Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.95	9.85	1.24	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	UNDP project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (Revenue)	95.20	83.02	72.27	98.00	98.00	91.58	99.90	95.00	81.72	209.00
	CAPITAL										
11.	Infrastructure Projects	5.80	6.55	4.80	7.00	7.00	5.20	10.00	10.00	17.48	11.00
12.	Financial Assistance to Central PSUs/SHDCs/Apex Societies	2.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Capital	7.80	6.55	44.80	7.00	7.00	5.20	10..	10..	17.48	11.00
	Grand Total	103.00	89.57	77.07	105.00	105.00	97.24	110.00	105.00	99.20	220.00

[English]

Procurement Price of Wheat

265. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private retailer kellogg has offered procurement price to farmers in Madhya Pradesh which is several times higher than official procurement price as reported in "The Economic Times" dated August 06, 2007;

(b) if so, the likely impact of such a move on procurement by the Government;

(c) whether procurement at such exorbitant prices is likely to lead to acute shortage of wheat in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tackle such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is in the nature of guaranteed price offered to the farmers in case the market prices fall below that price. In case market prices are ruling above the MSP, farmers are free to sell their produce in the open market. Data regarding the prices paid by private companies is not maintained.

(b) The procurement of wheat during 2007-08 rabi marketing season has been 111.28 lakh tonnes, which is higher than the procurement level 92.25 lakh tonnes achieved in 2006-07 rabi marketing season.

(c) and (d) Procurement of wheat by the private companies is unlikely to lead to acute shortage in the

country since the procured wheat remains available for domestic consumption. The Government has recently launched a National Food Security Mission for Rice, Wheat and Pulses, which aims to add production of 10 Million Tonnes (MT) of Rice, 8 MT of Wheat and 2 MT of Pulses at the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12).

[Translation]

Poultry Farming

266. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poultry farming is categorized as agriculture in all the States;

(b) if not, the names of the States which are yet to be categorized as agriculture and the reasons for delay in the process; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote the poultry farming alongwith the funds allocated during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information received, the States of Orissa, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Goa have categorized poultry farming as an agricultural activity. The Government is promoting poultry farming through activities of the Central Poultry Development Organizations functioning in different regions of the country and through its schemes "Assistance to State poultry Farms" and 'Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund'. The position of funds released to various States under the aforementioned schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Funds released during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry / Duck Farms"

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		50.00	-	50.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	47.92		54.00	101.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	132.50	135.60	212.00	479.50
4.	Assam	-	-	50.00	5000
5.	Bihar	-	160.00	-	160.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	-	148.00	68.00	216.00
7.	Goa	68.00	-	-	68.00
8.	Gujarat	90.37	136.00	136.00	362.37
9.	Haryana	-	40.00	-	40.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25.00	117.56	10.00	152.56
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	204.00	47.00	25.50	276.50
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-
13.	Karnataka	55.00	-	80.00	135.00
14.	Kerala	-	191.68	73.32	265.00
15.	Lakshadweep	-	-	25.00	25.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	64.00	-	124.87	188.87
17.	Maharashtra	150.00	-	78.00	228.00
18.	Manipur	-	42.50	-	42.50
19.	Meghalaya	40.00	85.00	130.00	255.00
20.	Mizoram	128.00	240.00	217.50	585.50
21.	Nagaland	252.50	300.00	170.00	722.50
22.	Orissa	-	-	287.00	287.00
23.	Punjab	-	40.00	-	40.00
24.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-
25.	Sikkim	-	42.50	120.00	162.50
26.	Tamil Nadu	99.76	-	50.00	149.76
27.	Tripura	-	-	-	-
28.	Uttar Pradesh	-	342.06	136.00	478.06
29.	Uttaranchal	-	54.70	-	54.70
30.	West Bengal	80.00	120.00	466.31	666.1
	Total	1437.50	2292.60	2513.50	6242.34

Funds released during the last two years under the scheme "Dairy / Poultry Venture Capital Fund". (Scheme started in 2005-06 only)

(Rs.in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62.02	12.38	74.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	4.25	4.25
3.	Assam	2.18	-	2.18

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Goa	3.28	12.31	15.59
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.40	7.70	14.10
6.	Jharkhand	-	7.50	7.50
7.	Karnataka	19.12	1.70	20.82
8.	Kerala	-	2.93	2.93
9.	Madhya Pradesh	-	3.45	3.45
10.	Maharashtra	20.86	-	20.86
11.	Manipur	15.53	-	15.53
12.	Mizoram	5.00	3.00	8.00
13.	Punjab & Haryana	58.50	15.61	74.11
14.	Rajasthan	-	9.98	9.98
15.	Tamil Nadu	9.29	8.00	17.29
16.	Uttaranchal	6.64	24.01	30.65
17.	West Bengal	8.00	12.50	20.50
Total		216.82	125.32	342.14

[English]

Setting up of New Post Offices

267. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has not opened any new Post Offices since 2006-07, so far in the country;

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

(c) the criteria/norms for setting up of new post offices in the country;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to increase the Post Offices especially in rural areas in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the target fixed for the year 2007-08 in the country, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Since the year 2006-07, 10 new Departmental Sub Post Offices were opened in different Circles. State/Circle-wise details are given below:

	Name of Circle	Sub Post Offices opened
1.	Assam	1
2.	Bihar	1
3.	Haryana	1
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1
5.	J&K	1
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2
7.	North-East	1
8.	Uttarakhand	2
Total		10

(c) Criteria/norms for opening of new Post Offices are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. State/Circle-wise tentative targets (subject to final approval by the competent authority) fixed for opening of Post Offices in rural areas during the year 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Norms for Opening Post Offices:

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:**(a) In Normal Areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 % of the coses.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:**(a) In Rural Areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the

permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. In cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. In other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. From each other.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Statement-II**Targets for opening of Branch Offices During 2007-2008**

S.No.	Name of Circle	Target	
		Rural	Tribal
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	2
2	Assam	6	1
3	Bihar	10	1
4	Chhattisgarh	10	2
5	Delhi	Nil	Nil
6	Gujarat	13	2
7	Haryana	8	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	5	Nil
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9	2
10	Jharkhand	5	2
11	Karnataka	10	2
12	Kerala	5	Nil
13	Madhya Pradesh	14	4
14	Maharashtra	14	2
15	North East	27	16
16	Orissa	5	3
17	Punjab	5	Nil
18	Rajasthan	5	3

1	2	3	4
19	Tamil Nadu	12	2
20	Uttar Pradesh	10	2
21	Uttarakhand	5	Nil
22	West Bengal	12	4
Total		200	50

[Translation]

Mobile Switching Centres

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

(a) whether mobile switching centre based WLL BTS service has been started recently in many States of the country but there is a need to take effective measures for improving mobile services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in many States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the customers are subscribing services of private operator in large number in the absence of better services of BSNL in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, Mobile Switching Centre based Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Base Transceiver Station (BTS) have been installed in many states of the country and as per the License condition, BSNL is providing only fixed and limited mobile service on MSC based WLL system. MSC based WLL system of BSNL is based on latest technology. Hence better services are being provided to customers.

[English]

Social Security Card

269. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow P.F. payments to only those workers having Social Security Card/National Social Security Numbers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the P.F. defaulters have risen during the recent years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Having a Social Security Card/Number is not a prerequisite condition for settlement of claims. However, the offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation have been instructed to collect filled in Social Security Number (SSN) application forms alongwith the claim forms so that SSN could be allotted subsequently for creating a subscribers' database.

(c) and (d) The number of defaulting establishments has varied over the years as detailed below:-

(Figures as on 31st March)

Year	No. of defaulting establishments
2003-04	52302
2004-05	40896
2005-06	76958
2006-07*	473032*

*Provisional

Water crisis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

270. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is serious crisis of water supply in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

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

(c) the programme undertaken by the Government for providing water in the said Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, shortage of water supply is felt to some extent, during the dry season. The reasons for shortage have been stated as increase of population, increase in tourist flow and commercialization. The programmes for overcoming the shortage include supply augmentation measures.

Procurement by NAFED

271. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agricultural products purchased by NAFED from farmers giving the names of

the items and the rates at which they have been purchased, item-wise and quantity-wise in each of the last three years;

(b) the rate at which NAFED sold those products during the said period;

(c) whether the process of importing pulses alongwith the decision regarding the quantity and price thereof has been handed over to National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) Kendriya Bhandar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant Plots under the Postal Department

272. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has thousands of plots lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which they are lying vacant;

(c) the total area of these plots and their current market value;

(d) whether many of these plots have been encroached upon illegally;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action being taken to get them vacated;

(f) whether there is any proposal to utilize these plots for post offices or commercial outlets; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department of Posts has 1871 plots lying vacant.

(b) State-wise number of plots lying vacant is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The time by which they are lying vacant is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Total area of the plots lying vacant is also given in the enclosed Statement-I. The current market value of these plots is being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) 187 number of vacant plots are under encroachment.

(e) Postal Circle wise details of vacant plots under encroachment is given in the enclosed Statement-III. Department is making effort by liaising with the State Govt. and local Police and Civil authorities to get vacated the encroachment. The Secretary (Posts) has written demi-officially to the Chief Secretaries of States concerned urging them to get the encroachments freed where there is no court case pending and several Chief Secretaries have also initiated action on the basis of same.

(f) and (g) Construction on vacant plots is taken in phased manner depending upon priority and availability of funds. For commercial exploitation of vacant plots of the Department, in consultation with Ministry of Finance and Department of Urban Development, the Department of Posts has mooted a proposal for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). For the purpose, a Cabinet Note has been sent to the Cabinet for their approval.

Statement-I

State-wise Number and Area of Plots Lying Vacant

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total No of plots	Total Area (in sq. ft)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	229	3288073
2	Assam	33	4558630
3	Bihar	86	888577
4	Chhattisgarh	8	78501
5	Delhi	20	510896
6	Gujarat	112	1618648
7	Haryana	19	197247
8	Himachal Pradesh	28	112486
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9	5331274
10	Jharkhand	65	968445
11	Karnataka	364	5330961
12	Kerala	145	2803796
13	Maharashtra	87	581428
14	Goa	4	89669
15	Madhya Pradesh	26	218629
16	Arunachal Pradesh	10	16686

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
17	Tripura	2	14810	24	Rajasthan	200	2392307
18	Meghalaya	3	159435	25	Tamil Nadu	154	2914529
19	Manipur	3	52322	26	Uttar Pradesh	80	1428430
20	Nagaland	7	185465	27	Uttaranchal	20	351808
21	Mizoram	10	369758	28	West Bengal	87	2694252
22	Orissa	42	730650	29	Sikkim	1	2105
23	Punjab	17	335085	Total		1871	38224902

Statement-II*The Time by which the Plots are Lying Vacant*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Plots lying vacant	Total No. of plots
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	a) More than 50 years	14
		b) More than 25 years	83
		c) More than 10 years	123
		d) More than 5 years	2
2	Assam	a) More than 50 years	1
		b) More than 25 years	17
		c) More than 10 years	13
		d) More than 5 years	2
3	Bihar	a) More than 50 years	81
		b) More than 25 years	1
		c) More than 10 years	4
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	5
		c) More than 10 years	2
		d) More than 5 years	1
5	Delhi	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	Nil
		c) More than 10 years	16
		d) More than 5 years	4
6	Gujarat	a) More than 50 years	Nil

1	2	3	4
		b) More than 25 years	16
		c) More than 10 years	94
		d) More than 5 years	2
7	Haryana	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	2
		c) More than 10 years	12
		d) More than 5 years	5
8	Himachal Pradesh	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	Nil
		c) More than 10 years	27
		d) More than 5 years	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	Nil
		c) More than 10 years	9
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
10	Jharkhand	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	65
		c) More than 10 years	Nil
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
11	Karnataka	a) More than 50 years	3
		b) More than 25 years	245
		c) More than 10 years	108
		d) More than 5 years	8
12	Kerala	a) More than 50 years	1
		b) More than 25 years	110
		c) More than 10 years	32
		d) More than 5 years	2
13	Maharashtra	a) More than 50 years	0
		b) More than 25 years	52
		c) More than 10 years	31
		d) More than 5 years	0
14	Goa	a) More than 50 years	1

1	2	3	4
		b) More than 25 years	0
		c) More than 10 years	3
		d) More than 5 years	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	a) More than 50 years	3
		b) More than 25 years	8
		c) More than 10 years	15
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
16	Arunachal Pradesh	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	1
		c) More than 10 years	9
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
17	Tripura	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	Nil
		c) More than 10 years	1
		d) More than 5 years	1
18	Meghalaya	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	Nil
		c) More than 10 years	3
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
19	Manipur	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	1
		c) More than 10 years	1
		d) More than 5 years	1
20	Nagaland	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	2
		c) More than 10 years	3
		d) More than 5 years	2
21	Mizoram	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	1
		c) More than 10 years	4
		d) More than 5 years	4
22	Orissa	a) More than 50 years	2

1	2	3	4
		b) More than 25 years	6
		c) More than 10 years	31
		d) More than 5 years	2
23	Punjab	a) More than 50 years	1
		b) More than 25 years	3
		c) More than 10 years	11
		d) More than 5 years	1
24	Rajasthan	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	98
		c) More than 10 years	100
		d) More than 5 years	2
25	Tamil Nadu	a) More than 50 years	1
		b) More than 25 years	54
		c) More than 10 years	92
		d) More than 5 years	4
26	Uttar Pradesh	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	27
		c) More than 10 years	51
		d) More than 5 years	2
27	Uttaranchal	a) More than 50 years	2
		b) More than 25 years	10
		c) More than 10 years	8
		d) More than 5 years	Nil
28	West Bengal	a) More than 50 years	4
		b) More than 25 years	30
		c) More than 10 years	18
		d) More than 5 years	35
29	Sikkim	a) More than 50 years	Nil
		b) More than 25 years	1
		c) More than 10 years	Nil
		d) More than 5 years	Nil

Statement-III**Details Regarding Encroachment of Vacant Plots**

Sl. No.	Name of Postal Circle	Total No. of vacant plots under encroachment	Name & Location of plots encroached
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	Bhainsa PO Site Mukkarampur PO Eturinagaram Karimnagar Siddipet Peddapuram PO Gullalapalem PO Chittoor SQs Proddatur Allagadda Motinagar, Hyderabad Zamistanpur, Hyderabad Manoherial HO
2	Assam	NII	NII
3	Bihar	21	Bihta Bazar, Patna Sadisopur, Patna Saidabad, Patna Puranderpur, Patna Mahua, Vaishali Desari, Vaishali Mahnar, Vaishali Bhagalpur City Jagdishpur Girhanda, Munder Dn. Audhey, Munder Dn. Degru-on-son, Rohtas Ramgarh, Rohtas Sikta, Motihari Ramgarhwa, Motihari Motipur, Muz. Parsa, Saran Dn. Sakaidih, Saran Dn.

1	2	3	4
			Jalalpur, Saran Dn. Dholi, Muz. Samastipur
4	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil
5	Delhi	1	Geeta Colony
6	Gujarat	11	Arvind Mills, Ahmedabad Rani Amba Village, Distt. Surat Kanji PO, Distt. Kheda Navsari HO Compound Dahod (Vadodara) Killapardi (Vadodara) Dhari SQ Plot, Rajkot Jamnagar SQ Plot Khavda Kachch Div. Kera Kachchh Maliya Miyana Rajkot
7	Haryana	Nil	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	Tauni Devi Amb
9	J & K	Nil	Nil
10	Jharkhand	15	Gola (Hazaribagh) Barkha Gaon (H.Bagh) Hunterganj, H.Bagh Pratappur (H.Bagh) Chatra, H.Bagh Jouri, H.Bagh Ithari, H.Bagh R.Cantt., H.Bagh Pirtand (Girdi Dn) Asanbani, Dumka Patan, Palamau Sec. V B S City, Dhanbad Chakulia, Singhbhum Hatgamharia, Singhbhum Karaikela, Singhbhum

1	2	3	4
			Chintamani
			Siddlaghatta
			Anandapuram
			Pillanna Garden-II Stage
			Pillanna Garden III Stage
			Cambridge Layout
			Sulebhavi
			Devarahippargi
			Alund
			Chittapur
			Sedam
			Naikal
			Kembhavi
			Shahabad Old PO Site
			Sonarwada
			Gokakma
			Sadashivagad
			Koppal Bazar
			Dambal
			Mulgund
			Nippani
			Gorur
			Hunsur
			Tudur
			Gonikoppal
			Hanabalu
			Ripponpet
			Mayakonda
			Karkala Bazar
			Adivala
			Koppa
			Nagamangala
			Ponnampet
			Padubidri
			Kota
			Thagarthi

1	2	3	4
			Kumaraswamy Layout Channammanakere Achukattu Hoskote Attibele
12	Kerala	8	Palayamkunu PO, Trivandrum Chalal PO, Trivandrum Santhanpara Kumbia, Kasaragod Mattul, Kannur Tirur Trikkunnapuzha, Mavelikara Dn. Valapatanam, Kannur
13	Maharashtra	17	Ghatnandra Mehboobganj Itwara Himayatnagar Basmatnagar Kalmeshwar Amgaon Railegaon Shreepur Ranjangaon Ganpati Wagle Ind. Estate Vartak Nagar Ambernath Engg Zone Ulhasnagar 3 Priyadarshani Park Victoria Mill comp Lower Parel Lower Parel BRD scheme
14	Madhya Pradesh	7	Ratangarh, Neemuch Chichli, Narsingpur Burhman, Narsingpur Mauganj, Rewa Uttakhana, Chhindwara Chhapara, Distt. Seoni Kanhiwala, Dist. Seoni

1	2	3	4
15	North East	NII	NII
16	Orissa	4	Anantapur, Balasore Ria, Bhadrak IRC village, Nayapally, Bhubaneswar Baghamari, Khurda
17	Punjab	NII	NII
18	Rajasthan	17	Sarada, Udaipur Sayra, Udaipur Srinagar, Ajmer Doongla, Chittorgarh Dn. Siwana Churu Somesari Sirohi Boary Anadra Keshrisinghpura Ganeshgarh Mirzewala Ganguwala Marlipura Scheme Chittora Renwal SO Chekeri
19	Tamil Nadu	5	Attayampatti Elampillai Kovalpudur Valmiginagar Guruvarajpet
20	Uttar Pradesh	17	Sindhaura (Varanasi) Sagra (Pratapgarh) Sangipur (Pratapgarh) Dahilmau (Pratapgarh) Zari Bazar (Pratapgarh) Biharatganj (Bareilly) Mau (Moradabad)

1	2	3	4
			Kabrai (Banda)
			Charkhari State (Banda)
			Bewar (Banda)
			Sarila State (Banda)
			Muskara (Banda)
			Karmer Road (Jhansi)
			Kichaucha (Faizabad)
			Medawal (Basti)
			Sector 'O' Aliganj, Lucknow
			Ramganj (Sultanpur)
21	Uttarakhand	1	Thaplia (Almora)
22	West Bengal	7	Pathar Pratima, South Pray Dn.
			Gled Eden, Darjeeling
			Barabhum, Purulia
			Kidderpore, Kolkata
			Bagmundi, Purulia
			Godapeasal, Midnapore
			Haddo, A&N Island
Total		187	

ILO Project for Creation of Employment Opportunities

273. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has undertaken any study/project regarding developing countries, including India for creating more employment opportunities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FER- NANDES):(a) and (b) International Labour Organisation (ILO) decided at the 14th Asian Regional Meeting in 2006 to establish a Decent Work Decade 2006-2015. As a part of this, ILO organized the 'Asian Employment Forum: Growth, Employment and Decent Work' in Beijing during 13-15th August, 2007. Summary of important decisions taken in the meeting is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The major recommendations of Asian Employment Forum are follows:-

- Support policy coherence related to social, environmental and economic sustainability and the

decent work goals in Asia in a way that takes into account relevant regional initiatives.

- Promote sustainable enterprises in line with the Conclusions adopted by the 2007 International Labour Conference.
- Make the ILO's "Green Jobs Initiative" operational at regional and national levels, using tripartite discussions and links with Decent Work Country Programmes.

These will be achieved through:-

Setting Policy directions for job creation and poverty reduction.

- Dialogue between constituents and planning agencies is essential for mainstreaming employment and decent work goals into national policies.
- Assist constituents to implement the Global Employment Agenda, as an operational and integrated framework of the employment pillar of the Decent Work Country Programmes.

Sustaining productivity and competitiveness as a foundation for decent work.

- Support for cluster development-there is potential for knowledge-sharing among countries.

- Gender equality – there is a need to share information on reaching out to women and to address gender issues in skills and entrepreneurship training.
- Services for those in low-productivity work or who are excluded from work because of discrimination, poor education or lack of access to resources.
- Matching skills and enterprise development to the needs of sectors and industries that have the potential to grow and create quality jobs.
- Increasing the capacity of the social partners to participate effectively in social dialogue on productivity and competitiveness.

Rolling back informality.

- A basic legal framework covering the informal economy is needed, within individual countries and across the region.
- Particular attention should be given to reducing the insecurity of vulnerable workers in the informal economy, including rural migrants and laid-off workers.
- There is a need to share knowledge about good practices in all areas of decent work, including innovative ways to improve productivity and working conditions, extending social protection, building self-reliant communities, strengthening representation and voice and extending the outreach of organizations.

[Translation]

Shortage of Telephone Cables

274. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether spare parts of Telephone instruments and cables are not being procured in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited under the pressure of private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several Telephone Exchanges especially Tughlakabad, Kalkaji, Batra Institutional Area Telephone Exchanges situated at South Delhi are facing acute shortage of Telephone cables due to which hundreds of phones and telephone booths for hand-capped persons are not in working condition;

(d) whether the Government has framed any policy to procure Telephone cables in Delhi, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no shortage of cable in Central Store Depot as well as cable pairs in the exchanges including the three exchanges in South Delhi. The cable faults are being attended and duly rectified.

(d) Procurement of telephone cables is done as per purchase procedure and requirement of MTNL.

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

Food Subsidy

275. SHRI PUSP JAIN:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrain subsidy provided by the Government during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether a major chunk of the said subsidy is spent over the storage and maintenance of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the total expenditure incurred over storage of the subsidized foodgrains during the last three years;

(d) the portion of foodgrain subsidy that actually reaches its targeted beneficiaries; and

(e) the number of persons benefited under the foodgrains based schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The amount of food subsidy released during the last three years and the current year (upto 15.11.2007) is as under:-

	(Rs. in crore)
2004-05	25,746
2005-06	23,071
2006-07	23,828
2007-08 (till 15.11.07)	19,062

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that the total amount spent by the FCI for storage of foodgrains during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

2004-05	1349
2005-06	1127
2006-07	1368

(d) and (e) The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission in its report based on study of 18 major States submitted in March, 2005 has reported that the foodgrains leakage for BPL (as a percentage of offtake of BPL quota) through ghost grain cards is 16.87% and at Fair Price Shops is 19.71% (all India basis).

An Evaluation Study on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the study there was a diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and was forwarded to States/UTs for comments.

Shortage of Fodder

276. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether there is scarcity of fodder;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent deaths of animals due to shortage of fodder; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for shortage of fodder in the country, inter alia, are increase in the livestock population and insufficient cultivable land being devoted to fodder production.

(c) and (d) The Government has not received any report of animal deaths due to shortage of fodder.

However, a number of measures have been taken to augment fodder production in the country. These include activities of the seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration in different regions of the country and one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm, Central Minikit Testing Programme and the Centrally sponsored Fodder Development Scheme.

[English]

Delay in Naval Projects

277. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- whether the crucial projects of the Navy are running behind schedule as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 11, 2007;
- if so, the facts thereof and the factors responsible for such projects running behind schedule;
- whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and
- if so, the steps taken by the Government to complete such projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) The overall progress of repair and re-equipping of the ship, ex-Admiral Gorshkov, in Russia is slow.

(b) The Russian side had submitted a revised Master Schedule indicating a delay in the project. The Russian side has attributed the delays to "Growth of Work".

(c) The question of fixing responsibility does not arise at this stage.

(d) In order to supervise the project for repair and re-equipping of the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya (earlier called Admiral Gorshkov), an apex level committee under Defence Secretary and a Steering Committee under a Vice Admiral have been set up. A team has also been stationed at the shipyard where the repair and re-equipping work is going on. From time to time, teams comprising senior officers are also sent to monitor progress of the project. The matters are also taken up between the two countries at appropriate level.

Production and Consumption of Rice

278. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of rice in the country is going up every year whereas the production has declined disturbingly;

(b) If so, the production and the procurement of rice by the Government during the last three years, year-wise vis-à-vis its domestic consumption; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Table below gives the consumption, production and procurement of rice in the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07:

Year	Consumption*	(Million Tonnes)	
		Production	Procurement
2004-05	85.77	83.13	24.69
2005-06	87.01	91.79	27.66
2006-07	88.25	92.76#	25.08

* Estimated on the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the office of the Registrar General of India.

4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007.

While the consumption of rice has continuously gone up in the country, production also shows continuous increase during 2004-05 to 2006-07. Production has been more than the consumption during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) In order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, recently a National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched, inter alia, in the country. Under the Rice component of NFSM, it is envisaged to increase its production by 10 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan i.e., by 2011-12 through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

279. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries covered under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of workers actually benefited from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during each of the last three years under the heads of Housing, Education, Social Security and Health, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A statement-I is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Region	Number of beneficiaries		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hyderabad Region			
	Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu	1211167	1296800	1180763
2	Kolkata			
	Assam	5405	6012	6674
	West Bengal	886676	902820	1150296
	Tripura	6672	8907	9372
3	Karma			
	Bihar	143089	173595	202177
	Jharkhand	60908	63133	89124
4	Ajmer			
	Rajasthan	31736	33321	34352
	Gujarat	49949	50296	50651

1	2	3	4	5
5	Bangalore			
	Karnataka & Kerala	874569	762749	585440
6	Jabalpur			
	Madhya Pradesh	987088	987088	987088
	Chhattisgarh	20481	20481	20481
7	Nagpur			
	Maharashtra	217745	223419	231688
8	Bhubaneshwar			
	Orissa	189054	189825	190328
9	Allahabad			
	Uttar Pradesh	320462	346887	367827

Statement-II*Number of beneficiaries*

Sl.No.	Name of the Region	State	Scheme Head	Number of beneficiaries		
				2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Hyderabad Region	Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu	Housing	7667	10912	14383
			Education	146771	104083	232213
			Social Security	14	224	153
			Health	1119846	1206235	1090342
2	Kolkata	Assam	Housing	Nil	Nil	91
			Education	527	1472	891
			Social Security	6	14	17
			Health	18023	18245	18322
		West Bengal	Housing	903	1048	168
			Education	51560	55267	60813
			Social Security	298	895	253
			Health	411004	464641	496042
		Tripura	Housing	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Education	675	1099	1945
			Social Security	14	17	19
			Health	14029	14322	14569
3	Karma	Bihar	Housing	Nil	1016	678
			Education	6386	5413	6136
			Social Security	118	42	5
			Health	358104	372667	353805
		Jharkhand	Housing	Nil	Nil	151
			Education	3819	4907	4061
			Social Security	10	3	2
			Health	68681	142810	161198

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Ajmer	Rajasthan	Housing	254	Nil	3
			Education	8429	13542	15827
			Social Security	3	7	13
			Health	117940	115944	123042
		Gujarat	Housing	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Education	9769	11687	11453
			Social Security	112	123	60
			Health	109562	93606	95219
5	Bangalore	Karnataka & Kerala	Housing	1196	Nil	1160
			Education	196950	168234	4891
			Social Security	13	40	12
			Health	675114	592001	578747
6	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Housing	1359	60	225
			Education	47035	19891	31611
			Social Security	366	567	566
			Health	253602	285359	242135
		Chhattisgarh	Housing	18	Nil	Nil
			Education	1903	1730	1728
			Social Security	7	6	7
			Health	11271	10973	8945
7	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Housing	867	187	129
			Education	12292	45429	49794
			Social Security	-	-	-
			Health	228525	269607	346448
8	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	Housing	3525	43	1634
			Education	22346	17160	14265
			Social Security	221	08	240
			Health	352208	321574	368791
9	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Housing	Nil	21	128
			Education	15394	19702	18549
			Social Security	192	286	222
			Health	264382	240044	333799

[Translation]

Agricultural Development

280. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the failure of agriculture sector in country has led to the dependence of the country on imports for its food security;

(b) if so, whether the World Development Report-2008 has also suggested that the development of agro-

sector of the country is necessary for alleviating poverty from the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any decisions for providing easy credit facility, irrigation and post harvest management of crops to farmers;

(d) whether discussions have been with the States in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The highest ever foodgrain production of 216.13 million tonnes has been recorded during 2006-07 (Fourth Advance Estimates, 2006-07) which is 7.53 million tonnes higher than the foodgrains production of 2005-06. The World Development Report-2006 has specifically mentioned that in the long term the food price effect has largest influence on poverty reduction.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has initiated several measures for providing easy credit to farmers like doubling of credit flow in three years, simplification of procedure for documentation of agricultural loans and lowering the interest on crop loans to 7 percent. The assistance to the farmers is provided for adoption of micro irrigation like drip and sprinkler systems through various developmental schemes. Under National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States assistance is provided for creating post harvest infrastructure. The discussions with the State Governments to have the feed back about the implementation of these schemes are held on regular basis.

NCC Training in Educational Institutions

281. **SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the training of National Cadet Corps is essential from security point of view in schools of the country keeping in view the growing militancy;

(b) whether there are a number of such schools/colleges in the country which are not imparting the training of NCC;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for imparting compulsory training of NCC in each school and college; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented and the draft of the scheme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) The training of the National Cadet Corps strives inter-alia to inculcate in the youth character, discipline, secular outlook and selfless service so that they become good and useful citizens of tomorrow. One of the objectives of the NCC is to create an environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in the Armed Forces.

(b) The NCC training has been kept on a voluntary basis. Institutions desirous of joining the NCC are required to fulfil prescribed administrative, financial and manpower commitments before they are allotted the cadet strength subject to availability of vacancies.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Drought Affected States

282. **SHRI GHURAN RAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any policy for the States in the grip of famine/drought, particularly Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for special package is received from the Government of Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The State Governments including Jharkhand have ready availability of funds in their Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought, in accordance with the items and norms of expenditure. In case the funds available in the CRF are not sufficient, the affected States are required to submit Memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(c) and (d) During 2007-08, the Government of Jharkhand have so far not reported any drought situation or submitted any Memorandum for drought relief.

[English]

Conversion of Coconut into Virgin Oil

283. **SHRI P.C. THOMAS:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the value addition of coconut into virgin oil; and

(b) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government is taking various steps through the Coconut Development Board (CDB) to encourage value addition of coconut into virgin coconut oil. The CDB & Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore have developed a technology for production of virgin coconut oil from coconut milk by centrifugal process.

The Board is providing financial assistance to entrepreneurs for setting up of processing units for

production of virgin coconut oil under Technology Mission on Coconut. So far, financial support have been extended for setting up of 16 virgin coconut oil production units with a capacity to process 38000 nuts per day.

(b) Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) is the purest form of coconut oil and contains natural vitamin E and rich in nutrients and aroma. It has good export potential and fetched higher market price than traditional coconut oil. Due to high nutritional content, the VCO can be used as a food supplement and has wide application in nutraceuticals and cosmetics industry and provides an excellent opportunity to small coconut growers for improving their income.

Bud Root Disease In Coconut

284. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to continuous rain received during this year, the coconut plantation are severely affected by Bud Root disease in all parts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by any agency to assess the extent of crop loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the programme formulated by the Government to assist the farmers in the distressed areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, severe infestation by bud rot disease in coconut plantation has been reported in the hilly tracts of Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts of northern Kerala.

(c) and (d). No detailed study report has been conducted by the Government during the current year to assess the extent of crop loss due to the out break of bud rot disease.

(e) During the year 2005-06 a proposal was submitted by Government of Kerala for financial assistance to control bud rot disease in Kozhikode district. The Coconut Development Board has extended financial assistance to the tune of Rs.222.25 lakhs exclusively for the control of bud rot disease in Kozhikode district. In addition, an amount of Rs.567.55 lakhs has also been released to the Government of Kerala under the scheme "Integrated Farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement" during the current year 2007-08 for adoption of integrated nutrition and pest management in coconut holdings in all the districts of Kerala State including the districts affected by bud rot disease. Apart

from this, the Board is also implementing the scheme "Integrated Farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement-laying out of demonstration plot" in 841.09 ha. on a cluster basis with farmer's participation in the bud rot disease affected area of Kozhikode district.

[Translation]

Diversion of Excess Water

285. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the non-utilisation of lakhs of cusecs of water of Chambal river which goes down the drain every year;

(b) whether there is need to check the flow of the water of Chambal river keeping in view the interests of the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Gandhisagar, Ranapratapsagar, Jawaharsagar and Kota Barrage projects of the Chambal river cascade are important projects in the integrated development of this river for irrigation and power generation. Kota Barrage with its canals on both right and left banks is catering to irrigation demands of farmers in both, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This arrangement, which was planned in early fifties makes nearly full utilization of the available inflows both for power generation as well as for meeting the completely divergent needs of irrigation.

Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned, executed and funded by State Government themselves as per their priorities.

Two irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh in Chambal Basin are under appraisal in Central Water Commission. Present status of appraisal is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Six projects of Rajasthan (3 major and 3 medium) of Chambal basin in Rajasthan are also under appraisal in Central Water Commission. The present status of appraisal is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

In addition, 4 medium irrigation projects of Chambal basin in Rajasthan have been accepted by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

The time taken to completed appraisal process depends on the promptness with which, the State Governments furnishes replies to the observations of the Central Appraising agencies.

Statement-I

Madhya Pradesh

A-Projects under Various Stages of Appraisal (Chambal Basin)

As on 31.10.2007

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	Major/ Medium	River/ Basin	District Benefited	Date of Receipt	Benefits (Th.ha)	Estt. Cost (Cr.)	Status
1.	Bhanpura Canal Scheme*	Major	Chambal	24 village of Bhanpura Tehsil of Madsaur.	12/02	9.2	59.49	Compliance of observations of CWC/various Central agencies sent to State Govt. during 3/03 to 12/04 for which State's compliance is awaited.
2.	Project implementation Plan (PIP) for M.P. Water Sector Restructuring Project*	Major	Chambal, Betwa, Sindh, Ken & Tons.	...	7/04	495.0	1919.0	Proposed for World Bank assistance. CWC comments sent to State Govt. during 4/05 to 8/06 for which State's compliance is awaited.

Statement-II

Rajasthan

A-Projects under Various Stages of Appraisal (Chambal Basin)

As on 31.10.2007

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	Major/ Medium	River/ Basin	District Benefited	Date of Receipt	Benefits (Th.ha)	Estt. Cost (Cr.)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Pipalda Lift Irrigation	Major	Chambal/ Ganga	Sawai Madhopur	9/96	14.87	18.13 (1996)	Plant Planning and canal design aspects are cleared. In compliance to the observations of cost aspect and financial aspect, the State Govt. has indicated that the whole project is to be redesigned/revised after finalization of Hydrological studies. The comments of CWC on Hydrology (6/07), Irrigation Planning & Inter-state aspects (8/07) have been sent to State Govt. for compliance, which is awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Indira Lift Irrigation Project	Major	Chambal/ Ganga	Sawai Madhopur Karoli, Dausa & Bharatpur	12/2003	104.845	431.00	Plant Planning aspect is cleared. Further comments on canal design, cost, irrigation Planning, Inter-state financial and hydrology aspects have been sent to State Govt. during March 2004 to April 2006. Compliance is awaited. The State Govt. has also to obtain clearance from MoEF and CGWB.
3.	Parwan Irrigation-cum-Drinking Water Supply	Major	Parwan, Chambal Ganga	Jhalwar, Baran & Kota	29.12.06	105.062	1114	Plant Planning aspect is cleared. Under examination in Irrigation Planning (N), Cost Appraisal (I), Construction Machinery Design (N&W) Directorates of CWC and other Central Agencies like Ministry of Agriculture and CGWB. The comments on Gates Design (3/07), Financial aspects (3/07), Hydrology(5/07), Construction Material aspect (6/07), Barrage & canal Design aspect (6/07) have been sent to State Government for which compliance is awaited.
4.	Hatiadeh Irrigation Project	Medium	Nallah Hatiadeh/ Kul/ Chambal	Baran	4.7.07	6.885 (CCA)	34.62	Compliance of project authorities regarding Hydrological and interstate aspect, RR Plan, forest clearance and duly approved Master Plan of Chambal Basin is awaited.
5.	Andheri Irrigation Project	Medium	Andheri/ Parwati/ Chambal	Baran	20.5.02	7.70 (CCA)	87.534	Compliance of project authorities regarding interstate, and duly approved Master Plan of Chambal Basin is awaited. The project is yet to be cleared by B&T Section, MoWR for financial aspects.
6.	Rajgarh Irrigation Project	Medium	Ahu/ Kalisindh/ Chambal	Jhalawar	4.7.07	8.634 (CCA)	69.08	Compliance of project authorities regarding Hydrological aspect, RR Plan, forest clearance and duly approved Master Plan of Chambal Basin is awaited.

Statement-III

B-Projects Accepted by the Advisory Committee of MOWR Subject to Certain Observations

Sl.No.	Name of Projects	Major/ Medium	River/ Basin	District Benefited	Date of Receipt	Benefits (Th.ha)	Est. Cost (Cr.)	Status
1.	Piplad Irrigation	Medium	Piplad/ Chambal	Jhalawar	1/99	3,549	33.64	The Project was considered by the Advisory committee in its 86th meeting held on 2.6.2006 and was found acceptable. Investment clearance is to be accorded by Planning Commission. Planning Commission has requested State Govt. to submit copy of concurrence of State Finance Deptt. alongwith phasing of expenditure and provisions in the Annual Plans, XI Plan which is awaited.
2.	Talhi Irrigation cum Drinking Water Supply Project	Medium	Talhi/ Chambal	Kota	22.11.02	4,791	51.81	The Project was considered by the Advisory committee in its 86th meeting held on 2.6.2006 and was found acceptable. Investment clearance is to be accorded by Planning Commission. Planning Commission has requested State Govt. to submit copy of concurrence of State Finance Deptt. alongwith phasing of expenditure and provisions in the Annual Plans, XI Plan which is awaited.
3.	Gogrin Irrigation Project	Medium	Ahu/ Kali Sindh/ Chambal	Jhalawar	-	9,675	80.12	The Project was considered by the Advisory committee in its 86th meeting held on 2.6.2006 and was found acceptable. Investment clearance is to be accorded by Planning Commission. Planning Commission has requested State Govt. to submit copy of concurrence of State Finance Deptt. alongwith phasing of expenditure and provisions in the Annual Plans, XI Plan which is awaited.
4.	Lhasi Irrigation Project	Medium	Lhasi/ Anthoni/ Parwati/ Chambal	Baran	11.2005	5,755	44.73	The project was considered by the Advisory committee in its 86th meeting held on 2.3.2007 and found acceptable.

As on 31.10.2007

Ban on Rice Export

286. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently imposed ban on the export of rice;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the impact of the ban particularly on procurement of paddy from the farmers in the country;

(d) If so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of paddy procurement centres in the country alongwith the facilities provided to farmers at these centres to ensure proper procurement during the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) In order to increase procurement of rice for the Central Pool, the Government has imposed a ban on export of rice with Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US Dollars 425 per tonne FoB.

(c) and (d) The ban is expected to result in an increase in procurement of rice for the Central Pool. However, since the Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 has commenced recently and will extend upto 30.9.2008, it is too early to make an accurate assessment of the impact of the ban.

(e) During KMS 2006-07, 11552 purchase centers were operated for paddy procurement. This year 8448 procurement centers have already been opened. Government of India has asked the FCI and State Governments to ensure availability of proper infrastructure for farmers at all purchase centers.

[English]

Exemption from Cess

287. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to exempt all textiles and textile machinery manufactured in India from Textile Committee Cess;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exemption from Textiles Committee Cess likely to reduce tax burden on textile sector and improve competitiveness in the global market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exemption has been given by the Government with effect from 1st June 2007.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Exemption from Cess would provide the textile industry the required relief from financial angle which will have positive impact on growth and would also help in generating more investment, employment and exports.

Allocation of Fair Price Shops for Minorities

288. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has directed the State Governments to reserve a certain percentage of Fair Price Shops (FPS) for allocation to the people belonging to the minority communities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the percentage of FPS reserved for the said communities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) PDS is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State and UT Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and allocation of foodgrains upto the PD Centres in the States/UTs. State and UT Governments are responsible for identification of BPL families, issuance of ration cards to eligible families and distribution of foodgrains through Fair Price Shops. The State and UT Governments issue licences for FPS as per norms fixed by them. These norms may vary in different States and UTs. The Central Government has not fixed any quota for licences of fair price shops to Minority communities. This Department does not maintain details of community-wise FPS licences issued in States and UTs.

Theft of Explosives

289. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large-scale theft of explosive including 86,899 detonators, fuse and 419 kg of gelatin sticks, besides cartridges and boosters as reported in

the 'Indian Express' dated October 7, 2007 has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) If so, the results of the inquiry conducted in the matter; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mobile Tower by MTNL

290. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone towers to be installed by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) the places where these towers are proposed to be installed;

(c) the number of applications received by the MTNL from the public for installation of such towers in Delhi; and

(d) the action taken/being taken so far on such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 307 Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile towers [Base Transceiver Stations (BTS)] in MTNL Delhi and 335 GSM mobile towers in MTNL Mumbai are to be installed by the MTNL in 2007-08.

(b) These towers (BTS) will be installed at various places as per approved design and requirement of coverage and capacity.

(c) 315 applications have been received from the public offering the sites for installing these towers.

(d) Since site survey selection as per Radio Frequency design in the scope of vendor as per terms and conditions of the tender/PO, all the cases received are referred to the vendor for checking site location, structure suitability etc. and consider offered sites survey report for site acquisition. If found technically suitability, the site is considered for acquisition as per the duly approved procedure.

Setting up of IT Investment Sector

291. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any Information Technology Investment Sector with a view to attract the foreign investors; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government is in the process of formulating a policy for setting up Information Technology Investment Regions in consultation with other Ministries/Departments.

[English]

Import of Flour

292. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to import flour from America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has abolished custom duty for importing flour from America;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that imported flour is free from adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Scheme for Distribution of Foodgrains

293. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders in Karnataka;

(b) whether all sections are not being adequately benefited due to high price of foodgrains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(c) If so, whether the Government is considering to introduce any alternative system like Universal Public Distribution System to give benefits to all the sections of the society; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As reported by the State Government on 31.07.2007, Karnataka Government has issued ration cards to 59.83 lakhs BPL households, 46.30 lakhs to APL households and 12 lakhs ration cards to AAY households.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Targeted PDS was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the underprivileged sections of society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. The revival of universal PDS would result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor, since it would require substantial reduction in allocations of foodgrains for all families.

(d) Question does not arise.

Establishment of Postal Office

294. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Karnataka Government regarding establishment of Office of Superintendent of Posts in Davangere District at Davangere, Karnataka;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved the proposal; and

(d) If so, the time by which the work on this project is likely to start and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Services under Telecom Sector

295. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the services offered under the Government and Private telecom sector in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of villages in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh where WLL Services have been provided;

(c) the number of villages deprived off WLL facility; and

(d) the time by which WLL Services will be provided in the remaining villages of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all types of telecom services including landline, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), GSM Mobile, Internet, Broadband, Leased Lines, Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS), V-Sat and Intelligent network services are provided.

(b) Total 4,04,311 villages are covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) through WLL in the country including 78,718 villages in U.P. as on 31.10.2007.

(c) Total 2,03,180 villages are still to be covered in the country as on 31.10.2007.

(d) Out of the left over 2,03,180 villages, about 14,000 villages will be covered on/through Digital Satellite Phone Terminal (DSPT). About 35,000 villages are uninhabited, deep forest and with hilly terrain, which are not proposed to be covered through WLL Services, but for the incidental coverage with which some of the villages may be covered. The remaining villages shall be covered by WLL progressively by the year 2008-09.

[English]

Contract Farming

296. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a working group has been set up by National Development Council on contract farming;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the deliberations carried on and decision taken by the working group;

(c) the details of crops and regions associated with contract farming alongwith the benefits likely to accrue therefrom;

(d) whether there is any proposal for State regulation, intermediation and monitoring of contract farming; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission of India had set up a Working Group of the Sub-Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and Related Issues relating to Marketing Reforms, Contract Farming and Agro-Processing Sector on 02.12.2005 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Punjab. The terms of reference of this Working Group included the following aspects relating to the Contract Farming:

- (i) to assess the current status of Contract Farming with a view to identify the lacunae and suggest the appropriate models.
- (ii) to suggest an appropriate legal framework with dispute settlement mechanism and compensation procedures,
- (iii) to devise a system for providing services including quality inputs, technical knowledge, finance and price fixation for the marketable produce,
- (iv) to suggest a system of identifying the technologies to be introduced for contract farming with a provision of compensation for any under-performance or failure of the technologies introduced by the sponsors,
- (v) to suggest legal, institutional and financial measures required for encouraging contract farming arrangements between the farmers and the agro-processing industry / exporters; and
- (vi) to identify area specific agricultural commodities suitable for Contract Farming for selected agro climatic conditions.

Some of the salient recommendations of the Working Group are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Report of the Working Group was discussed in the meeting of the Sub-Committee of NDC on Agriculture

and Related Issues on 18.04.2007 and subsequently its recommendations were considered by the National Development Council in its 53rd Meeting on 29.05.2007. It was resolved by NDC in the meeting that State Governments would encourage development of modern markets by completing the process of amending the APMC Acts and notify the rules thereunder and also encourage development of linkages to markets through a variety of instruments including cooperatives of farmers, contract farming and other means preferred by the States. The process of notifying rules under the amended APMC Legislation is targeted to be completed during 2007-08.

(c) With regard to contract farming, crop-wise and region-wise details, information on employment generated/ to be generated and details of adoption of crop diversification are not being maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture. As per reports received from the State Governments, contract farming is not taking place in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, UT of Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, NCT of Delhi, Puduchery, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The Government of Assam has reported contract farming in 160 hectares in the State. Bihar Government has reported that only 20 hectares area in Begusarai District is under contract farming. In Goa, there is 1924 hectares of land under contract farming, in Gujarat 2000 hectares, in Haryana only 1416 acres for basmati rice and wheat through HAFED, in Mizoram 2447 hectares and in Punjab approximately three lakh acres. In Orissa, the contract farming of cotton is reported to be in 14000 hectares. In Tamil Nadu, the contract farming is reported to be in 1.40 lakh hectares for cotton, 0.93 lakh hectares for maize, 3.44 lakh hectares for sugarcane, 0.20 lakh hectares for Jatropha and 0.03 lakh hectares for oilpalm.

Contract Farming has the potential of combining small farmers' efficiency with economy of scale, utilizing corporate management skills, providing assured markets and reducing transaction costs in the value chain by ensuring vertical integration. Several national and multinational processors or fast food chains are increasingly entering into contract with the farmers to encourage them to cultivate farm products (fruit, vegetables, etc.) of the desired quality by providing them not only seeds and other inputs but also assured procurement of the produce at pre-decided prices. Such tie-ups have special significance for small and marginal

farmers, who have small marketed surplus and do not have saying power. They may not individually be capable of investing in technology, but through self help groups or cooperatives, there could emerge a desirable institutional framework, through which farmers can suitably reap the benefits of contract farming arrangements. Contract farming is particularly useful for high value crops because it enables the corporates to associate with the farmers and helps in imparting the latest technological know how to them.

Successful Contract Farming has the potential of addressing most of the urgent and critical need of the Indian Agriculture sector. It offers a mechanism to make small scale farming competitive by enabling small farmers to access technology, credit, marketing channels and information while lowering transaction costs. At the same time, it also offers a feasible and viable model of private sector participation in agriculture on a massive scale. Successful Contract Farming also provides a platform for supply of reliable agricultural produce of specified quality for the establishment and development of processing sector and reliable and competitive channel for supply for exports as well.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act circulated by the Central Government to the States in 2003 for implementing marketing reforms has provisions for the registration of contract farming sponsors and recording of contract farming agreements with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) or a prescribed authority under the Act, protection of title or rights of the farmers over the land under such contracts, dispute settlement mechanism and a model draft agreement suggesting various terms and conditions. By now, relevant provisions have been made by 18 State Governments/UTs in their respective APMC Acts for providing a legal framework to contract farming. In seven States/Union Territories there are no APMC Acts, therefore, there is no regulation of contract farming in such States/UTs. The Model Act circulated by the Ministry is suggestive in nature, and, since Agriculture is a State subject, it is for the

State Governments to decide on the implementation, intermediation and monitoring of the contract farming arrangements in their State. To help States in the formulation of Rules in this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture has also circulated a set of Model APMC Rules to them for adoption.

Statement

Salient Recommendations of the Working Group

1. A glaring gap exists in marketing infrastructure including the crucial post harvest infrastructure. Agriculture markets lack basic facilities.
2. In order to ensure better farm income, there is a need to bring, about market reforms. While some States have amended the APMC Act, DAC has worked out a model APMC Act which covers various aspects that will benefit the farmers and facilitate Public Private Partnership (PPP) to interplay for a bigger and significant role.
3. Production system should be closely integrated with market.
4. There is a need to establish modern terminal markets, perishable cargo centres and AEZs.
5. Processing and value addition near farm gate should be promoted.
6. Special arrangements for marketing should be arranged for the North East Regions and other difficult and special areas.
7. Taxation and levies involving inter-State movement of agriculture produce should be rationalized.
8. The system of Negotiable Warehouse Receipt should be introduced effectively all over the country.
9. There should be no roll back on liberalization on the EC Act.
10. There should be a synergy amongst similar schemes implemented by different Departments.
11. Where different models of contract farming can operate in different parts of the country, a quasi-judicial dispute settlement mechanism should be put in place.
12. Setting up of Terminal Markets in well identified areas is to be encouraged. Terminal Markets enjoin building up of relevant infrastructure and services.

Quality of Textile Items

297. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumers are facing lots of difficulties in ascertaining the quality and genuineness of yarn, fabrics, sarees, garments, etc. and are being cheated on many occasions by the sellers;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed by the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, whether any scheme has been brought out to ascertain the quality and genuineness of textiles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No such complaints have been received.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Recommendations made by TRAI

298. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with regard to number of telecom operators, spectrum allocation and acquisitions;

(b) whether Department of Telecommunication is not in favour of the recommendations and set up a Committee to study the above recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Global System of Mobile operators also opposing the recommendations; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) On 29th August 2007, the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were received on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers". TRAI has made recommendations, inter-alia, on number of Access Services telecom operators, spectrum allocation criterion, mergers and acquisitions etc. TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Global System of Mobile (GSM) operators.

Government has already taken a decision on TRAI's recommendation on 17-10-2007, inter-alia, accepting that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area.

Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision on these

recommendations in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is sub-judice.

Time-Scale Promotion in Armed Forces

299. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to introduce time-scale promotion system for soldiers in Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) Proposals relating to promotional prospects and time-scale promotion of Personnel Below Officers Rank of Armed Forces have been taken up with the VI Central Pay Commission.

[Translation]

Increase in Rates of Mobile Service

300. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether GSM Mobile Service provider private companies have raised tariff/rates in their several services;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the current year;

(c) whether tribunal has issued orders to TRAI in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government would withdraw on increased tariff and rates without permission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, Tariffs for telecom service in the country are governed by the frame work laid down in the Telecommunication Tariffs Order (TTO), 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariff for GSM mobile service is under forbearance.

(b) The details of the major instances of tariff hikes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, two consumer organizations have filed petitions in the Hon'ble Telecom Disputes

Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) against tariff hikes recently effected by Airtel, Vodafone and Idea Cellular. The Hon'ble Tribunal has not passed any final order in the case.

(e) and (f) The intervention of the Authority in telecommunication tariff is made when tariff implemented by the operator is not consistent with the framework laid down by the TTO.

Statement

Bharti

1	Postpaid		Prepaid	
	Change	Circles affected	Change	Circles affected
2	3	4	5	
Local SMS	Rs. 1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi	Rs. 1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi
Local (own-Network) call	Rs. 0.99/1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi	Rs. 1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi
Local (other-network) call	Rs. 0.99 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi	-	-
Local (Landline)			Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.4	Delhi (for new customers only)
STD (On-net) call	Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.40	15 circles (Delhi, Assam, Bihar, J&K, Kerala, Karnataka, Kolkata, Haryana, NE, Orissa, UP (W), WB, A.P., Gujarat & H.P.)	Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.65	19 circles (Delhi, A.P., Assam, Bihar, J&K, Kerala, Karnataka, Kolkata, NE, Orissa, W.B., UP (W), Gujarat Maharashtra, Rajasthan, H.P., M.P., Mumbai & UP (E))
STD (all Network)			Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.65	A.P./
STD (all Network)			Rs. 2.65 to Rs. 2.75	Delhi (for new customers only)
Vodafone (Hutch)				
Local SMS	Rs. 1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi	Rs.1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi
	50 p to Re. 1	Mumbai (1 Plan)	Rs.0.20 to Rs.0.25	Chennai (only 2 plans)
International SMS	Rs. 3 to Rs. 5	Kerala (3 Plans)	Rs.3 to Rs.5	Chennai (only 2 Plans), Kerala
Local (own-network) call	-	-	Rs.1 to Rs. 1.20	Delhi
Local (other mobile) call	From Rs.0.49/0.3/1/1.50/4	To Rs.0.99/0.99/1.75/1/0.80	Rs.1 to Rs.1.50	MH
Local (to all mobile) call	-	-	Plan 1 : Rs.0.49 to Rs.0.75 (peak hours) Rs.0.49 to Rs.0.39 (off -peak hours)	Chennai (only 2 plans)

1	2	3	4	5
			Plan 2: Rs.0.10 to Rs.0.39 (off-peak hours)	
STD (All) call	Rs. 1.99 to Rs. 2.40	Kerala	Rs.2.40 to Rs.2.65	5 circles (Delhi, Kerala, Rajasthan, Mumbai, UP (E) & AP) Gujarat Chennai (only 2 plans) MH
	Rs. 2.4 to Rs. 2.65	Punjab	Rs.2/2.4 to Rs.2.65 Rs.1.99 to Rs.2.40 Rs.1.99 to Rs.2.65	
Idea Cellular				
Local SMS	-	-	Rs.1 to Rs.1.20	Delhi
Local (own-network) call	-	-	Rs.0.99/1 to Rs.1.20	Delhi
Local (other-network) call	-	-	Rs.1 to Rs. 1.50	MH
STD (All) call	-	-	Rs.2 to Rs.2.65	MH
STD (All) call	-	-	Rs.2.4 to Rs.2.65	Rajasthan & UP (E)

Note: Hike in tariff is applicable in some plans.

E-Mail, Internet and Computer Facility

301. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in urban, rural and tribal areas of the country equipped with E-mail, Internet and computer facilities;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide said facilities in all important post offices in rural and tribal areas in a certain time limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has prepared any time bound programme to provide computer facilities to rest of the post offices of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The break up of availability of computer and Internet facility in Post offices, area wise is given in the table below.

	No. of Post Offices In Urban area	No. of Post Offices in Rural area	No. of Post Offices in Tribal area
Computer Facility	5860	2499	549
Internet Facility	3758	1153	257

All Post Offices having Internet connectivity are capable of receiving e-mail.

(b) and (c) A proposal to provide computer facilities in remaining Departments Post offices has been submitted to Planning Commission.

(d) and (e) As stated in (b) & (c) the proposal for computerization of Post offices for XI plan has been submitted to Planning Commission. The computerization of Post offices is an ongoing process, subject to approval of the proposal submitted to Planning Commission.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) and (e) above.

Land under Paddy

302. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land under Paddy cultivation in Jharkhand.

(b) whether the area under paddy cultivation has declined sharply; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The total area of land under Paddy cultivation in Jharkhand was 16.24 lakh hectares (Kharif 16.04 lakh hectares, Rabi 0.20 lakh hectares) in 2006-07 as per 4th Advance Estimates released on 19.07.2007. As per the 1st Advance Estimates for 2007-08 released on 19.09.2007, the area of land under Kharif Paddy cultivation in Jharkhand stands at 16.34 lakh hectares which is 0.30 lakh hectares more than the 16.04 lakh hectares of area under Kharif Paddy during 2006-07.

Decline in Quality of BSNL Services

303. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of BSNL has expressed its concern over the declining quality of BSNL services and put this Company in lower grade in comparison to the last year grading;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to check the tendency of wasteful expenditure and the lack of manpower in this Company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, grading of the company is declared by Department of Public Enterprises based on memorandum of understanding signed with Parent Ministry i.e. Ministry of Communications & IT, Department of Telecommunications. In this, BSNL is put in "Very Good" grading during the year 2006-07 against "Excellent" grading of the previous year.

(b) The reasons for reduction in grading are:-

- i) Lower Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) in basic telephony and hence lower sales and gross margin.
- ii) Less addition in number of Broadband and PCO connections.

(c) and (d) BSNL has been following the economy instructions of Government of India to check wasteful expenditure. There is no lack of manpower in BSNL in general. However, keeping in view of fast changing business as well as technological scenario, need based promotions as well as outside recruitments are being resorted to and shall continue in future as well as per the requirement.

[English]

Conference of Flight Safety

304. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on Flight Safety, IFSCON-2007 was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main features of the Conference; and

(d) the rate of accidents in the Indian Air Force in comparison with UK and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) An International Flight Safety Conference was held on 9th and 10th October, 2007 in New Delhi at Air Force auditorium, Subroto Park. The Conference was attended by delegates from 31 foreign countries among others.

(c) The main features of the Conference were: (i) to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences in the field of aviation safety; (ii) to generate synergy and co-operation amongst various agencies on aviation safety; and (iii) to keep abreast of current trends in flight safety and accident investigation.

(d) The rate of accident in respect of the Indian Air Force (IAF) for financial year 2006-2007 is 0.35. However, authentic information on accident rates in respect of UK and Japan is not available with the IAF.

New Technologies for Agriculture

305. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-technology and other new technological developments in the field of agriculture are major factors which would revolutionize the productivity in future; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Biotechnology and other new technological developments in the field of agriculture would enhance the productivity in future. Biotechnology would contribute to: (i) increasing crop productivity, and thus help global food, feed and fibre security, (ii) lowering production costs, (iii) conserving biodiversity, as a land-saving technology capable of higher productivity, (iv) more efficient use of external inputs, for a more sustainable agriculture and environment, (v) increasing stability of production to lessen suffering during famines due to abiotic and biotic stresses; (vi) improving productivity of livestock and fisheries and (vii) to the improvement economic and social benefits

and the alleviation of poverty in developing countries like India.

(b) Following steps have been taken by Government:-

1. The Deptt. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India has taken many steps for infra-structural development for research in biotechnology and human resource development through out India and commercialization of its products.
2. The Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India constituted a Task Force on Agricultural Biotechnology under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on 14th May, 2003. The Task Force submitted its report in June, 2004 inter alia recommending setting up of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA). The draft Cabinet Note which was considered by the committee of Secretaries (CoS) has been transferred to Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology as suggested by PMO. Necessary further action is being taken by Deptt. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force.
3. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several steps to intensify agricultural research work related to biotechnology. A Biotechnology Centre was established at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1985 to undertake research, training and education in agricultural biotechnology. A Network programme to develop transgenic in major crops such as rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables for introduction of various traits like tolerance to drought, salinity, and resistance to pests and diseases has been operational. Technologies such as marker-assisted selection and structural and functional genomics form an important part of this endeavour.
4. The biotechnological approaches of NBPGR, are primarily used for DNA fingerprinting of released varieties and elite germplasm of crops of national importance; studies on crop diversity, domestication, molecular phylogeny and biosystematics; researches on detection of transgenes and terminator gene technology during quarantine processing of introduced GM crops, and in vitro conservation and cryo-preservation of crop germplasm in National Genebank.
5. Animal Science research Institutes as well as the two deemed universities (IVRI & NDRI) under ICAR have initiated research in Animal biotechnology leading to development of disease diagnostic kits and value added livestock/dairy products.
6. ICAR and the Department of Biotechnology fund several projects such as sequencing of rice, tomato and potato genomes, development of improved crops varieties through biotechnology intervention, introduction of

'Golden rice' trait in Indian rice cultivators for amelioration of Vitamin A deficiency etc.

**Assistance from World Bank for
National Agricultural Technology Project**

306. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has borrowed money from the World Bank for the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP);

(b) if so, the rate of interest on this borrowing, money spent during 1998-2003 showing separately the money spent on purchases, on foreign travels on building etc. under NATP;

(c) the outputs of the overall NATP project that could be readily used by the Indian farmers;

(d) whether NATP has recommended to help Indian Agricultural Research by making it more responsive to the technology needs at grassroots; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government borrowed from the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) credit of 64.10 million US dollars and International Bank for Rural Development loan of 78.80 million US dollars. For IDA credit, the commitment charges are one half percent of 1% credit per annum and service charges at the rate of ¾ % per annum on principal amount of credit withdrawn and outstanding from time to time; and on IBRD loan, the commitment charges are at the rate of ¾ % of 1% per annum on principal amount of loan not withdrawn and interest on the principal amount of loan withdrawn and outstanding. The details of money spent during 1998-2003 under different heads are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The outputs of NATP include development of 270 new technologies which could be readily used by the Indian farmers.

(d) Yes, Sir. The NATP has recommended for sensitization agricultural research system to the farmer's needs through participatory research activities.

(e) The farmer's needs are taken into account at local, regional and national level. Farmers are represented at local level in Institute Management Committee and Research Advisory Committee of the ICAR institutes. At regional level the farmer's needs are addressed in ICAR regional committee meetings which are attended by representative of line departments, State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes and farmer's representatives. At national level the Governing Body of the ICAR and the ICAR Society are being represented by farmers where their needs are being taken into account.

Statement**The Details of Money Spent During 1998-2003****Under Different Heads are Given Below:-**

(Rs. in Lakh)							
Category	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
Purchases (Equipment, Furniture, Books/Journals, Computers)	0	0	151.76	1281.54	5207.89	9085.37	15726.57
Foreign Travel (TA & Training Abroad)	0	0	0.00	1.41	75.64	100.38	177.43
Works	0	0	61.99	395.71	1485.32	1643.37	3586.39
Other Recurring (Pay & Allowances, TA India, Training India, Workshop, Contractual Services, Institutional Charges, Operational Charges)	552.39	2889.84	2471.94	5920.88	7196.54	9805.70	28837.29
Total	552.39	2889.84	2685.69	7599.55	13965.38	20634.83	48327.68

*[Translation]***Lifting of Ban on Export of Milk**

307. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI KIREN RIJUU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban imposed on export of Milk and Milk Powder has been removed despite its shortage in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum from Milk Cooperatives in this regard;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production and availability of Milk and Milk Powder in the country in order to check its rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. The ban on export of milk powder lapsed on 30.9.2007 in view of availability of sufficient milk during flush season.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)" for increasing milk production apart from the schemes namely 'Intensive Dairy Development Programme', 'Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production', 'Assistance to Cooperatives' and 'Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund' which also contribute towards dairy development. Government is regularly reviewing the availability of milk in the country to ensure its availability at reasonable price.

Sardar Sarovar Project

308. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of Sardar Sarovar Project alongwith the funds allocation and spent on its construction work so far;

(b) whether any request has been received from concerned States including Gujarat by the Union Government regarding this project works during the last three years; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Sardar Sarovar Dam height has been effectively raised to its crest level 121.92 m. All the six units of River Bed Power House (RBPH) (6x200 Megawatts) and five units of Canal Head Power House (CHPH) (5x50 Megawatts) have been commissioned. The Narmada Main Canal has been completed up to 357.196 km (out of total length of 458.318 km up to Gujarat-Rajasthan border) except two major structures falling within km 263.165 to km 357.196. The construction work in NMC from km 357.196 to km 458.318 is in advanced stage by the State Government. The Command Area Development work has been completed in 276562 ha till August 2007. The cumulative expenditure on construction work of Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat as reported by the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. till August 2007 after allocation of common expenditure is Rs.24562.53 crore.

Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, and funding of the projects is within the purview of State Government. On the request of State Government, the project has been included in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 and so far, Central Assistance amounting to Rs.4887.7385 crore has been released in favour of the project in the form of loan/grant. On the basis of demand received from State Government of Gujarat and in view of AIBP guidelines in force from time to time, grant amounting to Rs.471.8885 crore has been released to the State during last three years. In addition to above an amount of Rs. 74.77 crore has been released to the State for the project so far under the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme.

[English]

Budget Allocation for Fisheries

309. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and utilized for development of fisheries during 2007-08 alongwith the percentage of utilization; and

(b) the amount spent upto October 2007 for the aforesaid purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The amount allocated for development of fisheries during 2007-08 is Rs.216.18 crores. Out of this, till October, 2007 an amount of Rs.81.66 crore (37.77%) has been released for utilization.

Fire Incidents in Ordnance Depots

310. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an unprecedented increase in the incidents of fire in Army Ordnance Depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of ammunition destroyed and loss of lives and property alongwith the value thereof in each case during the last three years, separately;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into each incident separately;

(d) if so, the details of the findings of each inquiry;

(e) the action taken thereon and the extent to which affected civilians have been compensated by the Government; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future and to safeguard the interests of civilians?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) The details of fire incidents in the Army Ordnance Depots during last three years are as under:-

(a) On 22.3.2005, a fire incident took place in Central Ammunition Depot (CAD) Pulgaon in which ammunition valued at Rs.22 crores was destroyed. There was no loss of life.

(b) On 11.8.2007, a fire broke out in a Field Ammunition Depot (21 FAD) at Khundroo in Kashmir. Eighteen lives were reportedly lost in the fire incident.

In each of the incident, a Court of Inquiry (COI) was ordered. The recommendations of the COI have been implemented in the case of fire incident in CAD Pulgaon. In case of 21 FAD Khundroo, it will be premature to indicate any estimate of damage caused before completion of the COI.

For the assistance of the people inhabiting areas adjacent to 21 FAD at Khundroo affected by the fire

incident on 11.8.2007, the Ministry of Defence has released an amount of Rs.26.74 crores to the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir as ex-gratia relief/assistance.

Modernization of Army Ordnance Depots including improvement of safety measures is an ongoing process. Government has approved an amount of Rs.1413.34 crores since 1998 till date for the upgradation of the ammunition storage facilities. Government has also approved modernization of the existing security and fire prevention infrastructure in the Central Ammunition Depot at Pulgaon, Field Ammunition Depot at Jodhpur and an Ammunition Company as a pilot project.

Export of Defence Systems

311. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has urged the Defence Ministry to permit the export of defence systems which are not strategically sensitive;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether DRDO also proposes to have collaboration with various countries for developing technologies and production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government is discussing various implications of exporting defence systems which are not strategically sensitive.

(c) and (d) DRDO is examining opportunities for collaborative development and production of tactical defence systems with friendly countries.

Global Trade in Seeds

312. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in the global trade in seeds;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase India's share in the global trade in seeds;

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to achieve the target; and

(d) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) As per World Seed Trade Statistics, India has sixth largest size of domestic seed market in the world, estimated to be at 1300 million dollars. However, India's share in global trade in seeds (import & export) is of about 37 million dollars. Government has not fixed any target for increasing seed export. However, various measures have been taken to promote and facilitate India's share in global seed trade, which include India's participation in Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) Seed Schemes to facilitate international movement of seeds and supporting Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories for becoming members of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) to achieve global standards.

[Translation]

Import of Bad Quality Apples from America

313. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that apples imported from the United States of America are suspected to be affected with worms alien to our country, as yet;

(b) if so, whether the British Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International (CABI) has been examining these worms found in the American apples;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has examined the apples imported from America;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the government to safeguard the interests of the Indian apple growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) There are no reports of interception of quarantine pests from imported apple consignments from USA or any non-compliance of Indian Plant Quarantine Regulations by such imports. Government of India permits import of apple that meet the phytosanitary specifications prescribed by the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import

into India) Order, 2003. Phytosanitary specifications are prescribed based on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) done by taking into account the published information including that of Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International about the pest and disease status on a crop in the exporting country and their likely association with the path way of import of the commodity. The PRA is continuous process which is product specific and country-specific.

Indian Plant Quarantine system has established quarantine centres at the ports of entry (air and sea). Most of the Plant Quarantine Stations, especially, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, through which major proportion of imported commodities enter the country, have established laboratory facilities for diagnosis of quarantine pests and diseases as per the established procedure of inspection and approval for release of imported agri-commodities. The imported consignments of apple are inspected on arrival to ensure freedom from pests and diseases of quarantine significance to India. This ensures prevention of entry of quarantine pests and diseases into the country.

[English]

**Creation of Buffer Zone in
Belgaum, Karnataka**

314. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked financial assistance for the creation of Buffer Zone in Belgaum Defence Area in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any financial compensation has been provided to the farmers for the land acquired from them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of pending claims for compensation, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no proposal for creation of "Buffer Zone" in and around Belgaum Cantonment, Karnataka either by acquisition of land or by hiring of land.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

**Economic Backwardness of
Weavers Community**

315. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up any Committee to study the Economic Backwardness of Weavers Community living in rural and semi urban areas and depending upon traditional occupation/artisanship particularly in Bagalkot District of Karnataka;

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

(c) If so, the findings thereof alongwith the follow up action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles has not set up any such Committee to study the economic backwardness of weavers community living in rural and semi-urban areas. However, a diagnostic study of Mahalingapur handloom cluster in Bagalkot district of Karnataka was conducted which has been sent to the state government of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Shortfall in Wheat Procurement

316. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of storage capacity of wheat with the Food Corporation of India along with the quantity available therein;

(b) whether the Government has failed to purchase wheat from the local market in time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the circumstances under which the Government had to import wheat at rates higher than the local rates; and

(e) the reasons behind the imported wheat not finding favour with the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is having storage capacity of 23.86 millions tonnes. As on 30.9.2007, it held foodgrains stocks of 101.73 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The procurement of wheat during the year 2007-08 is 111.27 lakh MTs as compared to 92.26 lakh MTs during last year 2006-07.

(d) In view of procurement of 111.27 lakh MTs against the estimated procurement of 151.50 lakh MTs during Rabi Marketing Season 2007-08, the Government have decided to import wheat upto 50 lakh MTs. So far 13.06 lakh MTs have been contracted for import and another 10 lakh MTs of wheat is proposed to be imported during 2007-08. The price of imported wheat is higher due to several reasons including lower production in several major wheat producing countries, diversion of wheat to biofuels, lower end year stocks and increasing demand from several countries.

(e) Because of the preference for white wheat to which consumers are used to in India, there has been resistance to imported red wheat in many States. Complaints received from two States, namely, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were investigated by drawing samples jointly with the State Government authorities and tested in State Food laboratories. The samples were found to be as per specifications and fit for human consumption. The samples of imported wheat were also collected by quality control officers of the Department of Food and Public Distribution in association with FCI officers and these samples were analysed in Central Grain Analysis Laboratories, New Delhi and were found to be as per specifications laid down.

Textile Parks

317. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up 50 new textile parks to provide employment under the textile sector of the country;

(b) If so, whether the locations have been/are being identified to set up the said parks;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be finalized along with the detailed outline of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Ministry of Textiles has proposed to develop 50 additional Textiles Parks during the 11th Five Year Plan period.

(b) and (c) Location of the project depends upon the demand by the entrepreneurs.

(d) the proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

Minimum Support Price for Wheat and Pulses

318. SHRI SANJAY DHORE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to substantially increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and pulses;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has announced/fixed the Minimum Support Prices of rabi crops, including wheat, gram and masur (lentil), for 2007-08 season on 9th October, 2007, while the MSPs of Kharif crops, including arhar (tur), moong and urad, of 2007-08 season were announced/fixed on 17th May 2007. The MSPs of wheat and pulses for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the table below:

Crop	(Rs. per quintal)	
	2006-07	2007-08
Wheat	750*	1000
Gram	1445	1600
Masur (Lentil)	1545	1700
Arhar (Tur)	1410	1550**
Moong	1520	1700**
Urad	1520	1700**

*An additional incentive bonus of Rs.100 per quintal was payable over and above the MSP.

**A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP.

[English]

Joint development of futuristic Combat Aircraft

319. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Russia have agreed to build a futuristic combat aircraft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the joint production of futuristic combat aircraft will be started;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to export these aircraft to third world friendly countries in the near future;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government had signed similar agreement with Russia for production of fifth generation combat aircraft a few years back;
- (g) the status of said agreement;
- (h) the salient features of the fifth generation aircraft; and
- (i) the extent to which defence capabilities of the Air Force would be enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) has been signed on 18th October, 2007 between the Indian and Russian Government for co-operation in development and production of Prospective Multi-role Fighter (PMF), a fifth generation fighter aircraft.

(c) to (e) These details will be known only after preparation of detailed project report.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The salient features are: Stealth Technology, Super Maneuverability/Super Cruise, Smart Weapons, Network Centric Warfare etc.

(i) Defence capability will be adequately enhanced.

[Translation]

Reduction in Subscribers of MTNL

320. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

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

(a) whether the number of MTNL mobile customers in Delhi and Mumbai is far less as compared to the number of customers of other private operators as the services of MTNL are not satisfactory;

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

(c) whether some MTNL officials have been providing assistance to the private operators illegally in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases noticed during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The market share of MTNL for mobile customers in Delhi and Mumbai is 14% and 19.85% respectively as on 30.9.2007. MTNL's market share had gone from 6% in March, 2004 to about 18% in March, 2007. The growth in subscriber base for Global System for Mobile Communications during this period is from 3.6 lakhs in 2004 to 27.7 lakhs in 2007. The wireless network of MTNL is meeting the TRAI Quality of Service benchmarks.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Acquisition of Defence Equipment

321. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to spend about \$30 billion on acquisition of military hardware and software from abroad during Eleventh Five Year plan period (2007-12);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether keeping in view the large-scale procurement, the Government proposes to revise the defence procurement policy to make it more transparent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which a final decision is likely to be taken? ●

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) No decision on the outlay of defence acquisitions during Eleventh Five Year plan period has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 has been under implementation with effect

from 1st September 2006. Review of the Procedure is a continuous process based on the experience gained in its implementation.

[Translation]

Coarse Grains

322. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coarse grains are being grown on around 28 million hectares of land out of total cultivable land;

(b) if not, the estimated area of such land;

(c) whether farmers growing coarse grains are getting only 57% return of total production costs; and

(d) if not, the assessment made by the Government in this regard and percentage of small and marginal farmers engaged in said cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The area under coarse grains against total cultivable land during the last three years is as under:

(in million hectares)

Year	Area under coarse grains	Total Cultivable land
2003-04	30.80	182.95
2004-05	29.03	182.81
2005-06	29.04	182.58

(c) and (d) Farmers growing coarse grains are getting assured return in the form of Minimum Support Price (MSP) as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and as announced by the Government. Data on small and marginal farmers engaged in cultivation of coarse grains are not maintained. The cost of production (COP) and the MSP of the coarse grains viz. jowar, bajra and maize for the year 2007-08 is given below:

(in rupees per quintal)

Crop	COP	MSP	% of MSP to COP
Bajra	443.96	600.00	135.15
Maize	448.73	620.00	138.17
Jowar	546.37	620.00	113.48

[English]

Grameen Dak Workers

323. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee or Commission to prepare a report regarding the grievances of the Grameen Dak Workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee/Commission has been given any judicial power;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A one-man committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.S. Natraja Murti, Retired Member of the Postal Services Board, Department of Posts has been constituted with the approval of Hon'ble MOC&IT to look into the employments and service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks. The terms of reference of this Committee were finalized in consultation with Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Accordingly Resolution No.6-1/2006-PE.II dated 23rd July 2007 was published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) after obtaining the approval of Hon'ble MOC&IT.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. GDS system is a system unique to the Department of Posts, which has its own complexities. Therefore, the problems of this system can be well understood only by the service officers of the Department of Posts. The previous Committees headed by the service Officers have done full justice to the GDS employees. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that Shri R.S. Natraja Murti, a retired Member of the Postal Services Board, who has had considerable experience in handling GDS related issues, has been entrusted with the task of examining the conditions of service and emoluments and other facilities available to the Gramin Dak Sevaks. The primary objective of the Committee is to make recommendations regarding pay and service conditions of GDS employees, and not the legal status of GDS employees, which is well settled.

Development of IT in Rural Areas

324. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any step to develop IT in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 Census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private Services in rural areas. While the State Government would decide the exact nature of Government services to be provided, the nature of private services to be provided would be determined by the entity selected for establishing the CSCs. It is expected that non government services like computer education, agriculture consulting, insurance, edutainment etc. would be delivered through these centres. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership. The full details of the Scheme are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in. The total outlay of the Scheme is Rs. 5742 crores, including the cost of establishment of the CSCs and their operation for four years thereafter. The Government support in the form of viability gap funding is estimated to be Rs. 1649 crores, with the balance coming from private sector investments. These centres would thus be available for a variety of uses in rural areas including computer education, raising awareness about IT in rural areas etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

325. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to abolish Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating alternative scheme envisaged for the benefit of the weavers;

(c) the status of proposals already formulated and submitted by various States under the said Yojana pending for approval before the Union Government State-wise; and

(d) the current implementation status of project package, health package, integrated handloom training

programme, distribution of loans, yarns and accessories in Assam indicating number of proposals pending for sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana was discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2007 and its components merged with the proposed new Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) to be implemented during the 11th plan period. IHDS aims to provide assistance for (a) handloom clusters having handlooms in the range of 300-500, (b) a group preferably having at least 10 weavers, (c) marketing of handloom products by the state Handloom Corporations/Apex societies, Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and National level handloom organizations (d) strengthening the State and National Level Organizations (e) Innovative Ideas, Publicity, monitoring, supervision, training and evaluation of scheme.

(c) No new proposals will be considered in Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana after 31.3.2007 because the scheme has been discontinued. However, the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS) is presently under consideration of the Government of India. No proposal of any state, including the state of Assam is, hence, pending under the new scheme.

(d) The Project Package Scheme, Health Package Scheme and the Integrated Handloom Training Project have been discontinued w.e.f., 01.04.2000, 09.08.2005 and 01.04.2007 respectively. The Ministry of Textiles is not implementing any scheme for distribution of loans or a scheme titled Integrated Handloom Training Programme. Proposals in respect of Accessories will be considered under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, which is presently under consideration. No proposal of the state of Assam is pending under the Mill Gate Price Scheme which provides yarn to the handloom weavers at the Mill Gate Price.

[Translation]

Fake Weavers

326. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women weavers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of weavers out of them who have been issued identity cards;

(c) whether importers are drawing the benefits of Government Schemes for weavers through the identity cards issued to other genuine weavers;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this matter;

(e) if so, the outcome therefor; and

(f) the corrective measures adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) A Statement

showing the State-wise number of men and women weavers in the country engaged in the weaving and allied activities in Handloom sector is enclosed.

(b) It has been decided to issue identity cards to weavers enumerated during the Third Census of Handlooms, which is to be conducted shortly.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of persons engaged in Weaving (Weavers) & Allied Activities	No. of Women engaged in weaving & Allied Activities	No. of Men engaged in weaving & Allied activities
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	490616	163841	326775
2	Arunachal Pradesh	53473	39927	13546
3	Assam	2322268	1489315	832953
4	Bihar	110732	30338	80394
5	Chhattisgarh	28362	8514	19848
6	Delhi	6708	447	6261
7	Goa	25	10	15
8	Gujarat	57936	18805	39131
9	Haryana	22810	3920	18890
10	Himachal Pradesh	65099	20024	45075
11	Jammu & Kashmir	51847	11046	40801
12	Jharkhand	56975	16588	40387
13	Karnataka	177562	62156	115406
14	Kerala	63153	23176	39977
15	Madhya Pradesh	27744	7553	20191
16	Maharashtra	80901	26940	53961
17	Manipur	462087	436110	25977
18	Meghalaya #	#	#	#
19	Mizoram#	#	#	#
20	Nagaland	126228	97524	28704
21	Orissa	246782	79947	166835
22	Pondicherry	7369	2514	4855
23	Punjab	13160	4118	9042

1	2	3	4	5
24	Rajasthan	71915	19380	52535
25	Sikkim*	1228	.	.
26	Tamil Nadu	607675	221450	386225
27	Tripura	291761	146188	145573
28	Uttar Pradesh	401362	76643	324719
29	Uttaranchal	19322	7074	12248
30	West Bengal	686254	213255	472999
Total All India		6551354	3226803	3324551

Note: # Data not received from Meghalaya & Mizoram.

* No separate figures available from Sikkim.

[English]

Handover of Institute to ICAR

327. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for handing over the land of Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), ICAR, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to hand over the land of IISR to Government of UP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the transfer of land of IISR, Lucknow/ Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Research Station, Lucknow to the UP Government has been received for parking of vehicles for rallies organize at "Ambedkar Maidan", Lucknow.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Mobile Signals

328. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several leading telecom service providers in the country and five service providers of Pakistan have been found contravening the no service zone rules along the sensitive Indo-Pak border in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether signals of many mobile companies were available in the prohibited area along the international border; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Some instances of spill over of signals in "No Service Zone/Buffer Zone" within Indian Territory in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the international border have come to notice of the Department. The matter was investigated through Vigilance Technical Monitoring (VTM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications. Based on their observations, action has been initiated for levy of penalty on the concerned service providers in India as per the terms and conditions of the License Agreement.

Ministry of External Affairs is handling the issue of presence of signals of mobile operators of Pakistan within the Indian Territory at diplomatic level with the Government of Pakistan.

National Electronic Fund Transfer System

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

(a) the number of Post Office Savings Banks in each State and such offices with Capital Adequacy Ratio to become eligible for National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) system;

(b) the advantages and benefits to public envisaged from empowering the post office savings banks through enabling them to transfer funds electronically;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for computerizing and networking of post office savings banks throughout the country and grant NEFT membership to them to help people avail of electronic transfer facility through their deposits in post offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Post Offices doing Saving Bank / Savings Certificate work as on 31-3-2006, circle-wise is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

There is no concept of Capital Adequacy Ratio in the Post Offices.

(b) POSB has no proposal for electronic transfer of funds in the near future in view of which it is not possible to state the benefits and advantages that may accrue from such a system.

(c) The Department does have a proposal for computerizing and networking some of its post offices doing SB work during the XIth Plan. The issue of availing of NEFT membership is at this stage premature and hence has not been considered.

(d) During the XIth Plan period there is a proposal to network 4000 post offices doing savings bank work with central server based technology. However, the proposal still awaits clearance/approval from the prescribed authorities. Unless the Post Offices are networked with Central Server based Technology, the concept of NEFT membership to certain Post Offices cannot be brought in.

Statement

Number of Post Offices doing Savings Bank / Saving Certificate Work

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Departmental Post Offices	No. of Extra-Departmental Post Offices	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2236	13514	15750
2	Assam	623	3326	3949
3	Bihar	1042	7977	9019
4	Chhattisgarh	334	2779	3113
5	Delhi	421	71	492
6	Gujarat	1310	7590	8900
7	Haryana	486	2151	2637
8	Himachal Pradesh	461	2313	2774
9	Jammu & Kashmir	257	1390	1647
10	Jharkhand	445	2571	3016
11	Karnataka	1812	7826	9638
12	Kerala	1501	3229	4730
13	Madhya Pradesh	1062	7175	8237
14	Maharashtra	2229	10499	12728
15	North – East	271	2091	2362

1	2	3	4	5
16	Orissa	1193	6946	8139
17	Punjab	837	3101	3938
18	Rajasthan	1407	8957	10364
19	Tamil Nadu	2853	8882	11735
20	Uttar Pradesh	2557	14221	16778
21	Uttarakhand	384	2291	2675
22	West Bengal	1754	7187	8941
Grand Total		25475	126087	151562

Regulation of Courier Services

330. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint Mail Regulatory and Development Authority to regulate mail sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to regulate Courier services which are now permitted through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIB) route;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The proposal inter alia envisages appointing a Mail Regulatory and Development Authority to regulate mail sector in the country. The proposal is at conceptual stage.

(c) and (d) The proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 envisages registration of every courier company operating in the mail sector. The proposal is at conceptual stage.

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

Increase in Child Labour

331. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instances of child labour are continuing despite a ban on it in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to some State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto;

(e) whether the Union Government has any mechanism for proper monitoring of the implementation of the ban;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to effectively curb child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 15 occupations and 57 processes. However, Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, government is following a gradual and sequential approach of first covering the children working in hazardous occupations/processes. Census is the most authentic data on child labour in the country. As per Census 2001, there are 12.6 million working children in country out of which about 12 lakhs are working in hazardous occupations/processes.

(c) and (d) Based on their reviews, the National Human Rights Commission from time to time issues notices to various State Governments. The State Governments are required to submit their action taken reports directly to the NHRC.

(e) and (f) Government monitors the implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986

regularly through periodical reports submitted by the State Governments/UTs which are the appropriate Government for implementation of the Act in their respective areas. Apart from this, the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) also reviews the implementation of the Act. Reviews of the implementation of the Act are also done during various Zonal and Regional level meetings held with the state governments.

(g) There are stringent provisions under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. As per Section 14 of the Act, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. For rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, these children are put into Specials Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc.

Promotion of Handicrafts Industry

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicrafts industry has been adversely affected by the appreciating rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has requested the Union Government to increase duty drawback rates for the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of handicrafts industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of handicrafts and carpet has decreased by 12.90% during April-Oct. 2007 in comparison to the corresponding period of 2006-07. During April-Oct. 2006, the export of handicrafts and carpet was to the tune of Rs. 9584.72 crores which has now reached Rs. 8348.22 crores during April-Oct. 2007-08.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Export Promotion Council for handicrafts made a request to the Government on behalf of Exporters Association for considering enhancement of duty drawback rate on handicrafts exports in percentage terms.

(e) The steps taken for promoting export of handicrafts and to enhance its share in the international market include: participation in exhibitions/fairs, organizing Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair twice a year, organizing thematic exhibitions, development of innovative value added products through Product Development Programme, organizing programmes for packaging and export procedure, etc.

Weavers Health Insurance Scheme

333. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers insured under the Weavers Health Insurance Scheme;

(b) the total number of claims received and the claims settled by the ICICI Lombard Insurance Company under the scheme during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(c) the total amount paid by the Government to the above insurance company during each of the last three years and thereafter; and

(d) the reasons for choosing a private insurance company by the Government instead of public sector insurance company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) The Health Insurance Scheme was launched in November 2005. The total number of weavers insured under the scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are 698685 (including new and renewal cases).

(b) The total number of claims received and claim settled by the ICICI Lombard as on August 2007 are as under:-

Year	No. of Claims received	No. of claims settled by ICICI Lombard
2005-06	2,44,806	1,70,906
2006-07	37,183	15,327

(c) The year-wise funds released by Government of India to ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd., is as under:

	(Rs. in Crore)
2005-06	26.73
2006-07	37.00
2007-08	34.20
Total	97.93

(d) In 2005-06, the Government of India invited proposals from Private & Public Nationalized Insurance Companies namely – "The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd., United India Insurance Company Ltd., National Insurance Company Ltd. and New India Assurance Company Ltd." and other Private Insurance Companies for implementation of Health Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers.

Amongst the Public Sector Insurance Companies, the final offer given by the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (OIC) (on behalf of all the Nationalised Insurance Companies) was Rs.10,000/- per family of four members at a premium of Rs.1600/- per family for OPD and Hospitalization. The OPD limit was restricted to Rs.1500/-

Amongst the Private Insurance Companies except ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, no other private Insurance Company gave any proposal. The ICICI Lombard offered an insurance cover of Rs. 15000/- for a family of four and Rs. 7,500/- for OPD at a premium of Rs.1312/-. The offer of the ICICI Lombard was further negotiated and the premium was reduced to Rs.1,000/- per annum.

A comparison of package offered by Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (a public sector insurance company) and the ICICI Lombard (a private sector insurance company) showed that the premium given by the ICICI Lombard was lesser than that offered by the OIC. The OIC was given an opportunity to match this offer but could not do so especially with regard to the OPD, an important requirement for weavers. Therefore the ICICI Lombard was selected for implementation of Health Insurance Scheme as it offered higher benefits at a lesser rate of premium.

During 2007-08, for implementation of Health Insurance Scheme (a component of Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme) competitive bids were invited from all insurance companies through open advertisement in newspapers and website through tender/bids. Bids were received from public and private companies. The ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. being the lowest bidder has been selected for implementation of the Health Insurance Scheme and hence, the scheme is being implemented through ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. in the 11th Plan also. The premium offered by the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company is 30% lower than the previous premium rate.

Telephone Connections in Villages

334. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/maxalite infested area etc. in the country provided telephone facility during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 till date, State-wise and location-wise; and

(b) the number of such villages still not having such basic facility in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In the phased approach adopted for providing telephone facilities in the rural areas, villages with population of less than 100 are not receiving immediate focus. However, it is likely that while providing coverage to bigger villages, many villages with less than 100 population will also be covered.

[Translation]

Agricultural Projects

335. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current/pending agricultural projects in each State of the country as on date; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the participation of farmers in the formulation of the agricultural policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As and when agricultural projects or proposals are received by the Ministry of Agriculture from different States, appropriate decision is taken after due examination of the same. To address the problems being faced by the farmers and suggest remedial measures, Government of India had constituted the National Commission on Farmers which after due consultations with the stakeholders including farmers, made wide ranging recommendations covering diverse aspects of development of agriculture and allied sectors and for improving economic well-being of farmers. The Commission has also submitted a Draft National Policy for Farmers incorporating major recommendations to address the problems being faced by farmers. Further, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices while formulating Agriculture Price Policy consults farmers and their groups from time to time.

[English]

National Horticulture Board

336. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the high quality horticulture farms in identified belts developed by National Horticulture Board for developing commercial horticulture in the country;

(b) whether the Government is assisting Research and Development Programmes to develop products suited for specific varieties with improved methods and horticulture technology to the farmers and processing industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) details of National Horticulture Board's innovative schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The high quality horticulture farm developed by National Horticulture Board in identified belts in the country for development of commercial horticulture is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is assisting Research and Development Programmes to develop products suited for specific varieties with improved methods and horticulture technology to the farmers and processing industry. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The National Horticulture Board is implementing the following innovative schemes.

- i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and Post Harvest Management.
- ii) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storages for Horticulture Produce
- iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.
- iv) Market Information Services for Horticulture Crops.
- v) Horticulture Promotion Services.

The details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

High Quality horticulture farms in identified belts developed by National Horticulture Board.

S.No.	Commodity	Belt
1	Strawberry Farms	Satara and Jammu
2	Grapes Farms	Sangli, Nasik and Bijapur
3	Flowers Farms	Pune, Bangalore and Nilgiris
4	Rose Farms	Tamil Nadu
5	Mango Farms	Hoshangabad and Kacch
6	Mosambi/Sweet Farms Orange	Anantapur, Nalgonda
7	Kinnow Farms	Abohar, Sirsa and Sri Ganganagar
8	Gerbera Farms	Ramnagar, Uttaranchal
9	Banana Farms	Anand
10	Pomegranate Farms	Sholapur
11	Litchi Farms	Ramnagar (Kashipur), and Muzzafarnagar (Litchi & bee keeping both)
12	Anthurium Farms	Coorg
13	Fruit Orchards/Farms	Kacch and Kashmir Valley
14	Vanilla Farms	Sirsi
15	Fruit Pulp Processing Units	Dharmapuri & Krishnagiri
16	Ornamental Plant, Nurseries	South 24 Pargana, Midanpur

Statement-II

Details of Products developed for specific varieties through improved method.

Crop	Variety	Products
1	2	3
Mango	Alphonso	Ready to serve beverage (RTS), canned slices, osmotically dehydrated slices, frozen product.
	Totapuri	Pulp, RTS

1	2	3
	Konkan Ruchi	Pickle
	Ram Kela	Pickle
	Amrapali	Nectar
Banana	Robusta	Beverage
	Nendran	Chips
	Zanzibar	Chips
	Bainsa	Fig
	Karpuravalli	Fig
	Kanthali	Fig
	Elakki Balai	Fig
	Rasthali	Fig
	Poovan	Fig
	Monthan	Sauce
	Cavendish	Juice, wine
Grape	Bangalore Blue	Juice, Blended Juice
Pineapple	Kew	Osmotically dehydrated slices
Custard Apple	Arka Sahar	Squash
Passion Fruit	Kaveri	Squash
Tomato	Arka Aashis	Puree, Ketchup, Squash
	Aria Ahuthi	Puree, Ketchup, Squash
	Arka Shreshta	Puree, Ketchup, Squash
	Rupali	Puree, Ketchup, Squash
Pea	Arka Ajitha	Frozen Pea
Onion	Arka Pitambher	Dehydrated Slices, Powder
	Pusa White	Dehydrated Slices, Powder
French Bean	Arka Suvidha	Frozen product
	Arka Komal	Frozen product
Potato	Kufri Chipsona-1	Chips
	Kufri Chipsona-2	Chips
	Kurfi Chipsona-3	Chips
Mushroom	Button Mushroom	Canned in brine solution
	Oyster Mushroom	Dried product, pickling
	Milky Mushroom	Pickling
	Dingri	Dried product
	Paddy Straw	Dried canned at egg stage and pickling

Statement-III**NHB Schemes at A Glance****1. Development of Commercial Horticulture Through Production and Post Harvest Management.****Components****A) Production Related**

- High quality commercial horticulture crops
- Indigenous crops/produce, herbs
- Aromatic Plants
- Seed & Nursery
- Biotechnology, Tissue Culture
- Bio-pesticides
- Organic Foods
- Estt. Of Hort. Health
- Clinics/Laboratory (For Agri/Horti unemployed graduates)
- Consultancy Services
- Bee-Keeping.

B) PHM/Primary Processing Related

- Grading/Washing/Sorting/Drying/Packing centers
- Pre-cooling Unit/Cool Strees
- Refer Van/Containers
- Sp. Transport Vehicle
- Retail Outlets
- Auction Platform
- Ripening/curing chamber
- Market Yard/rope ways
- Radiation unit/Dehydration unit/Vanpou Heat Treatment unit
- Primary processing of products fermentation, extraction, distillation,
- Juice vending, pulping, dressing,
- Cutting, chopping etc.
- Hort. Ancilliary industry e.g. tools, equipments, plastics, packaging etc.
- Crates, Cartoons, Aseptic packaging & Nets (50% subsidy)

Pattern of Assistance

- Back – ended capital investment subsidy not exceeding 20% of the project cost with a maximum

limit of Rs. 25 lakh per project (Rs. 30 lakh for North East/tribal areas).

How to Apply

- (i) Project to be submitted in prescribed format for NHB state office (for project upto 20.00 lakh) or NHB Head (for project>20 lakh)for insurance of Letter of Intent (LOI)
- (ii) NHB will issue LOI to eligible projects which will remain valid for 1 year from date of issue.
- (iii) Promoter should approach to the Bank/FI of his choice for term loan after obtaining LOI from NHB

Produce for Release of Subsidy**(A) Release of Advance/Part Subsidy**

For projects upto 20.00 lakh, part subsidy may be released upon received request from Bank after sanction of term loan. Full and final subsidy to such projects will be released after its completion and receipts of inspection report by the concerned Bank/ FI.

- (ii) For projects having cost norms than 20.00 lakh subsidy will be released after completion and Joint Inspector.

Processing Fee

1. Project with cost upto Rs. 10.00 Lac	0.2% of the project cost
2. Projects with cost Above Rs. 10.00 Lakh and upto Rs. 20.00 lac	0.25% of the project Cost
3. Projects with cost above Rs. 20.00 lac	0.5% of the project Cost

Note: Only 10% processing fee charged with LOI application and balance 90% of the time release of subsidy.

2. Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/ Modernization/Expansion of Cold Storage and Storage for Horticulture Produce**Components**

1. Cold Storage
2. Controlled Atmosphere (CA)/Modified Atmosphere (MA) Storage
3. Onion Storage

Pattern of Assistance

- Back-ended capital subsidy not exceeding 25% of the project with a maximum limit of Rs. 50 lacs per project (Rs. 60 lacs for North East areas @ 33% of the project cost)

How to Apply

- Project involving term loan may be submitted to Bank/FIs/NCDC, as the case may be, for appraisal/ sanction of loan and release of NHB subsidy.

- For self-financed projects, LOI in prescribed format is needed.

Processing Fee

1. Project with cost upto Rs. 10.00 Lac	Exempted
2. Projects with cost above Rs. 10.00 Lakh and upto Rs. 20.00 lac	0.25% of the project Cost
3. Projects with cost above Rs. 20.00 lac	0.5 % of the project Cost

3. Technology Development and Transfer

Upto 100% financial assistance as under:

- Introduction of New Technologies
 - Domestic visit of farmers
 - Technology Awareness
 - Upto Rs. 25.00 lakh
 - As per actuals
 - Upto Rs. 50,000/seminar
- #### 4. Market Information Service for Horticulture Crops
- Generate information on wholesale prices, arrivals and trends in various markets for horticulture produce and
 - Dissemination of information through media and publications
 - To assist farmers, Exporters, dealers, research organization etc.
- #### 5. Horticulture Promotion Service
- Techno-Economic Feasibility Studies to review the present status of horticulture development in particular area/state
 - Identify constraints and suggest remedial measures
 - Develop short term & long term strategies
 - Provide consultancy services and expert services
 - Studies through Professional Consultants
 - Upto 100% financial assistance

Proposal for Cable TV Network

337. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes for Cable Television Network which can be used as franchise network of the service provider for provisionally Broad Band Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Internet and Access Service Providers can appoint Cable Service Providers as franchisee for provisioning of service including 'Broad Band Service'.

Misappropriation of Funds

338. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released for development of irrigation and flood control in various States particularly in Bihar has been misappropriated and the condition of irrigation project is dismal despite huge expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and indicating the quantum of funds released by the Government for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken against the States which have failed to utilize these funds optimally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 2003 has mentioned that some States have diverted funds to activities not connected with the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Following the corrective measures taken by the Ministry of Water Resources, there has been no such report subsequently. Till date, 231 major/medium projects/project components have received Central Assistance under AIBP of which 91 projects/project components have been completed, and an irrigation potential of 4.356 million ha. has been created up to March 2007. State wise details of the Central Assistance released since inception of AIBP till date are given in the enclosed Statement. As per prevailing AIBP guidelines, subsequently installment of Central Assistance under AIBP is released only on receipt of Utilization Certificate of Central Assistance released earlier along with State share. The State Governments are also required to achieve physical target of potential creations on year to year basis as per Memorandum of Understanding signed by them with the Ministry of Water Resources.

Statement

Statewise details of Central Assistance (CA)/grant released under AIBP from 1996-97 to 2007-08

Sl. No.	State	Amount															(Rs. in Crore)							
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	2004-05		2005-06			2006-07		2007-08		Grand Total		
													Loan	Grant	Total	Grant	Grant	Grant	Grant	Grant	Grant	Grant	Total	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	35.2500	74.0000	79.8700	65.0150	95.0200	281.8600	33.1960	205.5300	61.2629	26.2641	87.5470	61.2629	26.2641	87.5470	311.3615	843.4226	104.6792	104.6792	104.6792	104.6792	104.6792	2215.7607	2215.7607
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	7.5000	7.5000	15.0000	1.5000	20.0000	1.0000	9.0000	10.0000	1.0000	9.0000	10.0000	18.0000	27.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	108.5000	108.5000
3	Assam	5.2300	12.4000	13.9500	14.5400	24.0770	14.5210	16.2738	19.2015	1.6930	15.2370	16.9300	1.6930	15.2370	16.9300	34.8332	30.2685	44.9960	44.9960	44.9960	44.9960	44.9960	247.3230	247.3230
4	Bihar	13.5000	5.1500	36.1650	129.6950	151.7750	3.4200	14.4805	74.8440	26.0505	11.1645	37.2150	26.0505	11.1645	37.2150	16.2380	3.2300	34.5200	34.5200	34.5200	34.5200	34.5200	520.6825	520.6825
5	Chhattisgarh	0.0000	4.5000	9.5000	10.3200	13.9300	48.2000	104.0000	74.6300	2.8475	0.8775	2.8250	2.8475	0.8775	2.8250	7.8645	10.7050	36.1140	36.1140	36.1140	36.1140	36.1140	324.6985	324.6985
6	Goa	0.0000	5.2500	0.0000	3.5000	0.0000	58.0000	0.0000	2.0000	0.4550	0.1950	0.6500	0.4550	0.1950	0.6500	1.9100	1.9100	18.3400	18.3400	18.3400	18.3400	18.3400	151.3000	151.3000
7	Gujarat	74.7730	186.9000	423.8200	272.7900	421.8500	581.8600	1000.3300	650.3590	484.7500	45.7500	539.5000	484.7500	45.7500	539.5000	338.6000	121.8005	350.0000	350.0000	350.0000	350.0000	350.0000	4994.4105	4994.4105
8	Haryana	32.5000	12.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	18.0000	18.0000	7.7250	7.7945	3.3465	11.1350	7.7945	3.3465	11.1350	6.0000	3.1700	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	90.5400	90.5400
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.0000	0.5000	5.0000	11.9470	18.0150	3.2440	8.1500	14.8620	0.3690	3.3210	3.8900	0.3690	3.3210	3.8900	30.8785	3.9300	50.6000	50.6000	50.6000	50.6000	50.6000	154.3465	154.3465
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1.3000	0.0000	0.0000	4.6000	18.4000	11.0700	34.9690	21.5450	1.2744	11.4761	12.7445	1.2744	11.4761	12.7445	38.6678	37.7716	89.0151	89.0151	89.0151	89.0151	89.0151	260.2730	260.2730
11	Jharkhand	0.0000	0.0000	11.8400	14.3460	5.7150	10.8200	9.8700	1.8630	14.8695	6.3655	21.2650	14.8695	6.3655	21.2650	5.6370	1.2900	5.7444	5.7444	5.7444	5.7444	5.7444	98.2694	98.2694
12	Karnataka	61.2900	90.5000	94.5000	157.1400	171.0000	482.5000	620.8000	266.4780	314.7821	81.5601	386.2652	314.7821	81.5601	386.2652	146.7759	160.3729	163.8000	163.8000	163.8000	163.8000	163.8000	2945.6226	2945.6226

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
13	Kerala	3.7500	15.0000	0.0000	0.0000	22.4000	11.2750	5.6650	31.0000	34.6080	14.8320	49.4400	9.3591	16.6468	0.0000	164.5359
14	Madhya Pradesh	63.2900	110.0000	81.2500	95.3250	151.3280	215.4100	220.0000	568.4400	361.6907	155.0103	516.7010	169.0966	48.3100	279.7450	2517.6556
15	Maharashtra	14.0000	55.0000	50.8600	49.8750	97.0200	39.1000	133.1341	164.3950	370.5002	158.7858	529.2880	167.3822	465.5213	350.0000	2115.5736
16	Manipur	4.3000	26.0000	10.7900	21.8100	1.5000	9.3600	19.5000	15.5000	1.3000	11.7000	13.0000	75.7035	156.3042	49.8070	403.5647
17	Meghalaya	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.8938	5.5120	4.4700	1.5000	1.0880	0.1744	1.5694	1.7439	1.5750	0.7500	0.0000	19.3326
18	Mizoram	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.4330	1.4330	2.0000	0.7500	9.3000	0.5000	4.5000	5.0000	9.3150	14.2354	21.9234	65.3898
19	Nagaland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.7300	5.0000	5.0000	2.6590	8.0000	0.4000	3.8000	4.0000	7.9967	10.5995	4.0600	50.0472
20	Orissa	48.4500	85.0000	71.5000	90.2500	100.3200	168.4750	179.5700	154.6850	16.9561	7.2669	24.2230	151.3742	133.8846	385.3890	1993.1208
21	Punjab	67.5000	100.0000	0.0000	42.0000	55.8200	113.6900	36.6600	0.0000				26.3166		13.5000	45.2866
22	Rajasthan	2.6750	42.0000	140.5000	108.6650	78.4670	96.3150	174.3850	499.8370	247.0328	105.8712	382.9040	90.2952	11.6000	100.2600	1686.4532
23	Sikkim	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.3600	0.0000	2.4000	0.7500	0.7500	0.0750	0.8750	0.7500	0.9113	3.3236	0.0000	10.2499
24	Tripura	3.7730	5.1000	3.9750	34.6530	13.8630	21.0630	13.3947	13.3769	1.1000	9.9000	11.0000	31.9950	22.5131	0.0000	174.7267
25	Tamil Nadu	20.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	9.8960	0.0000	0.0000						0.0000	20.0000
26	Uttar Pradesh	43.5000	78.0000	76.5000	286.0000	315.9000	354.6900	359.0000	274.7850	123.1440	52.7760	175.9200	133.1280	81.8954	92.7800	2272.0964
27	Uttarakhand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	25.1825	25.525	3.8992	35.05525	38.9917	90.4387	84.7296	114.1300	369.0052
28	West Bengal	5.0000	20.0000	10.0000	25.0000	26.8250	38.6089	28.1330	3.1440	9.4227	4.0383	13.4610	0.0287	6.7000	7.0000	163.9997
	Total	500.0010	952.1900	1119.1800	1450.4768	1856.2000	2601.9610	3061.7026	3128.5009	2067.2115	780.1257	2867.3372	1900.3142	2301.9722	2347.2651	24087.1210

[Translation]

Irrigated Agricultural Land

339. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigated agricultural land in the country particularly in the State of Maharashtra as on date;

(b) the total irrigation being done from surface water therefrom;

(c) the State-wise details of fully irrigated, partially irrigated and un-irrigated land in the country;

(d) whether efforts are being made to increase the avenues of rural employment by increasing the irrigated areas of Agricultural land by the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the extent upto which the installed irrigation capacity is not fully utilized due to inter-state water disputes;

(g) the steps imposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(h) the comprehensive State-wise details of workers engaged in agriculture, unemployed rural workers and the rural population as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per latest available data, the percentage of irrigated land in the country as well as in the State of Maharashtra in 2005-06 is 44.1 percent and 18.3 percent respectively.

(b) As per the data of Central Water Commission, the State-wise irrigation potential from surface water upto the end of Tenth Five Year Plan is given in the table below:

(Figure in '000 hectares)

State	Major & Medium Surface Water	Minor Surface Water	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5000	2300	7300
Arunachal Pradesh	0	150	150
Assam	970	1000	1970
Bihar	5224	1900	7124
Jharkhand	1276	included in Bihar	1276
Goa	62	25	87
Gujarat	3000	347	3347
Haryana	3000	50	3050
Himachal Pradesh	50	235	285
Jammu & Kashmir	250	400	650
Karnataka	2500	900	3400
Kerala	1000	800	1800
Madhya Pradesh	4853	2200	7053
Chhattisgarh	1147	included in Madhya Pradesh	1147
Maharashtra	4100	1200	5300
Manipur	135	100	235
Meghalaya	20	85	105
Mizoram	0	70	70

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	10	75	85
Orissa	3600	1000	4600
Punjab	3000	50	3050
Rajasthan	2750	600	3350
Sikkim	20	50	70
Tamil Nadu	1500	1200	2700
Tripura	100	100	200
Uttar Pradesh	12154	1200	13354
Uttaranchal	346	included in Uttar Pradesh	346
West Bengal	2300	1300	3600
Other States	58367	17337	75704
Total UTs	98	35	133
Grand Total	58465	17372	75837

(c) The State wise details of gross irrigated area and gross un-irrigated area are given in the table below:

State-wise data on gross irrigated and gross un-irrigated area for 2005-06

(Thousand Hectares)

State/UTs	Gross irrigated area	Gross un-irrigated area
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	5996	7366
Arunachal Pradesh	43	220
Assam	202	3572
Bihar	4197	3202
Chhattisgarh	1375	4370
Goa	40	129
Gujarat	4105	6974
Haryana	5434	991
Himachal Pradesh	184	800
Jammu & Kashmir	453	649
Jharkhand	212	1856
Karnataka	3632	9395
Kerala	460	2526
Madhya Pradesh	5878	13729
Maharashtra	383	18663

1	2	3
Manipur	54	184
Meghalaya	64	194
Mizoram	19	78
Nagaland	106	281
Orissa	2691	6027
Punjab	7793	276
Rajasthan	7093	13969
Sikkim	15	108
Tamil Nadu	3397	2636
Tripura	52	285
Uttaranchal	570	715
Uttar Pradesh	17643	6957
West Bengal	4931	4572
A&N Islands	-	47
Chandigarh	2	2
D & N Haveli	7	22
Daman & Diu	-	3
Delhi	34	12
Lakshadweep	1	2
Pondicherry	29	7
All India	80585	110838

Note: No data is maintained for partially irrigated areas.

(d) and (e) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was enacted on 07.09.2005. It is under implementation in 200 identified districts in the country in its first phase and has been extended to 130 more districts in the second phase, and recently Government has decided to extend the NREGA to the rural areas of all the remaining districts in the country including the Union Territories with effect from 01.04.2008. NREGA provides for enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The focus of the activities permissible under NREGA is upon water conservation and water harvesting. However, irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works and provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or persons below poverty line or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira

Awaz Yojana of the Government of India are integral parts of the activities permissible under NREGA.

(f) and (g) Adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-States rivers and river valleys thereof, are dealt as per Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Complaints from any of the basin States which cannot be settled by negotiations are referred by Government to Tribunals set up under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. So far, six Tribunals have been set up under the above Act. The Government has not received any information from State Governments regarding the extent of non-utilization of installed irrigated capacity due to such disputes.

(h) As per 2001 population census data, the details of State-wise agricultural workers comprising cultivators and agricultural labourers and rural population, unemployed rural workers as per National Sample Survey Organisation's Report No. 515: Employment and Unemployment Situation in India, 2004-05 are given in table below:

State	Agricultural workers (2001)			Unemployment rate rural (per thousand) (2004-05) *	Rural population (2001)
	(in thousand)				
	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	7860	13832	21692	7	55401067
Arunachal Pradesh	279	19	298	9	870087
Assam	3731	1264	4994	26	23216288
Bihar	8194	13418	21611	15	74316709
Chhattisgarh	4311	3091	7402	6	16648056
Goa	50	36	86	111	677091
Gujarat	5803	5162	10964	5	31740767
Haryana	3018	1279	4297	22	15029260
Himachal Pradesh	1955	94	2049	18	5482319
Jammu & Kashmir	1592	246	1838	15	7627062
Jharkhand	3890	2851	6741	14	20952088
Karnataka	6884	6227	13111	7	34889033
Kerala	724	1621	2345	107	23574449
Madhya Pradesh	11038	7401	18439	5	44380878
Maharashtra	11813	10815	22629	10	55777647
Manipur	380	114	493	11	1590820

1	2	3	4	5	6
Meghalaya	467	172	639	3	1864711
Mizoram	256	27	283	3	447567
Nagaland	549	31	580	18	1647249
Orissa	4248	4999	9247	50	31287422
Punjab	2065	1490	3555	38	16096488
Rajasthan	13140	2524	15664	7	43292813
Sikkim	131	17	148	24	480981
Tamil Nadu	5116	8638	13754	12	34921681
Tripura	313	276	589	133	2653453
Uttar Pradesh	22168	13401	35568	6	131658339
Uttaranchal	1570	260	1830	13	6310275
West Bengal	5854	7363	13017	25	57478946
A&N Islands	21	5	27	62	239954
Chandigarh	2	1	3	26	92120
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	39	15	54	33	170027
Daman & Diu	4	1	5	3	100856
Delhi	37	16	53	19	944727
Pondicherry	11	72	83	70	325726
All India	127313	106775	234088	17	742490639

* Unemployment rate is defined as the number of persons unemployed per thousand persons in the labour force and is based on adjusted usual status which includes –
usual principal activity and usual subsidiary economic activity of a person taken together

Telephone Connections

340. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections disconnected by consumers in the country during 2006-07 and 2007-08, Circle-wise and Location-wise;

(b) whether the Government has assessed its adverse effect on the functioning of Telephone exchanges at district level in the country;

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

(d) whether as a result of the above situation the post of Zila Pramukh in some districts is proposed to be downgraded; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and District-wise?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Labour Laws in Textiles Industry

341. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing rigid labour laws are a major constraint for growth of the clothing and apparel segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Textile Ministry's Working Group has called for liberalization of the existing labour laws;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the said Working Group; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELEANGOVA): (a) to (e) Government have recognized a need for restructuring of labour laws to create a productive and productivity-conducive environment to ensure smooth production. The Working Group has recommended that "while the genuine interests of the labour need to be protected, the policy environment and the implementation machinery should induce confidence among the entrepreneurs. The labour law reform would lead to consolidation and merger of the units to achieve economies of scale and become internationally cost competitive in the globalized scenario". Government hold discussions with the stake holders in this regard to reach a consensus. However, no decision could be arrived.

[Translation]

Kanhar Irrigation Project

342. SHRI GHURAN RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Jharkhand Government in connection with the Kanhar Irrigation Project, a joint venture between Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of Bihar submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Kanhar Reservoir Project in December, 1984 to Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno-economic appraisal which was sent back to the State due to non-compliance of the comments for more than a year. The modified DPR of the project was again received in November, 1998 from the Government of Bihar. Comments/observations on the same were sent to the State Government for compliance during the period January 1999 to January 2002. After bifurcation of Bihar State, comments/observations of CWC were also sent to the Government of Jharkhand for compliance during December 2005.

Telephone Tower on Rent

343. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Towers installed on private places on rental basis by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) the amount of money paid as rent for each tower installed by the BSNL in the State; and

(c) the details of towers installed on the land of the people belonging to scheduled castes in the country specially in Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of Morena and Gwalior on rental basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of Towers installed on private places on rental basis by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the country are 17,111 and 538 in Madhya Pradesh. The circle wise detailed of number of private site on rental basis is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The amount of money paid as rent for each tower installed by the BSNL in the state of Madhya Pradesh is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The tower locations for mobile coverage are finalized based on techno-commercial suitability of each site without discrimination of Caste of the owner. The details of the caste are not taken at the time of hiring of the Land/Building and therefore same is not available.

Statement-I

Circle wise Details of Number of Private Site on Rental Basis

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of Tower installed on private places on rent by BSNL
1	2	3
North Zone		
1	Haryana	774
2	Himachal Pradesh	389
3	J&K	334
4	Punjab	880
5	Rajasthan	1,055
6	UP(E)	1,036
7	UP(W)	543
8	Uttaranchal	304
East Zone		
9	A & N	39
10	Assam	450
11	Bihar	900

1	2	3	1	2	3
12	Jharkhand	335	20	Madhya Pradesh	538
13	NE I	98	21	Maharashtra	1,484
14	NE II	69	South Zone		
15	Orissa	354	22	Andhra Pradesh	1,144
16	West Bengal	514	23	Karnataka	829
17	Kolkata TD	579	24	Kerala	1,319
West Zone			25	Tamil Nadu	1,669
18	Chhattisgarh	278	26	Chennai TD	555
19	Gujarat	642	Total		
			17,111		

Statement-II*SSA wise detail of telephone tower on private places on rental in Madhya Pradesh*

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	The No. of Telephone Towers installed on private places on rental basis	Tower Location	The amount of money paid as rent for each tower
1	2	3	4	5
1	Balaghat	1	Tirodi	20,800
2	Balaghat	1	Paraswada	19,500
3	Balaghat	1	Khrlanji	15,000
4	Balaghat	1	Ukawa	9,000
5	Balaghat	1	Lmta	19,800
6	Balaghat	1	Damoh	25,600
7	Balaghat	1	Garhi	1,280
3	Balaghat	1	Balaghat Bhatara Chouki	26,200
9	Balaghat	1	Bharveli	14,000
10	Balaghat	1	Gujri Chowk	17,600
11	Balaghat	1	Bahela	1,600
12	Balaghat	1	Linga	865
13	Balaghat	1	Charegaon	1,000
14	Balaghat	1	ChangoTola	1,400
Balaghat Total		14		173,645
15	Betul	1	Betul Ganj	21,000

1	2	3	4	5
16	Betul	1	Bagdona	12,500
17	Betul	1	Manas Nagar	55,000
18	Betul	1	Multai	46,000
	Betul Total	4		134,500
19	Bhopal	1	Lakherapura	386,100
20	Bhopal	1	Sabzimandi	118,400
21	Bhopal	1	Vivekanand Nagar	111,000
22	Bhopal	1	Vishalinagar	118,400
23	Bhopal	1	PGBT College Road	118,400
24	Bhopal	1	Chunabhatti	122,100
25	Bhopal	1	Anandnagar	107,300
26	Bhopal	1	Station Bazaria	118,400
27	Bhopal	1	Bagmugaliya	118,400
28	Bhopal	1	Jinsi	111,000
29	Bhopal	1	E-7 Arera Colony	118,400
30	Bhopal	1	Punjabi Bagh	118,400
31	Bhopal	1	Koh-e-fiza	136,900
32	Bhopal	1	APEX Bank	391,719
33	Bhopal	1	IIFM	148,000
34	Bhopal	1	Malviyanagar	204,000
35	Bhopal	1	Ashoka Garden	50,000
36	Bhopal	1	E-4 Arera Colony	117,000
37	Bhopal	1	Kailashnagar	50,000
38	Bhopal	1	Kasturbanagar	10,400
39	Bhopal	1	Bairagarh	32,500
40	Bhopal	1	MP Nagar Zone II	66,150
41	Bhopal	1	Durga Chowk Berkhedi	52,500
42	Bhopal	1	Kotra Sultanabad	84,000
43	Bhopal	1	Koh-e-fiza	85,100

1	2	3	4	5
44	Bhopal	1	Ginnori	32,400
45	Bhopal	1	Shahjehanabad	60,000
46	Bhopal	1	Kolar	20,800
47	Bhopal	1	Harshvardhan Nagar	94,500
48	Bhopal	1	Shahpura	84,000
49	Bhopal	1	Jinsi	82,500
50	Bhopal	1	Shivajinagar	180,000
51	Bhopal	1	Jawahar Chowk	15,000
52	Bhopal	1	Nehru Nagar	55,200
53	Bhopal	1	Wadiakhedi Sehore	58,800
54	Bhopal	1	Minal Residency	90,000
55	Bhopal	1	Astha	30,000
57	Bhopal	1	Sonagiri	90,000
58	Bhopal	1	Danish Nagar	94,000
59	Bhopal	1	Idgah Hills	60,000
60	Bhopal	1	Budhwara	28,600
61	Bhopal	1	Karond	40,000
62	Bhopal	1	Siddhartha Lake City	
63	Bhopal	1	Raj Homes	35,000
64	Bhopal	1	Patelnagar	90,000
65	Bhopal	1	Raslakhedi	96,000
66	Bhopal	1	Sant Asharam Nagar	45,600
67	Bhopal	1	Rishipuram	52,500
68	Bhopal	1	Pukhraj Hotel	77,000
69	Bhopal	1	74-Bunglows	77,400
70	Bhopal	1	Nazirabad	1,800
71	Bhopal	1	ApsaraTalkies	28,404
72	Bhopal	1	Surbhi Homes	30,000
74	Bhopal	1	Rohitnagar	15,620

1	2	3	4	5
75	Bhopal	1	Patel Nagar Mandideep	46,000
76	Bhopal	1	Sarva Dharm	59,500
77	Bhopal	1	Bahtara	12,600
78	Bhopal	1	Jumerati Gate	36,000
79	Bhopal	1	Ladkui	2,500
80	Bhopal	1	Budhwara	136,900
	Bhopal Total	60		5,053,193
81	Chhatarpur	1	Circuit House Gate	15,000
82	Chhatarpur	1	Bamitha	34,500
83	Chhatarpur	1	Khajuraho	36,300
84	Chhatarpur	1	Digoda Tikamgarh	24,150
85	Chhatarpur	1	Sati Road	55,000
86	Chhatarpur	1	Main Market Teherka	23,000
87	Chhatarpur	1	Shri Chitragupta Mandir Trust	24,000
88	Chhatarpur	1	Chetgiri Colony	12,600
89	Chhatarpur	1	Purani Tehri	31,500
90	Chhatarpur	1	Sarni Darwaja	18,000
91	Chhatarpur	1	Khodhi Chowraha	3,200
92	Chhatarpur	1	Bus Stand Harpalpur	3,400
93	Chhatarpur	1	Mau-Sahania Nowgong	5,000
94	Chhatarpur	1	Palera	3,780
95	Chhatarpur	1	Mohara	3,780
96	Chhatarpur	1	Sagar Road Chhatarpur	57,000
97	Chhatarpur	1	Shri Seth Kalyandas Dharmshala	129,500
98	Chhatarpur	1	Mahoba Road Chhatarpur	62,100
	Chhatarpur Total	18		541,810
99	Chhindwara	1	Gangiware	7,000
100	Chhindwara	1	Jhilmili	15,000
101	Chhindwara	1	Butkakhapa	48,000

1	2	3	4	5
102	Chhindwara	1	Parasia Road RSU	143,750
103	Chhindwara	1	Tilak Market	120,000
104	Chhindwara	1	Gandhiganj RSU	132,000
105	Chhindwara	1	Khajri Road DLC	27,500
106	Chhindwara	1	Chand	69,000
107	Chhindwara	1	Umra Nala	41,000
108	Chhindwara	1	Bhimsen Ghati	66,000
Chhindwara Total		10		669,250
109	Damoh	1	Bansa	2,400
110	Damoh	1	Sagra	4,500
111	Damoh	1	Abhana	14,400
112	Damoh	1	Tejgarh	9,000
113	Damoh	1	Tendukheda	21,600
114	Damoh	1	Taradehi	4,500
115	Damoh	1	Futera	4,675
116	Damoh	1	Sadgaon	4,400
117	Damoh	1	Bandakpur	21,600
118	Damoh	1	Kumhari	2,800
119	Damoh	1	Gaisabad	5,600
120	Damoh	1	Nohata	3,850
Damoh Total		12		99,325
121	Dewas	1	AKVN Dewas	39,000
122	Dewas	1	Nikunj Garden	53,500
123	Dewas	1	Neori	3,500
124	Dewas	1	Pipalrawa	9,000
125	Dewas	1	Swarshi	6,500
126	Dewas	1	Siya	9,000
127	Dewas	1	Udaynagar	5,600
128	Dewas	1	Punjabura	6,000

1	2	3	4	5
129	Dewas	1	Tonk Kala	1,000
	Dewas Total	9		133,100
130	Dhar	1	Anand Choupati	214,500
131	Dhar	1	Kukshi	66,500
132	Dhar	1	Natraj Hotel	66,500
133	Dhar	1	Mohankheda Rajgarh	
	Dhar Total	4		347,500
134	Guna	1	Athajkheda	2,000
135	Guna	1	Bhadora	2,700
136	Guna	1	Dakoni	7,200
137	Guna	1	Gopaliya (Bangla)	4,000
138	Guna	1	Govindpura	32,400
139	Guna	1	Kotra	16,000
140	Guna	1	Naisarai	4,800
141	Guna	1	Rani Khejra	4,800
142	Guna	1	Sirisi	2,200
143	Guna	1	Vijaypura	2,000
144	Guna	1	Umrari	1,800
145	Guna	1	Sehraj	6,400
146	Guna	1	Rampur Colony	11,250
147	Guna	1	Ghat Bamuriya	4,000
148	Guna	1	Essagarh	2,000
149	Guna	1	Jamner Tower	
	Guna Total	16		103,550
150	Gwalior	1	Tekanpur Ex	78,468
151	Gwalior	1	Tighra	81,433
152	Gwalior	1	Seondha	100,510
153	Gwalior	1	Barai	21,258
154	Gwalior	1	Dabra Pichhore Road	74,403

1	2	3	4	5
155	Gwalior	1	Dabra Bhitwar Road	74,403
156	Gwalior	1	Datia Rly Stn	74,403
157	Gwalior	1	Datia Thandi Sadak	81,550
158	Gwalior	1	Unnao	19,950
159	Gwalior	1	Antri	1,800
160	Gwalior	1	Sonagir	8,400
161	Gwalior	1	Tekanpur Market	6,000
162	Gwalior	1	Billiua	5,400
163	Gwalior	1	Upariya	5,774
164	Gwalior	1	Utila	4,320
165	Gwalior	1	Kesharbagh	70,266
166	Gwalior	1	Chinor	19,950
167	Gwalior	1	Salon-B	8,548
168	Gwalior	1	Sarafa Bazar	95,806
169	Gwalior	1	Dal Bazar	60,827
170	Gwalior	1	Shinde ki Chhawani	226,484
171	Gwalior	1	Nai Sadak	226,865
172	Gwalior	1	PNB Baradari	302,500
173	Gwalior	1	BSF Colony	154,839
174	Gwalior	1	Kampoo	173,903
175	Gwalior	1	Gandhinagar	193,367
176	Gwalior	1	Putlighar	110,483
177	Gwalior	1	Chand Badni Naka	95,661
178	Gwalior	1	Char Shahar Ka Naka	96,242
179	Gwalior	1	Daulatganj	94,500
180	Gwalior	1	Rly Stn Padar	110,483
181	Gwalior	1	Hanuman Chouraha	99,435
182	Gwalior	1	Loha Mandi	88,877
183	Gwalior	1	CP Colony	89,690

1	2	3	4	5
184	Gwalior	1	Bhagat Singh road	99,435
185	Gwalior	1	Harishankar Pura	82,650
186	Gwalior	1	Gudi Guda Ka Naka	84,474
187	Gwalior	1	Sita Manor	44,155
188	Gwalior	1	Phalka Bazar	9,783
189	Gwalior	1	Ghoshipura	120,387
190	Gwalior	1	Lakshmiganj	89,194
191	Gwalior	1	Hazira	32,544
Gwalior Total		42		3,519,740
192	Hoshangabad	1	Itarsi New Yard	6,000
193	Hoshangabad	1	Achalkheda	11,940
194	Hoshangabad	1	Sandiya	75,600
195	Hoshangabad	1	Harda 03 peracity	286,750
196	Hoshangabad	1	Hathwas RLU	99,750
197	Hoshangabad	1	Narayanganj	110,200
198	Hoshangabad	1	Rasuliya	114,000
199	Hoshangabad	1	Piparia Mandi	85,500
200	Hoshangabad	1	Seoni Malwa	78,750
201	Hoshangabad	1	Vardhman College,	148,200
202	Hoshangabad	1	Malakhedi, HSD	81,000
203	Hoshangabad	1	Tawa Colony, Itarsi	16,074
204	Hoshangabad	1	Gwaltoli	132,624
Hoshangabad Total		13		1,246,388
205	Indore	1	Brajeshwari	172,500
206	Indore	1	Nemawar Road	109,600
207	Indore	1	Palia Telephone Exchange	25,000
208	Indore	1	Double Chowki T Ex	30,000
209	Indore	1	Mhowgaon	75,600
210	Indore	1	Murai Mohalla	416,100

1	2	3	4	5
211	Indore	1	Elex Complex	448,800
212	Indore	1	Patnipura	192,500
213	Indore	1	MIG/LIG	212,400
214	Indore	1	Patrakar	181,300
215	Indore	1	Shrinagar	2,074,589
216	Indore	1	Pardeshipura	70,300
217	Indore	1	Jaora Compound	105,000
218	Indore	1	Bakhtawar	103,950
219	Indore	1	Khajrana	81,600
220	Indore	1	CAT	180,000
221	Indore	1	Dhanwantari	356,250
222	Indore	1	Kalninagar	243,000
223	Indore	1	Bombay Hospital	185,000
224	Indore	1	Nayanagar	110,000
225	Indore	1	Sanwer road T Ex	63,000
226	Indore	1	Lav Kush Vihar	107,100
227	Indore	1	Scheme 14	93,600
228	Indore	1	Hasalpur	63,360
229	Indore	1	Mhwsngh Street	180,036
230	Indore	1	Kodaria MHOW	108,000
231	Indore	1	Jail Road	321,300
232	Indore	1	STPI	199,980
233	Indore	1	Shiyaganj	166,537
234	Indore	1	Lohamandi	109,200
235	Indore	1	Ahilyapura	71,100
236	Indore	1	Gangwal	98,000
237	Indore	1	South Toda	120,771
238	Indore	1	Juni Indore	90,000
239	Indore	1	Ram Bagh	37,800

1	2	3	4	5
240	Indore	1	MT Cloth Market	76,500
241	Indore	1	Vaishalinagar	102,711
242	Indore	1	Jain Colony	111,300
243	Indore	1	Gautampura	52,870
247	Indore	1	Dakachiaya	193,200
	Indore Total	40		7,739,854
249	Jabalpur	1	Kanchghar	146,300
250	Jabalpur	1	Medical RLU (Garha)	261,820
251	Jabalpur	1	Polipathhar	415,839
252	Jabalpur	1	Kanchanpur	82,200
253	Jabalpur	1	Phutatal	136,349
254	Jabalpur	1	Shashtri Bridge	67,783
255	Jabalpur	1	Hawa Bagh	39,733
256	Jabalpur	1	Khermai Mandir	44,111
257	Jabalpur	1	Bilpura	56,200
258	Jabalpur	1	Sanjiwaninagar	66,280
259	Jabalpur	1	Sadar Kali Mandir	101,047
260	Jabalpur	1	Gorakhpur	106,167
261	Jabalpur	1	Rassal Chowk	333,300
262	Jabalpur	1	Gokalpur	61,400
263	Jabalpur	1	Andherdev	75,267
264	Jabalpur	1	Gohalpur	48,500
265	Jabalpur	1	Rajul Market	99,667
266	Jabalpur	1	Dhanwantrinagar	85,867
267	Jabalpur	1	Adhartal (Raddi Chouki)	41,860
268	Jabalpur	1	Suvidha Market	57,113
269	Jabalpur	1	Shashtrinagar (Bajna)	12,800
270	Jabalpur	1	Ashirwad Market	50,750
271	Jabalpur	1	Transport Nagar	155,869

1	2	3	4	5
272	Jabalpur	1	Fular	20,200
273	Jabalpur	1	Sahajpur	28,280
274	Jabalpur	1	Dhanpuri	13,467
275	Jabalpur	1	Salimnabad	15,200
276	Jabalpur	1	Belkheda	52,920
277	Jabalpur	1	Kymore	31,833
278	Jabalpur	1	Jukehi	99,750
279	Jabalpur	1	Gosalpur	102,300
Jabalpur Total		31		2,910,171
280	Jhabua	1	Alirajpur	19,200
281	Jhabua	1	Jobat	12,980
282	Jhabua	1	Mohankot	4,293
283	Jhabua	1	Bhabhra	13,310
284	Jhabua	1	Petlawad	16,933
285	Jhabua	1	Meghnagar	17,279
286	Jhabua	1	Jhabua	17,313
287	Jhabua	1	Ranapur	22,183
288	Jhabua	1	Nanpur	45,800
289	Jhabua	1	Para	3,900
290	Jhabua	1	Gopal Colony Jhabua	90,533
291	Jhabua	1	Pitol	50,866
292	Jhabua	1	Rambhapur	83,186
293	Jhabua	1	Kalyanpura	4,800
294	Jhabua	1	Kaildevi	45,000
Jhabua Total		15		447,576
295	Khandwa	1	Ramganj, Khandwa	204,000
296	Khandwa	1	Bhawanimata Khandwa	484,000
297	Khandwa	1	Sindhi Colony	70,000
298	Khandwa	1	Ramnagar	56,000

1	2	3	4	5
299	Khandwa	1	Padamnagar	36,000
300	Khandwa	1	Ashapur	12,000
301	Khandwa	1	Sanjaynagar Burhanpur	13,500
302	Khandwa	1	Dargah-e-Hakimi Burhanpur	40,000
303	Khandwa	1	Lalbagh Burahnpur	30,000
304	Khandwa	1	Gandhi Chowk	162,000
305	Khandwa	1	Loni	6,000
306	Khandwa	1	Nepanagar	12,800
307	Khandwa	1	Nepanagar Engine Room	2,000
308	Khandwa	1	Tukalthad	2,300
Khandwa Total		14		1,130,600
309	Khargone	1	MG Road	218,400
310	Khargone	1	Ghugharia Kheda	10,800
311	Khargone	1	Voon	14,400
312	Khargone	1	Lonara	5,600
313	Khargone	1	Gogawa	67,500
314	Khargone	1	Bedia	74,800
315	Khargone	1	Balwada	6,500
316	Khargone	1	Mandleshwar	70,400
317	Khargone	1	Thikri	120,000
318	Khargone	1	Sendhwa	40,700
319	Khargone	1	Niwali	33,000
320	Khargone	1	Pansemal	61,800
321	Khargone	1	Barwani Jhanda Chowk	353,600
322	Khargone	1	Lohari	8,100
323	Khargone	1	Gandhi Nagar RSU	39,600
324	Khargone	1	Jalapur	42,000
Khargone Total		16		1,167,000
325	Mandla	1	Chiral Dongri	800
326	Mandla	1	Anjaniya	45,000
327	Mandla	1	Sijhora	7,800

1	2	3	4	5
328	Mandla	1	Mawai	3,000
329	Mandla	1	Saka	20,000
330	Mandla	1	Amarpur	46,000
331	Mandla	1	Samnapur	50,000
332	Mandla	1	Bajag	42,500
333	Mandla	1	Karanjia	31,850
334	Mandla	1	Vikrampur	20,000
335	Mandla	1	Mohgaon	55,000
	Mandla Total	11		321,950
336	Mandsour	1	1t Tower	28,000
337	Mandsour	1	2nd Tower	74,400
338	Mandsour	1	3rd Tower	180,000
339	Mandsour	1	4th Tower	92,000
340	Mandsour	1	5th Tower	44,000
	Mandsour Total	5		418,400
341	Morena	1	Batasa Bazar	125,400
342	Morena	1	Ater Road	71,400
343	Morena	1	Sanjay Colony	73,500
344	Morena	1	Jiwajigunj	166,600
345	Morena	1	Ambah Road	51,000
346	Morena	1	Phoof	34,500
347	Morena	1	Raun	8,500
348	Morena	1	Alampur	8,000
349	Morena	1	Bagh Chini	3,850
350	Morena	1	Khadiyaar	5,950
351	Morena	1	Rampur kala	17,400
352	Morena	1	Aswar	4,200
353	Morena	1	Machhand	3,500
354	Morena	1	Berai	6,000
355	Morena	1	Tentra	9,600
356	Morena	1	Jhundpura	14,400

1	2	3	4	5
357	Morena	1	Pandola	8,400
358	Morena	1	Datardakalan	10,200
	Morena Total	18		622,400
359	Narsinghpur	1	Dangidhana	18,900
360	Narsinghpur	1	Gadarwara (Jhanda)	110,400
361	Narsinghpur	1	Karakbel	75,600
362	Narsinghpur	1	Kareli Basti	101,200
363	Narsinghpur	1	Kondia	12,100
364	Narsinghpur	1	Mungwani	5,120
365	Narsinghpur	1	Narsinghpur (Khamaria)	155,600
366	Narsinghpur	1	Narsinghpur RSU	119,000
367	Narsinghpur	1	Narsinghpur Old City	108,000
368	Narsinghpur	1	Saikhera	27,000
369	Narsinghpur	1	Salichouka	27,000
370	Narsinghpur	1	Jyoteshwar (Shrinagar)	44,000
371	Narsinghpur	1	Sehora	26,000
372	Narsinghpur	1	Singhpur	196,625
373	Narsinghpur	1	Vikrampur	6,000
374	Narsinghpur	1	Gotegaon (Naya Bazar)	25,813
	Narsinghpur Total	16		1,058,358
375	Panna	1	Majgawan	24,000
376	Panna	1	Kakrathi s. 3000/-	3,000
377	Panna	1	Mohindra	2,000
378	Panna	1	Maandla	2,592
379	Panna	1	Raipura	15,000
380	Panna	1	Shahnagar	6,000
	Panna Total	6		52,592
381	Raisen	1	Bamhori	7,300
382	Raisen	1	Garhi	7,300
383	Raisen	1	Dehgaon	26,677
385	Raisen	1	Sultanginj	17,000
386	Raisen	1	Salamatpur	48,000

1	2	3	4	5
387	Raisen	1	Dhandia	7,300
388	Raisen	1	Sanchi	22,500
	Raisen Total	7		136,077
389	Rajgarh	1	Apna Nagar Bioara	44,100
390	Rajgarh	1	Gandhi Chowk Rajgarh	44,000
391	Rajgarh	1	Juna Bioara	111,500
392	Rajgarh	1	Nagar Palika Narsingarh	83,520
	Rajgarh Total	4		283,120
393	Ratlam	1	Vikram Nagar	113,400
394	Ratlam	1	Bohara Bakhhal	121,800
395	Ratlam	1	Industrial Area	27,300
396	Ratlam	1	Alkapuri	196,400
397	Ratlam	1	Station Road	119,000
398	Ratlam	1	Chandni Chowk	352,500
400	Ratlam	1	Jaora Chopati	49,300
401	Ratlam	1	Bajaj Khana Jaora	55,650
402	Ratlam	1	Piploda	96,000
	Ratlam Total	9		1,131,350
403	Rewa	1	Bela	26,000
404	Rewa	1	Lalgaon	2,600
405	Rewa	1	Baikunthpur	4,000
406	Rewa	1	Beeda	6,300
407	Rewa	1	Anantpur	60,000
408	Rewa	1	Fort Road	78,000
409	Rewa	1	Sirmour Chowk	88,000
410	Rewa	1	Raipur (K)	13,000
411	Rewa	1	Deendayal Dham	9,600
412	Rewa	1	Naigarhi	24,700
413	Rewa	1	Katra	22,800
414	Rewa	1	Jawa	17,000
415	Rewa	1	Gurchowk	96,000

1	2	3	4	5
416	Rewa	1	Deotalab	13,500
417	Rewa	1	Dabhora	11,200
418	Rewa	1	Chak Ghat	9,000
419	Rewa	1	Semaria	12,000
421	Rewa	1	Khatkhori	5,600
	Rewa Total	18		499,300
422	Sagar	1	Shahpur	8,400
423	Sagar	1	Kandwa	8,000
424	Sagar	1	Dalpatpur	4,000
425	Sagar	1	Herapur	3,000
426	Sagar	1	Karrapur	3,000
427	Sagar	1	Pasoria	3,000
428	Sagar	1	Dhana	15,600
429	Sagar	1	Bina I	66,000
430	Sagar	1	Malthone	18,400
431	Sagar	1	Khurai I	42,000
432	Sagar	1	Jaruakheda	6,000
433	Sagar	1	Nariawali	16,800
434	Sagar	1	Sehora	28,800
435	Sagar	1	Jaisinagar	16,800
436	Sagar	1	Maharajpur	23,200
437	Sagar	1	Barodikala	18,200
438	Sagar	1	Bhagwanganj	95,700
439	Sagar	1	Motinagar	80,000
440	Sagar	1	Itwara	156,000
441	Sagar	1	University	25,500
442	Sagar	1	Gopalganj	56,100
443	Sagar	1	Lakshmipura	64,600
444	Sagar	1	Bahubali Colony	62,700
445	Sagar	1	Namak Mandi	74,100
	Sagar Total	24		895,900

1	2	3	4	5
446	Satna	1	Rewa Road Satna	103,950
447	Satna	1	Dhawari Satna	21,000
448	Satna	1	Pushpraj Colony	92,400
449	Satna	1	Lalta Chowk	129,990
450	Satna	1	UCL Satna	30,000
451	Satna	1	Keshavgarh (Chitrakoot)	22,000
452	Satna	1	Nayagaon	9,800
453	Satna	1	Nazirabad (Kamta Tola)	96,810
454	Satna	1	Pindra	9,600
455	Satna	1	Kotar	9,000
456	Satna	1	Singhpur	6,400
	Satna Total	11		530,950
457	Seoni	1	Chhindwara Chowk	70,400
458	Seoni	1	Ganeshganj	5,200
459	Seoni	1	Dhanora	12,000
460	Seoni	1	Turiya	6,400
	Seoni Total	4		94,000
461	Shahdol	1	Burhar	127,100
462	Shahdol	1	Manpur	32,400
463	Shahdol	1	Jethari	31,200
464	Shahdol	1	Amjhor	7,700
465	Shahdol	1	Shahdol RSU 1	75,000
466	Shahdol	1	Raja Bagh, Shahdol	57,500
467	Shahdol	1	Ahuja Petrol Pump	92,000
468	Shahdol	1	Tala	95,000
469	Shahdol	1	Soni Motor Umari	102,900
470	Shahdol	1	Keshwahi	30,000
471	Shahdol	1	Indwas	29,315
472	Shahdol	1	Rajendra Road, Gurhar	64,400
473	Shahdol	1	Jetpur	55,200

1	2	3	4	5
474	Shahdol	1	Balpurwa	67,200
475	Shahdol	1	Akhrar	24,000
	Shahdol Total	15		890,915
476	Shajapur	1	Patidar	243,000
477	Shajapur	1	Jain Chowk	133,000
478	Shajapur	1	RSU	140,000
479	Shajapur	1	Dupada	16,800
480	Shajapur	1	Gulana	13,500
481	Shajapur	1	Agar	87,500
482	Shajapur	1	Chandumama Com	115,500
483	Shajapur	1	Khkrakalan	23,000
484	Shajapur	1	Polaikala	12,600
485	Shajapur	1	Badagaon	3,600
486	Shajapur	1	Modi	6,000
487	Shajapur	1	Kanad	24,000
488	Shajapur	1	Soyatkala	14,000
489	Shajapur	1	Barod	27,000
490	Shajapur	1	Sundersi	4,200
491	Shajapur	1	Arniakala	16,000
492	Shajapur	1	Tilawad	8,250
493	Shajapur	1	Jamner	6,000
494	Shajapur	1	Ugli	5,000
495	Shajapur	1	Kalisindh	4,500
	Shajapur Total	20		903,450
496	Shivpuri	1	Dinara	8,000
497	Shivpuri	1	Bhounti	1,600
498	Shivpuri	1	Hatod	1,200
499	Shivpuri	1	Kharai	5,200
500	Shivpuri	1	Kuatora	1,800
501	Shivpuri	1	Lukwasa	38,000

1	2	3	4	5
502	Shivpuri	1	Magroni	2,800
503	Shivpuri	1	Ranod	3,300
504	Shivpuri	1	Satanwada	8,200
505	Shivpuri	1	Shivpuri Jhansi Road	102,000
506	Shivpuri	1	Shivpuri Kamlaganj	45,000
507	Shivpuri	1	Shivpuri Pohri Road	24,000
508	Shivpuri	1	Sirsod (Pohri)	450
509	Shivpuri	1	Surwaya	750
Shivpuri Total		14		242,300
510	Sidhi	1	Shival	55,000
511	Sidhi	1	Sidhi	57,500
512	Sidhi	1	Sidhi	58,750
513	Sidhi	1	Sidhi	52,900
514	Sidhi	1	Sidhi	38,250
515	Sidhi	1	Bahari	88,000
516	Sidhi	1	Kubari	28,800
517	Sidhi	1	Tamasar	24,000
518	Sidhi	1	Bargawan	18,088
519	Sidhi	1	Sarai	38,850
520	Sidhi	1	Kusmi	26,838
521	Sidhi	1	Khutar	68,250
522	Sidhi	1	Karthua	55,000
Sidhi Total		13		610,226
523	Ujjain	1	Mahananda Nagar	77,900
524	Ujjain	1	Gudori Chouraha	82,000
525	Ujjain	1	Shanku Marg	77,900
526	Ujjain	1	Ved Nagar	151,700
527	Ujjain	1	Qumari Marg	82,000
528	Ujjain	1	Indore Road, Parinay	58,000
529	Ujjain	1	Sindhi Colony	82,000
530	Ujjain	1	Fawara Chouk	73,800
531	Ujjain	1	Milkipura	73,800

1	2	3	4	5
532	Ujjain	1	Musaddipura Sati Gate	55,500
534	Ujjain	1	Kanthead, Nagda	215,043
535	Ujjain	1	Indiranagar	47,500
536	Ujjain	1	Unhel Road	8,000
537	Ujjain	1	Ingoriya	4,000
538	Ujjain	1	Asalwada	4,000
539	Ujjain	1	Panbihar	4,000
540	Ujjain	1	Bhatpachlana	4,000
541	Ujjain	1	Narwar	3,800
542	Ujjain	1	Runeja	55,000
543	Ujjain	1	Mahidpur City	47,700
	Ujjain Total	20		1,207,643
544	Vidisha	1	Ladda Agency, Vidisha	175,000
545	Vidisha	1	Jalodi Building, Ganj	36,000
546	Vidisha	1	Ramlila Ground, Vidisha	39,900
547	Vidisha	1	Hanuman Chowk, Ganj	12,000
548	Vidisha	1	Chandni Chowk, Sironj	24,000
	Vidisha Total	5		286,900
	Grand Total	538		35,603,033

Development of Water Resources

344. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set and the achievements made under River Valley Projects (RVP), Flood Prone Rivers (FPR), National Water Shed Development Programme for Rain Fed Areas (NWDPR) schemes for the development of water resources alongwith the funds provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any special provision has been made for tribal areas under these schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The schemes for Soil conservation for the development of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR) and National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. The year-wise and State-wise targets and achievement under the above said schemes as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Agriculture have informed that the watershed projects are implemented in Geo-hydrologically defined units (Micro watersheds) and all the areas including tribal areas are covered under the watershed project.

Statement-I

Achievement of last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07) under RVP & FPR Programme

S.No.	State	2004-05						2005-06						2006-07						Total of Last 3 Years	Pft. in 000 ha. & Rs. in lakh
		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement					
		Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
1	A.P.																				
	i)	Forest	4.62	467.10	2.678	339.54	0.74	0.736	243.56	2.85	452.38	4.19	373.04	8.21	919.48	7.60	956.14				
	ii)	Agriculture	5.13	300.00	3.955	203.27	3.25	2.797	162.41	5.59	350.00	7.28	357.52	13.97	965.00	14.03	723.20				
		Sub-total (i&ii)	9.75	767.10	6.633	542.81	3.99	3.53	405.97	8.44	802.38	11.47	730.56	22.18	1884.48	21.64	1679.34				
2	Assam																				
		Sub-total	0.28	25.50	0.020	5.67	0.55	0.850	39.89	0.90	126.50	1.48	99.42	1.73	230.33	2.35	144.78				
		Pradesh																			
3	Assam																				
		Sub-total	1.23	60.00			2.80	100.00	1.030	47.91	1.50	150.00	0.62	20.63	5.53	310.00	1.65	68.54			
4	Bihar																				
		Sub-total	0.99	49.49			0.76	38.38	0.005	0.83	2.00	90.00	0.37	26.57	3.75	177.87	0.38	27.40			
5	Chattisgarh																				
		Sub-total	3.63	111.12	2.150	119.68	3.00	400.00	3.974	179.09	5.18	789.05	11.09	606.83	11.81	1300.17	17.21	905.60			
6	Gujarat																				
		Sub-total												0.00							
7	Forest																				
		Sub-total	1.11	118.00	1.475	116.45	2.16	100.00	3.000	150.23	1.00	125.00	1.89	223.77	4.27	343.00	6.37	490.45			
8	Agriculture																				
		Sub-total	9.89	749.00	11.838	986.16	2.66	1144.44	13.865	1272.39	10.00	1059.78	28.19	2648.17	22.55	2953.22	53.89	4906.72			
		Sub-total (i&ii)	11.00	867.00	13.313	1102.61	4.82	1244.44	16.87	1422.62	11.00	1184.78	30.08	2871.94	26.82	3296.22	60.26	5397.17			
7	Haryana																				
		Sub-total	5.07	150.00	4.198	178.20	4.00	180.00	2.677	164.73	4.00	180.00	3.98	289.33	13.07	510.00	10.26	632.26			
8	Himachal Pradesh																				
		Sub-total	4.25	678.62	3.825	627.27	4.67	746.24	4.849	759.01	7.55	1379.48	9.00	1200.83	16.47	2804.34	17.67	2587.11			
9	Jharkhand																				
		Sub-total	0.00				0.00			5.58	362.20			5.58	362.20	0.00	0.00				
10	Jammu & Kashmir																				
		Sub-total	5.73	628.00	2.408	449.57	5.13	555.00	3.916	452.04	4.82	521.70	5.94	683.98	115.68	1704.70	12.26	1565.59			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11 Karnataka	19.18	800.00	21.770	816.68	28.61	1300.00	27.075	1082.51	30.00	1500.00	31.58	1400.00	77.79	3600.00	80.43	3299.19		
12 Kerala	5.29	300.00	2.600	231.11	3.00	250.00	2.169	297.39	4.44	413.62	0.81	162.34	12.73	963.62	5.58	690.84		
13 Madhya Pradesh															0.00			
Agriculture	16.37	681.12	10.631	501.35	17.59	600.24	5.179	380.08	18.80	2420.59	22.35	1539.00	52.76	3701.95	38.16	2420.43		
NVDD	6.64	312.22	5.642	307.19	4.03	216.66	1.692	80.53	6.00	337.40			16.67	866.28	7.33	367.72		
Sub-total (Islil)	23.01	993.34	16.273	808.54	21.62	816.90	6.87	460.61	24.80	2757.99	22.35	1539.00	69.43	4568.23	45.49	2808.15		
14 Maharashtra	12.99	700.00	16.748	879.92	8.80	1400.00	13.640	1400.24	18.60	3800.00	31.65	3198.10	40.39	5900.00	62.04	5478.26		
15 Manipur#	0.00						0.00		1.00	127.85	1.19	163.92	1.00	127.85	1.19	163.92		
16 Meghalaya#	0.17	15.00		6.00	0.00		0.00		0.00	40	0.00	5.49	0.17	55.00	0.00	11.49		
17 Mizoram	0.72	132.28	0.790	99.85	2.68	234.50	2.240	294.50	3.32	336.00	1.15	173.00	6.72	702.78	4.18	567.35		
18 Nagaland#	0.67	60.00	2.580	174.00	6.48	150.00	2.260	12.00	3.00	300.00	1.26	150.00	10.15	510.00	6.10	444.00		
19 Orissa	1.85	80.00	1.510	81.46	1.70	90.00	1.772	95.18	3.08	200.00	3.78	233.66	6.63	370.00	7.08	410.30		
20 Punjab	0.80	40.00			0.66	53.00	2.123	78.57	1.80	106.70	1.43	86.60	3.26	199.70	3.55	165.17		
21 Rajasthan	22.34	1700.00	23.586	1837.91	28.25	2000.55	29.380	2098.83	24.10	1605.05	34.59	2650.10	74.69	5305.60	87.56	6584.84		
22 Sikkim	0.63	60.00	0.418	58.20	1.17	100.00	1.160	100.00	0.67	200.00	0.36	77.27	2.47	360.00	1.94	235.47		
23 Tamil Nadu	4.79	700.00	5.965	627.52	8.56	800.00	7.409	831.95	7.70	900.00	8.95	901.51*	21.05	2400.00	22.32	2360.98		
24 Tripura	0.32	52.35	0.370	27.48	1.10	52.50	0.475	20.35	0.49	56.24	0.28	32.02	1.91	161.09	1.13	79.85		
25 Uttar Pradesh	41.22	1690.00	42.340	2165.65	22.18	1821.30	24.668	1453.20	24.78	1923.00	10.95	1321.85	88.18	5434.30	77.96	4940.70		
26 Uttaranchal	2.35	302.00	4.060	285.35	3.15	235.00	2.103	235.00	3.54	650.00	5.52	643.74	9.04	1167.00	11.68	1164.09		
27 West Bengal	0.51	270.80	7.980	198.26	6.50	160.00	0.356	32.98	3.00	108.35	0.47	62.58	10.01	539.15	8.81	293.92		
*Chandigarh															0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*Delhi															0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*DVC	2.77	391.00	9.664	1256.90	9.09	1000.00	6.833	900.47	7.00	1000.00	10.95	1076.63	18.86	2391.00	27.45	3234.00		
*Headquarter	0.00	40.00	0.000	40.00	0.00	40.00		40.000		60.00		60.000	0.00	140.00	0.00	140.00		
G. Total	181.54	#####189.201	#####183.27	14161.14	168.233	13011.67	212.29	21670.89	240.70	20467.90	577.10	47495.63	598.13	46100.21				
PM Package for J&K**	28.51	3000.00	15.682	1063.41	17.42	1500.00	18.156	1639.93	33.09	3447.78	18.92	1732.39	79.02	7947.78	52.76	4435.63		
G. Total	210.05	#####204.883	#####200.69	15661.14	186.389	14651.50	245.38	25118.67	259.62	22200.29	656.12	55443.41	650.89	50535.84				

The allocations are on based on Work Plans of State

Statement-II

Year Wise Physical and Financial Progress of NWDPPRA during the last three years of X Plan period (2004-05 to 2006-07 Phy, In Ha, Fin. Rs. Lakhs.

S.No.	State/UTs	2004-2005		2005-06		2006-07		Total (2004-05 to 2006-07)									
		Financial		Financial		Financial		Financial									
		Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17690	15964	885	718.37	11512	10061	576	445.67	13739	25408	686.9	873.36	42941	51433	2147	2041.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5980	3105	299	184.93	7371	8055	369	482.47	10955	9078	547.8	547.13	24306	20238	1215	1214.5
3.	Assam	2703	506	135	45.00	15000	3180	750	135.13	14000	15741	700.0	829.27	31702.8	19427	1585	1009.4
4.	Bihar	6870	1437	344	64.67	15359	4877	768	219.95	9872	23419	493.6	1053.38	32101.2	29733	1605	1338.0
5.	Jharkhand	28755	12980	1438	1240.2	22821	44680	1141	1136.89	21019	35550	1051.0	1003.8	72595	93210	3630	3380.9
6.	Goa	3011	2114	151	174.73	4600	5320	230	235.61	8000	6122	400.0	400.0	15811.2	13556	781	810.3
7.	Gujarat	42943	34726	2147	1536.15	37246	23250	1862	918.10	61335	36332	3066.8	1717.02	141524.8	94308	7076	4171.3
8.	Haryana	2446	2043	122	117.63	3600	3463	180	164.64	5000	6531	250.0	299.83	11046	12037	552	582.1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5488	4007	274	274.40	7778	5144	399	177.75	7479	5757	374.0	373.96	20745	14908	1037	926.1
10.	J & K	12181	725	609	73.33	9040	0	452	0	10970	4181	548.5	254.5	32190.2	4873	1610	327.8
11.	Karnataka	31469	34630	1573	2491.5	27776	40290	1389	2001.80	34000	49996	1700.0	2499.43	93244.4	124916	4662	6992.7
12.	Kerala	2960	15937	148	804.75	10000	12400	500	691.53	17728	21128	886.4	1313.63	30687.5	49365	1534	2809.9
13.	Madhya Pradesh	25305	44824	1265	1195.99	40853	55312	2048	2008.41	35023	53937	1751.2	1648.87	101281.2	154073	5064	4854.3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
14. Chhattisgarh	11000	18881	550	914.44	23400	37161	1170	2212.33	27000	35484	1350.0	1351.60	61400	91326	3070	4478.4		
15. Maharashtra	22000	33389	1100	1609.34	18000	29033	900	1399.39	28800	60940	1440.0	2937.37	68800	123362	3440	5946.1		
16. Manipur	11834	6819	592	374.17	9190	13203	460	724.50	9320.2	15150	466.0	818.30	30344.8	35172	1517	1917.0		
17. Mizoram	19660	15073	983	1097.94	15260	15955	763	981.00	15480	15765	774.0	623.00	50400	46793	2520	2701.9		
18. Meghalaya	7399	6166	370	369.95	8954	7462	448	447.70	13390	11159	689.5	689.50	29743	24787	1487	1467.2		
19. Nagaland	12620	8817	631	631.00	14000	8224	700	700.00	17030	7290	851.5	762.50	49650	24331	2183	2093.5		
20. Orissa	33445	9474	1672	425.26	27399	18414	1370	828.89	23867	70139	1193.3	3156.26	84710.6	98027	4236	4410.4		
21. Punjab	7929	0	396	0.00	6046	8300	302	498.71	6001	15405	300.1	830.47	19976.6	23705	999	1329.2		
22. Rajasthan	69500	81714	3475	3401.61	52000	111570	2600	4878.96	50573	87947	2526.7	4145.46	172073.4	281231	8604	12426.0		
23. Sikkim	5242	4200	262	265.46	4070	3156	204	203.35	4606	3726	230.3	230.25	13918.4	11082	696	699.1		
24. Tamil Nadu	41781	46424	2089	2089.06	39803	44227	1990	1980.16	74774	83082	3738.7	3738.70	156358.4	173733	7818	7817.9		
25. Tripura	6729	5639	336	335.44	6291	6313	315	314.56	7602	6335	380.1	380.11	20622.2	18487	1031	1030.1		
26. Uttar Pradesh	46756	34219	2438	1950.96	44986	65128	2249	1760.74	44193	65578	2209.6	1230.67	137934	164925	6897	4942.4		
27. Uttarakhand	29675	25780	1484	1785.22	23044	21688	1152	1146.75	23371	22500	1168.5	1191.36	76090.2	69968	3805	4125.3		
28. West Bengal	100094	3295	5005	148.28	7839	13140	392	591.31	7956	13776	397.8	619.92	115889.4	30211	5794	1359.5		
29. D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	
30. A&N Island	1400	818	70	51.01	1000	480	50	28.92	1020	212	51.0	13.00	3420	1510	171	92.9		
Total	616866	473606	30843	24370.79	514338.36	619486	25717	27432.22	604103	807635	30205.2	35512.6	1735307.3	1900727	86765	87315.6		

Support Price for Crops

345. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Vidharbha Farmer Organisations have made any representation to the Government regarding re-fixing the minimum support price of the cotton on the basis of cost of production;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A group of Members of Parliament (MPs) from Vidharbha region of Maharashtra met Hon'ble Prime Minister and submitted a memorandum with a request to raise the Minimum support Price (MSP) of cotton of Rs. 2700/- per quintal.

(b) and (c) The request of the MPs were reviewed with regard to the approach for fixing the MSP for cotton and the Prime Minister's Office was appraised of the position. The salient features of the same are as follows:

The Ministry of Agriculture in the Government of India fixes the MSP for two varieties of cotton (viz. medium staple length (F-414/H-777/J-34) and long staple length (H-4/H-6) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). Accordingly the MSP for the respective varieties of cotton for 2006-07 have been Rs. 1770/- and Rs. 1990/- per quintal. This is done on the basis of recommendation of prices by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). For 2007-08 the MSP of the above two varieties were fixed at Rs. 1800/- and Rs. 2030/- per quintal respectively. The CACP recommends MSP for cotton mainly in view of the cost of production of the crop.

Based on the MSP for these two basic varieties and taking into the quality differentials, normal price differential and other relevant factors, the Ministry of Textiles fixes the Support Prices of other varieties of raw cotton of Fair Average Quality.

[English]

Lower Interest Rates

346. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to lower interest rates for the agriculture sector and provide cheaper farm inputs in view of the growing distress of the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a corpus fund for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the fund;
- (e) whether Government has also set up/proposes to set up special zones for the farmers;
- (f) if so, the details and locations thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Effective from Kharif 2006-07, the Government has already lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs. 3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also. Besides, Government is already subsidizing other major inputs like Fertilizers and Seeds.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Area under Cultivation

347. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to increase area under cultivation;
- (b) if so, the area of land brought under cultivation so far under this scheme during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;
- (c) the provisions made in Eleventh Five Year Plan to bring additional land under cultivation; and
- (d) the achievements made under these provisions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) There is no specific scheme to increase area under cultivation. However, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes for development of degraded lands and also to bring parts of such developed lands under cultivation to maintain balance in different types of land uses in the country. These programmes are: (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development

Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands in the country. Under various Watershed Development Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture, an area of 3.74 million ha. has been developed during X Five Year Plan which includes about 2.18 million ha. developed during last three year (2004-07) as per State-wise and scheme-wise details given in the enclosed Statement.

The Working Group of the Sub-Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Wasteland, Watershed Development Programmes has recommended the development of about 38 million ha. of land during Eleventh Five Year Plan, part of which will be additional land for cultivation.

Statement

State-wise Achievement of Watershed Development Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture during X plan

(Phy area in lakh ha)

S.No.	Name of the States	NWDPR Phy.	RVP & FPR Phy.	RAS Phy.	WDPSCA Phy.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.62	0.41	0.100		1.130
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.22	0.02			0.240
3.	Assam	0.26	0.03		0.075	0.365
4.	Bihar	0.30	0.01	0.000	0.196	0.506
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.17	0.25			1.420
6.	Gujarat	1.20	0.72	0.441		2.361
7.	Haryana	0.14	0.20	0.665		1.005
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.17	0.25			0.420
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.05	0.75*			0.800
10.	Jharkhand	1.07	0.00			1.070
11.	Karnataka	1.45	1.63	0.030		3.110
12.	Kerala	0.49	0.09			0.580
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2.10	0.98	0.000		3.080
14.	Maharashtra	1.55	0.96	0.004		2.514
15.	Manipur	0.40	0.01			0.410

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Meghalaya	0.38	0.00		0.171	0.551
16.	Mizoram	0.54	0.06		0.266	0.866
17.	Nagaland	0.33	0.06		0.208	0.598
18.	Orissa	1.22	0.11		0.281	1.611
19.	Punjab	0.25	0.03	0.013		0.293
20.	Rajasthan	4.05	1.32	0.217		5.587
21.	Sikkim	0.15	0.02			0.170
22.	Tamil Nadu	2.39	0.30	0.061		2.751
23.	Tripura	0.25	0.02			0.270
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1.99	1.40	0.015	0.145	3.550
25.	Uttarakhand	0.91	0.18			1.090
26.	West Bengal	0.32	0.10			0.420
27.	Goa	0.14	0.00			0.140
28.	D & N Haveli	0.00	0.00			0.00
29.	A & N Islands	0.03	0.00			0.030
30.	DVC		0.48			0.480
Total		24.14	10.39	1.546	1.342	37.418

*Includes area treated under PM's Special Package

[English]

**Management Centre
for Navy**

348. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Management Centre for Indian Navy at Paradeep;
- (b) if so, the year by which the Management Centre would be set up; and
- (c) the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) There is no proposal to set up a Management Centre for Indian Navy at Paradeep.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rise in Prices of Onion

349. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge shortfalls in production and supply of onion in the country and also there is escalating rise in prices;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure adequate supply and availability of onion at reduced prices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The production of onion in the country at 88.51 lakh tonnes during 2006-07, being less than the level of production at 92.048 lakh tonnes in the previous year has resulted in rise in its prices.

(c) to (e) To ensure adequate supply of onion in the market, the Government has been monitoring the

prices and market arrivals of onion on regular basis. Government has restricted the export of onion from the country by enhancing the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of onion. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) has been arranging distribution of onion through its outlets for retail sale to the consumers.

Study on Air Crashes

350. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study by Indian Air Force (IAF) has attributed poor maintenance and technical flaws as major factors for air crashes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country has sufficient availability of highly skilled aeronautical engineers to manufacture and maintain wide spectrum of aircraft of Air Force;

(d) whether the standard of training and skill match the increasing requirements of the Indian Air Force;

(e) the engineering institutions that teach and train aeronautical engineers;

(f) whether the Government proposes to build an institution for aeronautical engineering to meet the demands for building and maintenance of IAF aircraft; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adequate number of engineering graduates is available in the country to maintain a wide spectrum of aircraft and weapon systems of IAF.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Presently, the IAF is inducting graduate engineers and imparts them with ab-initio training in the area of aeronautical engineering at Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad and Air Force Technical College (AFTC), Bangalore.

(f) and (g) Decision to create new infrastructure like academic institution is based on the requirement of the Services after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Central Institute for Fishery Technology

351. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding number of places of centers of Central Institutes of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) under the control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research functioning in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to close down these institutes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government will consider to put off the decision; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi, does not have any Centre under the control of Indian Council of Agricultural Research functioning in Karnataka.

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

Support Price for Crops

352. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced minimum support price for rabi and Kharif crops during the year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the price declared during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems being faced by the farmers;

(d) whether the criteria used for fixing Minimum Support Price have become outdated and failed to delivered the desired benefits; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to devise a better criterion for fixing the Minimum Support Price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has announced/fixes the Minimum

Support Prices (MSPs) of rabi crops for 2007-08 season on 9th October, 2007, while the MSPs of Kharif crops of 2007-08 season were announced/fixed on 17th May 2007.

(b) A Statement indicating the Minimum Support Prices of Kharif and rabi crops for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the returns to farmers, besides MSP schemes, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring

timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilisation of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rain fed farming systems and reforming agricultural markets. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) schemes have been launched with a view to maximize returns to the farmers.

(d) and (e) The methodology adopted for fixation of MSPs has been instrumental in agricultural pricing. In 2003, the Government had set up an Expert Committee to examine the methodological issues in fixation of MSPs. Its recommendations are cleared by the Committee of Secretaries.

Statement

Minimum Support Prices

(According to crop year)

Sl.No.	Commodity	Variety	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6
Kharif Crops					
1	Paddy	Common	570	580 [^]	645\$\$
		Grade 'A'	600	610 [^]	675\$\$
2	Jowar	Hybrid	525	540	600
		Malandi	-	555	620
3	Bajra		525	540	600
4	Maize		540	540	620
5	Ragi		525	540	600
6	Arhar (Tur)		1400	1410	1550 ^{^^}
7	Moong		1520	1520	1700 ^{^^}
8	Urad		1520	1520	1700 ^{^^}
9	Cotton	F-414/H-777/J34	1760	1770 [*]	1800 [*]
		H-4	1980	1990 [*]	2030 [*]
10	Groundnut in Shell		1520	1520	1550
11	Sunflower Seed		1500	1500	1510
12	Soyabean	Black	900	900	910
		Yellow	1010	1020	1050
13	Sesamum		1550	1560	1580
14	Nigerseed		1200	1220	1240

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rabi Crops					
15	Wheat		650\$	750\$\$	1000
16	Barley		550	565	650
17	Gram		1435	1445	1600
18	Masur (Lentil)		1535	1545	1700
19	Rapeseed/Mustard		1715	1715	1800
20	Safflower		1565	1565	1650
21	Toria		1680	1680	

\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

\$\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal is payable on wheat and paddy over the MSP.

^ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal was payable between 1.10.2006 to 31.03.2007.

In case of Bihar and Kerala additional incentive bonus extended upto 31.5.2007 and in case of A.P., Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal additional incentive bonus extended upto 30.9.2007.

* Medium Staple.

** Long Staple.

^^ A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over & above the MSP.

Purchase of Foodgrains from Open Market

353. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to buy foodgrains from open market to distribute the same through Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom indicating the extent of estimated savings as a result of domestic procurement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to purchase foodgrains for the Central Pool from the domestic market.

(c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Recommendations made by TRAI

354. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to the Government to put in place 3G Spectrum and Broadband Wireless Excess system and for fixing price with regard to them with a view to effecting expected growth in the number of the Broadband Customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the benefits likely to be availed of by the customers as a result of putting in place the said system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the guidelines for 3G services and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services. These are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) The 3G (3rd generation) networks will be capable of providing higher data rates and will also be capable of supporting a variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services. Introduction of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services will enhance the penetration as well as growth in broadband subscribers. This will also address the level of broadband penetration in the country, especially in rural areas.

Statement-I*Guidelines for 3G Services:*

- The 3G (3rd generation) mobile telecommunications is the generic name for the next generation of mobile networks that will combine wireless mobile technology with high data rate transmission capabilities. The 3G networks will be capable of providing higher data rates and will also be capable of supporting a variety of services such as high-resolution video and multi media services in addition to voice, fax and conventional data services.
- 3G licences would be granted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, by a specialized agency to ensure transparency in the selection process.
- Besides the initial, one time spectrum charge, it has been decided that the successful service provider would pay additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of their total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), as the recurring annual spectrum charge. The additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 years from the date of spectrum assignment.
- The roll out requirements, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalties for non compliance of the same has been stipulated.
- Mergers will not be allowed during the initial five years. No trading/reselling of spectrum is allowed.
- The CDMA spectrum in 800 MHz band for EV-DO applications would be treated separately from 2.1 GHz spectrum. If the CDMA based service provider(s) ask for the EV-/DO carrier of 2 x 1.25 MHz, they would have to pay an amount proportionate to the highest bid for spectrum in 2.1 GHz band.

Statement-II*Guidelines for BWA Services*

- To begin with BWA services will be permitted in the 2.5 GHz band by UASL and Category 'A' ISPs besides BSNL/MTNL.
 - Each service provider will be allotted spectrum upto 2 x 10 MHz in 2.5 GHz band, for use by the service provider in FDD (paired) or TDD mode.
 - The BWA services would be permitted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, by a specialized agency to ensure transparency in the selection process.
 - The base/reserve price would be 25% of amount for 3G spectrum.
- Besides the initial, one time spectrum charge, additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), will be levied as the recurring annual spectrum charge. This additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 years from the time of spectrum assignment.
 - The roll out conditions, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalties for non compliance of the same has been stipulated.
 - Mergers will not allowed during the initial five years. No trading/reselling of spectrum is allowed.
 - Other service providers will be considered for spectrum allotment for BWA services in the 2.3 GHz band and 3.3 – 3.4 GHz band.
 - After assessing the compatibility with satellite based services, the allotment of spectrum in the 3.4 – 3.6 GHz band will be considered.

Relaxation in Opening of Post Offices

355. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether relaxation has been given in following the criteria for opening branches of post offices in remote, hilly and bordering States specially in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of post offices to be opened and to be upgraded in the country especially in Himachal Pradesh during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the target has been achieved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed target during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of norms for opening of post offices are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) With the start of the 11th Plan, no post offices are now to be opened/upgraded against plan targets relating to 9th and 10th Plans. The number of post offices opened/upgraded in the country during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan is 2903 including 29 Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh Circle.

(d) and (e) With the start of the 11th Plan, no post offices are now to be upgraded against plan targets relating to 9th and 10th Plans. Out of an allotted target of 3353 post offices during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan throughout the country (including Himachal Pradesh also), target of opening of 2903 post offices has been achieved. The individual targets for H.P. was 41 during the 9th Plan and 6 during 10th Plan and against these targets, 23 were opened/upgraded during 9th Plan and 6 during 10th Plan respectively. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II & III respectively. Details of tentative targets during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Norms for Opening Post Offices:

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 % of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. In cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. In other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. From each other.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Statement-II

Circle Wise Break Up of Post Offices Opened During 9th Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Circles	Target 1997-98		Target 1998-99		Target 1999-2000		Target 2000-2001				Target 2001-2002									
		BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	4	3	15	1	6	2	15	NII	3	NII
2	Assam	25	2	18	3	54	5	54	5	50	4	24	7	30	3	30	3	35	2	35	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	Bihar	40	5	31	4	72	2	72	2	50	3	51	Nil	53	1	70	1	60	Nil	38	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh													25	1	25	1	25	1	25	1
5	Delhi	5	2	5	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
6	Gujarat	25	2	18	3	31	2	31	2	30	3	28	2	20	3	8	4	20	2	18	2
7	Haryana	15	2	13	2	13	3	13	3	15	2	12	1	15	1	2	1	2	1	Nil	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	4	Nil	7	1	7	1	7	1	2	1	7	1	2	1	5	Nil	5	Nil
9	J & K	15	1	11	1	23	1	23	1	15	1	14	1	5	1	5	1	13	Nil	13	Nil
10	Jharkhand													22	1	Nil	1	15	1	Nil	1
11	Karnataka	30	5	24	5	12	4	12	4	21	3	21	3	21	2	21	2	20	2	13	2
12	Kerala	10	2	7	1	12	3	12	3	4	2	4	2	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	37	2	41	2	50	5	50	5	40	4	40	4	15	3	15	3	21	3	21	3
14	Maharashtra	35	3	34	4	69	3	69	3	50	2	50	3	60	7	60	7	65	9	65	10
15	North East	25	3	18	3	54	3	54	3	40	2	19	3	40	2	3	3	35	2	13	2
16	Orissa	27	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2
17	Punjab	17	2	12	2	12	2	12	2	10	1	9	1	14	3	12	2	6	8	6	8
18	Rajasthan	33	2	33	1	30	1	30	1	27	2	24	1	20	2	20	2	20	4	20	4
19	Tamil Nadu	21	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	5	2	5	2
20	Uttar Pradesh	70	6	57	6	82	3	82	3	50	3	10	2	44	1	45	Nil	40	2	38	2
21	Uttaranchal													6	Nil	6	1	25	1	15	1
22	West Bengal	50	3	24	4	43	4	43	4	43	9	41	9	55	10	Nil	10	55	5	54	5
Total		500	50	402	52	598	50	598	50	500	50	386	49	500	50	363	52	500	50	405	51

Target: 2848

Achieved: 2408

Statement-III**Number of Post Offices opened during 10th Five Year Plan**

S.No.	Name of Circle	Annual Plan 2002-2003				Annual Plan 2003-2004				Annual Plan 2006-2007	
		Target		Achievement		Target		Achievement		Target	Achievement
		EBO	DSO	EBO	DSO	EBO	DSO	EBO	DSO	DSO	DSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	Nil	3	Nil	2	1	2	1		
2	Assam	15	1	15	1	14	1	14	1	1	1
3	Bihar	15	Nil	15	Nil	15	1	15	1	1	1
4	Chhattisgarh	20	1	20	1	16	1	16	1		
5	Delhi	1	1	1	1	1	Nil	4	Nil		
6	Gujarat	15	Nil	15	Nil	10	1	9	1		
7	Haryana	Nil	1	Nil	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	Nil	2	Nil	2	1	2	1	1	1
9	Jammu & Kashmir	5	Nil	5	Nil	7	1	7	1	1	1
10	Jharkhand	10	Nil	8	Nil	6	1	6	1		
11	Karnataka	9	1	8	1	4	1	4	1		
12	Kerala	2	1	2	1	6	1	6	1		
13	Madhya Pradesh	14	1	16	1	15	1	15	1	2	2
14	Maharashtra	30	8	30	8	25	2	25	2		
15	North East	9	1	9	1	10	1	10	1	1	1
16	Orissa	10	1	10	1	6	1	6	1		
17	Punjab	5	1	5	1	5	Nil	5	Nil		
18	Rajasthan	18	2	18	2	15	1	15	1		
19	Tamil Nadu	5	1	5	1	6	1	6	1		
20	Uttar Pradesh	18	1	18	1	20	1	20	1		
21	Uttarakhand	4	Nil	4	Nil	5	Nil	5	Nil	2	2
22	West Bengal	39	2	32	2	6	Nil	6	Nil		
	Sikkim	1	1	Nil	1	2	1	2	1		
	Total	250	25	241	25	200	20	199	20	10	10

No targets were allocated during the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006

Target: 505

Achieved: 495

Statement-IV

*Tentative Targets for opening of Branch Offices
and Deptt. sub Offices during 2007-08*

11th Five Year Plan

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	EDBOs Target		DSOs Target
		Rural	Tribal	
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	25
2	Assam	6	1	10
3	Bihar	10	1	25
4	Chhattisgarh	10	2	20
5	Delhi	Nil	Nil	20
6	Gujarat	13	2	25
7	Haryana	8	Nil	15
8	Himachal Pradesh	5	Nil	15
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9	2	15
10	Jharkhand	5	2	20
11	Karnataka	10	2	25
12	Kerala	5	Nil	15
13	Madhya Pradesh	14	4	30
14	Maharashtra	14	2	25
15	North East	27	16	20
16	Orissa	5	3	15
17	Punjab	5	Nil	15
18	Rajasthan	5	3	25
19	Tamil Nadu	12	2	35
20	Uttar Pradesh	10	2	30
21	Uttarakhand	5	Nil	10
22	West Bengal	12	4	25
Total		200	50	460

Target of 40 DSOs will be allocated in due course

EDBO-Extra Departmental Branch Office

DSO-Departmental Sub Office

Import of Oilseeds

356. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the import of oil seed products during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the oil seeds production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to attain self reliance in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Import of oilseeds in terms of vegetable oils Fixed (Edible) was 4.7 million tonnes during 2004-05. It had declined to 4.2 million tonnes in 2006-07. Details of oilseeds production (State-wise) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)" in 14 major oilseeds growing states in the country for increasing the production and productivity of oilseed crop and to make the country self-sufficient. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilizing bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, training, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseed crop in the country. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Statement

*State-wise Production of total Oilseeds
during the last three years*

States	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1614.1	2209.4	2041.0
Arunachal Pradesh	27.3	27.0	22.7
Assam	157.0	146.8	113.2
Bihar	123.8	116.9	136.5
Chhattisgarh	127.0	123.7	126.5

1	2	3	4
Goa	5.7	5.4	7.9
Gujarat	5665.0	2986.9	682.0
Haryana	997.8	840.5	825.2
Himachal Pradesh	9.2	12.0	5.2
Jammu & Kashmir	42.1	124.2	2.7
Jharkhand	8.0	7.0	8.5
Karnataka	934.1	1570.0	1715.0
Kerala	2.3	1.9	2.6
Madhya Pradesh	5623.6	4797.7	5721.9
Maharashtra	2921.0	2744.1	3373.0
Manipur	0.4	0.8	0.7
Meghalaya	6.4	6.5	6.7
Mizoram	5.4	5.6	5.4
Nagaland	66.8	81.9	62.8
Orissa	156.9	179.5	187.7
Punjab	103.8	100.4	89.6
Rajasthan	3996.8	5541.1	5964.0
Sikkim	7.4	7.6	7.2
Tamil Nadu	963.6	1061.1	1152.9
Tripura	3.8	3.9	3.9
Uttar Pradesh	927.8	952.3	1066.5
Uttaranchal	34.0	38.0	30.0
West Bengal	650.7	652.9	610.4
D & N Haveli	0.1	0.1	0.1
Delhi	1.7	5.0	2.9
Pondicherry	2.5	3.3	3.2
All India	25186.1	24353.5	27977.9

[English]

**Development of Handicrafts
and Textile Sectors**

357. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and released by the Union Government for development of Handicrafts and Textiles during each of the last three years and the current year State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by the State Government during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has proposed any incentives and facilities for skilled and unskilled artisans and workers in the textile sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The amount allocated and released for Handicrafts and Textiles for the last three years and for the current year is given below:-

(Rs. crores)

Year	Handicrafts		Textiles (excluding Handicrafts)	
	Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Releases
2004-05	103.00	78.69	775.00	651.18
2005-06	105.00	96.12	1045.00	1005.24
2006-07	110.00	99.03	1239.50	1313.00
2007-08 (upto 05.11.2007)	220.00	11.22	2023.00	1102.18

The amount under plan programmes for development of Handicrafts and Textiles is allocated and released scheme-wise and not state-wise.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Incentives and facilities are provided under various schemes such as Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Yojana, Design and Technical Upgradation, Human Resource Development, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Integrated Development Scheme for Handloom, Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, schemes for setting up of silk reeling, twisting, wet processing and weaving units. These schemes provide assistance for input, infrastructure, modernization and upgradation of technology, publicity, marketing support, development of new designs and product development.

Farmers Insurance Income Scheme

358. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched Farmer Insurance Income Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the States, where the scheme is likely to be launched; and
- (d) the reasons for replacing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Pilot Project on Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) was launched in Rabi 2003-04 and Kharif 2004 seasons in the selected Districts/States. But based on the findings of the Concurrent Evaluation Study undertaken by an independent agency and the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes, the pilot project on FIIS was discontinued with effect from Rabi 2004-05 season.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Water to Delhi

359. SHRI RAMDAS ATAHWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of water demanded from the Union Government/Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) by the Government of Delhi from river Yamuna during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of water made available by the Union Government/UYRB to Delhi from river Yamuna during the said period;

(c) whether the said quantity is commensurate to the demand;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been major increase in the demand of water; and

(f) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The demand of Government of Delhi for water from Yamuna is for three Water Treatment Plants (WTPs), viz. Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Haiderpur – II.

The total capacity of these three WTPs is 310 Million Gallons per day (MGD), which can be serviced by 625 cusec of raw water. In addition to these three plants, during monsoon period (July to October) Yamuna water is also demanded for Haiderpur – WTP with a capacity of 100 MGD, which can be serviced by 200 cusec of raw water. The capacity of these plants dependent upon Yamuna have remained the same for the last three years and so is the demand of raw water.

(b) to (d) An MoU on sharing of Yamuna waters was signed on 12th May, 1994 by Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh & Delhi. As per the MoU, annual allocation of Yamuna waters to Delhi is 0.724 billion cubic meters (BCM). The allocation to Delhi are made by Upper Yamuna River Board as per the MoU of 1994.

Further as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 29.02.1996, full pond level is being maintained at Wazirabad and Haiderpur so that there is no shortage of water for Wazirabad, Haiderpur and Chandrawal WTPs. The supplies/release of Yamuna waters to Delhi are made by Haryana at Tejwala in accordance with MoU of 1994 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 29.02.1996.

(e) and (f) There is some increase in demand of water due to increase in population. To meet the major future demand several measure are being taken i.e. completion of parallel line channel from Munak to Haiderpur WTP and taking up of storage dams including Renuka, Kishau & Lakhwar Vyasi in upper Yamuna basin.

[English]

Utilization of Fund under Abolition of Child Labour Programme

360. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released and utilized for abolition of child labour during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise and programme-wise alongwith its impact on the said programme;

(b) the reasons for non-utilization of funds;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure full utilization of allocated funds; and

(d) the success achieved in the programme for eradication of Child Labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) in 250 districts of the country for the rehabilitation of the child labour. INDUS child labour project, a jointly funded Project of Govt. of India and US Deptt. of Labour is also being implemented in 21 districts. Under the NCLP as well as INDUS Projects, funds are released to the concerned District Collectors. In addition to these Projects, Government is also implementing the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations in the districts, which are not covered under NCLP/INDUS Projects. State-wise details of funds released/utilized under NCLP, INDUS and Grants-in-aid Schemes for the rehabilitation of child labour during each of last three years are as per Statement enclosed. The funds released are utilized by the districts under various components as provided for under the Schemes. Under the NCLP scheme funds have

been fully utilized (more than 90%) during the last three years. As INDUS Project started only in 2003, funds have not been fully utilized due to late start of the schools in the project districts and on certain other components of the Project. Under the NCLP scheme 3.37 lakh children are currently enrolled in Special Schools and 4.57 lakh children have been already mainstreamed. Similarly, under the INDUS Project, 43014 children are enrolled in the Specials Schools and 27,553 children have been mainstreamed into the formal education system.

(c) Implementation of the scheme is being regularly monitored through the periodical reports/returns and field visits by the State and Central Government officials. Review meetings with the senior officials of the State Governments are also being held regularly to ensure full utilisation of funds,

(d) Under the NCLP scheme 4.57 lakh children and under INDUS project 27,553 children have been mainstreamed into formal education system.

Statement

The expenditure of Last three years under NCLP Scheme

(In rupees)

S.No.	Name of States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	AP	232220831	211610829	141635611
2	Assam	686500	12468000	12403500
3	Bihar	28205834	43386910	142679960
4	Chhattisgarh	23080814	36857738	31107540
5	Goa	592000	0	0
6	Gujarat	2153500	4404800	15549200
7	Haryana	458500	1718000	0
8	J&K	458500	592000	0
9	Jharkhand	19285773	37280078	18382939
10	Karnataka	33101388	50651674	52567717
11	M.P.	44521226	36826745	29409567
12	Maharashtra	16848418	19255655	27828784
13	Orissa	131264355	134419118	110792590
14	Punjab	18404902	15528577	9020900
15	Rajasthan	44303713	68613939	116269919
16	Tamil Nadu	72462692	98404201	62730916
17	U.P.	70736376	151892537	186647881
18	Uttarakhand	61368	592000	0
19	West Bengal	74236099	83128311	99140687

Expenditure of last three years under INDUS by Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(in rupees)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Maharashtra	17202840	27933618	22118000
2.	Madhya Pradesh	20140000	29149893	21238000
3.	Tamil Nadu	23773134	25597200	19065550
4.	Uttar Pradesh	38884026	40064507	45135853

Expenditure of last three years under G.I.A. to Voluntary Organisations

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Assam	3,65,906	4,57,650	4,57,650
2.	Bihar	2,46,285	Nil	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	4,57,588	1,14,412	Nil
4.	Haryana	1,70,100	Nil	Nil
5.	Jharkhand	4,57,650	Nil	Nil
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	11,44,267	Nil	3,43,238
7.	Madhya Pradesh	13,17,491	2,16,112	2,28,825
8.	Maharashtra	16,67,377	22,80,342	9,10,766
9.	Manipur	5,59,350	23,71,658	18,68,737
10.	Nagaland	Nil	2,91,669	6,86,475
11.	New Delhi	101742	1774050	6,04,710
12.	Orissa	2618650	3300986	20,54,928
13.	Rajasthan	3252446	968284	17,25,265
14.	Tripura	68,456	Nil	2,28,825
15.	Tamil Nadu	1,16,841	Nil	Nil
16.	Uttar Pradesh	3640640	2950538	19,01,257
17.	West Bengal	1803889	654477	8,19,037

Inter Connection of State Employment Exchanges

361. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to inter connect all the State Employment Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the actual number of people provided jobs through State Employment Exchanges in the country during the last six months;

(d) whether the inter connection of all the State Employment Exchanges likely to provide better opportunities to job seekers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the National e-Gover-

nance Plan, a Mission Mode Project (MMP) on computerization of Employment Exchanges has been initiated under which all the Exchanges are proposed to be computerised and connected with a National web portal which will contain information about jobs available in various enterprises and details of persons trained in various trades by industrial training institutes/centres.

(c) As per latest available information, the number of placements made through Employment Exchanges in the country during 2006 was 1.77 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Employment Exchanges, when inter-connected, are expected to provide better and speedy services to job seekers as well as industry.

[Translation]

Reduction in Sale of Postal Items

362. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the Postal system is facing challenges due to the growth of Information Technology and courier companies;

(b) if so, whether telegrams, postcards and inland letters which were widely used until a few years ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the volume of decline registered in the sale of telegrams, postcards and inland letters during the last three years?

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

(b) and (c) The number of telegrams booked, postcards and inland letter cards sold during the last three years has shown a decline as per the details given below:-

Name of Item	In Crores					
	Booked by BSNL		Booked/sold by Post Offices			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Telegrams	1.51	1.13	0.79	0.14	0.09	0.04
Postcards	-	-	-	155.69	132.53	128.45
Inland Letters	-	-	-	120.29	102.49	100.13

Suicides by Farmers

363. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report of farmers committing suicide has been reported particularly in Vidharbha area and some other parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to determine how this has happened even after starting the implementation of the Vidharbha model package for preventing such suicides;

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

(e) whether the incident of bouncing of cheques given to indebted farmers under the special package has been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the number of farmers suicide based on the latest two years information as made available by the State Governments is enclosed.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity. The Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs.16978.69 crore, for 31 districts spread over the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The Package consisting of short term and long term measures is being implemented over a period of three years. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities. Progress of implementation of rehabilitation package is being monitored and reviewed on regular basis at District, State and Central level.

(e) and (f) No such incident has come to the notice of Government of India.

Statement

Latest number of suicide by farmers as reported by the States Govts.

(As on 30.09.2007)

S.No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2006	448	
		2007 (upto 30.06.2007)	114	
2.	Karnataka	2006-07	320	
		2007-08 (upto 10.07.2007)	73	
3.	Maharashtra		Total (of which Vidarbha)	
		2006	2355	1448
		2007 (up to April 2007)	607	375
4.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841	
		2007 (upto 31.01.2007)	13	
5.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (upto to March 2007)	26	
6.	Punjab	2005	6	
		2006	3	
7.	Gujarat	2005	7	
		2006 (upto 30.05.2006)	1	

[English]

Agricultural Policies

364. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policies adopted by the Union Government have adversely affected farmers in the rural areas and consumers in urban centers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereon;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make agricultural policies farmer friendly;

(d) whether the Government has recently banned the export of non-basmati rice which would badly hurt growers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The average annual growth during the 9th Plan and the first three years of the 10th Plan was about 2.0 percent (1999-2000 prices) as against the annual target growth of 4.0 percent. The shortfall in achieving the targeted growth was mainly attributed to lack of adequate public sector investment in agriculture and periodic failures of monsoon in the intervening period of Tenth Plan. However, the average growth rate realized during the last two years has been more than 4 percent. Thus the agriculture sector has shown positive signs of revival. In order to sustain this and revitalize agriculture sector, Government of India have taken following measures:

- Accelerating the production and productivity of major food crops on regionally differentiated basis.
- Development of rainfed and dry land areas through farming, livelihood systems on watershed approach.
- Revamping of extension system to improve delivery mechanism at the grass root level.
- Incentivise the State Governments to invest more in agriculture and allied sector. In this direction the Department has recently taken the following initiatives:

- (i) Government of India has launched two new Schemes at the National level namely, National Food Security Mission to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in the country and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in Agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing Agriculture and allied sector schemes.
- (ii) Government of India has set up National Rainfed Area Authority, National Bamboo Mission and National Fisheries Development Board.

Besides, a number of Plan Schemes/programmes are being implemented which include revitalization of the agricultural extension services, marketing reforms, horticulture development, Macro Management schemes providing adequate flexibility to the States for implementing suitable schemes/projects, revitalization of cooperative sector and provision of adequate credit.

In order to maintain a balance between the interests of producers (farmers) and consumers, the Government of India announces every year Minimum Support Price for major agricultural produces and also intervenes in case the price falls below the Minimum Support Price to protect the interest of farmers. Similarly, in the event of shortage, the Government ensures adequate supply by resorting to import to protect the interest of the consumers.

(d) to (f) The ban of export of non-basmati rice was imposed keeping in view the public interest. However, as per Notification dated 31.10.2007 of Department of Commerce, the export of non-basmati rice at Minimum Export Price (MEP) at US\$ 425 per ton FOB has been allowed. The above MEP shall not be applicable to:

- i) Exports of non-basmati rice for which letter of credit has been opened till 09.10.2007; and
- ii) Rice brought into the port godowns for export till 10.10.2007, as certified by port authorities.

Acquisition of Land

365. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in its recent ruling Supreme Court has ruled that distinction should be made between land acquired for public and private company purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also ruled that agricultural land should not be acquired for non-

public purpose companies which can not be termed as public purpose;

(d) if so, whether this is a set back to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and land acquisition policy of the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to change its land acquisition policy in the wake of said judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its recent judgment on land acquisition has said that the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, stipulates that agricultural land should not be acquired for setting up a factory or for any other corporate purpose. The Court has also observed that when the state intends to proceed with the acquisition of land, it must form an opinion that lands which are going to be acquired are not good agricultural lands. However, as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land is a State subject therefore, it is for the State Government to bring suitable legislation regarding land acquisition and land reforms.

Land/Land Usages is also a State subject, and therefore, each State acquires land for various purposes which is governed by their respective policies and procedures and these are also applicable for acquisition of land for Special Economic Zone (SEZs). The SEZ Board of Approval only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Since inception of the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006, formal approval has been granted for setting up of 405 SEZs, which involves about 52,922 ha. of land. Out of which 21,616 ha. of land was already in possession with State Industrial Development Corporations/different State Governments. As the land acquired for SEZ purposes is quite nominal, therefore, there is no set back of such land acquisition.

State Governments had been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. Various issues pertaining to SEZs have been engaging the attention of the Government. In pursuance

of the decisions taken by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM), the State Governments have been informed on 15th June 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or purpose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007.

New Telecom Rules

366. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLBHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Operators Association of India has expressed its unhappiness over the new telecom rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the views of the association; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) On 29th August 2007, the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) were received on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access proviers". TRAI has made recommendations, inter-alia, on number of Access Services telecom operators, spectrum allocation criterion, mergers and acquisitions etc. TRAI has made the said recommendation after following a consultation process with the stakeholders including Global System of Mobile (GSM) operators.

Government has already taken a decision on TRAI's recommendation on 17-10-2007, inter-alia, accepting that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area and usages of dual technology (Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) by existing Unified Access Services (UAS) licensees.

Cellular Operators Association of India and Others have challenged the Government decision on these recommendations in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

Survey Regarding Demand of Foodgrains

367. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding demand and supply of foodgrains in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted by the Union Government to ascertain the demand for foodgrains in various States;

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

(d) reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The details regarding demand and supply of foodgrains (rice, wheat and pulses) in the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducts periodical survey to assess the consumption pattern of various goods and services in India. The latest survey i.e. 61st round of the survey conducted by them covered the period from July 2004 to June 2005. The details of the monthly per capita consumption of food grains (constituting cereals and pulses) derived from the aforesaid NSSO survey report (Report No. 508 (61/1.0/1) are given below:

Monthly per capita Consumption	Rural		Urban	
	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
Quantity (Kg)	11.61	13.26	10.52	10.80

In the assessment of annual requirement of foodgrains for TPDS, findings of the survey are also kept in view.

Statement

Details regarding demand and supply of foodgrains (rice, wheat and pulses) in the country during the last three years (Source – Ministry of Agriculture)

Rice

Year	Demand (Million tons)	Estimated Production (Million tons)	Opening stock (with FCI) as on 1st April (Million tons)	Imports ('000 tons)	Export ('000 tons)
2004-05	89.24	83.13	13.07	—	4778.1
2005-06	90.54	91.79	13.34	0.26	4088.17
2006-07	91.84	91.05	13.68	0.16	4745.52

Wheat

Year	Demand (Million tons)	Estimated Production (Million tons)	Opening stock (with FCI) as on 1st April (Million tons)	Imports (‘000 tons)	Export (‘000 tons)
2004-05	68.21	68.64	6.93	0.22	2009.35
2005-06	69.25	69.35	4.07	—	746.18
2006-07	70.29	73.70	2.01	5454	47.83

Pulses

Year	Demand (Million tons)	Estimated Production (Million tons)	Opening stock (with FCI) as on 1st April (Million tons)	Imports (‘000 tons)	Export (‘000 tons)
2004-05	13.23	13.13	1339.45	271.18	
2005-06	13.43	13.39	1695.95	447.44	
2006-07	13.64	14.10	2255.65	247.42	

Finalized details for 2007-08 are yet to become available.

[English]

Hike in Central Issue Price

368. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to hike the Central Issue Price of Foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System;

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

(c) whether the food subsidy bill during the year 2007-08 is likely to exceed the Budget Estimates; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that the requirement of funds under the food subsidy is likely to increase by Rs. 15563.11 crores over the Budget Estimate of Rs. 25424.89 crores under the food subsidy.

**De-leasing of Property
by Navy**

369. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation regarding de-leasing or de-hiring of various properties/flats by the Defence, specially Indian Navy has been received.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether de-leasing or de-hiring of some flats is pending with Indian Navy and Director-General Defence Estate (DGDE) in Maharashtra; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**New Courses in Industrial
Training Institutes**

370. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the country, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has carried out any study on the condition of ITIs in the country;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to introduce New Courses in ITIs having larger employment potential; and

(e) the details of new trades introduced/proposed to be introduced in consultation with the industry during each of last three years and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Total number of ITIs in the country affiliated to National Council for Vocational Training as on 1.09.07 were 5465 out of which Andhra Pradesh had 535 ITIs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Main conclusions and recommendations of study carried out by FICCI are mismatch between supply & demand of skills, shortage of instructors, inadequacy of infrastructure in ITIs, inadequate Industry Institute linkages and optimal utilization of training capacity of ITIs.

(d) and (e) New trades are introduced in ITIs on the recommendation of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) to meet the skilled manpower requirement of the industry. List of trades, year wise introduced during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement. All these trades are introduced in close consultation with the industry.

Statement

List of New 50 trades introduced under CTS during years 2004-2005, 2005-2006 & 2006-2007

Year 2004-2005

Sl.No.	Name of the trade
1	2
1.	Hospital House Keeping
2.	Corporate House Keeping
3.	Institution House Keeping
4.	Domestic House Keeping
5.	Cabin Room Attendant
6.	Data Entry Operator
7.	Dairying
8.	Insurance Agent
9.	Driver cum Mechanic
10.	Lift Mechanic
11.	Tourist Guide
12.	Floriculture & Landscaping
13.	Health Sanitary Inspector
14.	Dental Laboratory Technician

1	2
15.	Medical Transcription
16.	Horticulture
17.	Library & Information Science
18.	Building Maintenance
19.	Old Age Care
20.	Network Technician
21.	Mechanic Auto Electrical and Electronics
22.	Pre-Prep School Management
23.	Creche Management
24.	Architectural Assistant
25.	Digital Photographer
26.	Event Management Assistant
27.	Fashion Technology
28.	Front Office Assistant
29.	Interior Decoration and Designing
30.	Sanitary Hardware fitter
31.	Mechanic Industrial Electronics
32.	Mechanic Mechatronics
33.	Operator Advanced Machine Tools
34.	Mechanic Computer Hardware
35.	Mechanic Medical Electronics
36.	Mechanic Consumer Electronics
Year 2005-2006	
37.	Marine Fitter
38.	Vessel Navigator
Year 2006-2007	
39.	Mech. Repair & Maintenance of Light Vehicle
40.	Mech Repair & Maintenance of Heavy Vehicle
41.	Mech. Repair & Maintenance of Two Wheelers
42.	Mech. Communication Equipment Maintenance
43.	Computer Aided Embroidery & Needle Work
44.	Mech. Lens/Prism Grinding

1	2
45.	Physiotherapy Technician
46.	Hospital Waste Management
47.	Radiology Technician (Radio Diagnosis & Radiotherapy)
48.	Weaving Techician
49.	Spinning Technician
50.	Textile Mechatronics

Issue of New Telecom Licenses

371. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a committee to finalise guidelines for issuing new telecom licenses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted their reports to the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(f) the time by which the Government will finalise the recommendations of the said committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) The Government has already decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences to applicant companies as per the existing policy.

Promotion of Handicrafts Industry

372. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote handicrafts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the closed offices of handicrafts industries have been reopened;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by when these offices are likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To promote Handicrafts in the country, Government has been implementing various schemes throughout the country. During the 11th Five year Plan the schemes which have been recommended for implementation for the development of handicrafts industry in the Country include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development for selected crafts Clusters, Marketing & Support Service, Design and Technology Upgradation, Research and Development, Human Resource Development and Welfare.

(c) Government does not have information regarding closure or reopening of the offices of the Handicrafts Industries in the country.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Computerisation of Post Offices

373. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets of Tenth and the Current Five Year Plan for computerization of post offices in the country specially in Orissa;

(b) the details of targets of Tenth Plan achieved by the Government in the country especially in Orissa;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government thereon in the Tenth Plan period;

(d) the time by which all the post offices in the country especially in Orissa will be computerised; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the aforesaid work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The details of targets of Tenth and the current Five Year Plan for computerization of Post Offices in the country specially in Orissa is as under:

	Target of Tenth Plan (No. of Post Offices)	Target achieved (No. of Post Offices)
In the country	7700	8263
In Orissa	246	255

The proposal for computerization of Post Offices in the current five-year plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Government thereon in the Tenth Plan period was Rs. 559 crore.

(d) and (e) As stated in (a) and (b) the proposal for computerization of Post Offices for XI Plan has been submitted to Planning Commission. The computerization of Post Offices is an ongoing process, subject to approval of the proposal submitted to Planning Commission.

Women Employed in Government Sector

374. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women employed in organized sectors has been on rise as compared to women employed in the Government sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the reasons for fall of women force in the Government sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the strategies planned for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The number of women working in private organized sector has increased by 2.48% during 2004 and 2005, which is higher as compared to increase in Government Sector which is 1.07%.

(c) No such survey to identify the reasons for fall of women force in the Government sector has been conducted as there is no such decline in their number during this period.

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

[Translation]

Unsatisfactory Telephone Service

375. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO
RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) whether TRAI has been held responsible for unsatisfactory telephone services and faulty telephone bills as monitoring work is not being performed properly by it;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the objective behind setting up of this authority;

(d) whether TRAI has been able to achieve its objectives; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The objective for the establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is to regulate the telecommunication services, to protect the interest of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(d) Yes, Sir.

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

Welfare Scheme for Unorganised Labour

376. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government for the welfare and improving the condition of unorganized labour in the country during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the funds allocated and provided to the State Governments during the said period alongwith utilization of funds, State-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of unorganized labour benefited therefrom, during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) With a view to providing social security to the unorganized sector workers, the Government has constituted Welfare Funds for Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, Welfare Schemes providing for health care, housing, education to the children etc. are being implemented. The schemes are being implemented through regional offices of Directorate General of Labour Welfare. A Statement containing allocation of funds, expenditure and number of beneficiaries during the last

three years is enclosed. The beneficiaries under Labour Welfare Funds are getting direct benefits from these welfare scheme and funds are not released to the State Governments.

For providing coverage beyond the existing beneficiaries amongst the unorganized sector workers, the Government has introduced the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007 to provide social security to such workers.

Statement

Allocation of Funds, expenditure and No. of the beneficiaries under different welfare funds providing benefits of Health, Education, Recreation, Housing and Water Supply

Rs. in Thousand

Name of the Fund	Year 2004-05		Year 2005-06		Year 2006-07		No. of Estimated workers
	Budget Estimate	Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Expenditure	Budget Estimate	Expenditure	
Beedi Workers Welfare Funds	884880	881731	940000	1325789	1340000	1351120	5053256
Lime Stone Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund	75434	75130	85000	79460	99400	77561	127403
The Iron Ore, Managanese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund	99482	98465	117500	100387	133500	86355	83152
The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund	10688	10688	13800	10553	14000	11616	421
The Cine Workers' Welfare Fund	8300	8789	8300	9341	10300	8913	63823

Note:- The beneficiaries under the schemes include workers and their family members.

Mobile Connections

377. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile connections sold during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (half-yearly) in the country;

(b) whether the connections of the subscribers have been disconnected due to non-fulfilment of the Identification related rules issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI); and

(c) if so, the details thereof, circle-wise and Service Provider Company-wise?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Welfare schemes for Artisans

378. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Welfare Schemes being run for the handicraft artisans currently; State-wise;

(b) whether any periodic evaluation of these schemes is done by the Government;

(c) if so, the details and outcome of such evaluation carried out during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;

(d) whether any discrepancies have been noticed during these evaluations;

(e) If so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Welfare schemes being run in the entire country for the Handicraft Artisans include (i) Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana (ii) Bima Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans. Since the schemes are not state specific, state wise data is not available.

Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana caters to the health care needs of the artisan family comprising self, spouse and two dependent children with a total cap of Rs. 15000/- per year per family, apart from Rs. 1.00 lakh insurance cover for accidental death/disability of insured artisan. A general category artisan contributes Rs. 200/- and those belonging to SC/ST Communities, BPL families and North Eastern Region contributes Rs. 100/- towards annual premium, the balance premium alongwith applicable service tax is contributed by Government of India. So far 50,000 artisan families have been covered under the scheme.

Bima Yojana for Handicraft Artisans is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme provides for insurance cover for natural death (Rs.30,000); accidental death/permanent disability (Rs. 75,000) and permanent partial disability (Rs.37,500) and scholarship to two children of the insured artisans @ Rs.300/- per quarter per child for their study from Class IX to Class XII. Out of the total annual premium of Rs.200, the Government of India contributes Rs.60; the LIC contributes Rs.100/- and the artisans contribution is Rs.40/- per year to avail the prescribed benefit. So far 3,13,214 artisans have been covered under the scheme. 689 claims amounting to Rs.1.44 crore were settled upto 31st March 2007 and 1633 scholarships amounting to Rs.19.60 lakhs were awarded.

(b) to (e) The Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched only in March 2007 hence its evaluation at this stage shall not be appropriate and shall be done in due course. However, evaluation of the Bima Yojana for Handicraft Artisans is proposed to be undertaken in current financial year.

(f) The effective measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries include mobilization through field formations and adoption of camp approach to spread awareness etc.

[Translation]

Assistance to Families of Martyrs

379. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers belonging to Madhya Pradesh who have sacrificed their lives during the period 2001 to 2007;

(b) the time taken to settle the claims of the next of kin of the families of the martyrs; and

(c) the number of dependants of the martyrs who have been provided with employment on compassionate ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) 69 as on 12.11.2007.

(b) One to three months from the date of receipt of complete and correct documents.

(c) Out of 8 applications for employment on compassionate ground, employment has so far been provided to 4 widows and 1 dependent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the remaining 3 applications are under process.

Post Harvest Loss

380. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post harvesting wastage of fruits, vegetable and pulses during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether unavailability of technology and lack of efficiency in supply chain are the reasons for the said wastage.

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to know the reasons for such wastage; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Post harvest losses on an average ranges from 10 to 30 percent in fruits and vegetables and 8-10 percent in respect of pulses. State-wise and Year-wise authentic data is not available on the quantum of wastage.

(b) Though post harvest management technology is available in certain sectors, the supply chain inefficiency and inadequate infrastructure are the main causes for such wastages.

(c) The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection had earlier conducted a survey on "Estimation of marketable surplus and post harvest losses of Foodgrains" for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(d) The Government has launched several schemes which involves component to check wastage as under:

(i) For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'The Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim' has been launched during the year 2001-02 which was also extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04. 'The National Horticulture Mission has been launched during 2005-06 for the remaining States. Both the schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other states. During 2006-07, a new Component has been introduced under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/processor/exporter.

(ii) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce' having the same norms and 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management' providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs

for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States.

(iii) The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, titled 'Gramin Bhandaran Yojana' for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns in the country through the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection since 01.04.2001. One of the objectives of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage near the production centres (excluding municipal corporation areas) in order to reduce the losses.

(iv) A Central Sector Scheme, titled 'Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization' has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture on 20.10.2004 to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services, infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies.

Agricultural Information

381. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides latest market prices and agriculture related information through mobile network to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of the States where such services are being provided;

(c) whether priority is being given for providing information in local language through mobile network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reuters, an inter-national

News agency, to disseminate market rates for selected commodities to farmers through SMS service via mobile network. Reuters has established a separate group called Reuters Market Light (RML) for this purpose. MSAMB is providing assistance to Reuters to get information from Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in the State. The market information available on the Agmarknet Portal of the Ministry of Agriculture relating to the markets of Maharashtra is also used by Reuters under the said MoU. Reuters is delivering information in Marathi Language also. They are charging a subscription fee to provide information to the needy persons.

[English]

Indebtedness to Farmers

382. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of findings of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) Report No. 498 regarding farmer household indebtedness;

(b) whether debt burden on each farmer is more than the average annual per capita income for Country/ States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether providing liberal/enhanced institutionalized credit to farmers by banks has increased their debt-burden; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the report No. 498 on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (as part of Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers – 59th Round) of NSSO, of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit. Of the indebted farm households, 54% were indebted to formal sources. Of the total farm households, the coverage by formal sources (Banks, Cooperatives and Government) was 26%.

(b) The findings of NSSO Report No. 498 reveal that the average debt-burden per farmer household is Rs. 12,585 as against per capita net national product of

Rs.20,936 during 2003-04 (Rs. 18,263 at 1999-2000 prices). In the States of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, the debt burden was more than the average annual per capita income of the respective state.

(c) State-wise details of income and average amount of outstanding loans per farmer households are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

States	Average annual income (Rs.) per farmer household	Average amount of outstanding loans in Rs. per farmer household
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	19,608	23,965
Arunachal Pradesh	89,460	493
Assam	37,932	813
Bihar	21,720	4,476
Chhattisgarh	19,416	4,122
Gujarat	32,208	15,526
Haryana	34,584	26,007
Himachal Pradesh	39,708	9,618
Jammu & Kashmir	65,856	1,903
Jharkhand	24,828	2,205
Karnataka	31,392	18,135
Kerala	48,048	33,907
Madhya Pradesh	17,160	14,218
Maharashtra	29,556	16,973
Manipur	32,892	2,269
Meghalaya	53,952	72
Mizoram	58,344	1,876
Nagaland	43,080	1,030
Orissa	12,744	5,871

1	2	3
Punjab	59,520	41,576
Rajasthan	17,976	18,372
Sikkim	39,096	2,053
Tamil Nadu	24,864	23,963
Tripura	20,904	2,977
Uttar Pradesh	19,596	7,425
Uttaranchal	40,212	1,108
West Bengal	24,948	5,237
Groups of UTs	38,820	10,931
All India	25,380	12,585

(Source: NSSO Report No. 497 and 498 – 2003)

[Translation]

Action Against Violating Telecom Companies

383. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not been empowered to take action against any company in case the company commits any irregularity;

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

(c) if not, the names of the companies against whom action have been taken during the last three years, indicating the nature of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been conferred with powers to make a complaint in court for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the TRAI Act, 1997 or the rules and regulations made thereunder and it can also make recommendations to the licensor for action for non-compliance of the terms and conditions of the licence.

(c) TRAI has lodged a complaint against Pooja World Vision for not adhering to the ceiling on the

charges payable by cable subscribers as per the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Tariff Order 2004 dated 15th January 2004 and for violation of the order/show cause notice issued by the TRAI. At present the complaint is pending before the Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi.

TRAI has lodged another complaint against Set Discovery Pvt. Ltd. for violation of the Direction / show cause notice issued for not complying with the provisions of clause 4.1 and 4.2 of the Telecommunications (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection Regulation, 2004. At present the complaint is pending before the Hon'ble Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi.

[English]

Review the Functioning of Employment Exchanges

384. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to study and review the functioning of Employment Exchanges across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FER-NANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Periodic evaluation of functioning of Employment Exchanges is carried out by a Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Director General of Employment & Training which consists of representatives of concerned Central Ministries & Departments, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure uniformity in implementing national policies and procedures as laid down in National Employment Service Manual.

Domestic Freighter Service

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts has launched full-fledged domestic freighter service;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the same to other destinations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) in order to improve mail transmission and delivery services in the North East Region, Department of Posts has chartered a freighter aircraft from Indian Airlines (now Air India) for conveyance of postal articles, mail, parcel, logistics post in North East. The freighter service was formally launched on 29th August 2007. The aircraft operates on Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala-Kolkata route on a regular basis, 6 days a week. From these hubs, other cities of North East are serviced by rail/road.

(c) and (d) A plan scheme to connect a few major cities by dedicated air freighter service has been taken up with the Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval. At this stage, only outline of the scheme has been developed.

Investment by BSNL

386. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL proposes to invest Rs. 60,000 crores in the areas of GSM, broadband, telecom and in other services by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BSNL is planning to achieve the top position in view of very stiff competition from private sector, particularly foreign companies coming into the country through acquisitions, JVs, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Dr. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL has following plans for investment in GSM, Broadband and other services.

Year	Investment Plan (Rs. in Crores)
2008-09	29,000
2009-10	31,000

(c) and (d) BSNL has not planned for any acquisition up till now. However, it has planned a JV with MTNL namely M/s Millennium Telecom Limited.

[Translation]

Action Plan by BSNL and MTNL

387. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and MTNL are facing stiff competition from private telephone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof the resources available with competitor companies as compared to the above said companies;

(c) whether any action plan is in place to strengthen BSNL and MTNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress report of the expansion plan for the year 2007-08 for the above mentioned both the companies, Circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Dr. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nevertheless, both MTNL and BSNL are facing the competition boldly. These companies have the limitation of having a legacy network based on copper cable, drop wire and telephone instruments for basic services which are fault prone. This manpower requirement to maintain the services is more and fault repair time is also higher.

(c) and (d) MTNL and BSNL are continuously taking several measure towards improving telecom services and their market share. BSNL has planned 30 lakh telephone connections and 5 lakh broadband connections per month from January 2008 to December 2010. Similarly, MTNL has planned to expand its cellular mobile network by 10 lakh lines each in Delhi and Mumbai in 2007-08. Besides this, PSUs are providing a range of value added services both for fixed line and wireless subscribers in line with emerging trends. Customers Care measures are also being strengthened. Besides these, tariffs for various products and services are constantly reviewed and variety of packages are offered to meet different segments of society.

(e) Achievements during the current year upto September 2007 in respect of addition of GSM and

broadband connections by BSNL and MTNL is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Circle wise achievement of telephones from 1.4.2007 to 30.09.2007 of BSNL and MTNL

S.No.	Name of circle	Net achievement (up to 30.09.2007)	
		Mobile Phones GSM	Broadband
1	2	3	4
A BSNL			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	5,368	146
2.	Andhra Pradesh	168,568	19,161
3.	Assam	-27,553	2,214
4.	Bihar	-1,384	2,221
5.	Chhattisgarh	63,019	1,775
6.	Gujarat	518,892	7,448
7.	Haryana	239,526	5,548
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5,374	744
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4,964	164
10.	Jharkhand	-25,823	3,388
11.	Karnataka	-109,203	15,095
12.	Kerala	106,700	14,335
13.	Madhya Pradesh	143,851	6,529
14.	Maharashtra	313,481	11,574
15.	North East-1	26,189	453
16.	North East-2	48,569	395
17.	Orissa	57,633	2,522
18.	Punjab	282,744	9,514
19.	Rajasthan	120,171	2,900
20.	Tamil Nadu	33,832	21,088
21.	Uttaranchal	28,957	3,237
22.	Uttar Pradesh East	354,996	7,390
23.	Uttar Pradesh West	294,711	223

1	2	3	4
24.	West Bengal	-5,079	1,810
25.	Kolkatta	156,779	907
26.	Chennai	70,984	6,014
Total		2,876,266	146,795
B MTNL			
	Delhi	* -94167	29,567
	Mumbai	119,473	19,000
Total		25,306	48,567

* Disconnected mainly on account of ID verification as per Government verifications.

Recommendations of ICAR

388. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recommended the farmers to use hybrid varieties of seeds which give more production;

(b) if so, whether the Government is compelled to depend upon the private sector due to faulty extension services as well as the inability of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other public sector organization to reach effectively to the farmers;

(c) if so, whether certain technological processes stop the natural growth of the seed;

(d) whether the hybrid varieties of seed do not result in production of exactly alike variety of seed and farmers have to go to seed breeders to get new seeds every year; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. In addition to high yielding varieties, hybrids are also developed and recommended for cultivation to get more crop yields.

(b) No, Sir. The main agriculture extension service is operated by the State Governments for large scale transfer of agriculture technology to the farmers. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sanctioned a network of 558 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK)

in the country aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of the technology/products. During the last one year, these KVKs organized 7818 Front-line Demonstrations (FLD) on farmers field using hybrids of oilseeds, cereals, fodder crops, vegetable crops and other crops such as cotton, papaya, coconut and cashew nut.

Besides above, frontline demonstrations on different crops are also being conducted in All India Coordinated Project of respective crops for popularizing newly released high yielding varieties of different crops. The Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has also been distributing minikits of high yielding varieties for popularizing varieties in different states. Breeder seed production is the mandate of ICAR which is being produced through different centers of ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities. It is being supplied to National Seed Corporation, State Farm Seed Corporation of India, State Seed Corporations, State Govt. Departments and Private Seed Companies etc. for producing foundation seed then certified seed, which is supplied to the farmers. The Private Seed Companies are mostly involved in producing low volume high value hybrid seed where as public sector organizations are producing high volume low value quality seed of self pollinated crops as well as hybrids.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) It is known that the hybrid give the best performance in its 1st generation and latter on it segregates. Hence the next generation does not produce the same yield and as such farmers have to purchase hybrid seeds every year.

[English]

Crop Insurance Scheme

389. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme with Village as Unit on a Pilot basis in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of districts where the scheme is likely to be implemented, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is being implemented in 23 States and 2 Union Territories on the basis of 'homogeneous area' approach. The implementing States/UTs are free to notify any unit area

of insurance viz. Tehsil, Taluka, block, mandal, firka, gram panchayat/village keeping in view the capacity of the State to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and availability of adequate past yield data.

[Translation]

Textile Design Exhibition

390. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile design exhibitions organized in the country, particularly in the tribal areas during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of export orders received through such exhibitions, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to organize more such exhibitions in the country in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The National Centre for Textile Design, in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, in the last four years has organized nineteen exhibitions of exclusive handloom fabric samples developed by Weavers' Service Centres under the name "Tantavi" in different States of the Country including tribal areas. The details of these exhibitions are as under:

Sr.No.	Year	State	Place
1	2	3	4
1.	2004	Maharashtra	Mumbai
2.		Karnataka	Bangalore
3.		Tamil Nadu	Chennai
4.		Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
5.		West Bengal	Kolkatta
6.		Assam	Guwahati
7.		Kerala	Cannanore
8.	2005	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
9.		Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
10.		Rajasthan	Jaipur

1	2	3	4
11.		Uttar Pradesh	Meerut
12.		Delhi	Delhi
13.		Maharashtra	Mumbai
14.	2006	Karnataka	Bangalore
15.		Tamil Nadu	Chennai
16.	2007	West Bengal	Shantiniketan
17.		Manipur	Imphal
18.		Nagaland	Kohima
19.		Orissa	Bargarh

(b) No export orders have been received through these exhibitions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The plan of action for the year 2008 with respect to the States and the places where Tantavi exhibitions are to be organized will be decided by the Implementation Committee.

[English]

Diversion of Foodgrains to Bangladesh

391. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of large scale diversion of foodgrains meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS) in West Bengal to Bangladesh has been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of the foodgrains issued to West Bengal under various schemes during 2006-07 and 2007-08 so far;

(d) the quantity of foodgrains reportedly diverted to Bangladesh from West Bengal; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check such diversion of PDS foodgrains to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to

(e) Some such reports have been received. They have been sent to the State Government of West Bengal for inquiry and reports. Replies of the State Government are still awaited.

Synthetic Fibre under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

392. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textiles industry has expressed concern over the decision of the Union Government to include the synthetic fibre manufacturing industry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the objection raised by the textiles industry in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and Indian Spinners' Association have represented that synthetic fibre manufacturing industry should not be extended the benefits of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) on the ground of huge financial implications for the synthetic fibre manufacturing sector which is highly capital intensive.

The apprehension is that this will lead to the marginalization of textiles sector beneficiary on account of limited financial allocation, which will also be claimed by synthetic fibre manufacturing sector. Presently, there is no proposal on the part of Government to include synthetic fibre industry under TUFS.

[Translation]

Acts for Welfare of Beedi Workers

393. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of men and women Beedi Workers at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the various Acts regarding Welfare of Beedi Workers are being enforced strictly in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure cent percent implementation of said Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) a Statement is enclosed.

(b) All efforts are being made to ensure strict enforcement of the Acts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The provisions of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act are being monitored regularly by the nine welfare Commissioners under Labour Welfare Organisation of Ministry of Labour and Employment. Issues are also taken up with the respective State Governments from time to time.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of estimated male beedi workers	Number of estimated women beedi workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110357	625354
2.	Assam	2336	4338
3.	Bihar	83897	110273
4.	Jharkhand	39317	49807
5.	Gujarat	21103	25252
6.	Karnataka	34390	215688
7.	Kerala	11815	72318
8.	Madhya Pradesh	394835	592253
9.	Chhattisgarh	7374	13107
10.	Maharashtra	26000	230000
11.	Orissa	114188	76125
12.	Rajasthan	2885	31341
13.	Tripura	3280	6092
14.	Tamil Nadu	93750	531250
15.	Uttar Pradesh	89550	380450
16.	West Bengal	376086	698445

Increase in Civil Area under Cantonment Areas

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

(a) whether any proposal to increase the civil area under the cantonment area is pending with the Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal of Jabalpur cantonment is also included in this proposal;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken any action thereon;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to increase the civil area in proportion to the present population?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Public Telephones in Villages

395. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide huge funds to set up public telephones in a large number of villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the details of the villages in the country especially in Karnataka where this telephony facility would be provided under the above plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As on 30th September, 2007, an amount of rupees 88.58 crore has been disbursed from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as subsidy support for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs). USOF has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of VPTs in remaining 66,822 unconnected village in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas, naxalite infested areas etc. As on 30th September 2007, out of 66,822 unconnected eligible villages, 50,520 villages have been provided with VPTs facility. These 66,822 eligible villages were identified on the basis of 1991' census. As per the agreement with BSNL, no village has been awarded in

Karnataka for provision of VPTs as all the eligible villages have already been provided with VPTs prior to the agreement. However, based on census 2001, Government is reviewing the eligible villages for provision of VPTs in Karnataka. All such villages, found eligible after review, will be provided with VPT facility with subsidy support from USOF.

[Translation]

Education to Child Labour

396. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for educating child labours is being run by the Union Government in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure being followed for implementation of said programme at local level;

(c) whether the work related to locating and verification of child labourers is being carried out through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the complaints have been received regarding discrepancies in identification and verification of child labour in various States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and steps taken by the Government to remove these discrepancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 250 districts of the country for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme, funds are released to the District Child Labour Project Society headed by the District Collector. The District Collector, implements the Scheme including the work related to the survey of child labour with the help of selected Non-Government Organisations. Government is also implementing the Indo-US Child Labour (INDUS) Project in 21 districts of the country. In addition, a Scheme of Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for running special schools for child labour is also being implemented in the districts, which are not covered under NCLP/INDUS Projects.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Promotion of Animal Husbandry

397. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where animal husbandry is the main occupation;

(b) the scheme of the Government to promote animal husbandry in the country alongwith the success rate of said schemes;

(c) whether any special project is formulated or proposed to be formulated under this scheme keeping in view the geographical and environmental conditions of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Animal husbandry is primarily adopted as a secondary occupation in almost all the States.

(b) The Government is implementing a number of schemes for promotion of animal husbandry in the country. The details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement. These have played a significant role in supplementing family income and generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, besides providing cheap nutritional food to millions of people. According to National Sample Survey Organization's latest survey (July 2004 – June 2005 NSS 61st Round), the estimate of employment in animal husbandry sector was 11.44 million in principal status and 11.01 million in subsidiary status, which is 5.50% of the total working population of the country. The value of output from livestock sector was about Rs.1,85,166 crore at current prices during 2005-06, which is about 25.7% of the value of output from agriculture and allied sectors, in toto.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, most of the existing schemes are also being implemented in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

Statement

Schemes for promotion of animal husbandry

S.No.	Name of the Scheme
1	2
1.	National Projects for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding
2.	Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms

1	2
3.	Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme
4.	Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds
5.	Livestock Insurance
6.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases
7.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication
8.	Food & Mouth Disease Control Programme

[English]

Deep Sea Tuna Fishing

398. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for according sanction for joint venture project with World Tuna Development International Inc. (WTDI) for the exploitation of Deep Sea Tuna Fishery as per the revised guidelines;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded clearance to the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Government propose to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to establish a Joint Venture Project with World Tuna Development International Inc. (WTDI), USA for exploitation of Deep Sea Tuna Resources in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Government had earlier conveyed No Objection to Government of Andhra Pradesh for floating a joint venture company for this purpose. However, no permission has been granted as Government of Andhra Pradesh has since cancelled their joint venture proposal on 6th October, 2006.

[Translation]

Increase in Production of Tasar Silk

399. SHRI RAMDAS AHTAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Indian Tasar Silk has increased in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and production area of Tasar Silk to meet its demand; and

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilized by the Government to increase the production and production area of Tasar Silk during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Value of Tasar Silk goods exported during the last two years (2005-06 & 2006-07) is given below:

Particulars	2005-06	2006-07
	Value of exports in Rs. crores	(Provisional) Value of exports in Rs. crores
Tasar silk goods	118.62	129.49

There has been an increase in the value of exports as compared to the previous year.

(c) and (d) To boost the production of tasar silk and also to increase the area under non mulberry sectors in the Country, Ministry of Textiles, through Central Silk Board, implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) during X Plan in all tasar producing States in collaboration with the respective State Govts. The schemes under CDP were together aimed at development and expansion of host plantations, developments of farm infrastructure, up-gradation of reeling & processing technologies in silk, enterprise development programme etc. The schemes supported the stake holders in operation ranging from food plant cultivation to marketing of all the products.

The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized for implementation of various tasar components under CDP in the country, during the last three years i.e., 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise, is enclosed as Statement-I. The State-wise production area statistics of Tasar silk for the last two years (i.e. 2005-06 & 2006-07) is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Catalytic Development Programme (Tasar Sector)
Statewise amount spent / released by CSB during last
three years (2004-05 to 2006-07)*

		Rs. in lakhs		
Name of State		Allocation/Expenditure during the last 3 years		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	13.68	53.62	19.65
2	West Bengal	17.54	14.38	17.17
3	Maharashtra	1.77	6.77	3.04

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4	Madhya Pradesh	3.41	7.00	50.49	10	Uttaranchal	3.69	10.74	14.36
5	Orissa	18.14	84.87	45.00	11	Arunachal Pradesh		2.19	2.19
6	Bihar	17.09	15.34	13.45	12	Manipur	28.55	25.74	25.74
7	Uttar Pradesh	16.60	9.52	1.28	13	Mizoram	5.87	8.49	7.36
8	Chhattisgarh	121.87	117.23	54.83	14	Nagaland	8.01	6.89	6.89
9	Jharkhand		97.92	159.69	Total		256.22	460.70	421.14

Statement-II**State wise Tasar Area and Raw Silk Production During 2005-06 & 2006-07**

Sl.No.	State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Area Hectares	Raw Silk Metric Tonnes	Area Hectares	Raw Silk Metric Tonnes
1	Andhra Pradesh	3512	20	8674	15.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	45	Neg.	45	Neg.
3	Bihar	13158	14	13268	11
4	Chhattisgarh	8824	90	3632	110
5	Jharkhand	66520	96	78324	120
6	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	1
7	Madhya Pradesh	1970	16	1995	16
8	Maharashtra	16100	6	16100	7
9	Manipur	6750	3	6750	3
10	Mizoram	50	Neg	50	0.2
11	Nagaland	250	0.1	275	0.15
12	Orissa	8450	21	8450	35
13	Uttaranchal	114	5	174	0.15
14	Uttar Pradesh	400	3	1019	4
15	West Bengal	5130	34	5317	27
Total		131273	308	144073	350

Source: DOSs of all the States.

Neg - Less than 50 kg.

[English]**Diversion of Foodgrains**

400. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale diversion and distribution of poor quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases reported during the last one year, State-wise;

(c) the extent of losses suffered by the Government as a result of such diversions;

(d) whether the honourable Supreme Court has issued certain directions in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the steps taken by Government to implement the directives of the Supreme Court; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to strengthen PDS and check diversions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Certain complaints/reports have been received about diversion of foodgrains under PDS and their poor quality in some States.

Details of such complaints received from Jan. 2007 onwards are given below:-

Sl.No.	State	Complaints Received
1	2	3
1.	Maharashtra	3
2.	Madhya Pradesh	3
3.	Delhi	4
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1
5.	West Bengal	4
6.	Karnataka	2
7.	Punjab	2
8.	Haryana	2
9.	Andhra Pradesh	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
11.	Rajasthan	2
12.	Kerala	1

1	2	3
13.	Uttar Pradesh	5
14.	Tamil Nadu	1
15.	Bihar	1
16.	Jharkhand	1
17.	Pondicherry	1
Total		35

Since the complaints received have been sent to concerned State Government for inquiry and appropriate action, the extent of loss, if any, can be ascertained only on conclusion of the inquiries into those complaints.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) On Writ Petition No. 274 of 2005, Supreme Court has issued direction for ascertaining demand from TPDS beneficiaries of distribution of Atta and whole wheat, and thereafter wheat is to be issued by the State Governments to Flour mills for conversion into atta for distribution under TPDS. As per the direction of the Supreme Court, further action is to be taken by State Governments.

(g) Strengthening of the Targeted Public Distribution System to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Based on findings of earlier studies of TPDS, a Nine-Point Action Plan is already under implementation by States and UT Governments. Its implementation is monitored by the Central Government.

Additionally, a revised Citizens' Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

Incentives to Exporters of Textiles

401. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARAJA:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appreciation of rupee has affected the export of textiles while it has benefited the competing countries like China, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the textile exporters have demanded relief/incentives from the Union Government alongwith

the reimbursement of State and local level duties which are currently not reimbursed;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide incentives to the exporters of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of submissions by textiles and clothing export promotion councils and other associations, that the exports of textiles has been adversely affected due to the appreciation in the value of the Indian rupee vis-à-vis US dollar in the recent months. As per provisional figures released by the Directorate General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata for the period of April-May, 2007, India's textiles export shows a decline of over 11% in US dollar terms compared to the corresponding period of previous year. As per the latest US Department of Commerce's import figures of textiles items, the performance of India, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in US Markets is shown below during the period of January-August:

(Figures in Million US\$)

Exporting Country	2006	2007	% Growth
India	3870.8	3895.5	0.6
China	18320.5	22667.6	23.7
Pakistan	2258.9	2187.8	-3.1
Sri Lanka	1153.6	1131.0	-2.0

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau

(c) to (e) To arrest the decline in the country's textiles exports, and in view of the demands of the textiles exporters, the Government has provided several relief measures, which include increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.

[Translation]

Social Security for Unemployed Persons

402. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to provide social security to the unemployed persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cover all those who could not be provided employment within a specific period of time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FER-NANDES): (a) to (d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee NREG Act, 2005 provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Thus, NREG Act makes the Government legally accountable for providing employment to those who ask for it and thereby goes beyond providing a social safety net towards guaranteeing the Right to Employment. However, if a worker who has applied for work under NREG Act is not provided employment within 15 days from the date on which work is requested, an unemployment allowance shall be payable by the State Government at the rate prescribed in the Act. It was implemented in 200 identified districts in the country in its first phase with effect from 2.2.06 and has been extended to 130 more districts in the second phase with effect from 1.4.2007. However, the Government has now decided to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to the rural areas of all the remaining districts in the country including the Union Territories with effect from 1.4.2008.

[English]

Temporary Employees in Public and Private Sectors

403. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary employees engaged in public and private sectors, State-wise and Sector-wise;

(b) whether most of the temporary employees are deprived of medical benefits, insurance cover, etc;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to protect the rights of temporary workers in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FER-NANDES): (a) The information as maintained for the organized sector and available up to 31.03.2005 for both public/private sectors (State-wise) is enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) All employees including temporary employees on the rolls of factories/establishments falling within the coverage of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 are entitled to medical benefits as available under the ESI Scheme subject to fulfillment of certain contributory conditions.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Employment (in thousands)						Percentage Change		
		As on 31-3-2004			As on 31-3-2005			Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I.	North Zone	3021.8	1068.2	4090.0	2976.1	1073.0	4049.1	-1.5	0.5	-1.0
1	Haryana	395.6	255.5	651.0	389.9	258.0	647.9	-1.4	1.0	-0.5
2	Punjab	564.2	261.4	825.6	520.0	253.1	773.1	-7.8	-3.2	-6.4
3	Himachal Pradesh	247.7	49.5	297.2	258.4	58.9	317.3	4.3	19.1	6.8
4	Chandigarh	61.1	29.1	90.2	60.5	28.5	89.0	-1.0	-2.0	-1.3
5	Delhi	619.8	219.2	839.0	614.9	216.2	831.2	-0.8	-1.3	-0.9
6	Rajasthan	933.9	243.0	1176.9	932.8	247.7	1180.5	-0.1	1.9	0.3
7	Jammu & Kashmir	199.6	10.5	210.1	199.6	10.5	210.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
II.	Central Zone	3149.5	669.7	3819.2	3097.0	662.3	3759.2	-1.7	-1.1	-1.6
8	Madhya Pradesh	939.2	158.8	1098.0	915.3	155.7	1071.1	-2.5	-1.9	-2.4
9	Chhattisgarh	309.5	29.6	339.0	307.3	31.7	339.0	-0.7	7.2	0.0
10	Uttar Pradesh	1680.0	444.5	2124.6	1650.4	437.5	2087.9	-1.8	-1.6	-1.7
11	Uttaranchal	220.8	36.8	257.6	224.0	37.3	261.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
III.	North-Eastern Zone	894.1	601.8	1495.9	900.8	611.0	1511.9	0.8	1.5	1.1
12	Assam	525.2	572.1	1097.2	531.5	580.6	1112.2	1.2	1.5	1.4
13	Meghalaya	72.6	9.3	81.9	72.6	9.3	81.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	Manipur	77.9	2.7	80.6	77.9	2.7	80.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	Mizoram	40.1	1.4	41.5	40.1	1.4	41.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	Nagaland	67.8	3.5	71.3	68.2	4.1	72.3	0.5	18.7	1.4
17	Tripura	110.4	12.9	123.3	110.4	12.9	123.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
IV.	Eastern Zone	3369.3	949.6	4318.9	3332.7	1025.4	4358.1	-1.1	8.0	0.9
18	Bihar	494.7	32.5	527.1	494.7	32.5	527.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	Jharkhand	891.7	150.3	1042.0	891.7	150.3	1042.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	Orissa	663.3	86.1	749.4	659.9	90.2	750.1	-0.5	4.8	0.1
21	West Bengal	1319.6	680.7	2000.3	1286.4	752.4	2038.8	-2.5	10.5	1.9
V.	Western Zone	3020.6	2232.9	5253.5	3041.8	2319.2	5361.0	0.7	3.9	2.0
22	Gujarat	818.7	803.3	1622.0	832.1	861.4	1693.6	1.6	7.2	4.4
23	Maharashtra	2171.6	1392.3	3563.9	2137.6	1403.3	3540.9	-1.6	0.8	-0.6
24	Goa	28.4	24.8	53.2	70.0	41.9	111.9	146.6	69.2	110.5
25	Daman & Diu	2.20	12.5	14.5	2.0	12.5	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
VI.	Southern Zone	4706.4	2721.1	7427.6	4623.2	2758.2	7381.4	-1.8	1.4	-0.6
26	Andhra Pradesh	1444.0	620.7	2064.7	1395.8	647.0	2042.8	-3.3	4.2	-1.1
27	Karnataka	1067.1	753.2	1820.3	1059.3	802.8	1862.1	-0.7	6.6	2.3
28	Kerala	614.8	589.6	1204.4	614.9	524.9	1139.8	0.0	-11.0	-5.4
29	Pondicherry	40.2	16.2	56.4	40.4	17.6	58.0	0.5	8.4	2.7
30	Tamil Nadu	1540.3	741.3	2281.7	1512.8	765.9	2278.7	-1.8	3.3	-0.1
31	Amdaman & Nicobar	34.9	2.7	37.6	35.0	2.7	37.7	0.3	0.9	0.3
	Total	18196.7	8246.0	26442.7	18006.6	8451.8	26458.4	-1.0	2.5	0.1

@ The figures for these States were included in their parent States.

Allotment of Additional Spectrum

404. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

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

(a) whether the Telecom operators have been demanding additional spectrum to run the service efficiently and to add more subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared a road map in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Department of Telecommunications has allotted additional spectrum to big and profitable companies free of charge;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which they have agreed to expand their services;

(g) whether the Government is confident that releasing such an extra spectrum free of cost to these companies will be helpful in covering more areas in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) A Committee has been setup to recommend the revised subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for allotment of 2G Spectrum. However, the matter is sub-judice in Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

(e) to (h) No, Sir. The additional spectrum has been allotted to various mobile telecom operators, as per their request and taking into account the subscriber based eligibility criteria and subject to availability of spectrum in a telecom service area. The Service Providers have to pay additional percentage of revenue share for such additional spectrum.

Policy for Reinvigoration of Textile Sector

405. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal formulated to set up Territorial Textile Investment and Production Complexes to reinvigorate the textile sector,

(b) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the places/locations for setting up said complexes;

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

(d) the nature and benefits in terms of policy, tax and regulatory exemptions proposed to be extended to these complexes;

(e) whether the Government proposes to create new infrastructure facilities, financial instruments and marketing strategies for textile production in these complexes both for domestic and foreign markets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (f) The Government has decided to launch Investment Regions for the Textile Sector to consolidate the phenomenon of agglomeration, visible in textiles to further reduce transaction costs and enhance competitiveness. Concentrated, contiguous investment and production regions with high quality infrastructure and covering the entire value chain can help obviate, to an extent, the burden imposed by multiple levies, high power costs, bottlenecks in shipment and delays in legal clearances. They can become textile hubs with billions of dollars of investment – both domestic and foreign. The investment region is proposed to be developed in a Public Private Partnership mode to enable leveraging Government investments in these regions.

Accordingly a Concept Paper on the "Policy Resolution for Textile Infrastructure Development Fund and Textile Territorial Investment & Production Complex" has been drawn up. No further details have been worked out.

Export of Handicrafts and Carpet

406. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Indian handicrafts in the world market has increased considerably while the demand of Indian carpet is decreasing year after year;

(b) if so, the total exports of handicrafts and carpet during each of the last three years and thereafter separately;

(c) the total estimate made by Planning Commission for the export of handicraft and carpet during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government is giving any special compensation or helping the workers engaged in the handicrafts and carpet manufacturing sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to compete with China which is likely to grab greater share of handicraft market in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The demand of both handicraft and Indian carpet has been increasing during the last three years. The exports figures of handicrafts and carpets of last three years are as below:-

Year	Rs. in crore	
	Handicrafts (Provisional)	Carpet (Provisional)
2004-05	13032.70	2583.62
2005-06	14526.85	3082.06
2006-07	17288.14	3674.86
2007-08 (April-Oct.)	6750.08 (Prov. April-Oct., 2006)	1598.14 (April-Oct., 2006)

(c) The total estimate proposed by Govt. for the export target of handicrafts and carpet during the 11th Plan period year-wise are as follows:-

Year	Handicrafts		Carpet	
	Rs. in crore	(US\$ Million)	Rs. in crore	(US\$ Million)
2007-08	21000.00	4500	4278.50	947.02
2008-09	22000.00	5500	4827.00	1068.43
2009-10	27500.00	6875	5460.00	1208.55
2010-11	35200.00	8800	6225.00	1377.88
2011-12	46000.00	11500	7127.63	1577.67

(d) and (e) There is no provision under schemes implemented by Govt. to provide any special compensation directly to the artisans engaged in handicrafts & carpet manufacturing sector. However, the Master craftspersons are sponsored to participate for display and live demonstration in the international fairs/exhibitions under agreed Cultural Exchange Programme between India & other nations from time to time. In addition, Master craftspersons also participate in the

overseas events through Central/State Handicrafts Development Corporations/Export Promotion Councils, etc. Apart from this a health insurance Scheme for the artisans is also implemented.

(f) Govt. has taken steps under 11th Plan which include participation in international exhibitions/fairs, organizing of seminars on Brand Image Promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad with a view to create awareness/exposure which ultimately helps to enhance share of handicrafts in the global market.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 noon.

11.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twelve of the Clock.

12.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Loss of several thousands of lives and large scale damage to property caused by severe cyclone 'Sidr' that struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh

[English]

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

Hon. Members, as you are aware, a severe cyclone 'Sidr' hit the coastal regions of Bangladesh causing large-scale devastation which has resulted in death of several thousands of people and caused immense loss of property.

The House expresses its deep sense of sorrow over the loss of lives and property in this calamity and joins the people of Bangladesh in this hour of grief and distress.

The House may now stand in silece for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

12.01 ½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Devastation caused by recent cyclone that struck the coastal areas of Bangladesh *

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seat. The Leader of the House wants to make a Statement on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, on this very issue, I would like to make a Statement.

I rise to inform the hon. House about the recent cyclone and the devastation it has caused in neighbouring Bangladesh.

As the hon. Members would be aware, a severe cyclone hit Bangladesh, especially its coastal districts, on 15th November causing in its wake death and devastation. More than 2300 are reported dead as of now and several thousands rendered homeless. An estimated 2.7 million people have also been affected, thousands of livestock killed and standing crops and infrastructure severely damaged.

Rashtrapatiji and the Prime Minister have written to their counterparts in Bangladesh expressing our distress at this tragedy and conveying our deep condolence and our readiness to assist in the relief efforts. Yesterday, I have spoken to Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Foreign Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh and mentioned to him our readiness to send relief supplies to supplement the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh.

As Bangladesh struggles to come to terms with this devastation, in keeping with our close ties and our empathy with the friendly people of Bangladesh in this hour of need, the Government of India has decided to respond immediately with a comprehensive relief package. Our offer will consist of relief materials required urgently by those affected. This package will consist of medicine, food items, milk powder, tents and blankets, first-aid kits and other relief items.

The hon. Members will recollect that India has always responded readily to such requests from Bangladesh earlier, the most recent one being a few months ago when considerable devastation was caused

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 7177/07

by mudslides during the monsoons. We are already in the process of supplying essential food items to Bangladesh. We will continue to extend whatever assistance we can this time as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is good. The Government has taken notice of this.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): What about the Nandigram issue?

MR. SPEAKER: After the Papers are laid, I will allow you.

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated 9th October, 2007 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka published in Notification No. G.S.R. 653 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2007 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7166/07]

- (2) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated 9th October, 2007 made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R. 654(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7167/07]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Karnataka dated the 8th October, 2007 to the President.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7168/07]

- (4) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 12th November, 2007 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier proclamation issued by her on 9th

October, 2007 in relation to the State of Karnataka published in Notification No. G.S.R. 700 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7169/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 431 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2007, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7170/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2) (a) of the Constitution:-

- (1) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007 (No. 7 of 2007), promulgated by the President on the 15th September, 2007.
- (2) The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 (No. 8 of 2007), promulgated by the President on the 27th October, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7171/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7172/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Co-operative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7173/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Bank and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7174/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7175/07]

12.05 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Eleventh Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 13th August, 2007:-

1. The State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
2. The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2007;
3. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2007;
4. The Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
5. The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
6. The Carriage by Road Bill, 2007.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
2. The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007;
3. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill 2007;
4. The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and
5. The Merchants Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7176/07]

12.06 hrs.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a letter dated 13th September, 2007 from

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri, AVSM, an elected Member from Garhwal Parliamentary constituency, Uttarakhand, resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect. I accept his resignation w.e.f. 13th September, 2007.

12.06 ¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

15th, 16th and 17th Reports

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shir N. Janardhana Reddy – Not present.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (GUWAHATI): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2007-08):-

- (i) Fifteenth Report* on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Activities of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons – A Review;
- (ii) Sixteenth Report* on 'Supply, Distribution and Marketing of Natural Gas including CNG and LNG'; and
- (iii) Seventeenth Report* on 'Strategy for Development of Alternative Sources of Oil and Gas'.

12.06 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

32nd, 33rd and 34th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways:-

- (i) 32nd Report on Performance of New Railway Zones*
- (ii) 33rd Report on Industrial Relations and Employee Welfare in the Railways.*
- (iii) 34th Report on sub-urban and Metro Rail.*

12.06 ¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

199th and 200th Reports

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on Table of the House a copy of each of the following Reports of the Standing committee on Human Resource Development:-

- (i) 199th Report on North Eastern Hill University Shillong; and
- (ii) 200th Report on 'Indira Gandhi national Tribal University Bill, 2007.'

12.07 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 11. He is just announcing the statement regarding Government Business.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing today, the 19th of November, 2007 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

*The Reports were presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 21 October, 2007 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session and the Hon'ble Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of these Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

* The 32nd and 33rd Reports were presented to the Hon'ble Speaker on 14th September, 2007 and 34th Report was presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 6th November, 2007 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session and the Hon'ble Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of these Reports under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007.
3. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and passing of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007.
4. Consideration and passing of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007.
5. Consideration and passing of the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
6. Consideration and passing of the National Jute Board, Bill, 2006.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: According to the Rules, hon. Members should give notice or try to make a request for raising their issues.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to you after three or four Members have made their submissions.

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business —

1. Need to bring a legislation to constitute National Farmers Debt Relief Commission to deal with the agrarian crises in the country.
2. Need to bring a legislation to ensure merit in admission, reservation to backward communities to meet social justice and to prevent financial exploitation by the self-financing professional colleges in the country. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, prices of milk have been revised several times during the last one and a half years. Again these were revised last month and there is an apprehension that the milk prices are likely to be revised in the next January. Why the public sector dairies do not take care of interests of various sections of society especially the backward one's while revising their prices.

Daily earning of 80% people of our country is only Rs. 20. A such with one litre of milk how many children will be nourished by a family and how many times a family will afford to take tea in a day when they feel its necessity. The Government and the Public Sector Milk dairies should give a serious thought to it while revising the prices of milk, otherwise weaker sections of society will fall prey to malnutrition. At least prices of essential commodities like milk should be prevented from spiraling.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Satya Narayan Jatiya

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Both these submissions are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (i) Need to upgrade the university of Rajasthan to a Central University as land, building and well qualified faculty are already available there.
- (ii) Need to accord the status of All India Institute of Medical Sciences AIIMS to the Sawai Man Singh Hospital at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

*Dr. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the following two items may be included in the Next week's agenda:-

- (i) Need to take effective steps to develop basic infrastructure essential for development of the country like electricity, roads and water and ensure annual action — plan by fixing targets in the five year plan to accord highest priority to them.
- (ii) Need to formulate policies and programmes aimed at making agriculture remunerative industry through a provision of special assistance and grants to agriculture by the Centre on the lines of industry because the prosperity of villages and poor farmers is based on agriculture. ... (Interruptions)

*Laid on the Table

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Sepaker, Sir, the Nandigram issue should be taken up first of all. After that any other issue can be taken up. Hundreds of people have been killed there. People are being killed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not before the House. Until I agree this is not before the House. I have not yet admitted the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

- (i) **Need to enhance annual allocation of funds for doubling of railway line between Ramanagaram-Mysore**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The Karnataka Government have submitted the following two important proposals to the Railway Ministry:-

- (i) The project of doubling railway line from Bangalore-Ramanagaram has been taken up by Railway Ministry. The Railway have now approved the doubling between Ramanagaram-Mysore in the 2007-08 Budget with an allocation of Rs. 16.15 crore. The total estimate for doubling and electrification is Rs. 343.18 crore. The State Government has been urging the Railways to enhance the allocation Rs. 90 crore per annum to complete the project in two years; and
- (ii) The Kottur-Harihar New Railway Line Project is a 65 km project. Considering the economic viability and increased potential for transportation of Iron Ore from Bellary region, the State Government has been requesting to convert this project to a Public Private Partnership Project. The total amount released so far by the State Government has gone up to Rs. 40 crore. The Railways have provided Rs. 30.70 crore in the 2007-08 Budget. The total cost is about Rs. 290 crore and the expenditure so far is Rs. 40 crore. The State Government has been

urging the Railways to enhance allocation of Rs. 65 crore per annum to complete this project in next two years.

I urge upon the Government to consider both the requests favourably.

- (ii) **Need to conduct a special recruitment drive in Akhnoor, Jammu and Kashmir for recruitment of youths in Defence and Para Military Forces**

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Akhnoor in Jammu and Kashmir is the bordering area and had been severely affected due to wars between India and Pakistan in 1947, 1965, 1971 and Kargil War in 1999, besides militancy and other unforeseen circumstances in this area and hence, people of this area could not complete higher studies and hence, they are now jobless without any fault on their part. As a result of the unemployment problem, they are not capable to shoulder the responsibilities towards their family and are being brainwashed by the militants for their ulterior motive. I urge upon the Government to conduct a special recruitment drive in Akhnoor Jammu and Kashmir for recruitment of young people in Defence and Para Military forces.

- (iii) **Need to fix a higher Minimum Support Price for paddy**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, paddy is one of the most important crop produced in the Southern States in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu and the majority of farmers are engaged in the production of the same. But the farmers are not getting necessary assistance and adequate support price for their produce. Due to this, the farmers in these States are driven to poverty and some of them even committed suicides.

Recently, the Union Government had fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat, paddy, etc. The MSP for wheat has been substantially increased from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 1,000/- a quintal. However, the MSP is fixed at Rs. 645/- and Rs. 695/- a quintal for two varieties of paddy. The incentive given to wheat farmers has not extended to the paddy farmers. The MSP for paddy in the last four years was just 17% as compared to 35% in the case of wheat. Recently Government announced additionally 50 Rs. Per quintal even through that is not sufficient.

Over the years, the cost of cultivation of paddy had increased substantially. The substantial fall in the availability of agriculture labour in rural areas ultimately leading to increase in the labour cost. The wide variation between the market price of paddy and the MSP fixed by the Centre should be removed.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government either the MSP for paddy be fixed at a higher level or a special incentive price for paddy should be announced at the earliest.

(iv) Need to expedite the Darjeeling Drinking Water Project of Balasan in West Bengal

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): The U.P.A. Government sanctioning 50 crores of rupees has helped to solve the hundred years old drinking water problem of Darjeeling. In December 2005 a sum of Rs. to crores was released to start the Darjeeling Drinking Water Project of Balasan.

On 19th February 2006 the Chief Minister of West Bengal laid the foundation of this project. This project is a time bound project of two years. Almost a year has been passed but no concrete work has been started yet. Ramky Infrastructure Ltd. with its head office in Hyderabad has taken up this project but it is regretted that the main work of this project has not been started yet.

The said company has simply started to construct the road but it is also not satisfactory. The company should start the work of the main project immediately otherwise the cost will go up and the amount sanctioned would not be sufficient to complete the project and the people of Darjeeling will suffer. The Ramky infrastructure Ltd. should come to the site and start the main project immediately. In the meantime in order to provide Drinking Water to the people of Darjeeling the existing conduit lines and the springs from where water is being brought to the lakes should be repaired and old pipe lines which carry water from the Lakes to Darjeeling through the Filter House at Jorebunglow should be repaired. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to sanction an additional sum of rupees five crores for these repair works.

(v) Need to Implement 'Swajaldhara' scheme in Mehsana Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, there is scarcity of drinking water in my parliamentary constituency of Mehsana. People have to fetch water from far off places. The contents of fluoride have got mixed with water in the process of digging oil and gas wells and extracting the same from them. People are falling sick and becoming handicapped after drinking the above contaminated water. The Ministry of Rural development has informed that 37 swajaldhara schemes have been

implemented in my constituency. The people should get water if these schemes have been implemented but the drinking water crisis still continues even after implementation of these schemes. Had these 37 schemes been implemented, the drinking water situation in my parliamentary constituency of Mehsana would have been eased.

I would, therefore, request the Government, through the House, that the problem of drinking water in my constituency is quite acute. Therefore, the Ministry of Rural Development may kindly implement many more new schemes under the 'Swajaldhara'.

(vi) Need to convert the Bharuch-Jambusar railway line into broad-gauge and restart the railway line between Netra and Ankleshwar extending it upon Nandurbar.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, demands of the people in several parts of my constituency Bharuch pertaining to railways are not being met due to which people have to face a lot of problems. Therefore, it is necessary to convert Bharuch - Jambusar narrow line into broadgauge. It is an extremely backward area. Netra-Ankleshwar narrow gauge line has been lying dysfunctional for the last many years. It should be converted into broad gauge and extended from Netra to Nandurbar in Maharashtra via Dalia Para, Sagbara, Selamba. It is a tribal area and absence railway service is causing immense problem to the people. The tribal people living in these areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra will get better transport facility with the extension of broadgauge rail line from Netra to Nandurbar and it will also facilitate the economic development of these tribal people.

I, therefore, request the Government through the House, to convert the Bharuch - Jambusar narrowgauge line into broad-gauge. The Netra-Ankleshwar dysfunctional narrowgauge rail line should also be converted into broadgauge and extended upto Nandurbar.

(vii) Need to check the further spread of 'Leppropyrosis' in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): There has been an outbreak of epidemic in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It has been noticed that in many places after 3 days fever, the patient dies instantly. A large number of patients with fever are now in different dispensaries and Public Health Centres. The fever has been identified as Leppropyrosis by the Indian

Medical Council. Every year this fever attack large number of population of this far flung area. I feel that urgent steps needs to be taken to get the disease examined by a team of scientist specialists of reputed laboratories and particularly by World Helath Organisation.

I urge upon the Union Government to take all possible and immediate measures in the best interest of the common people living in the far flung remote islands.

(viii) Need to provide adequate compensation to the farmers of Nagpur whose land is being acquired for setting up of Special Economic Zone.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Sir, special economic zones are being created in the country. The special economic zone of Maharashtra come under multi-model international Hub Airport Nagpur (Mohan Prkalp) wherein 4311 hectare of land of farmers is being acquired by the State Government and the compensation for the acquired land is being provided to farmers at the rate of Rs. 5 lakh per acre is causing discontentment among them. The market rate of land in the vicinity of Nagpur is more than Rs. 1 crore per acre. It is being said that this acquisition is being done with the permission of the Union Government. This acquisition would make many farmers homeless and the incidents of suicide by farmers would certainly increase. The farmers of Mohan Prkalp may be compensated at market price i.e. at least at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per acre. Apart from it, job in this prakalp may be provided to one member of each family within a year whose land has been acquired.

(ix) Need to include 'Bhojpuri' language in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, the largest dialect of the world 'Bhojpuri' is being spoken by 16 crore people across the area of 70 thousand square kilometers. It is widely spoken in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. It has a broad base in 27 countries including Tarai area of Nepal, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, Thailand, Holland, Malaysia and Singapore. Though the word 'Bhoj' from which Bhojpur has originated, is mentioned by the Maharishi Vishwamitra in the 'Rigved' the history of Bhoj kings including Raja Bhoj of Malwa, Bhoj of Ujjain, Gurjar Pratihhar Bhoj, Bhoj kings of Kashi and Dugraon mentioned in Mahabharat and various other scriptures is evidence of comprehensiveness and deep rootedness of Bhojpuri.

Hundreds of saints, men of literature, thinkers and critics like Guru Gorakhnath ji, Chowrangi nathji, Yogiraj Bhartrihari, Kabirdas, Kamaldass, Dharamdas, Dharnidas, Paltudas, Bheekha Saheb, through their writings of folk stories, songs, and sayings in Bhojpuri have helped its smooth transition from one generation to another. Writers like Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan, Dr. Bhagwatisharan Upadhyay and Chaturi Chacha have taken Bhojpuri prose literature to new heights.

Sir, there were 14 lanugages in Eighth Schedule of the original form of the Indian Constitution. Later Sindhi, Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Malthili, Dogri, Santhali and Bodo languages were also included therein. Bhojpur culture, while having respect for all these languages would like to know whether Bhojpuri lacks any of those qualities which are part of those languages which were included in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, taking into account the feelings of 16 crore people Bhojpuri may also be included in Eighth Schedule immediately.

(x) Need to cover more villages under 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Scheme' in Rajasthan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, with the efforts of present Vasundhra Government in the State of Rajasthan, the State has come out of the category of Bimaru States and now it has been included in the list of developing States. The original base of development is power. Though sufficient development works are being executed in Rajasthan with the help of Hydropower, thermal Power and atomic power, but in the past only the Panchayat headquarters of Rajasthan had been electrified in the name of electrification and it was assumed that the entire panchayat had been electrified though there are many a large Raj Savgaon Dhajiya, Majre larger than a panchayat itself which remain unelectrified. Therefore, most of the village/Mazras / Dhamiya of the Rajasthan have not been electrified so far. The Government of Rajasthan has forwarded 41 proposals under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidhyutikaran Scheme, out of which only 27 schemes have been sanctioned. In principle approval has been accorded to 12 proposals. Thousands of Mazra, Dhaniyan, Raj-savgaon have not been electrified so far. Therefore, it is reuested that keeping in view the border position, backwardness, adverse geological position of Rajasthan all the remaining villages, Dhamiyan and Maajra may please cover under the Rajiv Gandhi Gram Vidyutikaran Scheme and electrified at the earliest.

- (xi) **Need to evolve proper mechanism to provide relief to the coconut growers in Kerala distressed due to adverse market situations**

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): The agrarian sector in the State of Kerala has been experiencing crisis for couple of years. The fall in prices of agricultural produces particularly that of the cash crops has seriously affected a large section of farmers in the State.

The Coconut crop is the main stay of the state's agriculture. For the last many years coconut farmers in the state have been facing serious crisis due to fall in prices as well as recurring diseases of the coconut tree. The new decision to allow large-scale import of Palm Oil from abroad will further cripple this sector. This will result in further lowering of prices of coconut oil and allied products.

In view of the grave situation, I urge the Central Government to step in urgently and save the coconut farmers of the country and also evolve proper mechanism for the purpose.

- (xii) **Need to provide road connectivity from Thuravoor on N.H.47 to Main Central Road in Kerala under Central Road Fund Project**

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Alappuzha is a coastal district with a stretch of 92 km of straight highway extending from Aroor to Oachira. Alappuzha is emerging as a tourism destination as it is famous for backwater tourism. This place is also known as the cradle of coir industry and hence declared by the Ministry of Commerce as the "Export Excellence" for coir industry. Aroor is famous for marine exports and more than 80% of the seafood export from Kerala is from this place. Aroor is also declared as the "Town of Export Excellence" from marine products. There are only limited connectivity to this coastal district to the high ranges of Kerala. Hence a road from N.H-47 at Thuravoor connecting to Main Central (M.C Road) Road via Thycattusserry and Makkekadavu-Neeraekadavu is economically very important and this can be connected both to H.H-49 as well as to N.H-220. This can perform as a link road from the coast to the High ranges. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to consider this under Central Road Funds to the state of Kerala.

[English]

- (xiii) **Need to ensure regular supply of power from NTPC Diviyapur to the farmers of District Auriya, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, while drawing the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Power, I'd like to state, through the House, that in my

parliamentary constituency, there is an installation of the N.T.P.C. at Diviyapur in distt. Auriya. With the setting up of the said installation, lacs of people were rendered homeless but they have not been compensated so far. It is very unfortunate whereas it is mandatory for the installation authorities to provide electricity, water, sanitation and schools in the entire distt. In Raebareli also, there is an installation of the NTPC which is distributing electricity in the entire distt. and compensation has also been given to all affected people.

Therefore, I urge the hon'ble Minister to arrange for distribution of power in the entire Auriya distt. from the NTPC at Diviyapur on the lines of NTPC Raebareli and the farmers should be provided electricity round-the-clock.

- (xiv) **Need to upgrade the existing State Highway No. 26 linking Bareilly-Pilibhit-Basti In Uttar Pradesh to the level of National Highway.**

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to state highway No. 26 linking Bareilly-Pilibhit-Basti in my parliamentary constituency. It is a very important route but its condition is very miserable. People living in the plains depend on this route. The upgradation of Bareilly-Pilibhit-Basti route is very necessary for the development of entire area. Therefore, I request the Government to accord the route the status of a national highway so that the upgradation of the route may take place smoothly.

- (xv) **Need to open an I.I.T. in Patna, Bihar from the academic session 2008-09**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I welcome the Government's decision to open an I.I.T. in Bihar. The State Government has provided land at Bihta, Patna for setting up of the I.I.T. The Union Government should commence I.I.T. studies there in some temporary building from the next session 2008-09 and when the arrangements for its own building are made, it may be shifted to that building. This decision of the Government would indeed prove a good step for the development of Bihar.

Through this House, I urge the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to take a decision in this regard without any delay and take necessary steps to commence I.I.T. studies in Bihar from the session 2008-09.

- (xvi) **Need to extend the enhanced productivity linked bonus to all the employees of the Central Government**

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): While welcoming the recent amendment made in the Payment

of Bonus Act by way of Ordinance, to increase the eligibility limit of workers for bonus from Rs.3500 to 10000, and to increase the bonus ceiling from Rs. 2500 to Rs.3500, a hike of Rs.1000, to maximum of Rs.2400, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that Central Government employees like Railway employees, Postal employees and other Central Government employees have not been benefited by this Amendment.

The productivity linked bonus for Central Government employees is continued to be fixed at the maximum of Rs.2500 and no increase has been given despite demands from various unions. Like other workers, Central Government workers are also working in the competitive environment and are contributing a lot to the economy and progress of the country. I would, therefore urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the concerned Ministers to take steps to increase the productivity linked bonus to all the workers in the Central Government immediately since it is almost one month when the amendment in the Payments of Bonus Act has been made.

(xvii) Need to accord approval to the amendments made by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDHANA): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the increasing incident of adulteration in milk and other food products. Both Houses of Maharashtra Legislature have approved a proposal to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to make all punishable offences cognizable and non-bailable. The aforesaid bill is pending with the M/o Home Affairs and M/o Health and Family Welfare.

There is an urgent need to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 so as to make all punishable offences cognizable and non-bailable.

(xviii) Need for fixation of royalty on coal and other minerals at 20% of sale price on ad valorem basis

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Revision in rates of royalty on coal and other minerals be done in regular intervals and the decision about revision of rates of royalty be taken well before the date on which the revision falls due so that it can be notified immediately. The 11th Finance Commission has recommended accordingly and has also mentioned categorically that, "in case, the process of revision is not completed by the date the new revision is due, the State should be entitled to compensation". In spite of such recommendation by the

11th Finance Commission, the royalty rates been revised after a gap of nearly five years. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to compensate for the losses due to non-revision of royalty for the last two years.

There is a need for fixation of royalty at 20% of sale price on ad valorem basis. As royalty is being fixed as per hybrid formula, many mine bearing states, including Orissa don't get any benefit at all. If full ad valorem rate of royalty is adopted, no one would suffer any significant loss of revenue even if royalty rates are not revised in time.

In Kesoram Industries case, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has upheld the right of the State Government to impose tax on mineral bearing land. Therefore revision in the rates of coal royalty should in no way circumscribe the power of the state to impose levies on mineral bearing land in order to improve socio economic lives of the people in the mining area. Therefore, I would urge upon the government to delete the clause relating to adjustment of royalty for cess/tax from the said notification.

(xix) Need to expedite the completion of Konar Canal Irrigation Project in District Koderma, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazari-bagh): Sir, the work on Konar Canal Irrigation Project in Hazari-bagh distt. (now Koderma) in Jharkhand was undertaken at a cost of Rs. 11 crore in the year 1977 and now the cost of this project has escalated to the tune of Rs.4000 crore. The pace of the work is so slow that the farmers have not got even a drop of water for irrigation of their fields even after a period of 30 years. The Government of Bihar, at that time, constructed big offices and appointed engineers and office bearers for the Konar Canal Irrigation Project separately. Thousands of staff have been appointed. Crores of rupees are being spent every month on their pay and allowances. The Government has not succeeded till date in achieving the purpose for which the said project was launched.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take effective steps immediately in this regard so that farmers get water for their fields.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 20th November, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

12.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 20, 2007/Kartika 29, 1929 (Saka).

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533/9	is starred		to unstarred

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