

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 05, 2006/Agrahayana 14, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I shall try to accommodate everybody, subject to my limitations.

...(Interruptions)

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Congratulating Ms. Moneru Humpy on Winning First Gold Medal in Asian Games, Doha, Qatar

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is a matter of pride that Chess Grand Master Ms. Koneru Humpy has won the country's first gold medal in women's rapid format chess event in the ongoing Asian Games at Doha, Qatar.

Her golden triumph has brought laurels to the country.

I am sure the House would join me in congratulating this sportswoman on her wonderful accomplishment.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Saheb, I will call you first at 12 o'clock.

[English]

As soon as the Question Hour is over, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): I will not speak at 12 o'clock....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please do not call Dhindsaji at 12.00 hrs. Please call him during 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Did I commit any mistake by saying 12 o'clock, I do not understand, [English] so I am sorry my 'Hindi' is not good.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Saheb, your issue is very important. You please give me one minute. [English] Shri Dhindsa, you want to raise a very important issue. I will call you first at 12 o'clock. [Translation] I do not know what is wrong in saying 12 o'clock. [English] As soon as the Question Hour is over, I will call you. Please cooperate. You are a statesman.

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: There will be trouble if one says 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have committed a mistake. I am sorry. I withdraw my words.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am deeply appreciative of your cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar, Question No. 182.

[Translation]

Dealing with Naxalites

*182. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing difficulties in dealing with naxalites due to various infrastructural and resource limitations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to identify the areas requiring improvement in our forces dealing with naxalites;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide helicopter to naxal affected States;

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

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The naxal affected States have taken steps to set up/streamline special security and intelligence structures to effectively deal with the naxalite menace.

(e) and (f) Some of the naxal affected States have been using helicopters for need based evacuation of casualties, movement of police personnel and supply of food and medicines. The Central Government provides this facility to them subject to availability of helicopters.

(g) The Government has been pursuing a multi-

pronged strategy to address the naxal problem on political, security and development fronts. While effective and sustained police action is taken individually and jointly by the States to counter the naxal violence, the naxal affected States have also been asked to improve delivery and monitoring mechanisms to ensure accelerated development in the naxal affected areas. The Central Government continues to coordinate and supplement the efforts and resources of the State Governments on both security and development fronts to meet the challenge posed by the naxal problem.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of naxalism is very severe especially in my constituency located in Maharashtra along Andhra border, the entire Chhattisgarh State and in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. The Government have given evasive reply regarding solving their problems. Since this problem is getting aggravated day by day, so I am of the opinion that the Government should convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the above three States and talk to them for taking collective efforts to tackle this problem, because if police takes action against naxalites in Bhandara or Godia district they sneak into Durg district of Chhattisgarh and when police exerts pressure on them there, they enter Balaghat. It is on account of this that this problem is taking a serious turn. These days naxals are moving around in the villages in groups of 50-60. The Government should take it seriously. I would like to know whether the Government are serious for making the coordinated efforts to crush the naxals movement by way of taking into confidence the Chief Ministers of the three States. If so, the efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, it is a good question. So, I would like to say something in details in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has suggested that discussion should be held with the Chief Ministers. I would like to submit that we have held discussions with the Chief Ministers earlier also and such discussions are frequently held with the Chief Minister. The Chief Ministers hold discussions with me at my level, but sometimes they also meet the hon'ble Prime Minister. Beside this, Union

Home Secretary also holds talks with the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States. The Special Secretary of our Ministry holds discussions with the DG of the States. As far the system of discussion is concerned, it is already in place. An Empowered Committee of Ministers has been constituted by the Government to further streamline the system. It has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Home Affairs. When the meeting of the Committee is held, it is chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs. The said Committee has been asked to take all the measures which are required to be taken.

Sir, it has been asked as to what action has been taken by the Government in this regard. In the reply, I have stated that a lot many steps have been taken to tackle the problem of naxalism. We have also asked the State Governments to prepare strategy required to tackle this serious problem in their respective States. Along with that I have also asked them to hold discussions with their respective neighbouring states as well so that if the naxalites after committing crimes in one State sneak into other states, he or she may be nabbed there. Such discussions are being held. We have asked each of the States to appoint nodal officers to take coordinated action so that they hold discussions with one another.

Sir, the third thing is that 37 battalions of police have been given to the Naxalite affected States. 37 battalions means 37 thousand policemen and officers have been given to those states. I am saying all these things because very often it is said that this thing was not done or that thing was not done. That is why we have provided them so much of force. We have told them that helicopters will not be provided to the States for direct action against naxalite movement. Rather helicopter will be provided to them for evacuation of casualties and movement of police personnel. We provide helicopter facility to them. We have told the States that they can hire helicopter and the rent will be borne by the Central Government.

Sir, besides the above assistance, thousands of crores of rupees are being given as financial assistance to the States to streamline and strengthen their police force. Special arrangements are being made to provide training to the police force of the affected States. Necessary training has been provided to the police of each of the States to take special action in forest areas. I would like to

say for your information that apart from the above assistance, armoured vehicles have also been provided to them. Armoured vehicle are those vehicles which are used for safe movement of police force. In case of shelling, the vehicle provides protection to those sitting inside the vehicle. Many such steps have been taken by the Government the details of which have been given in the report that has been submitted in the House. In that report the details about the steps taken by the Centre and State Governments to tackle naxalism in Naxal affected States have also been given. The steps taken for cooperation and coordination among the States have also been given in the report. All these details have been supplied as duly signed documents. If the hon'ble Members go through the report, they will get more information about the steps taken by us in this regard. Besides this, if the hon'ble Members want to suggest something more, we are prepared to take action accordingly.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a small point is that when naxalites take actions and resort of firing, particularly Adivasis are killed. I am talking particularly of Maharashtra and would like to say that in Sanfaresis village of Gondia district old persons were caught and they were arrested. In such circumstances, impartial action is not taken. Old people are termed as police informers by naxalites and they are killed. I am talking about my area Garhchirauli. Naxalites killed many people there as they suspected that those persons were police informers. They were pin pointed and killed. There is no bread earner left in their family.

In such a situation will the Union Government give compensation of at least Rs. two lakh for rehabilitating the families of persons killed by the naxalites on the lines of compensation given by the States in suicide or other cases? If an innocent person is killed during police firing, compensation is given to rehabilitate the family of the victim. Would the same be made applicable for a person killed in naxalite firing and the Union Government will give grant to the affected citizens?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is also a very good question and in its reply I would like to say that the State Government provides them aid. When the State Governments provide such aid, funds are given to them by the Union Government. For his kind information, I would

like to say that not to say of Rs. 2 lakh which he is talking about, aid of much more than this amount has been provided in several States. Thirdly, a new Bill has been brought before the House and it has been referred to the Committee. In that Bill, provision has been made to penalize only those who have committed the crime, and provision for granting compensation to the victims has also been made. Whenever a person is murdered, raped or grievously hurt, it is the duty of the society to provide help and we are going to make a legal provision in this regard by amending the Criminal Procedure Code. Till the legislation is enacted, steps are being taken by the States and the Union Government to do the needful.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: It should be assured that the Union Government will provide aid to those families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has admitted that.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: No, he has passed the buck to the State Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to tell him that if he goes through the note I have given, he would come to know that we are giving one to three lakh rupees of aid as ex-gratia and in some cases the Government have given even Rs. seven lakhs. All these things having been done, nonetheless, it is our misfortune that our good deeds are never discussed, but our faults always become a point of discussion.

[English]

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Orissa has made a request to the Centre for the deployment of additional battalions of paramilitary forces in the naxalite affected areas of Orissa and if so, the steps so far taken by the Central Government thereon. Is it a fact that the State Government of Orissa has asked for suitable compensation to the State towards bearing the expenditure incurred by the State and for checking the naxalite menace? If so, what are the steps taken by the

Centre to consider the proposal of the State Government in this regard?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Orissa was one of the States where the law and order situation, peace and tranquility were in an acceptable condition. But in recent times, the situation has worsened and the Orissa Government has also asked for some more forces. We are in the process of giving them the forces. But just now, as I explained to the House, 37 battalions have been given to the naxalite affected States. That means, 37,000 men and officers have been given.

We will be helping them with more battalions if they want. Already four battalions, that is, 4,000 men and officers have been given to them. We have also allowed them to raise three IR battalions. They have raised two IR battalions and they are in the process of raising one more IR battalion. They have asked for more help and we are going to give them the help. But the only thing which has to be done when a large number of men and officers are given to them, is that they have to be deployed in a proper manner. If they are given the static duties and if they are standing at one place and if they are not deployed in areas where they have to act, then giving large number of men and officers is of no use. What is required is to develop a kind of tactics and strategy to deal with the matter. If it is not done, mere number of men would not help.

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important matter. I will allow a few more questions.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the media reports the Naxalites are changing tact and moving to establish urban centres as well. It is a very dangerous trend. If this is so—if this is a fact—then what is the Government doing to have a shared information mechanism between the Centre and the States?

The Naxalites and the extremists have completely differing ideologies, completely differing values and beliefs. But latest reports are that even the extremists are also getting people from within the Naxalites. If this is the case—again it is a very important and dangerous trend—what is the Government doing about it?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We know that different kinds of strategies are developed by those people who want to create terrorism and are resorting to violence in the country.

The forests provide them the cover and they can hide in the forests. They also know that big cities also provide them the cover, and they can hide in the big cities also. In big cities, there are very important installations and very important places which can be attacked also. We are aware of this fact and this information is available with our intelligence agencies, and this intelligence is shared with the State intelligence and the State police also. The State police is also asked to collect the information which is of actionable nature. That means, information may be available but one should know at what place the action is likely to be taken by them and at what time it is likely to be taken by them. For this, the State Governments have to collect the information. If they fail, then the problems arise. That is why we are developing a sort of cooperation and understanding between the intelligence agencies at the national level and the State level, and we are making use of it.

But, what has been mentioned by the hon. Member is correct and we are aware of this fact and we are taking necessary steps.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: In the answer given by the hon. Minister, various steps have been explained that the Government has taken to tackle the Naxalite problems in various States. I think, the approach of the Government is correct. In recent times, we have seen in our neighbouring country, Nepal, that the Naxalites have come into the mainstream of the day-to-day politics. There were ups and downs during this process; there were defeats and also gains. Of course we have to use the police and other forces to maintain the law and order, at the same time, whether there is any possibility—though it is difficult—to have such a dialogue or of any change in their attitude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is again a very good question. We are not relying or depending upon the force or the bullets or the barrels of the guns; alone we are trying to develop the areas in such a manner that people feel satisfied. We are trying to dispense social justice also the them. At the same time, we are trying to govern in a manner which is acceptable to the people. In our country, in every five years, there are elections. If the governance of a particular set of people is not acceptable, certain steps can be taken. What is applicable to other countries may

not be applicable here. Looking at the number of people living here, looking at the strength the Armed Forces have, and looking at the psychology of the people which is of peaceful nature, I do not think that what has happened in some other countries will be relevant to our country. But, I can assure the hon. Member and the House, through you, that this is an issue which is difficult, yet it is not something which cannot be overcome. If we project it in such a fashion that terror is created because of what we are saying or what we are writing or what we are showing, then also the terrorists succeed in their designs. That is why, let us make a correct assessment of the situation. Where it is necessary to take some strong actions, we will take; where it is not, we should not exaggerate because exaggeration itself helps the terrorists in creating a fear psychosis in the country which has to be avoided.

Let me very humbly and very politely suggest to this House that your country, your people and your forces are so strong that we will be able to deal with this situation in a humane manner, in a just manner, in a correct manner and not in a timid manner.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, there are two aspects of this problem—one is to use force to combat naxalism and the other is to know the basic reasons why people are joining the naxal movement. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether his Ministry has ever analysed the reasons for people choosing the path of naxalism? If so, the steps taken to root out the basic causes in this regard?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is also a very good question. I am very happy that basic supplementary questions have arisen from the today's main question. For his kind information, I would like to say that efforts and discussions in this regard has not only been made at the level of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but at the overall Government level, in the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, in the Cabinet and although it has not been mentioned in the budget, projects have been formulated keeping this problem in view and allocations have also been made. It is a fact, as it has been seen that when one thing is available to people at one place, but not at other places, their problems increase and it affects their

mind. It has also been kept in view. Poverty alleviation projects are formulated keeping this in view.

Distribution of the means of production to various areas is done so as to ensure proper progress at all the places. This is also a reason. Social conditions are also one of the reasons. In our country, sentiments are aroused in the name of religion, caste, language, state or on some other petty issues. Due to this also it happens. When newly educated adolescents get impressed with such feelings, we want to deal with them sympathetically, but when sometimes we try to do like that, people say we are soft on terror. We are not soft on terror, but we try to understand their problems. Whatever he is saying is absolutely right. These things are coming in media, society and at Government level also. Members will get the copy of the approach paper of the Ministry of Planning. They will find its mention in it also.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the biggest problem before the country is that of naxalism. 13 States of the country are affected by extremism and in Jharkhand situation is such that common man cannot move freely from one place to other. Previously, the NDA Government was in power there. After the constitution of the State, 19 districts have been affected by extremism. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether on the lines of the scheme for getting the surrender of terrorists and dacoits in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government have evolved any scheme for bringing naxalites to the mainstream? Are the Government making deliberations in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister has already given reply in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have given its reply earlier also. On the lines of the scheme formulated for Jammu and Kashmir to bring the surrendered militants in the mainstream, a scheme has been started in some States and we are directing rest of the States to start similar scheme. The Government give financial help to those who surrender. It is very essential to understand the concept of national security, internal security and law and order. If an incident has taken place at one place, it cannot be deemed that the entire State is disturbed. The Government are assigning them this responsibility. We do not tell any State

Government, whichever party may be in power over there, that it is entirely their responsibility and we do not have anything to do with it. We stand by them, we provide them aid and will continue to do so. But, alongwith it, they have to take the initiative, thereafter we will provide them help. We cannot forget this fact. Whatever he is saying is right. I would again say that the number of affected districts and States are exaggerated. If an incident takes place in a village, the entire district is called affected. If an incident occurs under a police station, the whole state is called affected. Also the statement which reports that 13 States are affected creates fear. It should not be forgotten ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: In a local dialy, the number has been shown as 51...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister had replied in detail regarding internal security during the discussions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir hon'ble Minister has replied in detail. But the naxalites are calling the shots in the entire country. It has become a nationwide problem. Our state Bihar has been fighting naxalite problem for the last so many years. Just now the hon'ble Minister stated that he had asked different States to disclose their plan they have formulated with regard to tackle the naxalite problem. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any such plan received from Bihar because whenever police conducts raids to arrest naxalites they fall victim to the sudden explosion of landmine already planted there by naxalites. There is no equipment available with Bihar police to detect such land mines. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister as to what action he would like to take as per the plan, if received from the State Government, in order to facilitate the State Government and also as to provide such equipment to them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir condition of Bihar seems to be improving day by day. Demands from Bihar and other States have been received. The condition of Chhattisgarh was better earlier but now it is deteriorating. Similarly the condition of Jharkhand was also good earlier but now it is not good....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, silence please. You are putting questions, and the hon'ble Minister is answering.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It means that we are not saying so to oppose someone or to give certificate to some one....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is better to laugh than to weep.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Now the responsibility of good and bad lies on all of us on all people of the country. We should keep this point in our mind. Whatever he stated we have received a project like that. We are studying it. We are exploring measures in order to check use of land mines and hand granades in all the regions and we are on the job to procure the equipment for detecting land mines.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it is a matter of fact that in the last two years, the naxalite problem is growing unabated, and it is attributed to the soft and non-coordinated approach of the UPA Government.(Interruptions)

I would repeat the question for the benefit of the Union Home Minister. It is a matter of fact that in the last two years, naxalism is growing as a menace unabatedly under the UPA dispensation. It is also attributed to the soft and non-coordinated approach of the UPA Government. Earlier, the menace was from Pashupathi Temple of Nepal to Tirupathi of Andhra Pradesh. Now, it has spread to green field areas like Karnataka.

In Karnataka, various districts including Chikmagalur, Bellary, Tumkur and Udipi are severely affected by naxalism.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Union Minister whether he is going to have a special meeting with the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka because it is a new area of naxalism development in that part of

the country? Secondly, what are the steps he is taking to control the menace of naxalism in Karnataka on political security and developmental areas?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Member would understand that this is the primary responsibility of the State Government. We shall have to ask the State Government as to what they are doing....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Aazmiji, you are very experienced member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, there should a half an hour discussion on this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Presently half an hour discussion on this issue is going on. You please give a notice for half an hour discussion.

[English]

I have already allowed eight Members to ask Supplementaries on this very Question.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Minister, whether you are going to have a meeting with the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In enthusiasm, if you are saying that Karnataka is affected by naxal activities, please understand its implications for investment in the State also. Now, if you are just taking a partial view of the situation over there, and for one village or one place affected, if you are saying that Karnataka is also affected, that would be wrong.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I never said....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please cooperate.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have given the statistics, in writing and authenticated the same. I would request the hon. Member to read it and form his follow up.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: My simple question is that whether the hon. Home Minister is going to have a

meeting with the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka in this regard.

SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have no problem, if he wants to meet me....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have already had a full-fledged discussion on the internal security the other day. Please cooperate.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav's comment that there are two angles of looking at the naxalite problems. Though the hon. Home Minister says that it should be looked from the socio-economic angle, the budget allocations and other things are mainly for the police.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your Supplementary.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I would submit that the poverty alleviation, fighting against the caste discrimination, untouchability and problem of unemployment are also linked with the solution of naxalism. On this issue, if the Government is ready to take a political solution from the social-economic angle, it would be possible. I would like to know whether the Home Minister is taking into consideration that angle also.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it.

SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, I have already answered it.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is going to be the last Supplementary on this Question. It would be from the former Police Officer, Shri Nikhil Kumar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. I come from a constituency, which is a stronghold of naxalism, which has had a bloody history of violence in the past 40 years. So, there is a need for promoting a security environment there.

I had made two suggestions to the hon. Home Minister. I am grateful to him and the Home Ministry for fulfilling the one.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, put your question.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I am grateful to him and

the Home Ministry for locating a battalion headquarters with CRP there. I am really very grateful.

But the second suggestion, which needs to be implemented is the setting up of a firing range against the backdrop of the hill feature, which is being used as a stronghold and a shelter for these naxalisms.

So, may I request the hon. Home Minister in this regard? Is there any action taken to set it up?

SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would not say anything, which will amount to an assurance on the floor of the House. But if it is possible, I would help....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, hon. Members. We have already taken more than half an hour on this particular Question. Moreover, we have already held a discussion on the internal security of the country the other day. If any hon. Member gives a notice for raising Half-an-Hour discussion on this Question, I would see.

Now, we would go to the next Question.

Suicide by Students

*183. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increasing trend in the case of suicide by school students due to examination related reasons in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken or being considered to prevent such suicides;

(d) whether there is any proposal to change the pattern of examinations and curriculum;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has initiated a National Adolescent Programme; and

(g) if so, the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Information on trend of cases of suicide by school students due to examination-related reasons is not maintained by the Government.

(c) to (e) To reduce examination-related stress among students, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken the following measures including changes in pattern of examination and curriculum:

- (i) Launching of 'Helpline' before the commencement of examination and also before the declaration of results.
- (ii) 15 minutes of additional time to students for reading the question paper before they begin to write the answers.
- (iii) Restructuring the question papers in such a manner that in question paper of 3 hours, student can finish it comfortably within 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- (iv) Simplification of question papers in some of the important subjects to provide more internal choices of questions and also to reduce the number of questions to make the students comfortable in respect of time and speed.
- (v) Proper weightage to internal school assessment based on project work and assignments in important subjects like Mathematics, Social Science and Science and Technology.
- (vi) Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize teachers and students with the nature of questions and question papers.
- (vii) Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.
- (viii) Providing three chances of compartment examination for classes X and XII.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of HRD is implementing "Adolescence Education Programme" with the following objectives:

- (i) To organise life skills based co-curricular activities in the secondary and higher secondary schools.
- (ii) To integrate adolescence education elements in school curriculum, teachers' education courses and adult education schemes.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Sir, day in and day out, we read in the newspapers about young students committing suicides. All these suicides take place on the eve of the examination or after the examination results come out. So, they take place due to fear psychosis, fear of failing in the examination or fear of not coming up to the expectation of their parents.

In the reply, the Government has submitted that 'Information on trend of cases of suicide by school students due to examination-related reasons is not maintained by the Government.'

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would kindly maintain such records so that it could study from that aspect. Secondly, is the Government also considering consulting the Institutes dealing in student psychologies to improve such situations?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, there are as many as 41 boards all over the country wherein 1.2 crore students of 10th and 12th class appear for examination. About 11 lakh students appear in examination conducted by CBSE, the board of our Ministry. As per information available with me some cases of suicide came into notice. About eight such cases came into light this year. Last year there were four cases only. CBSE has taken many a measure to put a check over such cases. The state boards are also taking similar steps. Arrangements have been made so that exams remain stress less. Arrangements of counseling have also been made and a help line has also been started by CBSE. Students commit suicide before exams, during exams and even after declaration of the results of exams. Arrangements have been made to check this trend. Apart from this many relaxations have been given in exams. For example the examination time has been extended by 15 minutes so that the student may read their question paper before time prescribed for examinations. The question

papers have been prepared in such a manner so that the student can attempt it within two and half hours, while the time for it is 3 hours. In this way many a similar measure have been taken by the CBSE in order to reduce the stress of students.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: As young parents, we all notice that school bags are becoming more and more heavy; and they are not only causing stress but also cause deformation to the spine at a very young age. Also, recently one of the Directors of NCERT has stated in a report published in *The Asian Age* that recommendations on the new examination pattern and evaluation system, are being submitted. I would like to ask, through you, the hon. Minister whether the Government is looking at, in a comprehensive way, for improving the quality of education and improving the assessment system in our education system so that the students are not put through so much of stress.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, NCERT has published good books under new curricula frame work, 2005 and the students can have good education through these books easily. Apart from this, more emphasis is being given to teachers' training. We are trying our level best to impart quality education to students. We are simultaneously trying to reduce the load of the students' books. This fact is also being taken into consideration.

[English]

SHRIMATI APCHANA NAYAK: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development whether the pattern of examination and curriculum of our students are far heavier than other developed countries? And if so, what are the steps taken to change the pattern and reduce the stress on the students?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Many a step is being taken in this regard. For example in the internal assessment marks for Mathematics and Social Science are being increased by 20% per subject. Similarly, there were 25% marks for

internal assessment in science, which is being increased to 40%. In addition, the pattern of question paper is being done in such a way that the students may answer all the questions within minimum time. CBSE is considering all these factors in a comprehensive manner in order to reduce stress of students.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, I was into the teaching profession for long years. My experience says that guardians always drive their wards in the rat race. We never tell them that education is meant for knowledge. We want them to secure first class and to come first in every stage of life. I know there are some cases where the children are sent to Laughing Club to learn how to laugh. In reality, we drive our children not to have knowledge but to rush for better services.

Sir, through you, I want to know this from the hon. Minister. Will the Government agree to take the students into confidence and conduct a nation-wide survey to learn the opinion of students for determining future syllabus?

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a fact that all the suicide cases took place in cosmopolitan cities and this is the result of increased pressure on middle class students. They have the pressure that they have to get a good job or they have to seek admission in reputed institutions. Only this pressures is the reason of their suicide. We are caring that all the students may get counseling and they may be well versed with teaching process. Syllabus should be easy and the quality books made available to students so that the stress of students is reduced.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir there are two types of arrangements in the field of education— one through Government schools and the other through private schools. In the Government schools the teacher imparts education as their duty. They reach at 12 O'clock instead of 11 and leaves at 4 O'clock and on the another hand the teachers in private schools are pressurised for teaching and cruel behaviour of teachers compel students to commit suicide. Students are humiliated in many places. Will action be taken against such teachers?

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Whenever any such case comes to notice; we take action thereon. The suicide cases in junior classes are very few although there is no such record. Suicide cases generally take place at the time of declaration of results of 10th and 12th class.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far the matter of suicide by students is concerned there are many a student who thinks himself/herself good at studies and have attempted all paper well but failed because of the mistake of examiner. Will you try to develop such a machinery in which the student not satisfied with the marks obtained, may get his papers/answer sheets rechecked easily because generally it is not easy to do so.

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: We have arrangements for it. If a student got less than expected marks he/she can apply for rechecking his/her copies and get the copies checked.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir. The suicides by student are prevailing in all the States. This is a very pathetic condition. In the CBSE we have got the compartmental pass system through which the failed students can appear again and get their pass within a month. But in the State Governments, in higher secondary education it is not so. Will the Union Government direct or suggest to the State Governments to have the compartmental pass system in higher secondary level which will help the failed students? Also, is there any plan with the Ministry of Human Resource Development to conduct programmes of awareness about the diploma courses in various branches of education? That will also help the failed students and it will give moral support to them and by that we can avoid the suicides by the students. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The trouble is everybody cannot stand passed.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard, discussions could be held with State Governments. It is their responsibility which they should carry out. As far as the diploma courses are concerned, we are introducing vocational training programmes in many schools which is benefiting a lot of students.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subodh Mohite, please put a brief and pointed question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is small prima facie but *[English]* It is a big question related with education system.

MR. SPEAKER: You also put a brief question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: The Government contend that there is no record in this regard. *[English]* It is directly related with the development of the youth, directly related with the security of life of the youth. It is a very big question.

[Translation] One member said that students commit suicide for two reasons—One is that they feel disappointed with no avenues ahead, having no scope of livelihood in future, but I would like to tell you its solution too. *[English]* There should be proper education system and job opportunity—otherwise, here too; the situations will be same as in Japan. *[Translation]* My question is whether the Government wish to conduct a research on it and if so, what is the proposal of the Government in this regard during the Eleventh Five Year Plan? If they wish to conduct a research, *[English]* what is their proposal in the Eleventh Five Year Plan? Otherwise, there will be no solution.

[Translation]

SHRI M.A.A. FATMI: Sir, to the best of my knowledge students commit suicide due to the examination fear and under the apprehension of how will they face in the examination. Some of the students commit suicide after taking the examinations and anticipating that their results will not be good. As far as the conditions of jobs are concerned students do not think about the jobs during the high school levels, students focus more on immediate results.

Availability of Cotton Yarn

*184. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cotton yarn exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a large number of handloom and powerloom units are being closed down due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to import cotton yarn to meet the domestic requirement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The details of cotton yarn exported during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Quantity	Value
2003-04	466120.81 metric ton	1308.74 Million US\$
2004-05	448425.08 metric ton	1258.30 Million US\$
2005-06	552155.92 metric ton	1485.75 Million US\$

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It shows that he has read both, the questions and the answers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Sir, the reply of the question which has been given by the Minister says that the production has also gone up and there is no dearth of cotton yarn in the country. But the weavers are not getting cotton yarn. Handloom units have also increased, as stated

in the reply of the Government, but now-a-days the handloom industry is being closed due to which thousands of traditional textile industries are on the verge of closure. For this very reason the weavers are forced to commit suicide. The Government are claiming the increase of production on the basis of production by the private companies. Export of Cotton yarn is undertaken by none other than the Government, while the production has decreased. It shows that the Government have no intention of providing cotton yarn to the weavers at a cheaper rate.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: The poor weavers get cotton yarn at a higher rate due to which the garments manufactured by them are costly. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to at what rate cotton yarn is being purchased by the weavers today in the country and whether they could get their production costs or not by way of manufacturing from that yarn?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, hon'ble Member is asking about the handloom. Power loom units are increasing in the country. Production of power loom is also increasing. At the same time, handloom weavers are in distress due to competition. The hon. Prime Minister had himself called a meeting for the handloom weavers. We have sent a proposal to waive off a loan of around Rs. 650 crore that is on the handloom weavers. We have made a request to provide loans to the weavers on the same rate of 7 per cent as is available to the farmers. Over these two years, the production of handloom has gone up to 4 per cent and 8 per cent during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Earlier, the production of handloom was going in minus and now during the last two years it has gone up to 4 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. It has not gone down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is too much whispering!

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir hon'ble Minister is saying that production has gone up. Hon. Minister has said that the weavers are not committing suicide, but in many places, from Varanasi to Azamgarh the weavers are committing suicide. Perhaps, the hon'ble

Minister does not have any report on it. I would like to know whether in these circumstances the hon'ble Minister will do anything in the interest of the weavers on the lines of the popular Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav; who launched schemes for the handloom weavers, granted relief in power to them and arranged for the sale of their manufactured goods.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, many States like Tamil Nadu have reduced two per cent tax which has benefitted the weavers. It is all right that weavers might have got benefit from the action, whatsoever taken by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, but the thing that he has said about the suicide is general. They are forced to commit suicide due to the burden of loan. For this, we have already moved a proposal that their loans be waived off. They have loans of about Rs. 650 crore. If the proposal to waive off the loan is passed in course of time, the weavers will have benefits of it also. At the same time, they will also be benefitted by the loan at an interest rate of 7 per cent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. This is only the third Question being taken up today.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Sir, in reply to part 'e' of the question the Minister said 'does not arise'. It is totally wrong. Now-a-days, after the farmers, it is the weavers who are in the worst conditions. The hon. Minister has himself admitted that yarn export is increasing, but yarn on subsidized rate is not available to poor weavers which they get earlier. That is why a large number of weavers are in distress. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have any scheme to meet the requirement of yarn at cheaper rate for the weavers.

Secondly, the weavers are under the heavy burden of loan due to which they are committing suicide on a large scale. I would like to ask whether the Government are stepping up to make the weaver credit card available which was planned by the NDA Government for the weavers and whether the Government have any scheme to meet the requirement of yarn for them?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, we have developed 273 yarn depots. The hon. Prime Minister has himself called a meeting to deal with the problems of the handloom industry and suicide by the weavers like the farmers of Vidarbha was discussed upon. A proposal to waive off the loan of Rs. 650 crore on the weavers is also there. In accordance with the depot which we have developed, we have provided facilities to the weavers all over Bihar or Uttar Pradesh or wherever they are.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu are suffering a lot because of non-availability of cotton yarn. In Theni district of Andipatti area, the people are mainly handloom weavers, but there is no cotton year. Three years back also the people of that area started '*kangi thott*' for giving noon meals to the weavers as they were suffering a lot.

Is the Government thinking about any plan to open cotton yarn selling centres at subsidized rates in Andipatti area to facilitate both cotton weavers as well as the mills?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, it is not true that there is shortage of cotton yarn in the country. This is totally wrong. Cotton yarn is always surplus even after its full use every year. Under the 'Bill Gates Scheme' we provide subsidy for transfer, we develop new depots and reduce sales taxes for the handloom weavers, as Tamil Nadu Government have done by reducing these taxes up to 2 per cent. If the production of the handloom weavers does not increase substantially for lack of proper implementation of the facilities like medical insurance schemes, credit card schemes etc. which are being provided by the Government it does not increase. On record, production has increased up to 4 per cent in the first year and 8 per cent in the second year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am very sorry. Please give up this attitude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, the export of hank yarn from India has increased in the textile sector during the last three years. This is causing great hardship to the small and medium textile producers as they are not getting enough raw materials. Will the Government consider giving incentives only to the exporters of finished products, and stop providing incentives to exporters of raw materials like hank yarn in the textile sector in view of this situation?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Sir, this is not so. We think about handloom sector in totality. We have implemented several schemes for them so that they do not face trouble. It is wrong to say that they do not have raw material. It is abundantly available and it remains within our access. Every year there is increase in raw material and cotton yarn is saved out.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the girls and women in North Eastern region and particularly in my Bodoland area are experts in weaving clothes but they are not getting cheaper and good quality yarn that should have been made available to them. What the Hon'ble Minister has said is incorrect. I know about it because the mode of supply and mechanism that was required for North Eastern tribal girls has not been put in place so far. I want a categorical reply from Hon'ble Minister as to what policy does he propose in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: There is every thing clear in the House.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one thing should be understood that Union Government implements some schemes in the Handloom Sector, and State Governments should also think about it. We have revived cooperative societies, apex cooperative bodies in the last two years by giving them crores of rupees. If the cooperatives would have functioned properly, purchasing and marketing would also have been streamlined. Cooperative societies would have to function properly if

handloom sector is to be saved. Union Government have given financial assistance as far as possible. We have given them Rs. 5 crore, 7 crore and 12 crore in a year. If they streamline their functioning then they will have no problem. Our sisters can be helped by giving them raw material and by procuring their finished goods. We have also introduced a rebate scheme worth Rs. 100 crore for them. The concessions to be provided to them in the festival season is also to the tune of Rs. 100 crore and that is in the form of subsidy. We have given them very good marketing schemes and Mahatma Gandhi Marketing Centres have been set up in the districts. Under that scheme we ourselves market finished goods produced by handloom weavers all the days of the year at some place or the other. There is no proposal which we received and did not implement that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 185, Shri Pankaj Chowdhary—Not present.

Question No. 186, Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil—Not present.

Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units

*186. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL:

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

(a) the criteria/norms laid down by the Government for setting up of Export Oriented Units (EOUs);

(b) whether any mechanism is available with the Government to check violation of norms laid down for setting up of EOUs;

(c) whether the instances of EOUs violating the norms laid down for such units have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against them during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Proposals for setting up units under EOU scheme under automatic route are considered by the Unit Approval Committee taking into account the following criteria:

- (i) Residence proof in respect of individual/partnership firms of all Directors/Partners. (Passport/ration card/driving licence/voter identity card or any other proof to the satisfaction of Development Commissioner);
- (ii) Income Tax return of all the promoters for the last three years;
- (iii) Experience of the promoters;
- (iv) Marketing tie-ups;
- (v) Inspection of the project site by an Officer;
- (vi) A report from other DCs as to whether any case under EOU/SEZ Scheme in regard to diversion of goods etc. is pending.

Wherever necessary, these are verified through personal interview with the promoters of the project. In the event of the promoters being a well-established entity, the procedure of personal interview can be dispensed with.

Further, as per the provisions of Para 6.6(d) of the Foreign Trade Policy only projects having a minimum investment of Rs. 1 crore in plant and machinery can be set up under Export Oriented Unit (EOU) scheme. This condition does not apply to proposals for Handicrafts, Agriculture, Floriculture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, Information Technology, Services, Brass Hardware and Handmade jewellery sectors. The Board of Approval (BOA) can also allow establishment of EOUs with a lower investment criteria on a case to case basis.

(b) Fulfillment of these criteria is a pre-condition for approval of the EOU. Fulfillment of the investment norms is checked during the joint monitoring of the performance

of EOUs by the Development Commissioner and the Jurisdictional Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs on bi-annual basis based on the Annual Performance Reports filed by the EOUs which provide the details of investments in plant and machinery.

(c) and (d) As per available information, no incidents of violation of the minimum investment norms laid down for setting up of units have come to notice.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, there is a scheme of the Central Government for development of infrastructure for exports in the States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister very precisely as to what support has been extended to the special category States under this scheme, especially in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir. In our information, this sector is not at all developing in these areas and it is starved for the support of the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has been done in this regard and what are the plans for development of export potential in such States.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, it is true that the Ministry of Commerce runs a scheme for infrastructure development in these States. This year the allocation for this scheme is Rs. 550 crore. It is also true that the advanced States namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh take the bulk of the funds for infrastructure development. This is primarily because proposals come from the State Governments and the Central Government then supports these proposals. I have personally visited all the North-Eastern States. I have been in touch with the Jammu and Kashmir Government. It is our priority that the special category States should get assistance for infrastructure. It is our intention that the allocating for the weaker States, for the poorer and backward States will actually increase and the money will go to these States and not be monopolized by the five States.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has given an assurance that he is very much concerned about Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. But I was looking forward to listen from him what are the specific plans for this year, and, how can we bridge the gap which is already existing and Jammu and Kashmir is suffering.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: On Jammu and Kashmir, I have written to the Chief Minister asking for specific proposals. One proposal is to set up an Export Development Centre. Another proposal is to create the infrastructure for handicrafts export. I am awaiting these proposals from the State Government. As soon as the proposals come, I am sure the Central Government would support them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Protection of Religious Places

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

(a) whether religious places in the country are adequately protected to avert any mishappenings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to avail the services of private security agencies to enhance the security of religious places; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the eligibility conditions laid down for obtaining the services of private security agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The protection inside religious places/sites is generally provided by the trust/management authorities concerned. Some of the trusts/management authorities have availed the services of the private security agencies in this respect. At times, the trust/management authority may request the State Government to provide security inside the religious places/sites, which may be provided on the basis of local threat perception.

'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, providing area security to religious sites/places and enhanced security inside the complex wherever needed, is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State

Government/Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Home Affairs with a view towards facilitating adequate protection to those religious places, in respect of which specific threat inputs may be available, also issues advisory for strengthening the security to the concerned State or Union Territory Administration. Assistance is also provided by the Union Government for strengthening the security arrangements through deployment of Central Police Forces and extending financial aid as and when requested by the States/Union Territories, to the extent possible.

[English]

KVIC Projects

*187. **SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:** Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being undertaken by Khadi and Village Industries commission (KVIC) with a view to improving the quality of khadi products and also to diversifying into new products;

(b) whether financial assistance/grant is being provided by KVIC to undertake various projects/studies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years with respect to the various projects/studies; and

(d) the extent to which these projects/studies have been supplementing KVIC in achieving its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to improving quality, developing better designs and improving the packaging of khadi and village industry (KVI) products, the Government has been implementing, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme since 2003-04. Under this Scheme, assistance is provided to the extent of (i) Rs. 2 lakh per project per year or 75 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, to eligible institutions and (ii) providing Rs. 1 lakh per project per year or 75 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, to eligible individual entrepreneur's units.

Other steps taken by the KVIC for improvement of quality of khadi products include the following:

- (i) tie-up with the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi for making available information better designs;
- (ii) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi for technology inputs;
- (iii) assistance to registered KVI institutions for periodical testing of quality of khadi products through 19 laboratories of the Textile Committee, an autonomous body set up by the Government (Ministry of Textiles);
- (iv) implementation 'Ready-to-use Mission Project in Khadi' to convert khadi fabric into ready-made garments for higher value addition; and
- (v) ensuring availability of quality slivers for khadi production through six Central Sliver Plants of KVIC, etc.

(c) The details of projects relating to khadi products under PRODIP and funds released by KVIC during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the table below:—

Year	Projects	Funds Released (Rs. lakh)
2003-04	95	134.31
2004-05	51	157.00
2005-06	65	120.85

(d) There has been positive impact of the PRODIP scheme on production and sales of the assisted institutions.

Revival of Sick NTC Mills

*188. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTC mills in the country are running into losses or have been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the steps taken to make them profitable;

(c) whether Government has revived the loss making and closed mills of NTC;

(d) if so, whether the revived mills have started their production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1992-94, due to persistent losses, 8 NTC Subsidiary Corporations (104 mills) were referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under section 15(1) of Sick Industrial companies Act. BIFR sanctioned rehabilitation schemes for 8 subsidiaries [NTC (APKKM) Ltd., NTC (Gujarat) Ltd., NTC (MN) Ltd., NTC (MP) Ltd., NTC (WBAB and O) Ltd., NTC (UP) Ltd., NTC (SM) Ltd., and NTC (DPR) Ltd.] during February-July, 2002. The salient features of the sanctioned schemes (SS) for these 8 subsidiaries were as under:—

- (i) Revival of 44 viable mills at a cost of Rs. 661.81 crores.
- (ii) Closure of 60 unviable mills by offering Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) to the employees by realising funds from sale of assets.
- (iii) One time settlement with secured creditors.
- (iv) Payment of statutory dues of PF and ESI, electricity dues and municipal taxes.
- (v) Conversion of outstanding loans of Rs. 2689.79 crores into equity and write off of the entire interest on loan given by GOI to these 8 subsidiaries up to 31-3-2001 and not to charge any interest on further loan.
- (vi) CBDT to consider exempting these subsidiaries from the wealth tax and the entire sale proceeds from the incidence of Capital Gains Tax.

Based on the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned for above-mentioned 8 subsidiaries, the Government of India sanctioned a rehabilitation package for the 9th subsidiary,

i.e. NTC (TN and P), also in December, 2001 as this subsidiary was not under BIFR then. According to this package, 9 viable mills of this subsidiary were to be revived at a cost of Rs. 74.37 crores and 6 unviable mills were to be closed by offering MVRS to the employees by realising funds from sale of assets. Subsequently, NTC (TN and P) Ltd. made a reference to the BIFR also on the basis of its audited balance sheet of 2002-03 and was declared sick by BIFR on 5-12-2005.

Taking into consideration the rehabilitation schemes of BIFR in respect of 8 subsidiaries and the scheme in respect of NTC (TN and P) approved separately by GOI, 53 mills were to be modernized and 66 mills were to be closed. The consolidated cost of two Rehabilitation Schemes for all 9 subsidiaries was Rs. 3837.49 crores. Subsequently, 2 mills (one each from 53 viable mills and 66 unviable mills) at Pondicherry were transferred to the Government of Pondicherry w.e.f. 1-4-2005 reducing the number of mills to be revived to 52 and the number of mills to be closed to 65.

(c) to (e) NTC has mobilized Rs. 2028 crores from the market by private placement of bonds, offered Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) to 53,656 employees as on 1-11-2006 and paid Rs. 1860.80 crores by way of compensation to them, closed down 65 mills, handed over two mills to the Government of Pondicherry and sold assets worth Rs. 3112.90 crores. The NTC has earmarked Rs. 530 crores for modernization of 22 mills and the process has already started. So far orders for purchase of machineries worth Rs. 86 crores in respect of 13 mills have been placed. From the funds so generated, NTC has utilised Rs. 3028.07 crores towards payment of MVRS, interest settlement with Banks and Financial Institutions.

Free Trade Agreement

*189. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been protest by plantation, agriculture and auto sectors against the Free Trade Agreements with Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by Government on the points raised by these industries, particularly automobile sector to save the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) Government have received representations from the Plantation, Agriculture and Auto sectors against Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Asian countries. The main concerns relate to lowering of tariffs, which may result in cheap imports in these sectors which could affect the domestic sector. Government have taken note of these representations. Inclusion of the items is done after due consultation with the relevant stake holders. With reference to the India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, Government has restricted the import of pepper to 2500 MTs per annum and desiccated coconut to 500 MT per annum at a concessional duty of 30% from Sri Lanka. The auto components industry also represented against non-inclusion of certain auto components in the sensitive list as well as about inverted duty structure. These have been duly noted by the Government.

Boost to R and D in Plantation Sector

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

(a) the details of research and development activities being undertaken for the promotion of plantation sector;

(b) whether the Government proposes to involve private sector in research and development activities of plantation sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other steps being taken for the promotion of the ailing plantation sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The research and development activities being undertaken in the plantation sector are geared towards increasing production and productivity, post harvest processing and quality improvement in a

developmental framework. The R and D activities being undertaken in the tea sector include all aspects of tea cultivation and processing. The main research and development thrust in the coffee sector is on developing planting materials with high degree of tolerance to major pests and diseases (white stem borer and leaf rust respectively). In rubber, the thrust is to develop appropriate technology for improving rubber crop production and productivity. One of the important areas of research is the development of rubber varieties which are capable of giving higher yield. Research in spices is mainly centered around basic and applied research and field adaptation trials for evaluation and validation of technologies.

Some priority areas in R and D for all commodities include the development of superior clones, improved location specific planting material, control of pests and diseases, studies on quality parameters and integrated nutrient management etc.

(b) and (c) The private sector is already involved in the research. It is closely associated with tea research in India which is carried out essentially by tea research institutions set up by the tea industry. The tea industry in North India is serviced by the Tea Research Association (TRA) from its Tocklai Experimental Station located at Jorhat in Assam. Similarly, the South India tea industry is serviced by the UPASI Tea Research Foundation with its main research station located at Anamalais in Tamil Nadu. Spices Board is having a programme for product development and research to tap the medicinal, cosmetic, therapeutical/nutraceutical values of spices which includes validation of the above properties through modern science, using clinical trails and patenting. The research activities are undertaken by exporters/private research organizations.

(d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to help the plantation sector. These include:—

1. Withdrawal of additional excise duty of Rs. 1 per kg in the Union Budget for 2005-06.
2. Grant of subsidy for production of orthodox tea with an estimated outlay of Rs. 65 crore.
3. Meeting the actual deficits of the two Research and Development Institutions viz. Tea Research

Association (TRA) at Tocklai (Assam) and United Planters' Association for Southern India—Tea Research Foundation (UPASI-TRF), Tamil Nadu for a period of five years with effect from 2004-05 subject to the maximum of 80% of the expenditure on already agreed items of expenditure, with an estimated outlay of Rs. 28 crore.

4. The Government is examining ways and means of introducing a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes covering an area of 2,12,606 hectares as per detailed mapping done with an estimated total cost of Rs. 4761 crores over the next 15 years. In the Union Budget for 2006-07, Government has announced a levelized contribution every year to the fund.
5. A one time 'Special Coffee Package' was approved by the Government of India in May 2005 to provide relief to coffee growers.

[Translation]

Export of Iron-Ore

*191. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

(a) the details of iron-ore exported by MMTC during the last three years;

(b) whether MMTC is likely to get higher rate of iron-ore in India than the rate being fetched on export;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to impose ban on export of iron-ore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The details of export of Iron Ore by MMTC during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)
2003-04	10.51
2004-05	11.78
2005-06 (Prov.)	10.08

(b) MMTC is not engaged in sale of iron ore in the domestic market.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(e) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron ore fines produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy ore has to be evacuated, failing which it would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings besides causing environmental hazards.

[English]

Handloom Weavers

*192. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handloom weavers are the largest rural workers in the unorganized sector in the country;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any plan for modernization and expansion of handloom sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As an economic activity, the handloom sector which is basically unorganized in nature, occupies second place to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people in the country.

(b) As per the joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms 1995-96, 65.50 lakh persons are engaged in the handloom weaving and allied activities in the country. Out of these, 85.45% are in rural areas.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. The main developmental schemes are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers' Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the year 2005-06 while Handloom Mark and Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme have been launched in the year 2006-07. One of the objectives of the TUF scheme is to establish a production base with up-graded technology in pre-loom/on-loom/post-loom operation and quality control under one roof, thus strengthening the capacity to undertake bulk production for domestic and export markets, with improved productivity and quality.

[Translation]

Shortage of Teachers in Primary Schools

*193. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of teachers at primary schools in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Against an ideal Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 1:40, the PTR for government primary schools in 2004-05 was 1:41 in the country. The Government of India has sanctioned 10.12

lakh teacher posts under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan upto 2006-07.

[English]

Economic Co-operation Agreement

*194. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether India and Singapore have entered into any comprehensive economic co-operation agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of industries which have shown interest to set up their base in Singapore; and

(c) to extent to which the trade co-operation between both the countries is likely to be enhanced thereby?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CECA is structured as an integrated package of several agreements concerning Trade in Goods, in Services, Investments and economic cooperation in fields like Education, Science and Technology, Air Services and Intellectual Property.

During the period from 1st April, 2004 to 31st March, 2006, financial services, manufacturing, non-financial services and trading are the prominent sectors which have seen outflow of Indian investments to Singapore.

(c) India-Singapore CECA is expected to substantially boost the trade cooperation between the two countries. An analysis of the bilateral trade figures upto March, 2006 reveals that India's bilateral trade in the post-CECA period (from August, 2005 to March, 2006) has grown by 20.48% over the figures during the corresponding period before CECA was signed. During this period, India's Exports to Singapore have grown by 23.28% and imports by 16.27%.

Growth in Handicraft Sector

*195. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered units exporting handicrafts and concessions/facilities provided to them by the Government, State-wise;

(b) the year-wise details of the value of handicrafts exported by the country during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) the details of India's handicraft share in the international market;

(d) whether any decline has been registered in the exports of handicrafts during the above period;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps taken to promote the exports of handicrafts and to enhance India's share in world market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The number of registered units (State-wise) exporting handicrafts are 6917 as on 31-03-2006 (Statement enclosed). The concessions and facilities provided by the Government include assistance under Market Development Assistance Scheme for participation in international fairs, exhibitions, study tours, publicity, duty drawback on export of certain handicraft products.

(b) The year-wise details of the value of handicrafts exported by the country during the last three years and current year is as under:—

Sl.No.	Year	Value Rs. in crore
1.	2003-04	13555.00
2.	2004-05	15984.00
3.	2005-06	16186.00
4.	2006-07	7768.40 (upto April-Oct., 2006)

(c) As per study conducted by M/s. Frost and Sullivan, the share of exports of Indian Handicrafts in world market during 2003 was 1.76%.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Steps taken for promoting export of handicrafts and to enhance its share in the international market include participation in exhibitions/fairs, organising Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year, organising thematic exhibitions, development of innovative value added products through Product Development Programme, organising programmes for packing and export procedure, setting up of India Expo Centre and Mart, etc.

Statement

*State-wise List of Handicraft Exporters
as on 31-03-2006*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Exporters
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53
2.	Assam	9
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Delhi	2791
6.	Goa	2
7.	Gujarat	101
8.	Haryana	153
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	33
11.	Jharkhand	1
12.	Karnataka	155
13.	Kerala	44
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29
15.	Maharashtra	381
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Orissa	10

1	2	3
18.	Punjab	117
19.	Rajasthan	984
20.	Tamil Nadu	230
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1556
22.	Uttaranchal	35
23.	West Bengal	220
Total		6917

Mid-Day Meals

*196. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines on the nutritional value of the meals given under the Mid-Day Meals scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its expected qualitative impact in the implementation of the scheme?

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

(b) The revised Guidelines of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, issued in September, 2006 prescribe that the nutritional content of mid-day meal should be of minimum 450 calories and 12 grams of protein as against 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein stipulated earlier.

The enhanced norm is expected to improve the nutritional status of children studying at the primary stage. It is also expected that the programme will encourage children, especially belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and thus result in qualitative upgradation.

Diversion of SSA Funds

*197. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether cases of misuse/diversion of funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in such cases alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check misuse/diversion of SSA funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India has laid down a system for financial monitoring under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme, which includes *inter alia*, annual statutory audits, independent concurrent financial reviews and quarterly reviews of States/UTs with respect to financial management.

As and when cases of violation of SSA guidelines came to notice, corrective action is undertaken forthwith.

Trade with ASEAN Countries

*198. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the products declared sensitive for Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN countries;

(b) whether any request have been received from Coconut, Copra, Coconut Oil, Pepper, Cardamom, Arecanut, Tea, Coffee etc producing States to include these products in the sensitive (Negative) list and not to reduce tariff levied on these commodities in Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Negotiations for India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) are currently in progress and both sides are discussing various aspects of the proposed Agreement, including the Negative Lists, Sensitive Lists and the Modalities for tariff concessions offered by both sides. The Negative Lists and the Sensitive Lists of both sides are yet to be finalized under the ongoing India-ASEAN FTA negotiations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These representations have been taken note of by Government for the FTA negotiations.

[Translation]

Skill Upgradation Schemes for ST Students

*199. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the skill upgradation scheme being run by the Union Government for the students belonging to Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Government for running of these schemes;

(c) whether these schemes are being successfully running with the financial assistance provided for their implementation; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken for effective implementation of these schemes in the States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) This Ministry does not have a specific scheme for skill upgradation for ST students. There is however, a scheme entitled "Upgradation of Merit for ST students" which aims at improving the standards of learning of ST students by providing them with remedial and special coaching in classes IX to XII. There is also a scheme of Vocational Training Centres in Tribal Areas to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to enable them gain employment/self employment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disaster Management Programme

*200. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments and voluntary organizations for disaster management in each State during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) the details of the funds utilised out of the funds released during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of the disaster management and disaster training programme conducted by the Government and voluntary organisations in each State during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the works done by the NGOs on disaster management in various States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) While no financial assistance has been provided to voluntary organizations, funds have been released to States for capacity building, training, etc. in the field of disaster management during the last three years and the current financial year for the following activities:—

- (i) Operation of a faculty/centre of disaster management in the Administrative Training Institutes or other training institutes identified by the State Government.
- (ii) Capacity building of engineers and architects for earthquake risk management through training.
- (iii) Undertaking studies/project preparation activities in connection with the proposed National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project in 13 cyclone prone States/UTs.

Details of the funds released to the States/UTs for these activities are given at Statements I, II, III and IV respectively.

In addition, Government provides substantial amount of assistance to the States for conducting relief operations in the wake of natural calamities under the Schemes of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

(c) The details of the disaster management training programmes conducted by the Administrative Training Institutes and other institutes, which are operating a faculty of disaster management with assistance from the Central

Government, during the last three years and the current year (till date) are also given in Statement-I.

The National Programmes for Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management envisage training of 10,000 engineers and 10,000 architects in seismic safe building design and construction. Trainers from the designated State Resource Institutes are being trained at the designated National Resource Institutes (NRIs) and funds for this purpose were directly released by the Government of India to the NRIs in July 2004 for the programme relating to engineers and in November 2004 for the programme relating to architects. Release of funds for training of engineers at the State level commenced in March 2005 and for training of architects in February 2006. As per information available, while several State Governments have taken preparatory action for training of architects, the details regarding the number of engineers trained are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of engineers trained
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33
2.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	76
3.	Himachal Pradesh	41
4.	Jharkhand	106
5.	Rajasthan	37
6.	Tamil Nadu	173
7.	Tripura	54

Information relating to disaster management and disaster training programmes conducted by voluntarily organizations is not maintained by the Government.

(d) and (e) The Government does not review work done by NGOs. However, the Vice-Chairman and Members of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have, during their visits to various States, held meetings with the representatives of NGOs to apprise themselves of the disaster management related efforts of the NGOs. NDMA has formed a Core Group of lead NGOs to focus on systematic participation of NGOs in disaster management.

Statement-I

Funds released by the Central Government to training institutes in States for disaster management activities and details of utilisation of funds and the training programmes conducted by these institutes

Sl. No.	States	Amount released to the Institute					Amount Utilised till date	Training Programme conducted					
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 till date	2003-04		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 till date			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.00	10.00	15.00	5.03	32.03	8	9	53	6			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil			
3.	Assam	13.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	31.58	7	11	11	7			
4.	Bihar	Nil #	Nil	8.00	Nil	2.9	5	N.A.	7	N.A.			
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.25	Nil	Nil	2	N.A.			
6.	Goa	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.			
7.	Gujarat	5.00	8.00	4.00	Nil	18.74	19	35	20	8			
8.	Karnataka	10.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	28.28	28	28	28	28			
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.51	2	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.			
10.	Jharkhand	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.			
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil #	3.00	6.00	Nil	9.74	4	10	18	4			
12.	Karnataka	Nil #	Nil	8.10	Nil	2.38	Nil	3	5	N.A.			
13.	Kerala	4.00	10.00	2.00	Nil	18.1	100	52	28	N.A.			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10.00	10.00	15.00	8.00	35.00	25	33	39	29
15.	Maharashtra	7.00	8.00	8.00	Nil	15.00	13	13	36	N.A.
16.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	7.00	8.00	7.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
17.	Meghalaya	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Mizoram	8.91	10.00	9.00	Nil	24.95	N.A.	10	12	15
19.	Nagaland	6.00	3.00	5.00	6.00	13.91	Nil	N.A.	5	10
20.	Orissa	5.00	9.00	7.00	6.00	22.96	5	7	6	3
21.	Punjab	Nil	2.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	5	4	12	7
22.	Rajasthan	9.51	10.00	8.00	Nil	29.81	31	42	102	N.A.
23.	Sikkim	9.00	4.00	Nil	3.00	13.30	N.A.	4	5	N.A.
24.	Tamil Nadu	7.00	7.49	8.00	6.00	23.63	11	12	28	8
25.	Tripura	Nil #	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.
26.	Uttar Pradesh	5.80	8.00	Nil	9.20	19.00	11	19	21	N.A.
27.	Uttaranchal	10.00	8.00	8.00	Nil	22.03	19	N.A.	51	5
28.	West Bengal	3.00	6.00	8.00	Nil	12.75	12	14	13	N.A.

Unspent balance from the funds released earlier was available with the Institute/State Government.

N.A.—Not available.

Statement-II

*Funds released and utilized under National Programme for Capacity Building of
Engineers in Earthquake Risk Management (NPCBEERM)*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Amount Released				Amount Utilized
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	10,80,900	—	1,07,100
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	2,80,500	—	UC not received
4.	Assam	—	—	7,60,200	—	—do—
5.	Bihar	—	—	8,87,100	—	—do—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—do—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	45,000	—	2,70,000
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	45,000	—	UC not received
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	45,000	—	—do—
10.	Delhi	—	—	14,08,500	—	—do—
11.	Goa	—	—	7,60,200	—	—do—
12.	Gujarat	—	—	13,16,400	—	—do—
13.	Haryana	—	—	8,87,100	—	—do—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	4,54,500	—	—do—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	5,21,400	—	—do—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	4,99,500	—	—do—
17.	Karnataka	—	—	10,80,900	—	—do—
18.	Kerala	—	—	5,21,400	—	—do—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	45,000	—	—do—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	45,000	—	UC not received
21.	Maharashtra	—	—	15,85,800	—	—do—
22.	Manipur	—	—	2,80,500	—	—do—
23.	Meghalaya	—	—	2,80,500	—	—do—
24.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	2,80,500	—	UC not received
26.	Orissa	—	—	7,60,200	—	—do—
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	2,80,500	—	—do—
28.	Punjab	—	—	8,87,100	—	—do—
29.	Rajasthan	—	—	8,87,100	—	—do—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	2,80,500	—	—do—
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	21,16,800	—	11,82,844
32.	Tripura	—	—	5,16,000	—	UC not received
33.	Uttarakhand	—	—	8,87,100	—	—do—
34.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—do—
35.	West Bengal	—	—	10,80,900	—	—do—

UC Utilisation Certificate.

Statement-III

Funds released to States/UTs and utilized under National Programme for Capacity Building of Architects in Earthquake Risk Management (NPCBAERM)

Sl. No.	Name of the State.	Amount Released				Amount Utilized
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	4,90,352	3,68,700	UC not received

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—	64,700	UC not received
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	63,300	—do—
4.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—do—
5.	Bihar	—	—	1,11,700	1,11,700	—do—
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	1,21,325	—	—do—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	1,14,500	—do—
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—do—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	62,600	—do—
10.	Delhi	—	—	7,28,136	—	—do—
11.	Goa	—	—	2,48,600	—	—do—
12.	Gujarat	—	—	7,64,886	2,55,600	—do—
13.	Haryana	—	—	1,22,340	1,78,400	—do—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1,92,800	—	—do—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	1,91,000	—	—do—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	1,24,300	—	—do—
17.	Karnataka	—	—	9,70,016	1,21,500	—do—
18.	Kerala	—	—	4,96,264	1,24,300	—do—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—do—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	1,25,560	1,25,700	—do—
21.	Maharashtra	—	—	6,18,515	29,64,000	—do—
22.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—do—
23.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—do—
24.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—do—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—do—
26.	Orissa	—	—	—	2,58,400	—do—
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	1,04,700	—	—do—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	Punjab	—	—	1,19,575	1,72,800	UC not received
29.	Rajasthan	—	—	1,21,033	1,20,800	—do—
30.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—do—
31.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	9,72,424	—	—do—
32.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—do—
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	1,14,500	—	—do—
34.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	4,87,680	1,22,200	—do—
35.	West Bengal	—	—	1,21,888	4,13,000	—do—

Statement-IV

Funds released for Project preparation activities related to the proposed National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Amount Released 2003-04	Amount Released 2004-05	Amount Released 2005-06	Amount Released 2006-07	Amount Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	33.00	Nil	Utilisation certificate not received
2.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	10.00	Nil	—do—
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	10.00	Nil	—do—
4.	Tamil nadu	Nil	Nil	10.00	Nil	—do—
5.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	10.00	Nil	—do—
6.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—
7.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—
8.	Kerala	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Goa	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—
10.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—
11.	Andaman and Nicobar	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	
12.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—
13.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	05.00	Nil	—do—

Note—Detailed project preparation activities by the States/UTs concerned commenced in 2005-06 only.

Strengthening of Intelligence System

*201. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has undertaken any study of the problem being faced by the intelligence agencies to tackle terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to strengthen the intelligence system and to make them more responsible;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the security experts have suggested to form a federal police force to tackle terrorism in the country; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government and State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Central and State intelligence agencies have been working in tandem in pre-empting terrorist attacks. The State Governments have, however, been asked to strengthen the Special Branches of State Police forces to enhance capabilities to enable greater collection and sharing of local intelligence necessary to prevent terrorist and anti national activities.

(d) and (e) The Government has not received any

suggestion from the security experts for formation of a federal police force to tackle terrorism in the country. However, on the requests of the State Governments, Central Security Forces are deployed to assist the local administration in launching counter action against terrorists and for maintenance of public order.

[English]

M.C.A. Course

1838. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the stipulated period for completion of MCA course in IGNOU;

(b) whether in special circumstances of cases of students, competent authority is empowered to further extend period for completion of course by allowing them to re-appear in those unqualified papers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are students who have qualified all papers except one or two papers unleared by one mark short in aggregate;

(f) if so, whether the Government proposes to allow such students to re-appear/awarding grace mark in related papers;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the information furnished by IGNOU, the stipulated minimum period of its MCA Course is three years. However, the maximum duration of the MCA Course with pre-revised syllabus is seven years, whereas, the revised MCA Course, which was launched in January 2005, has a maximum duration of six years.

(b) to (d) In case of both the courses, the maximum duration is further extendable by another two years on payment of pro-rata fee for those courses, which were not successfully completed during the prescribed duration.

(e) to (h) The rules of the University provides for grace marks to the extent of 2% in term-end examination to those students, who failed to score requisite 40% marks in individual courses, subject to the condition that they have overall scored 50% marks in aggregate, which is a requirement to successfully complete the MCA Course.

[Translation]

Agreement in Higher Education Sector

1839. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has bilateral relations with other countries to fulfill the present needs of Higher Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the country-wise details of such bilateral agreements signed during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has signed bilateral agreements for enhancing the quality and efficiency of Indian Universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has signed Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU)/Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) with several countries which provide for collaboration between India and those countries in the Education sector including the Higher Education sector. Such Agreements, meant for co-operation in the field of education in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit, *inter alia* provide for:

- (a) Exchange of scholars, teachers, researchers and experts;
- (b) Organization of training programmes for teaching professionals;
- (c) Facilitating mutual recognition of educational qualifications;
- (d) Exchange of academic scholarships for further education;
- (e) Exchange of documented materials, publications, etc.
- (f) Organization of seminars, lectures, symposia etc.
- (g) Promotion of languages of both countries.

(c) A list of countries with which the Ministry of Human Resource Development has signed bilateral agreements for cooperation in the field of education is enclosed as statement.

(d) The bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of education between India and the respective countries provide for encouraging the development of contacts, cooperation and direct exchanges between the educational institutions of the two Governments, based on their respective academic and educational needs. The aim is to facilitate specific arrangements between higher education institutions in the two countries on the basis of and within the provisions of such bilateral agreements. The Government of India provides financial assistance to Indian Universities to bring in such arrangements, but the role of the Government is limited to that of a facilitator recognizing the autonomy of its higher education institutions.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Countries with which the Ministry of Human Resource Development has signed Educational Exchange Programme (EEP)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in the field of Education

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Date of signing EEP/MoU	Date of expiry of initial period
1	2	3	4
1.	Mongolia	09-07-2002 (EEP)	08-07-2007
2.	Armenia	03-10-2002 (EEP)	02-10-2007
3.	Tanzania	27-04-2003 (EEP)	26-04-2008
4.	Guyana	25-08-2003 (EEP)	24-08-2008
5.	Israel	09-09-2003 (EEP)	08-09-2008
6.	Australia	23-10-2003 (EEP)	22-10-2008
7.	Myanmar	02-11-2003 (MOU)	Not specified
8.	Hungary	03-11-2003 (EEP)	02-11-2008
9.	Syria	15-11-2003 (EEP)	14-11-2008
10.	Uzbekistan	05-04-2005 (EEP)	04-04-2010
11.	New Zealand	19-04-2005 (EEP)	18-04-2010
12.	Thailand	03-06-2005 (MOU)	02-06-2010
13.	Sri Lanka	10-06-2005 (EEP)	09-06-2010
14.	Mexico	21-10-2005 (EEP)	20-10-2010
15.	Brazil	01-02-2006 (EEP)	31-01-2011
16.	Afghanistan	10-04-2006 (MOU)	09-04-2011
17.	Croatia	19-04-2006 (EEP)	18-04-2011
18.	Ecuador	18-07-2006 (EEP)	17-07-2011

1	2	3	4
19.	Rwanda	25-07-2006 (EEP)	24-07-2011
20.	South Africa	02-10-2006 (MOU)	01-10-2011
21.	Saudi Arabia	06-11-2006 (MOU)	05-11-2011
22.	China	21-11-2006 (EEP)	20-11-2011

[English]

Deportation of Militants to India

1840. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked Bangladesh to deport some 113 militants, including top ULFA leaders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Bangladesh thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In the last Border Coordination Conference held between DG, BSF and DG, BDR at New Delhi between 26th September to 1st October, 2005, GD, BSF had handed over a list of wanted Indian insurgents including ULFA leaders staying in Bangladesh. Indian side had reiterated the need for action against insurgent groups operating from Bangladesh territory in the Home Secretary Level Talks held at Dhaka between August 24-27, 2006.

(c) Bangladesh side has reiterated their position of not permitting any such activities on its soil.

[Translation]

Production of Salt

1841. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) the year-wise/State-wise production and

consumption of salt in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of salt exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above said period;

(c) whether salt pan islands in Mumbai have been permitted to be diverted for housing construction;

(d) if so, whether the clearance has been obtained under CRZ regulations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The State-wise production and consumption of salt during the last three years is mentioned in the

enclosed Statement.

(b) The details of salt exported during the last three years are as below:

Year	Quantity Exported (in MT)	Value of Exports (Rs. in lakh)
2003	1222396	4817.4
2004	2204598	9935.68
2005	3804133	20576.93

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Production and Consumption of Salt during 2003-2005

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States	2003		2004		2005	
		Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	306.4	738.3	291.4	732.2	453.0	837.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		2.6		7.0		2.3
3.	Assam		232.7		273.4		280.0
4.	Bihar		425.9		512.3		551.0
5.	Chhattisgarh		136.6		144.2		152.6
6.	Delhi		210.6		205.5		255.4
7.	Goa	2.8	3.6	1.5	3.8	2.8	4.8
8.	Gujarat	10585.9	5544.4	10587.6	5957.6	15908.4	6249.4
9.	Haryana		100.7		57.8		77.9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.0	10.2	3.8	7.7	1.8	5.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jammu and Kashmir		26.6		19.8		22.9
12.	Jharkhand		244.3		268.8		282.9
13.	Karnataka	23.4	221.1	13.5	255.0	18.0	343.6
14.	Kerala		450.3		405.6		532.3
15.	Madhya Pradesh		450.7		403.0		478.1
16.	Maharashtra	193.3	398.8	180.7	560.0	209.5	594.8
17.	Manipur		4.7		2.3		4.7
18.	Mizoram		4.6		4.6		7.3
19.	Meghalaya		7.0		4.7		4.7
20.	Nagaland		11.4		9.1		8.3
21.	Orissa	37.9	182.5	19.6	185.1	56.3	205.7
22.	Punjab		161.8		199.3		248.7
23.	Rajasthan	1324.9	252.5	1622.7	188.3	1088.6	342.9
24.	Sikkim		2.6		6.9		4.9
25.	Tamil Nadu	2385.8	719.3	2026.7	886.5	2167.6	1184.2
26.	Tripura		33.0		21.1		31.4
27.	Uttar Pradesh		1012.4		930.5		996.1
28.	Uttaranchal		1.9		2.4		2.9
29.	West Bengal	16.9	728.6	13.3	686.1	17.5	765.7
30.	Andaman Nicobar		0.4		0.0		0.0
31.	Chandigarh		37.6		19.9		18.2
32.	Daman and Diu	4.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.0
33.	Pondicherry		62.2		100.2		143.7
34.	Defence		7.9		8.9		4.4
Total		14882.4	12427.8	14761.2	13069.7	19923.9	14644.7

[English]

Starting of BSF-BDR Ceremonial Retreat

1842. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start BSF-BDR ceremonial retreat in Agartala on the lines of the one being held at Wagah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussions have been held with Bangladesh on the issue;

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

(e) the time by which such retreat is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) During the Director General level Border Co-ordination Conference between BSF and BDR, held on 26th September to 1st October, 2005, it was decided to commence the retreat ceremony at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) Agartala, Tripura after finalizing the modalities.

Setting Up of National Translation Mission

1843. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up National Translation Mission (NTM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of amount likely to be spent on the project to promote translations between various languages to increase access to knowledge and strengthen people's participation in education;

(d) whether the Mission is likely to create more employment opportunities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the NTM would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Knowledge Commission has recommended the establishment of a National Translation Mission to the Planning Commission and to this Ministry. The proposal has also been discussed in the meeting of Working Group on Language Development and Book Promotion constituted by the Planning Commission.

(c) The National Knowledge Commission has projected a budgetary requirement of Rs. 250 crores for the National Translation Mission during the entire 11th Plan period.

(d) to (f) The National Translation Mission, if and when established, would create employment opportunities for translators, interpreters etc.

[Translation]

Export Oriented Schemes

1844. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of export oriented schemes launched by the Government to boost textile export after abolishing quota system;

(b) the position of India in the list of Most Favoured Nations (MFNs) of textile importing Countries;

(c) the target fixed by the Government for textiles export for the current year and achievements made so far in this regard; and

(d) the number of weavers, labourers and others associated with this trade likely to be benefited after free trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) In the year 2005, the Government have launched the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) to provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their manufacturing units. Besides, the Government has been taking continuous measures to promote textile

exports. Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:—

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernization of ginning and pressing sector.
- (v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option of excise exemption.
- (vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (vii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (viii) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f. 20-4-2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (ix) The National Institute for Fashion Technology

(NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (x) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.

(b) As per latest available WTO trade data, in the year 2005, India's rank amongst the world's leading exporting countries was 7th in textiles and 5th in clothing.

(c) Government have fixed an export target of US\$ 19730 million for the year 2006-07. According to the provisional DGCI and S data, the textile exports have amounted to US\$ 7628.13 million during the period April-July, 2006.

(d) According to Industry Vision (a study by CRISIL in year 2004 commissioned by Indian Cotton Mills Federation), the Indian textiles and apparel has a potential to reach a size of US\$ 85 billion by 2010, and thereby, create 12 million job opportunities, 5 million direct jobs in textile industry, and 7 million jobs in textile allied sector.

Use of Information Technology

1845. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use Information Technology (IT) to associate millions traditional weavers and artisans of the country to the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The Handloom Sector is a highly dispersed and un-organized sector in which about 15% of the weavers are covered in the Cooperative Fold. Therefore, effective intervention to use Information Technology (IT) to associate millions of traditional weavers of the country to the global market becomes difficult. Still, National Centre for Textile Design

(NCTD) in the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has a website to disseminate information about global trends in design/colour forecast etc., a part of which can be accessed by willing weavers. In addition, quite a few handloom Apex Societies and Corporation as also Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) have their websites to disseminate information about the global trends/market etc. which can also be accessed by weavers.

Setting Up of Marketing Establishments

1846. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to set up thirty seven marketing establishments on the lines of Dilli Haat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. To provide direct marketing facilities to the crafts person, financial assistance is being considered to state agencies/ agencies recommended by State Government to set up Urban Haat at prime location in the country. For a project of Urban Haat costing upto Rs. Two Crores, the Government of India provide 70% Grant to the implementing agencies and balance 30% is borne by State Government/ Implementing agencies. Since inception of this scheme in the year 1998-99, so far 40 Urban Haat have been approved at various locations across the country, out of which sanction for five Urban Haat have been withdrawn due to non commencement of work in the stipulated time and manner by implementing agencies. Six Haats at Bhubneshwar, Uchana (Karnal), Jammu, Tirupati, Gohar Mahal (Bhopal) and Srinagar have become operational.

[English]

Agri-Export Zones

1847. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether proposals from various States are pending before the Government for opening up of Agri-Export Zones;

(b) if so, the number of proposals from the State of Andhra Pradesh pending;

(c) whether the Government has decided not to give approval for opening up of new AEZs in the country;

(d) if so, whether State Governments have requested the Union Government to reconsider its proposal for not granting new AEZs in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government had received 34 proposals for setting up of AEZs including 3 from Andhra Pradesh. On the basis of findings of a peer evaluation of the existing AEZs, it has been decided to strengthen the existing AEZs and to put embargo on creation of new AEZs unless there are strong and compelling reasons for the same. The State Governments have been asked to reconsider the proposals in the light of the decision.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

FTA with Thailand

1848. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review its existing FTAs with new Government of Thailand which came into power by staging a coup;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A Framework Agreement for establishing Free Trade Area between India and Thailand was signed on 9th October

2003. Under this Agreement, Early Harvest Scheme is under implementation and negotiations for FTA in Goods are underway.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Police Training Centres

1849. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up the police training centres in the dacoit affected forests in various States of the country;

(b) the names of the States from which such type of proposals have been received so far;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any such proposal for Chitrakoot area of Satna district; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance to Colleges and Universities

1850. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether UGC has increased fund allocation for the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof, University, college-wise particularly to central Universities in the North Eastern States;

(c) the details of areas where this enhanced allocation likely to be utilised;

(d) whether new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research have been approved and special grant has been sanctioned for upgrading the infrastructure facilities in these institutes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the names of colleges and universities which have applied for financial assistance but they were not provided during last two years; and

(g) the reasons for not providing financial assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) the Plan Allocation to the University Grants Commission has been increased to Rs. 1269.80 crores during 2006-07 from Rs. 786.30 crores during the year 2005-06. The break up is as under:—

1. Central Universities in North Eastern Region	—	Rs. 122.96 crores
2. Other Central Universities	—	Rs. 392.04 crores
3. State University of the North Eastern Region	—	Rs. 7.37 crores
4. Other Universities and Inter University Centres etc.	—	Rs. 747.43 crores

Total: Rs. 1269.80 crores

According to the UGC, the number of Universities and Colleges in the country in the last two years is as under:—

Year	University	Colleges
2005	343	17,625
2004	320	16,885

The University Grants Commission (UGC), provides development grant to eligible universities/colleges in each Plan.

(d) and (e) Two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Kolkata and Pune have been set up and academic session has started from August, 2006. The Foundation Stone for the third IISER at Mohali, Punjab has been laid by the Prime Minister in September, 2006. The Government is in the process of setting up two more IISERs in Thiruvananthapuram and Bhopal.

(f) and (g) According to the information furnished by the UGC, a Statement showing the status of number of colleges assisted by UGC under Xth Plan Development as on 31-3-2006 and number of colleges not assisted under Xth Plan is attached. The main reason for not providing financial assistance was that the Colleges/ Institutions were not declared fit to receive grant under Section 12 (B) of UGC Act.

Statement

Status of number of colleges assisted by UGC under Xth Plan Development as on 31-3-2006

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of colleges in Section 2(f) as on 31-3-06	Total No. of colleges declared fit to receive central assistance under section 12(B)	No. of colleges assisted	No. of colleges not assisted under X Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	425	406	310	96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	05	05	05	—
3.	Assam	185	179	170	09
4.	Bihar	306	295	279	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	142	140	131	09
6.	Goa	20	18	18	—
7.	Gujarat	356	344	284	60
8.	Haryana	147	145	137	08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	50	46	39	07
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	59	39	30	09
11.	Jharkhand	85	82	67	15
12.	Karnataka	561	484	417	67
13.	Kerala	220	211	210	01
14.	Madhya Pradesh	427	379	333	46
15.	Maharashtra	824	727	625	102

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Manipur	49	46	40	06
17.	Meghalaya	28	23	16	07
18.	Mizoram	13	10	10	—
19.	Nagaland	10	08	07	01
20.	Orissa	280	263	244	19
21.	Punjab	213	210	202	08
22.	Rajasthan	212	192	172	20
23.	Sikkim	03	03	02	01
24.	Tamil Nadu	315	280	212	68
25.	Tripura	14	14	12	02
26.	Uttar Pradesh	626	454	402	54
27.	Uttaranchal	46	39	23	16
28.	West Bengal	377	375	345	30
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	02	02	02	—
30.	Chandigarh	18	18	18	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
32.	Daman and Diu	01	01	01	—
33.	Delhi	78	76	59	17
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	11	11	05	06
Total		6109	5525	4827	698

Achievement of Anganwadi Centres

1851. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved the target fixed for opening of Anganwadi Kendras during the Tenth

Five Year Plan as reported in Dainik Jagran dated October 13, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan to extent the Anganwadi Kendras;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to open Anganwadi Kendras in local areas in place of villages;

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

(f) whether the all Anganwadi Kendras opened in villages are properly working;

(g) if not, the total number of such Kendras closed during each of the last three years, as on date, State-wise; and

(h) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The report published in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated October 13, 2006 mainly pertains to creation of awareness for achievement of Millennium Development Goals. It, inter-alia, refers to reduction in the Infant Mortality Rate, improvement in the health status of women etc.

In the 10th Plan, 1418 new ICDS Projects were targeted for operationalization. Out of which 1051 have been operationalised, as on 31-3-2006. Remaining 367 Projects are expected to become operational by the end of 10th Plan.

The Government of India fixes annual targets for

operationalisation of Anganwadi Kendras. State-wise number of Anganwadi Kendras targeted for operationalisation and made operational during the last 5 years is given in the enclosed Statement. It may be seen that 99.13 per cent of the targeted number of Anganwadi Kendras became operational, as on 31-3-2006.

(c) and (e) In pursuance of Government's commitment, as enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) and Supreme Court's order on the need for an Anganwadi Kendra in every settlement/habitation, 466 additional ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Kendras have been sanctioned in 2005-06. Further expansion to increase the outreach of the Scheme to 173 additional ICDS Projects, 107274 additional Anganwadi Kendras and 25961 additional Mini-AWCs is also under active consideration.

(d) As per the existing policy, in urban areas, Anganwadi Kendras are set up in urban slums only.

(f) As per the existing guidelines, supplementary nutrition is required to be provided for 25 days in a month. However, in case of some Anganwadi Kendras, this stipulation is not being adhered to for various reasons.

(g) and (h) No such case of closure of Anganwadi Kendras has been reported.

Statement

State-wise number of Anganwadi Kendras targeted for operationalisation and operationalised in the country during th last five years

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001-02 (end of IX Plan)	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06					
		No. of Anganwadi Kendras									
		Targetted for operationalisation									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33271	36140	38588	52419	54312	53561	54312	53760	54312	56364
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2307	1637	2307	1319	2326	1344	2359	2359	2359	2359
3.	Assam	21403	13149	21403	19719	22014	24894	25416	25302	25416	25447
4.	Bihar	28262	17683	31751	17683	28014	20739	60813	33736	60813	57767
5.	Chhattisgarh	19756	19965	20289	20146	20289	20227	20289	20289	20289	20286
6.	Goa	1022	1017	1100	1011	1216	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012
7.	Gujarat	28318	31131	32807	32830	37961	35149	37961	37101	37961	37498
8.	Haryana	13546	13545	13546	13546	13546	13546	13546	13546	13546	13546
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6927	7121	7123	7314	7354	7354	7354	7354	7354	7354
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8763	10049	9541	10125	10321	10014	11821	10398	11821	10398
11.	Jharkhand	10699	14549	15604	11372	13790	14402	23078	18436	23078	21792

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12.	Karnataka	40015	40133	40170	40285	40301	40290	40301	40301	40301	40689
13.	Kerala	22777	22637	22777	24289	25315	24413	25393	25318	25393	25376
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44502	45946	47133	47229	47728	48643	49787	49710	49787	49594
15.	Maharashtra	54030	44896	54030	56235	62206	58116	62716	61689	62716	64130
16.	Manipur	4181	4376	4339	4371	4413	4499	4501	4500	4501	4501
17.	Meghalaya	2218	2165	2218	2200	2218	2217	2218	2218	2218	2265
18.	Mizoram	1341	1283	1341	1193	1341	1283	1361	1361	1361	1361
19.	Nagaland	3083	2569	3083	2575	2644	2623	2770	2770	2770	2770
20.	Orissa	27827	29611	31437	31209	32473	33670	34201	34201	34201	33953
21.	Punjab	13748	13540	13748	14017	15829	14016	14730	14730	14730	14730
22.	Rajasthan	34488	34723	34488	35457	35710	35657	35821	35821	35821	35817
23.	Sikkim	499	494	499	492	500	499	500	500	500	500
24.	Tamil Nadu	29983	31712	40624	31713	42377	30059	42677	42677	42677	42677
25.	Tripura	5007	3499	5007	3553	3786	3679	3874	3768	3874	3768
26.	Uttar Pradesh	67493	54402	68477	56871	76474	75005	106059	97302	106059	104879
27.	Uttaranchal	4189	3811	4189	3971	5335	5770	6658	6550	6658	6657
28.	West Bengal	51530	38407	51530	51700	57540	53066	57540	54518	57540	54961
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	429	429	429	429	527	429	527	527	527	621

*[English]***Funds for Research and Development**

1852. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Universities and IITs towards research and development each year during the last five years, University and IIT-wise;

(b) the number of research scholars produced by universities and elite educational institutions and engaged in different fields of research each year during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government proposes a new policy direction to institutions of higher learning and provide higher allocation of funds for research related work on science and technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a Statement-I showing grants paid by the UGC to Universities for the development of higher education and

research during the last five years (University-wise—State-wise) is attached. The funds released to IITs under the scheme of R and D during the last five years is attached as Statement-II.

(b) No centralized database is being maintained in respect o all the educational institutions in the country. However, according to the information furnished by the UGC, the Faculty-wise number of doctorate degrees awarded by Indian universities during the period 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The UGC is providing allocation of funds for strengthening of research and the allocation for the last five years are as follows:—

Year	BE (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	105.00
2003-04	104.00
2004-05	104.60
2005-06	129.95
2006-07	109.65

Statement-I
Funds for Research and Development

Sl.No.	Name of the University	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Andhra University, Visakhapatnam	358.26	446.69	542.72	216.34	612.78
2.	Central Instt. of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad	981.55	1109.47	1157.85	1112.71	1305.31
3.	C.E.C.R.I., Hyderabad	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00
4.	Hyderabad University, Hyderabad	3484.59	3930.47	5336.30	4279.62	4570.64
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru Tech., Hyderabad	93.75	173.18	102.35	336.71	37.55
6.	Kakatiya University, Warangal	154.46	151.15	246.33	70.42	156.91
7.	Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad	750.00	672.00	47.25	1320.72	1384.39
8.	Nagarjuna University, Guntur	81.83	133.72	221.00	50.74	119.11
9.	National Instt. of Tech., Warangle	0.00	1.26	2.24	0.62	4.68
10.	National Instt. of Tech., Hyderabad	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.42	0.00
11.	Osmania University, Hyderabad	453.28	523.08	569.38	496.15	454.15
12.	Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad	27.25	71.57	4.58	106.13	48.75
13.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	624.97	437.09	536.37	539.45	670.79

(Rs. in lakh)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Sri Krishna Devaraya University, Anantapur	72.93	119.41	50.45	195.35	51.01
15.	Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati	284.81	287.76	219.42	415.64	301.46
16.	Sri Padmawathis Mahila V. Vidyalaya, Tirupati	65.18	109.88	33.72	200.07	138.61
17.	Sri Sathya Sai Instt. of Higher Learning, Anantapur	69.73	68.80	185.29	123.25	115.76
18.	International Instt. of Information Tech., Hyderabad	0.00	—	—	—	5.45
19.	A.N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	0.00	—	—	—	49.45
20.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad	0.00	—	—	—	3.00
21.	National Academy of Legal Studies and Res. University	0.00	—	—	—	174.63
	Total	7502.59	8235.53	9255.25	9465.53	10204.43
	Arunachal Pradesh					
1.	Arunachal University, Itanagar	349.04	199.56	19.34	1082.86	180.61
	Total	349.04	199.56	19.34	1082.86	180.61
	Assam					
1.	Assam University, Silchar	748.25	1022.61	1940.45	3362.83	1193.25
2.	Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh	38.66	105.59	266.60	401.15	62.80
3.	Gauhati University, Guwahati	162.59	196.56	246.75	387.10	158.86

4. Tezpur University, Tezpur	572.18	2648.41	2134.99	2109.45	750.26
Total	1521.68	3973.17	4588.79	6260.53	2165.17
Bihar					
1. T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur	26.42	89.50	12.33	116.47	42.18
2. Babasaheb BFA Bihar University, Muzaffarpur	24.72	114.41	23.33	78.80	183.02
3. B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.15	95.72
4. K.S. Dharbhanga Sanskrit V.V., Darbhanga	27.71	46.28	6.49	44.36	12.00
5. Magadh University, Bodh Gaya	24.23	63.43	8.07	20.87	62.38
6. L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga	53.06	64.88	8.70	109.30	158.32
7. Ratna University, Patna	87.41	152.23	36.39	129.41	159.76
8. Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.00	1.11
Total	243.55	530.73	96.42	506.36	714.49
Chhattisgarh					
1. Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur	21.52	71.67	132.04	207.94	34.43
2. Indira Kala Sangeet V.V., Khairagarh	26.00	52.79	10.03	10.73	4.96
3. Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukila University, Raipur	53.46	109.87	63.12	151.28	55.88
Total	100.98	234.33	205.19	369.95	95.27
Delhi					
1. Delhi University	10114.04	13434.46	13532.86	14551.65	15737.17
2. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi	29.50	48.46	44.47	54.52	54.49
3. IGNOU	0.00	3.30	3.28	709.40	3.94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Indian Agricultural Research Instt., New Delhi	12.24	12.52	17.86	25.01	33.00
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	3830.01	5560.98	5223.45	7158.53	7356.43
6.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	736.97	644.07	592.55	607.39	704.55
7.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	5781.52	7143.00	7159.59	8942.30	10728.98
8.	National Museum Instt. of History of Art, Conservation and Musicology, New Delhi	12.07	8.81	20.25	11.55	15.00
9.	School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi	0.00	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Shri LBS Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth	557.02	563.01	569.13	554.05	7.17
11.	TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.19	14.00
12.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.27	897.67
13.	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	0.00	—	—	—	300.00
	Total	21073.37	27419.07	27163.44	32634.86	35852.40
Gujarat						
1.	Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar	49.89	72.34	7.42	146.24	15.11
2.	Gujarat University, Ahmedabad	147.74	236.05	390.49	162.28	172.72
3.	Gujrat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad	688.50	915.66	733.53	808.39	120.63
4.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	369.23	235.80	269.63	229.62	597.69
5.	North Gujarat University, Patan	25.42	79.48	49.03	153.73	67.00
6.	Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar	649.03	148.04	160.64	393.46	187.81
7.	Saurashtra University, Rajkot	94.86	214.19	275.56	115.30	145.69

8. South Gujarat University, Surat	62.68	85.80	203.14	20.24	48.74
Total	2087.35	1987.36	2089.44	2029.26	1355.39
Goa					
1. Goa University, Goa	186.16	177.30	56.01	174.17	23.70
Total	186.16	177.30	56.01	174.17	23.70
Haryana					
1. C.C.S. Haryana Agril. University, Hisar	0.17	4.09	4.11	2.31	1.55
2. Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar	100.06	131.69	59.01	172.14	88.88
3. Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	149.55	191.40	88.85	131.78	218.32
4. Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak	119.38	93.68	57.71	127.36	147.53
5. National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon	0.00	0.00	1.11	4.44	3.83
6. National Dairy Research Instt. Karnal	0.00	1.50	6.00	0.00	1.11
7. National Instt. of Tech., Kurukshetra	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.00	1.67
Total	369.16	422.36	217.90	438.03	462.89
Himachal Pradesh					
1. Himachal Pradesh University, Simla	614.47	200.75	149.70	313.24	805.79
2. Himachal Pradesh Krishi University, Palampur	0.00	2.44	0.00	0.00	3.44
3. National Instt. of Tech., Hamirpur	0.00	0.00	0.71	3.67	2.88
4. Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticultural and Forestry, Solan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40
Total -	614.47	203.19	150.41	316.91	814.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir						
1.	Jammu University, Jammu	80.21	135.63	2102.63	243.21	231.21
2.	Kashmir University, Srinagar	129.82	2200.71	169.63	331.09	184.20
3.	Sher-e-kashmir University of Agril. Sc. and Tech., Srinagar	1.44	0.00	5.71	0.00	1.84
	Total	211.47	2336.34	2277.97	574.30	417.25
Jharkhand						
1.	Birla Instt. of Tech., Mesra, Ranchi	220.38	336.29	218.31	290.58	129.02
2.	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	91.17	10.08	110.04	2.91	6.16
3.	Ranchi University, Ranchi	32.26	140.35	48.63	124.35	59.23
4.	Vinoba Bhava University, Hazaribag	0.74	0.00	52.90	110.31	57.27
	Total	344.55	486.72	429.88	528.15	251.68
Karnataka						
1.	Bangalore University, Bangalore	209.09	271.99	296.46	232.47	237.45
2.	Gulbarga University, Gulbarga	81.11	97.60	31.03	168.90	26.64
3.	I.I. Science, Bangalore	205.71	141.00	253.95	398.31	301.44
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advance Scientific Research, Bangalore	0.00	4.71	0.00	0.00	1.11
5.	Kannada University, Hampi	17.86	48.63	76.14	124.18	84.01
6.	Karnataka University, Dharwad	636.85	163.78	98.19	232.64	131.44
7.	Kovempu University, Shimoga	116.16	91.82	165.24	110.07	240.00

8. Mangalore University, Mangalore	125.99	117.33	29.11	176.89	103.26
9. Mysore University, Mysore	326.19	244.67	312.98	278.11	360.58
10. Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka)	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00
11. National Instt. of Mental Health and Neuro Science, Bangalore	0.00	2.00	9.80	0.00	7.12
12. National Law Instt. of India, Bangalore	46.92	58.33	9.63	50.00	75.50
13. Karnatak State Open University, Mysore	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00
14. University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore	0.00	0.71	0.30	0.00	1.11
Total	1766.88	1242.57	1283.23	1774.77	1569.66
Kerala					
1. Calicut University, Kozhikode	128.67	210.74	322.11	94.44	180.93
2. Cochin University of Science and Tech., Kochi	679.48	256.75	125.07	232.64	169.26
3. Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram	144.84	205.76	222.89	395.64	256.18
4. Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam	91.39	113.45	35.98	196.19	75.41
5. Kerala Agri. University, Trichur	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.92	0.00
6. Kannur University, Kannur	0.00	0.00	0.00	206.60	69.00
7. Shri Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady	0.00	0.71	0.00	2.37	127.24
8. National Instt. of Tech., Calicut	0.00	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	1044.38	787.99	706.15	1130.80	878.02
Manipur					
1. Manipur University, Imphal	123.25	165.92	228.76	1082.36	1759.68
Total:	123.25	165.92	228.76	1082.36	1759.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh						
1.	Avdesh P. Singh University, Rewa	25.95	68.34	70.04	150.56	73.86
2.	Barkatullah V.V., Bhopal	48.69	91.68	53.93	249.11	63.35
3.	M.G. Chitrakoot Gramodyog V.V., Chitrakoot	34.10	55.23	49.80	166.23	76.98
4.	Devi Ahilya V.V., Indore	466.17	200.68	303.95	162.22	208.91
5.	Dr. H.S. Gour V.V., Sagar	150.83	236.97	288.92	141.51	133.44
6.	Jiwaji University, Gwalior	101.86	111.10	35.12	68.62	106.36
7.	Lakshmbai National Instt. Tech., Bhopal	8.26	71.00	23.00	34.00	33.00
8.	Maulana Azad National Instt. Tech., Bhopal	0.00	0.00	1.83	0.00	0.00
9.	M.P. Bhoj University, Bhopal	1.40	1.90	1.00	0.00	0.00
10.	National Law Instt., Bhopal	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	86.00
11.	Rani Durgavati V.V., Jabalpur	118.22	176.16	24.81	48.62	299.71
12.	Vikram University, Ujjain	78.74	97.53	24.90	41.63	195.60
	Total:	1034.22	1110.59	877.30	1064.00	1277.21
Maharashtra						
1.	Amravati University, Amravati	29.21	79.69	18.81	191.53	141.77
2.	C.I.F.E., Versova, Mumbai	0.00	0.55	2.77	0.00	4.33
3.	Deccan College PG and Research Instt., Pune	33.54	51.33	59.38	107.31	77.00
4.	Gokhale Instt. of Pol. Economics, Pune	34.83	76.47	64.67	40.54	992.54
5.	International Instt. For Population Studies, Bombay	2.88	5.04	8.36	0.00	3.12

6.	Instt. of Science, Bombay	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.00
7.	Mumbai University, Mumbai	492.83	492.76	639.59	1266.34	1475.74
8.	AGA Hindi University, Wardha	665.75	502.25	188.03	315.42	1043.20
9.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad	74.32	164.69	109.95	268.64	71.01
10.	Nagpur University, Nagpur	137.40	252.39	95.82	292.33	94.06
11.	North Maharashtra, Jalgaon	48.52	101.35	90.57	159.51	65.85
12.	Poona University, Pune	1420.60	358.62	270.44	1430.86	1010.86
13.	S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai	203.12	168.13	41.11	274.95	113.64
14.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur	61.35	136.23	49.71	122.49	233.27
15.	Tata Instt. of Social Science, Mumabi	789.97	1053.27	858.82	1231.18	1259.60
16.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith Bhavan, Pune	1.00	73.48	14.21	4.38	69.20
17.	Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	S.R.T. Marathwada University, Nanded	43.67	70.26	30.16	4.22	179.28
19.	Bharti Vidyapith, Pune	3.30	18.98	29.29	110.46	7.92
20.	Visvasaraya National Instt. and Tech. Nagpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.00
21.	Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit V.V., Nagpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.15
22.	Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Prabhani	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
	Total:	4042.29	3606.99	2571.69	5822.55	6855.44
	Meghalaya					
1.	N.E.H.U.	3369.31	4035.21	5683.15	7217.36	5082.79
	Total:	3369.31	4035.21	5683.15	7217.36	5082.79

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram						
1.	Mizoram University, Mizoram	1320.27	2127.98	743.60	2851.03	2547.96
	Total:	1320.27	2127.98	743.60	2851.03	2547.96
Nagaland						
1.	Nagaland University, Kohima	1249.02	2010.34	6422.85	2441.43	2089.06
	Total:	1249.02	2010.34	6422.85	2441.43	2089.06
Orissa						
1.	Berhampur University, Berhampur	33.93	129.50	30.85	121.98	43.09
2.	Sambalpur University, Sambalpur	124.37	199.73	60.00	160.82	80.44
3.	Shri Jaganath Sanskrit Vidyapith, Puri	42.95	56.83	10.69	4.67	94.90
4.	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar	161.73	236.01	159.32	142.96	290.87
5.	North Orissa University, Baripada	0.00	0.00	7.23	1.74	7.44
6.	National Instt. of Tech. Rourkela	0.00	0.00	1.40	9.97	0.00
	Total:	362.98	622.07	269.49	442.14	516.74
Punjab						
1.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	693.53	277.95	236.47	310.36	276.02
2.	Punjab University, Chandigarh	984.92	521.88	650.87	353.06	790.94
3.	Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana	1.66	12.13	21.20	53.90	25.84
4.	Punjabi University, Patiala	81.39	117.66	332.27	152.08	124.92
5.	Thapar Instt. of Engg. Technology, Patiala	256.37	242.39	191.61	252.37	160.15
	Total:	2017.87	1172.01	1432.42	1121.77	1377.87

Pondicherry

1. Pondicherry University, Pondicherry	1507.35	1683.83	1507.42	1882.70	2494.52
Total:	1507.35	1683.83	1507.42	1682.70	2494.52

Rajasthan

1. Kota Open University, Kota	0.00	2.24	0.42	0.91	0.00
2. J.N. Vyas University, Jodhpur	132.29	267.40	340.92	198.84	104.23
3. M.D.S. University, Ajmer	23.34	81.22	22.11	16.76	191.93
4. M.L. Sukhadia V. Vidyalaya, Udaipur	34.63	204.08	151.28	114.09	168.18
5. Rajasthan University, Jaipur	237.90	206.38	639.15	319.37	629.45
6. Banasthali Vidyapith (Rajasthan)	938.64	406.36	494.68	439.68	424.11
7. B.I.T.S., Pilani	143.52	151.36	242.74	250.34	61.56
8. J.V. Bharti Instt., Ladnun (Rajasthan)	26.63	37.51	9.81	9.86	15.56
9. JRN Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	33.58	61.45	67.86	41.70	16.01
10. Malvia National Instt. of Tech. Jaipur	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.94
Total:	1570.53	1418.00	1970.87	1391.55	1611.97

Tamil Nadu

1. Alagappa University, Karaikudi	31.59	70.92	7.30	124.07	106.43
2. Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar	171.82	180.31	131.82	204.21	434.61
3. Anna University, Chennai	951.48	492.54	672.40	358.37	413.44
4. Bharthiar University, Coimbatore	103.06	114.96	236.03	164.34	149.66
5. Bharthidesan University, Tiruchirapalli	35.16	140.14	242.09	173.71	127.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Madras University, Chennai	780.96	355.24	1351.72	1007.98	3470.53
7.	Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai	848.90	222.09	160.99	290.14	1160.03
8.	Mother Teresa University for Women, Kodaikanal	21.46	62.56	117.16	17.34	35.53
9.	M. Sundarnar University, Tirunelveli	48.20	79.31	147.44	36.10	107.81
10.	Tamil University, Thanjavur	2.33	77.24	120.23	25.99	1080.38
11.	Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	29.55	4.00	0.00	14.52	1.01
12.	Avinash Instt. of Home Science for Women's, Coimbatore	714.08	930.90	919.19	952.70	1081.77
13.	Gandhigram Rural Instt. Gandhigram	894.36	990.86	1036.81	1111.27	1196.95
14.	Sh. Chandrasekharandra Saraswati V.V., Kancheepuram	23.00	57.70	26.01	60.50	61.52
15.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Res. Instt.	8.80	0.00	7.75	0.00	2.80
16.	Shan Mugha Arts, Sci. Tech. and Research Acad.	16.00	0.00	2.34	0.00	0.00
17.	Vellore Instt. of tech. Vellore (Tamil Nadu)	0.00	5.51	0.00	3.99	0.00
18.	National Instt. of Tech. Trichurapalli	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.83	0.00
19.	Satya Bhamma Instt. of Science and Tech., Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
20.	Thiruvalluvar Univgersity, Vellore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
21.	Periyar University, Salem	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.57
	Total:	4680.75	3784.28	5179.28	4552.06	9461.95
Tripura						
1.	Tripura University, Agartala	37.57	81.26	7.72	1001.74	235.02
	Total:	37.57	81.26	7.72	1001.74	235.02

Uttar Pradesh

1.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	15354.87	18300.65	15691.21	17356.30	20554.94
2.	Allahabad University, Allahabad	877.73	329.70	2325.84	374.84	6002.65
3.	Allahabad Agri. Instt. Allahabad	0.00	3.53	5.50	4.91	3.63
4.	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi	76.37	50.60	19.83	278.16	34.01
5.	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	15134.81	16785.20	18291.99	18527.61	23708.42
6.	Bhatkhande Music Instt. Lucknow	0.00	1.50	1.57	0.00	1.50
7.	Central Instt. of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi	16.86	31.72	48.69	1.32	41.50
8.	Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut	101.62	121.46	107.18	156.70	70.87
9.	Dayal Bagh Edu. Instt., Agra	469.36	512.55	579.68	477.09	556.21
10.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Lucknow	714.00	812.61	712.15	221.67	248.68
11.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra	62.02	81.37	32.26	27.49	0.72
12.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (Avadh) University, Faizabad	26.00	58.40	39.75	20.05	211.93
13.	D.D.U. Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur	131.29	178.53	139.03	148.18	235.45
14.	Ch. Shahuji Maharaj Kanpur University, Kanpur	31.31	71.35	84.11	38.14	8.55
15.	Indian Veterinary Research Instt., Izatnagar	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	2.22
16.	Lucknow University, Lucknow	209.36	210.36	204.83	373.61	203.77
17.	Motilal Nehru National Instt., Allahabad	0.00	3.00	10.27	2.38	3.08
18.	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi	35.71	62.30	51.53	68.72	130.26
19.	M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly	50.73	73.19	122.83	19.30	5.05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	V.V.S. Purvanchal University, Jaunpur	103.00	54.28	149.66	53.16	35.62
21.	Sampurnanand Sanskrit V. Vidyalaya, Varanasi	101.57	45.61	36.36	75.96	0.20
22.	J.R. Handicapped University, Chitrakoot	0.00	0.00	22.00	5.46	1.14
23.	Indian Instt. of Information, Allahabad	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.16
	Total:	33496.61	37787.91	38679.27	38234.38	52061.56
	Uttaranchal					
1.	G.B. Pant University of Agri and Tech., Pant Nagar	18.94	20.05	22.00	17.05	12.25
2.	H.N.B. (Garwal) University, Srinagar	139.59	116.50	58.25	57.48	14.95
3.	Kumaon University, Nainital	73.62	118.73	50.18	170.90	38.24
4.	Roorkee University, Roorkee	259.47	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Forest Research Instt., Dehradun	1.40	5.45	2.22	0.00	1.25
6.	Gurukul Kangri V.V. Haridwar	531.96	642.76	658.61	634.99	893.21
	Total:	1024.98	903.99	791.26	880.42	959.90
	West Bengal					
1.	Burdwan University, Burdwan	131.01	176.31	261.51	172.34	172.93
2.	Calcutta University, Kolkata	407.14	399.60	524.76	1076.98	3477.58
3.	Jadavpur University, Kolkata	1109.76	466.44	742.94	1205.38	1214.07
4.	Kalyani University, Kalyani	79.21	96.97	187.98	85.56	106.85
5.	North Bengal University, Kolkata	90.60	128.08	91.60	245.94	81.69

6. Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata	42.66	106.93	44.56	28.12	48.89
7. Vidya Sagar University, Midnapore	32.66	77.34	24.17	168.65	97.50
8. Vishwa Bharati University, Shantineketan	3944.56	5157.33	5220.80	4023.31	4940.46
9. Bengal Engg. College, Howrah	96.09	91.74	166.14	72.28	169.46
10. Ramakrishana Mission Vivekanand Educational Res. Instt., Howrah	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
11. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Nadia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
12. West Bengal University of Animal and Fisheries Scienc, Kolkata	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	5934.70	6700.74	7264.46	7078.56	10409.98

Statement-II*Funds released to IITs under the scheme of R and D during last five years*

Year Institute	2001-02 (Rs. in lakhs)	2002-03 (Rs. in lakhs)	2003-04 (Rs. in lakhs)	2004-05 (Rs. in lakhs)	2005-06 (Rs. in lakhs)	Total (Institute- wise)
IIT Delhi	66.00	106.00	79.00	256.00	—	507.00
IIT Mumbai	56.00	68.00	52.00	200.00	—	376.00
IIT Chennai	48.00	60.00	96.00	202.00	—	406.00
IIT Kanpur	54.00	136.00	282.00	406.50	—	878.50
IIT Kharagpur	42.00	118.00	61.00	141.00	—	362.00
IIT Guwahati	14.00	36.00	15.00	22.00	—	87.00
IIT Roorkee	—	111.00	91.00	285.00	—	487.00
Total (year-wise)	280.00	635.00	676.00	1512.50	—	3103.50

Statement-III

Faculty	Number of Doctorate Degrees Awarded				
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-03	2003-2004	2004-05
Arts	4398	4524	6144	7473	7532
Science	3727	3955	4976	5612	5549
Commerce/Management	621	728	954	1096	1010
Education	399	420	527	613	491
Engineering/Technology	778	734	833	882	968
Medicine	221	219	246	317	456
Agriculture	889	838	1012	1026	888
Veterinary Science	110	110	136	116	132
Law	105	110	146	144	179
Others*	296	336	444	574	693
Total	11534	11974	15328	17853	17898

*Others includes Music/Fine Arts, Library Science, Physical Education, Journalism, Social Work, etc.

Allocation under Various Schemes

1853. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISECS) and Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging Programme implemented by the Government; and

(b) the details of funds allocated to States under these Schemes during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme, implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), loans at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum for assessed requirement of capital expenditure and working capital are made available by banks to registered

institutions producing khadi and polyvastra items. The difference between the actual interest rate of the bank and 4 per cent is paid by the Central Government through KVIC to the lending bank. The Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme aims at assisting product quality improvement, introduction of new designs, marketing and packaging of khadi and village industry products. Under this Scheme, assistance is limited to (i) Rs. 2 lakh per project per year or 75 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, in cases of eligible institutional entities and (ii) Rs. 1 lakh per project per year or 75 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, in cases of eligible individual entrepreneurial units.

(b) The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificates issued by the KVIC and actual availment thereof during the last three years are given in Statements I, II and III enclosed. The State/UT-wise details of funds under PRODIP released to eligible beneficiaries during 2003-04; 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in Statement-IV enclosed.

Statement-I*State-wise details of ISECs issued and actual availment during 2003-04*

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	ISECs Issued			Actual Availment		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.04
2.	Delhi	1.39	0.03	1.42	0.35	0.03	0.38
3.	Haryana	17.27	1.10	18.37	13.88	0.31	14.19
4.	Himachal Pradesh	7.22	26.95	34.17	6.96	21.91	28.87
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.33	0.03	3.36	3.33	0.00	3.33
6.	Punjab	14.09	0.07	14.16	10.98	0.07	11.05
7.	Rajasthan	27.82	5.91	33.73	22.2	0.66	22.86
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Bihar	11.08	0.05	11.13	11.08	0.05	11.13
10.	Jharkhand	3.72	0.00	3.72	3.72	0.00	3.72
11.	Orissa	3.93	0.22	4.15	2.43	0.06	2.49
12.	West Bengal	16.92	0.38	17.30	9.15	0.09	9.24
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Assam	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.02
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Andhra Pradesh	6.27	0.71	6.98	1.98	0.06	2.04
22.	Karnataka	4.27	11.28	15.55	3.19	10.15	13.34
23.	Kerala	18.52	1.26	19.78	6.27	1.26	7.53
24.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Pondicherry	0.14	0.02	0.16	0.14	0.00	0.14
26.	Tamil Nadu	71.00	4.65	75.65	32.6	2.72	35.32
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Gujarat	37.34	9.04	46.38	35.91	6.88	42.79
31.	Maharashtra	9.92	11.41	21.33	8.45	7.40	15.85
32.	Chhattisgarh	4.22	0.00	4.22	4.22	0.00	4.22
33.	Madhya Pradesh	25.71	0.58	26.29	24.01	0.58	24.59
34.	Uttaranchal	4.81	0.17	4.98	4.81	0.17	4.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Assam	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.02
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Andhra Pradesh	4.62	0.54	5.16	2.13	0.06	2.19
22.	Karnataka	3.24	0.26	3.50	2.13	0.07	2.20
23.	Kerala	19.85	1.09	20.94	6.04	0.03	6.07
24.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Pondicherry	0.19	0.02	0.21	0.04	0.00	0.04
26.	Tamil Nadu	52.66	8.55	61.21	38.41	4.62	43.03
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Gujarat	49.32	10.97	60.29	32.73	6.28	39.01
31.	Maharashtra	2.29	8.82	11.11	0.72	8.70	9.41
32.	Chhattisgarh	2.23	0.12	2.35	0.10	0.00	0.10
33.	Madhya Pradesh	25.71	0.58	26.29	24.01	0.58	24.59
34.	Uttaranchal	7.31	0.19	7.5	2.79	0.00	2.79
35.	Uttar Pradesh	106.06	23.55	129.61	77.38	10.54	87.92
	Departmental Units of KVIC	19.28	0.00	19.28	8.28	0.00	8.28
	Total	388.38	58.30	446.68	246.21	32.26	278.47

Note: VI—Village Industry (e.g., polyvastra items)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Andhra Pradesh	4.74	0.56	5.30	2.16	0.04	2.20
21.	Karnataka	3.66	0.41	4.07	1.66	0.09	1.75
22.	Kerala	16.09	1.12	17.21	6.39	0.00	6.39
23.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Pondicherry	0.19	0.02	0.21	0.04	0.00	0.04
25.	Tamil Nadu	52.72	6.42	59.14	39.34	3.94	43.28
26.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Gujarat	41.61	10.97	52.58	34.59	9.10	43.69
28.	Maharashtra	1.82	8.84	10.66	0.80	8.75	9.55
	Chhattisgarh	1.86	0.11	1.97	0.20	0.00	0.20
29.	Madhya Pradesh	10.04	2.11	12.15	2.92	0.22	3.14
	Uttaranchal	5.92	0.15	6.07	2.61	0.00	2.61
30.	Uttar Pradesh	90.98	6.88	97.86	56.86	1.79	58.65
	Departmental Units of KVIC	11.56	0.00	11.56	11.56	0.00	11.56
Total		317.61	39.33	356.94	208.32	24.91	233.23

Note: VI—Village Industry (e.g., polyvastra items)

Statement-IV

State-wise details of funds released under PRODIP Scheme during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. lakh)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Fund Released		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.50	11.25	9.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.	Assam	7.51	5.00	8.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	5.00	7.50	5.64
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.50	4.75	4.15
6.	Goa	0.00	1.50	0.00
7.	Gujarat	7.16	7.50	7.19
8.	Haryana	3.00	3.75	4.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.00	3.75	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.50	3.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	3.00	3.75	0.75
12.	Karnataka	5.35	11.25	13.50
13.	Kerala	20.39	5.75	6.72
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4.00	7.50	4.50
15.	Maharashtra	5.00	3.75	3.75
16.	Manipur	2.00	2.00	2.00
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	2.00	2.00
18.	Mizoram	2.00	2.00	2.00
19.	Nagaland	2.00	2.00	2.00
20.	Orissa	5.52	3.75	0.00
21.	Punjab	2.72	3.75	3.38
22.	Rajasthan	6.50	11.25	8.25
23.	Sikkim	0.00	2.00	1.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	10.74	18.74	10.45
25.	Tripura	0.00	2.00	1.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12.84	18.29	30.25
27.	Uttaranchal	3.00	3.75	2.25
28.	West Bengal	12.18	7.50	5.14
29.	Delhi	3.59	3.00	2.25
Total		142.00	164.03	141.67

Merging Grant of SSA

1854. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to change the norms for sanction of school grant amount under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as is done in the State of Maharashtra by merging the school grant with repair and maintenance grant;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Victims of Militancy

1855. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during militancy in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir people left their business and residences;

(b) if so, the number of such affected persons in these States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government of rehabilitate these affected persons in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Traditional Weaving Craft

1856. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various schemes being implemented by the Union Government to promote traditional weaving craft and salient features of these schemes; and

(b) the financial, technical, marketing and other type of assistance/support provided to the traditional weavers under each of these schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Union Government has been implementing the following schemes for Promotion of Traditional Weaving Craft for development of handloom sector:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
- (ii) Integrated Handloom Training Project
- (iii) Handloom Export Scheme
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (v) Marketing Promotion Programme
- (vi) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Programme
- (vii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
- (viii) Health Insurance Scheme
- (ix) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

The salient features of the various schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Statement-II showing State-wise expenditure for the last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

Promotion of Traditional Weaving Craft Salient Feature of the Schemes

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY)

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, introduced as a Centrally Sponsored Plan scheme w.e.f. 1-4-2000, aims at providing assistance for setting up of handlooms, purchasing handloom accessories, imparting training to weavers, enhancing working capital, developing designs in the handloom products, developing infrastructure, strengthening of handloom organizations and for marketing of handloom products etc. A special component to provide Transport Subsidy for transportation of finished goods from North Eastern States, Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir has also been incorporated in the scheme. The scheme will be in operation till 31-3-2007.

Handloom Export Scheme

The Handloom Export Scheme came into force w.e.f. 31-1-2003. Before that, from 1996-97 onwards, the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms had been implementing the "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme (DEPM)." The objective of the Handloom Export Scheme is to impart financial assistance to the handloom agencies and individual exporters for development of export-worthy handloom products and their publicity and marketing.

Marketing Promotion Programme

The objective of the scheme is to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country and to improve levels of awareness among handloom weavers and the general public in the interest of overall development of the handloom sector. The components of the scheme are—
(i) Organization of Exhibitions and fairs; (ii) setting up of Urban Haats; (iii) setting up of Marketing Complexes; (iv) Publicity and awareness.

Mill Gate Price Scheme

Government of India introduced Mill Gate Price Scheme in 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarns to the handloom weavers' organizations at the mill gate price. National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) is the only agency authorized to implement the scheme.

(i) Supply of Yarn: The expenditure involved for the above activity and also the overhead expenditure incurred by the NHDC on this yarn transaction is being reimbursed by the Government at following flat rate:

Yarn other than silk and Jute	3.5% of the value of yarn
Silk Yarn	2% of the value of yarn

Jute Yarn

10% of value of yarn

Where National Handloom Development Corporation will supply yarn for delivery through yarn depots, NHDC will get an additional reimbursement of 1.5% of the value of yarn stated above. Thus, the above mentioned rate of reimbursement will be enhanced as follows:

(i) Other than silk jute yarn	—	5.0% of the value
(ii) Silk Yarn of all types	—	3.5% of the value
(iii) Jute yarn and its blends in which the proportion of Jute is more than 50%	—	11.5% of the value

Integrated Handloom Training Project

"Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP)" was introduced in Dec. 2003. The project envisages skill upgradation of handloom weavers/workers in Weaving Technology, Design Development, Dyeing Technique and Managerial disciplines, so as to enable them to produce and market a diversified range of quality products in keeping with current trends in the domestic and international markets.

Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

The scheme is being implemented primarily for providing suitable work place to the weavers thereby achieving better productivity. The scheme is being implemented by the respective State Handloom Development Corporations, Primary Societies or any other specialized agency set up by the concerned State Government for execution of such projects.

The existing funding pattern under the Scheme is given below:—

Name of the Component	Units Cost in Rs.	Maximum subsidy	Loan from HUDCO/FIs	Weavers Contribution
Rural Workshed	9000	7000	—	2000
Urban Workshed	14000	10000	—	4000
Rural Workshed-cum-House	35000	18000	14000	3000
Urban Workshed-cum-House	45000	20000	20000	5000

Weavers' Welfare Schemes: Weavers Welfare Schemes comprise Thrift Fund Scheme, Health Package Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme and New Insurance Scheme.

(i) Thrift Fund Scheme: The Thrift Fund Scheme was introduced in the year 1985-86 as a social welfare measure. The Scheme envisages creation of a type of fund in the nature of provident fund with the contribution from the weavers, the State Government and the Central Government for facilitating them to meet expenses towards children's education/medical expenses of family members and expenses in connection with marriage, and other religious ceremonies etc. The age limit for coverage of weavers is 18 to 60 years.

The existing funding pattern of the scheme is as under:—

Sl.No.	Component	Amount entitled
1.	Reimbursement of cost of spectacles and testing of eyes.	@ Rs. 150 per weaver] @ Rs. 40 per weaver] once in five years
2.	Medical reimbursement	@ Rs. 1500 per weaver p.a.
3.	Supply of drinking water	@ Rs. 35,000 per bore well sanitary dug-well for every to 50 weavers households.
4.	Maternity benefit for women	@ Rs. 500 per women, per delivery twice in her lifetime.
5.	Compensation for sterilization	@ Rs. 100 per head once in the lifetime.
6.	Infrastructure for Primary Health Centre	@ Rs. 1,00,000 per Centre.

(iii) Group Insurance Scheme: The Group Insurance Scheme was introduced by Government of India during the year 1992-93. The basic objective of the scheme is to provide insurance cover for the handloom weavers in case of natural death.

The existing funding pattern of the scheme was as under:—

(i) Weavers' Contribution	Rs. 40 per annum per weavers
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(i) Weavers' Contribution	8% of the wage earned
(ii) State Government's contribution	4% of the wage earned.
(iii) Central Government's contribution	4% of the wage earned.

(ii) Health Package Scheme: The Health Package Scheme was introduced during 1992-93. Under the Scheme, financial assistance was provided for the treatment of diseases like asthma, tuberculosis and inflammation of respiratory system, cost of testing of eyes and spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for permanent measures of family planning and infrastructure for the primary health care.

The main components of the scheme are as under:—

(ii) State Government's contribution	Rs. 40 per annum per weavers
(iii) Central Government's contribution	Rs. 40 per annum per weavers
Total	Rs. 120

The scheme was implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

(iv) New Insurance Scheme: The basic objective

of the scheme is to provide Insurance cover to handloom weavers against various types of risks such as loss of life, limbs, eyes etc. Due to accident, damages to the dwelling units and raw materials due to natural calamities such as fire, lightning, flood, cyclone, etc. reimbursement of expenses of treatment towards injury, disease and illness, eye testing and maternity benefits. The scheme is implemented through United India Insurance Company Ltd.

The existing funding pattern under the scheme is as under:—

(i) Weavers' contribution	Rs. 20 per annum
(ii) State Government's contribution	Rs. 40 per annum
(iii) Central Government's contribution	Rs. 60 per annum
Total	Rs. 120 per annum

Bunkar Bima Yojana (BBY)

The Government of India introduced a Special Contributory Insurance Scheme called "Bunkar Bima Yojana" during December, 2003. This scheme was a combination of the Janshree Bima Yojana and Add-on Group Insurance Scheme implemented in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The objective of the scheme was to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in case of natural as well as accidental death.

This scheme was replaced by the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), which was introduced in 2005-06.

Design Development and Training Programme

The comprehensive Design Development and Training programme provides for skill up-gradation of weavers through a variety of training programmes, workshops and exhibitions and for development of design inputs to be disseminated to weavers, the collection of traditional designs and skills, and the provision of linkages between various agencies of the handloom sector for

coordinating the design, technological and skill-based factors for developing products to meet the market demand and improve the productivity and viability of the handloom weavers. The various components of this programme will be implemented by organizations most suited to carry out the particular activities. This is a 100% Central Sector Programme except for one component for central assistance to state governments for setting up of IIHTs and WSCs.

Enforcement Machinery

(I) Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

The Government of India, in pursuance of the Textiles Policy, 1985, promulgated the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 dated 29-3-1985, with a view to protect the interests of the handloom weavers in the country from the encroachment of the Powerloom and Mill sector on their livelihood. Under the Act, protection to the handloom sector was extended by way of reserving certain textile articles for exclusive production by handlooms. Presently 11 reserved textile articles are reserved under the Handloom Reservation Order, 1996 vide Notification No. S.O. 557(E) dated 26-7-96 as amended vide S.O. 408(E) dated 2-6-99 and S.O. 405(E) dated 25-4-2000. These articles are: 1) Saree, 2) Dhoti, 3) Towel, Gamcha and Angawastaram, 4) Lungi, 5) Khes, Bedsheet, Bedcover, Counterpane, Furnishing (including tapestry, upholstery), 6) Jamakkalam Durry or Durret, 7) Dress Material, 8) Barrack Blankets, Kambal or Kamblies, 9) Shawl, Loi, Muffler, Pankhi etc., 10) Woollen Tweed, 11) Chaddar, Mekhala/Phanek.

(II) Scheme for Central Assistance to State/UTs for establishment Machinery under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

The scheme for Central Assistance to State/UTs for establishment of Enforcement Machinery was introduced by the Government of India in the year 1986-87. The scheme has been operational during the VII, VIII and IX five year plan and 2002-03 and 2003-04 of the Xth Plan as PLAN Scheme. From 2004-05, it is being continued under Non-Plan with 100% Central Assistance. The basic objective of the scheme is to encourage and assist the States/UTs for establishing Enforcement Machinery to

effectively implement the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. The assistance under the scheme is released to the State Director In charge of Handloom and Textiles through the State Government/ Union Territories.

The following is the Eligibility Criteria to avail assistance:

5000 or more powerlooms are eligible for assistance; the head quarter office will be under direct control of the State Director in-charge of Handlooms and Textiles; each subsidiary Office shall be set up with additional 20,000 powerlooms in each pocket of powerlooms concentration; out of the 24 states only 14 states are eligible, whereas only 7 States have availed assistance under the scheme.

New Initiatives during the Xth Plan

Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

The integrated handloom development cluster scheme has been launched as a sequel to the pronouncement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister as a new Central Sector Scheme from 14th November 2005. Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme has been introduced in 20 handloom clusters at a cost of Rs. 40.00 crores to provide for development of handloom clusters in an inclusive and holistic manner and to build up their capacity to meet the challenges of the market and global competition in a sustainable and self-reliant manner. The scheme will support weavers in the cooperative and outside fold including those of Self Help Groups, NGOs, small and medium enterprises and attached weavers. Following a holistic approach the programme will cover the entire needs of the handlooms sector in each cluster for supply of raw materials, marketing support, design inputs, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers. It is expected that through various interventions, the weaknesses of the cluster will be rectified and the scheme would make their products more competitive in the market place. Special emphasis would be given on the design component where assistance of professional designers as well as product diversification will be undertaken. The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad has been appointed as Implementing Agency for development of Handloom Cluster in Varanasi.

It has also been selected as National Resource Agency for development of 20 identified handloom clusters throughout the country and work has commenced in all the 20 Clusters through various implementing agencies.

Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

The Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) has been introduced during the year 2005-06. The objective of the scheme is to provide insurance coverage to the handloom weavers in case of natural as well as accidental death. It is an improvement of the earlier scheme in the sense that weaver's contribution has been reduced by Rs. 50. The Scheme is implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). The sum assured for natural death is Rs. 50,000 and that for accidental death is Rs. 80,000 under the Scheme. In the case of permanent total disability also the sum assured is Rs 50,000 while in the case of partial disability the sum assured is Rs. 25,000. The annual premium under the scheme is Rs 330. The funding pattern of the Scheme is as under:

(i) Weavers' share	Rs. 80 per weaver per annum
(ii) Government of India' share	Rs. 150 per weaver per annum
(iii) LIC's share	Rs. 100 per weaver per annum
Total	Rs. 330

Additional benefits under MGBBY

A scholarship of Rs 300 per quarter per child is to be paid to students studying in standard IX to XII for a maximum period of four years or till they compete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The scholarship will be for academic year June to May. The benefits are restricted to two children of the member covered. Both the children will be covered for scholarship. This scheme is an improvement over the Bunkar Bima Yojana because the weavers' contribution is less by Rs. 50 per annum in the new scheme for same amount of benefits.

Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)—A Novel Innovative Scheme

The Health Insurance Scheme was introduced in 2005-06, in place of earlier Health Package Scheme in which the upper limit for the reimbursement claim received from the State Governments was only Rs. 1500 in a year. The Health Package Scheme covered only the individual and not members of his family. The newly introduced Health Insurance Scheme covers not only the weaver, but his wife and two children also. It covers all the preexisting and new diseases. The maximum limit per family is Rs. 15,000 per annum, which is 10 times the benefit under the old Health Package Scheme, out of which OPD cover is Rs 7,500.

The benefits under the Scheme are given below:—

Annual Limit per family (1+3)	15,000
Sub Limits per family:	
All pre-existing diseases+New Diseases	15,000
Maternity Benefits (per child for the first two)	2,500
Dental treatment	250
Eye treatment	75
Spectacles	250
Domiciliary Hospitalisation	4,000
Ayurvedic/Unani/Homeopathic/Siddha	4,000
Pre-Hospitalisation and Post-Hospitalisation	15,000
Baby coverage	500
OPD	7,500
Limit per illness	7,500
Premium for family of Four	1000

The existing funding pattern on the scheme is as under:—

(i) Weavers' share	Rs. 200 per weaver per annum
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(ii) Government of India' share	Rs. 800 per weaver per annum
Total	Rs. 1000

The scheme is implemented through ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.

Handloom Mark Scheme

'Handloom Mark Scheme' has been introduced for the domestic as well as international markets. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had launched the Scheme on 28th June, 2006. The Scheme will serve as a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven and will help in promoting sales of handloom products. It will not only popularize Indian handloom but also improve price realization of the handloom products in domestic and international markets. It will help the buyers in distinguishing the handloom products from the powerloom and mill-made products and thus, also improve the earnings of the handloom weavers for their hard work and skill. The Scheme covers all handloom fabrics and products made thereof. The Scheme will be operational throughout the country. Individual weavers, Weavers Cooperative Societies, Master Weavers, Retailers and Exporters are entitled to participate in the scheme and avail of its benefits. The Handloom Mark logo has been developed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Textile Committee in the Ministry of Textiles is the implementing agency for the Scheme.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Handloom Sector

Launched on 31st July, 2006 as a component of the existing TUF Scheme of the Ministry of Textiles.

Salient features of the Scheme: 25% capital subsidy for purchase of the new machinery and equipments for the pre-loom and post-loom operations, up-gradation of handlooms and testing and Quality Control equipments for exclusive use by the handloom production units; capital ceiling per project is Rs. 80.00 lakh; Maximum capital subsidy Rs. 20.00 lakh.

Eligible Agencies: Existing handloom units having a minimum of 10 handlooms housed in a common work-shed, New units, which propose to set up with at least 10 handlooms at one place in a common work-shed.

Statement-II

Details of releases made during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Handloom Export Scheme		Deen Dayal Hatkargha Pratsahan Yojana (DDHPY)		Marketing Promotion Programme			Bunkar Bima Yojana				
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2004-05	2005-06		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	1648.45	406.09	656.12	42.88	75.17	115.99	0.00	13.26	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.26	1.75	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	33.75	15.00	0.00	445.71	0.00	11.12	101.41	107.29	176.35	0.00	0.85	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.88	11.20	4.61	1.00	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	12.00	15.00	13.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.25	22.00	42.73	0.00	0.55	0.00
9.	Haryana	9.85	13.50	17.10	0.00	4.58	0.00	17.73	51.63	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	41.55	6.75	20.34	99.18	96.82	27.50	8.09	7.00	12.87	0.00	0.02	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	5.75	21.56	20.42	25.38	18.29	42.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.22	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	126.66	104.76	1050.00	24.10	46.33	77.51	0.00	8.22	0.00
14.	Kerala	11.25	6.73	33.25	679.35	594.10	285.41	11.67	17.27	9.00	0.00	0.36	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	40.19	30.33	29.70	17.25	40.25	0.00	0.00	0.00

Export of Cottage Products

1857. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of cottage industry products exported to various countries during each of the last three years and current year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to give incentives to the exporters of these products?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The cottage industry sector consists inter alia of khadi, polyvastra and village industries. The value of export of khadi and village industry (KVI) products, during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (as reported by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission), is given in the table below:

Year	Value of export (Rs. Crore)
2003-04	51.53
2004-05	39.08
2005-06	40.41

The date for the current year (2006-07) are not yet available.

(b) For promotion of KVI products, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides cash incentives to the registered exporting institutions and individual entrepreneurs at the rate of 5 per cent of the 'free on board' (FOB) value of exported items. In addition, KVIC provides financial assistance to its registered units/institutions for participation in international exhibitions, study tours and publicity.

N.C.E.R.T.

1858. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has drawn up a scheme to revive and sustain alternative traditions of education that blossomed during the colonial rule as a reaction to the Macaulay system of education as reported in *The Hindu* dated October 03, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof along the objectives therefor;

(c) the names of schools which will be considered for financial and academic support; and

(d) the assistance proposes to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Under the programme "Revival of Selected Heritage Schools in the country", National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) intends to provide academic and other support to such schools which were, inter alia, founded during Indian freedom movement inspired by nationalist education and represented a heritage of innovative pedagogy and/or innovative educational techniques as a viable alternative to the system of formal education evolved during colonial period.

(c) NCERT has received 93 proposals, but the names of schools which will be given support have not been finalised.

(d) NCERT intends to provide academic and other support for a few years till the institutions regain their glory, declare them as heritage schools, and help them to have distinct identities.

[Translation]

C.A.B. on Free and Compulsory Education

1859. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board constituted on universalisation of Secondary Education and Free and Compulsory Education Bill has submitted its report;

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

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations made in the report;

(d) whether an action plan has been prepared by the Government for the actual implementation of these recommendations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Reports of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Universalisation of Secondary Education and the CABE Committee on Free and Compulsory Education Bill were presented and considered at the 53rd CABE meeting held on 14-15 July 2005.

Some of the major recommendations of the CABE Committee of Universalisation of Secondary Education are (i) The guiding principles of Universal Secondary Education should be universal access, equality and social justice, relevance and development, and structural and curricular considerations; (ii) there has to be a norm for schooling, such norms should be developed for each state with common national parameters as well as state specific parameters; (iii) each state should develop a perspective plan for universal secondary education, decentralised micro-level planning should be the main approach to planning and implementation of Universal Secondary Education; (iv) Financial requirements for covering the cost of universal elementary and secondary education will form approximately 5.1 per cent of GDP and hence the immediate allocation of 6% of the GDP for education and progressive increase in this proportion will be necessary to move towards Universalisation of Secondary Education; and (v) the pressure on secondary education is already being perceived and it will not be wise to wait till 2010 when the pressure may become unbearable. Action has been initiated in light of the various recommendations.

The Report of the CABE Committee on Free and Compulsory Education Bill contains the "essential provisions" of the draft legislation envisaged under Article

21 A of the Constitution which makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years. Based on the suggestions and comments received during the CABE meeting held on 14-15th July, 2005, a complete version of the draft legislation was prepared and circulated to the States/UTs. Based on further consultations, a draft Model Right to Education Bill, spelling out broad parameters and features for achieving the constitutional mandate of free and compulsory education has been drafted and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon.

[English]

Reduction of Grants under KGBV Scheme

1860. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any reduction in allocation of funds for the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme in 2006-2007 as compared to 2005-2006 and 2004-2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) number of schools set up in Kerala under the scheme; and

(d) number of schools set in the country under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme for promotion of education of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme was launched in August 2004. The allocation for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 225 crore for 2005-06 wherein capital costs of setting up new schools were included. A provision of Rs. 128 crore has been made for the year 2006-07 largely for recurring costs.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned 1180 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas till date. No KGBV school has been sanctioned in Kerala as it does not have any eligible educationally backward blocks as per the laid down criteria of the scheme.

Children Involved in Armed Conflict

1861. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether UNESCO in its Global Monitoring Report (GMR) 2007 claiming that children below 15 years in India are involved in armed conflict;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has studied that report;

(d) the finding facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A map entitled "Children and armed conflict, 2003" at page 75 of the EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2007 indicates India to be a State in Armed Conflict in 2003 with more than 1/3rd of population under 15 years of age. It also indicates that India is a country where child fighters under 15 years of age were reported to be in armed conflict during 2003. The source of the information contained in the map is stated to be Project Ploughshares (2003).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The matter was taken up with UNESCO at the highest level. A clarification has been received from UNESCO stating that definition of armed conflict vary and that there is no one authoritative list of countries in conflict. It is further stated that the report of the Project Ploughshares includes in the list of countries in armed conflict those countries in which the reported death toll has crossed 1000. UNESCO has further stated that they understand that armed conflict is not a reality in the whole of India and that, therefore, not all children are affected

by it. A Note has now been added to GMR 2007 to clarify this fact.

Scheme by NIFT

1862. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has introduced a scheme to focus rural handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of medium and rural clusters identified for promotion of rural handicrafts in various States, State-wise;

(d) whether any such scheme is also proposed for tribal handicraft products in the country; and

(e) 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. National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has undertaken Cluster Projects under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide sustainable livelihood to craftsmen below poverty level by imparting training to them for skill and product development.

(c) Presently Craft Clusters are in operation at five places namely Birbhum in West Bengal, Surendranagar in Gujarat, Kozhikode in Kerala, Hampi in Karnataka and Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The Cluster Projects cover several selected handicrafts of the region including tribal handicraft.

**Missing of Secret Documents
from BALCO**

1863. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the designs, drawing and research papers relating to the manufacture of special plates and body covers of fighter aircraft missiles and space shuttle accessories gone missing from the Korba based Bharat Aluminium Company as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 29, 2006;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has informed that it is in the business of manufacture of primary aluminium in the form of ingots, sheets plates, slabs, billets and for manufacture of these, BALCO has not been provided any designs, drawings and research papers relating to the manufacture of special plates, body covers of fighter aircraft missiles and space shuttle accessories and the report of the same going missing from BALCO, Korba, as published in the *Hindustan Times* on October 29, 2006 is false.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Song

1864. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 7th September has any historical importance to it in relation to the National Song 'Vande-Matram';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to clear all doubts with regard to the date; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The song 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterji sometime in the early 1870s, caught the public imagination and became a rallying point during the Swadeshi agitation in Bengal in 1905. The song was also sung at the Benaras (Varanasi) session of the Indian National Congress in 1905. Against this background the year 2005 was observed as the centenary year of 'Vande Mataram' and 7th September as a date to mark the occasion.

[English]

Assistance for Conducting Research and Training

1865. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal to the Government of India on 14-06-2006 for sanction and release of Rs. 78 lakhs under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (50% Central + 50% State) for conducting research and training scheduled tribes;

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

(c) whether the utilization certificate for the amounts released during previous years has already been sent by the Government of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the time by which balance grant is likely to be released to the Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal requested for funds for research and training, evaluation, publication, library and construction of Adivasi Bhawan. An amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during the financial year 2006-07. As regards construction of Adivasi Bhawan, further details have been sought from the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As and when the requisite details for construction of the Adivasi Bhawan are received, the proposal would be processed for further release, if admissible.

Unrecognised Teachers Training School

1866. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to validate all the diplomas awarded by unrecognized teachers training institute being run in violation of the 1993 Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these relaxed rules will apply to all unrecognized teacher training institutions in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the unrecognized institutes who are likely to be benefitted by the amended provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance (No. 2 of 2006) has been promulgated on 11-9-2006 to amend the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993. The Ordinance provides for validation of qualifications in teacher education obtained from certain institutions and prescribes penalty for running unrecognized institutions.

(c) and (d) Only Institutions covered by section 18B (1) of the Ordinance, named Institutions offering a course or training in teacher education before the date of promulgation of the Ordinance, which had failed to make an application for recognition to NCTE, but an Examining Body had granted affiliation to the Institution and held examination for a course or training in teacher education conducted by such institution or such examination was due, before the date of issue of the Ordinance are eligible to apply. A total of 222 applications have been received by NCTE so far.

Number of Mills Closed in the Country

1867. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mills lying closed in the country;

(b) the State-wise details of the land in possession of these closed units; and

(c) the plan of the Government about these lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The data on closed industrial units in the country is compiled by Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. As per the information available with the Bureau, 15 units in the public sector, 746 units in the private sector and 5 units in the cooperative sector were closed during the years 2001 to 2005.

(b) The information is not maintained centrally.

(c) Does not arise.

Cotton College

1868. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Assam to make Cotton College a Deemed University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) Institutions are declared deemed-to-be-universities by the Central Government on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. A proposal from the State Government of Assam recommending the status of 'Deemed-to-be-University' to Cotton College, Guwahati, Assam was received in May, 2006. Since the

proposal was not in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and in prescribed format, the State Government was accordingly advised to do the needful. So far, no response has been received either from the State Government or Cotton College in the matter.

Agreement on Science and Education

1869. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has finalized an agreement to enhance cooperation in the field of science and education with China, South Korea and Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, sir. A Memorandum of Scientific and Educational Co-operation between the Ministry of Human Resource Development in the Republic of India and the Ministry of Higher Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed on 06-11-2006 at New Delhi. An Educational Exchange Programme (EEP) between the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the field of education has been signed on 21-11-2006 at New Delhi. However, no such agreement has been finalized in respect of South Korea.

(b) and (c) The agreements with China and Saudi Arabia *inter alia* provide for:

- (1) Exchange of scholars, teachers, researchers and experts;
- (2) Organization of training programmes for teaching professionals;
- (3) Facilitating mutual recognition of educational qualifications;

(4) Exchange of academic scholarships for further education;

(5) Exchange of documented materials, publications, etc.

(6) Organization of seminars, lectures, symposia etc.

(7) Promotion of languages of both countries.

The agreements with China and Saudi Arabia, both initially valid for a period of five years, envisage to strengthen the existing cordial relations between India and the respective countries and to increase the level of co-operation in the educational fields including science in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

Consumption and Production of Cement in Maharashtra

1870. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption and production of cement in the country particularly in Maharashtra during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of cement in the country particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The state-wise consumption and production of cement in the country during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) As per figures mentioned by Cement Manufacturers' Association in the Annexure, cement production in the country in the year 2005-06 was 141.81 million metric tonne. whereas the consumption was 135.56 million metric tonne. In Maharashtra, the consumption during the year 2005-06 was 16.78 million metric tonne and production was 11.38 million metric tonne. Maharashtra being the highest consuming State, supply from other States meets the requirements.

Statement
Cement Production and Consumption
(Large Plants)

(in thousand MT)

Sl. No.	Region/State	Cement Consumption			Cement Production		
		2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1.	Uttaranchal	1825.33	1469.03	1358.2	—	—	—
2.	Haryana	4927.99	4246.27	3721.73	—	—	—
3.	Punjab	5655.31	5234.70	5397.41	4457.62	3794.54	3330.7
4.	Rajasthan	8272.69	6967.15	6609.67	20239.77	18659.62	17781.01
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1593.12	1451.31	1382.76	4811.43	4110.23	3993.29
6.	Chandigarh	264.82	189.30	193.51	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	3503.85	3749.83	3387.77	—	—	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1014.13	948.21	809.87	159.35	140.5	119.17
	Total	27057.24	24255.80	22860.92	29668.17	26704.89	25224.17
Eastern Region							
9.	Assam	1086.30	1118.91	1020.24	128.34	119.12	119.11
10.	Meghalaya	767.76	949.44	717.63	100.23	93.16	99.19
11.	Bihar	4360.26	3799.96	3129.64	456.72	368.97	338.91
12.	Jharkhand	2630.63	2314.01	2025.52	4164.52	3775.05	3587.81
13.	Orissa	4145.91	3901.13	3377.40	3305.37	2918.5	2483.17
14.	West Bengal	6588.91	6223.01	5782.43	3249.87	3124.12	2744.06
15.	Chhattisgarh	3081.46	2090.95	1423.98	8639.06	8329.01	7297.64
	Total	22661.23	20397.41	17476.84	20044.11	18727.93	18669.89
Southern Region							
16.	Andhra Pradesh	11464.57	8550.43	8007.98	19935.02	16302.24	14037.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Tamil Nadu	11129.21	9553.90	9096.88	14289.11	12600.27	12291.11
18.	Karnataka	9382.23	8105.36	8230.53	9975.63	9517.83	9276.48
19.	Kerala	6499.77	6129.37	5892.86	682.92	561.11	528.11
20.	Pondicherry	329.06	263.54	242.67	—	—	—
21.	Andaman and Nicobar	76.55	50.54	68.39	—	—	—
22.	Goa	486.58	779.61	493.24	—	—	—
	Total	39367.97	33432.75	32032.55	44882.68	38981.45	36132.71
Western Region							
23.	Gujarat	9121.28	8709.98	7844.28	13555.70	11720.31	10369.84
24.	Maharashtra	16784.42	15876.37	14679.77	11376.26	11042.01	10631.45
	Total	25905.70	24586.35	22524.05	24931.96	22762.32	21001.29
Central Region							
25.	Uttar Pradesh	14202.16	14118.81	13402.32	4881.32	4228.34	3458.45
26.	Madhya Pradesh	6368.67	6287.26	5566.38	17396.88	16166.22	15017.86
	Total	20570.83	20406.07	18968.70	22278.20	20394.56	18476.31
	Grand Total	135562.99	123078.36	113863.25	141805.13	127571.16	117504.4

Source: Cement Manufacturers Association.

[Translation]

Home Secretary Level Talks with Myanmar

1871. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Home Secretary level talks between India and Myanmar were held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said meeting;

(c) whether the Government has raised the issues relating to anti India activities being carried out in Myanmar; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Myanmar thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The 12th National Level Meeting at Home Secretary level between India and Myanmar was held at New Delhi from 13th to 16th September, 2006. Various issues of mutual concern including those related to security, drug trafficking and effective border management were discussed in detail at this meeting. Expressing serious concern over the presence of India Insurgent Groups and arms smugglers who have been using Myanmar's territory for carrying out activities inimical to India's interest, the leader of Indian delegation requested Government of Union of Myanmar to take sustained action against them. The leader of

Myanmar delegation reaffirmed the commitment of Government of Union of Myanmar in ensuring that no part of its territory is used by insurgents and arms smugglers in carrying out undesirable activities against India.

Brass Industry

1872. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant subsidy to the brass industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of small industries in Uttar Pradesh

which are being granted subsidy by the Union Government, industry-wise; and

(e) the reasons for not granting subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Government (in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries) does not implement any scheme of subsidy for establishment of a new small scale industrial (SSI) unit engaged in manufacturing any specific product group or type, including brass.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Small scale industries in Uttar Pradesh have been provided subsidy under the on-going schemes, as detailed below:

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	No. of units benefited	Amount of subsidy up to October, 2006 (Rs. lakh)
1.	Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for Technology Upgradation	81	187.22
2.	ISO-9000/ISO-14001 Certification Fee Reimbursement Scheme	1165	640.00

Any SSI unit, whether manufacturing brass products or otherwise, can avail of the subsidy under these two schemes provided they satisfy the conditions of the schemes.

(e) Does not arise.

National Small and Medium Enterprises Board

1873. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for selecting members and terms and conditions for the membership of the National Small and Medium Enterprises Board;
- (b) the composition of the existing Board;

(c) the number of the institutes given membership of the Board from January, 2006 till date;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the membership of this board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 provides for constitution of the National Board of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (NBMSME) with the Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department of the Central Government having administrative control of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as the ex-officio Chairperson and 46 other members. The

Government has notified the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rules, 2006, which *inter alia*, contain the term of office of the members of the Board, other than *ex-officio* members, the manner of filling vacancies, and the procedure to be followed in the discharge of their functions by the members of the Board. The MSMED Act and the Rules referred to above are available at the website "small industryindia.com" or "laghu-udyog.com".

(b) and (c) The NBMSME has not been constituted so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Employment to Surrendered
Kashmiri Militants**

1874. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of surrendered Kashmiri militants employed by paramilitary forces in a bid to rehabilitate youth wishing to serve the country during each of the last three years, force-wise;

(b) whether more such requests from militants are pending with the Government;

(c) if so, the time by which such requests are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the total number of surrendered militants found involved in anti-national activities after getting rehabilitated force-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Nil.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Revamping of KVIC

1875. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people and artisans employed in Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), separately;

(b) whether there is a steep decline in employment opportunities in KVIC;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken to make the Khadi and Village Industries products competitive in the global economy and to revamp the KVIC;

(e) whether more employment is likely to be created through revamping of KVIC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As on 31-03-2006, 8.68 lakh persons, including khadi spinners and weavers, are employed in the khadi sector and 74.09 lakh persons are employed in the village industries sector according to information furnished by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) and (c) On the whole, there has been no decline in employment in the khadi and village industries as is evident from the details given in the table below:

Year	Employment (lakh persons)	
	Khadi	Village Industry
2002-03	8.58	57.87
2003-04	8.61	62.58
2004-05	8.64	68.14
2005-06	8.86	74.09

(d) to (f) To strengthen the khadi and village industries (KVI) and make them competitive in the global economy, Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidised rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and packaging of KVI products, and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through KVIC for setting up village industries by providing subsidy in the form of margin money. Assistance is also provided to KVI units to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels to assist marketing of KVI products. These facilities are available to all eligible cottage and rural industries. Further, the Government has launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 29 khadi, 50 village and 25 coir industry clusters for five years beginning 2005-06. SFURTI envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centres, quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

Further, the Expert Committee constituted to suggest measures for revamping of KVIC and programmes/schemes had, *inter alia*, recommended strengthening of the khadi and village industries by restructuring of some of the on-going schemes. In pursuance of the accepted recommendations, KVIC has prepared proposals in this regard with aim of creating more employment opportunities in the KVI sector.

Report of NIC

1876. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Integration Council (NIC) panel has submitted its reports;

(b) if so, details of the recommendations therein and measures taken/to be taken by the Government to implement such recommendations; and

(c) if not, the time by which such report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The 4th meeting of the Working Group of the National Integration Council (NIC) set up to study the reports of the Commissions of Inquiry on the Communal Riots was held on 27th September, 2006. The next meeting of the Working Group is yet to be fixed.

Psycho Analytical Studies of Jawans of PMF

1877. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any psycho-analytical studies on the jawans of para-military forces, who are often posted in isolated areas; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Studies conducted by Central Police Forces on their personnel posted in remote and difficult areas have shown prevalence of physical, emotional and social disturbances amongst some of them.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Mass Media Subject in NCERT Books

1878. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include a new chapter titled 'Mass Media and Communication' in the book of social science and political life of NCERT books particularly for class Seventh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) proposes to include two chapters titled 'Understanding Media' and 'Understanding Advertising' in the Political Science textbook for Class VII to be introduced from the academic session 2007-08.

*[English]***Scheme for Textile Workers**

1879. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new projects/schemes launched since May, 2004, date-wise;

(b) the current status thereof;

(c) whether their performance has been reviewed; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The Government has launched following schemes/projects since May, 2004.

Handloom Sector:

- (i) Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme was launched in the year 2005-06. The development of clusters is at various stages of implementation.
- (ii) Health Insurance Scheme was launched on 3-11-2005. Till date, 2.97 lakh weavers have been covered.
- (iii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana was launched on 2-10-2005. Earlier this scheme was known as Bunkar Bima Yojana. Till date, 2.77 lakh weavers have been covered.
- (iv) Handloom Mark was launched on 28-06-2006. So far, 54 beneficiaries have been registered under the scheme and 3.85 lakh Handloom Mark labels have been sold to these beneficiaries.
- (v) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Handloom sector was launched on 31-07-2006. Nine applications for projects have been received till date.

Others:

- (i) Scheme for Integrated Textile Park was launched in October 2005. Project proposals for development of 26 Integrated Textile Parks have been sanctioned. Estimated project cost of these projects is Rs. 2428.23 crore, of which Government assistance is Rs. 866 crore.

(c) and (d) The performance review of the schemes is an ongoing process. It is reviewed from time to time. All these schemes have shown positive results.

Conversion of Anganwadi Centres into Creches

1880. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to convert Anganwadi Centres to Day Care Creches; 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.

Integrated Handloom Training Programme

1881. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under Integrated Handloom Training Programme and Marketing Promotion Programme since their inception separately;

(b) the targets set under the said programmes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the targets set under the programmes have been achieved;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) A Central Sector Plan Scheme 'Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP)' has been introduced in December 2003 for imparting training to handloom weavers workers. Under the Scheme, financial assistance for covering 39,200 beneficiaries has been released till November 2006.

- Marketing Promotion Programme has been introduced by the Government of India in the 10th Plan w.e.f. the year 2002-03.
- The components of the scheme are—(i) Organisation of Exhibitions/Fairs/Crafts Melas (ii) Setting up of Urban Haats; (iii) setting up of Marketing Complexes; (iv) Publicity and awareness.

The Government of India provides funds to State

Governments/Implementing Agencies for infrastructure and Publicity in connection with the above activities.

(b) to (e) The details in respect of "Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP) are as under:—

Year	Target (number of beneficiaries)	Achievement (number of beneficiaries)
2003-04	3740	—
2004-05	15000	11760
2005-06	13000	18700

The details of target/achievement event-wise under "Marketing Promotion Programme" during the last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Event	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1.	National/Special Handloom Expos	16	27	30	37	50	48
2.	District Level Event (DLE)	150	158	150	147	300	262
3.	Craft Melas	06	06	07	07	06	06
4.	Urban Haats	—	05	—	03	—	05
Total		172	196	187	194	356	321

IHTP Scheme was introduced in December 2003. Being a new scheme, which required understanding by the Weavers Service Centres (WSCs), State Governments, Implementing Agencies etc., constitution of State Level Training Committee by each State Government, release of advertisement by WSCs for inviting proposals etc., therefore, there was spill over of the training programmes for their implementation.

There is a shortfall in DLEs/Expos in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 as implementing agencies did not submit the proposals with the requisite documents.

Iron Ore Price

1882. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to increase in Iron Ore price in the international market there has been increasing trend of unscientific and illegal mining; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered against individual organization who are violating mines regulation alongwith the action taken against them, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Mining Plan duly approved, is mandatory for obtaining a mining lease. The Mining Plan provides for undertaking safe, systematic and scientific mining operation. As per Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 all mining operation has to be carried out in accordance with mining plans. State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining leases. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only in the case of minerals listed in First Schedule of MMDR Act, 1957. The responsibility to check illegal mining rests with the State Government concerned. State Governments have been directed to frame rules under Section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 for prevention of illegal mining, transportation etc. and to constitute Task Forces at State/District level and the same are monitored on quarterly basis alongwith the steps taken by the State Governments to check illegal mining by the Ministry regularly.

[Translation]

Security Clearance to Sez Projects

1883. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign nationals are coming to India for setting up of industrial units under Special Economic Zone Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Minister of Home Affairs has scrutinised foreign investment proposals on security grounds as reported in *The Times of India* dated October, 30, 2006;

(c) if so, the details of security clearances so far given and pending with the Government for foreign investments;

(d) whether the Government proposes to simplify the security clearance procedure to avoid delay; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per available information, no proposals have been received from Foreign Nationals for setting up of industrial units under the Special Economic Zones Scheme

(b) to (e) As per provisions contained in the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005, the Board of Approvals, wherein the proposals to establish Special Economic Zones are considered, includes representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Some proposals in sensitive areas/sectors are looked at from security point of view.

Cotton Export

1884. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantum of cotton exported during each of the last three years, and current year;

(b) whether there is steep increase in cotton export during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned from cotton export during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (d) The details of value and quantity exported during last three years and current year are:—

(figures in tones/Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Export	Value
2003-04	179612	942.37
2004-05	86635	422.58
2005-06 (Prov.)	595881	2791.87
2006-07 (Prov. April-June)	213566	1101.94

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata

(b) and (c) Yes sir, there has been quantum jump in cotton exports from the country during 2005-06 to 47.00 lakh bales from the level of 9.14 lakh bales during 2004-05. During the current year 2006-07 also there is good scope for cotton exports from the country since the cotton production in the country is expected to be much more than the domestic consumption resulting into surplus supply situation. However, cotton exports from the country would mainly depend on price parity i.e. Indian cotton prices vis-a-vis international cotton prices.

[English]

AFSP Act

1885. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Justice (Retd.) B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; and

(b) the action so far taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended in 1972 has submitted its report to Ministry of Home Affairs on 6-6-2005. The recommendations of the Committee contained in its report are being examined and a decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Exploration of Mineral Reserves

1886. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Corporation and Indian Bureau of Mines have age old expertise and modern technologies in the field of exploration and exploitation of mineral wealth; and

(b) if so, the details of plans the Government proposes to exploit vast mineral resources to earn foreign exchange in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carries out regional geological surveys and exploration in the country. Mineral Exploration Corporation (MECL) is engaged in detailed mineral exploration whereas Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) is the custodian of the mineral data and is the regulatory body for mineral related policies. These organizations have vast experience in the field of exploration and are in the process of acquiring the latest technology through modernization programmes. The efforts of these organizations for survey and exploration of minerals are being intensified.

Exploitation of mineral resources does not come under the purview of these Government organizations and is being done by the private agencies.

Discrepancy in Merchandise Trade

1887. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether huge discrepancy in merchandise trade data has occurred for the year 2005-2006;

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

(c) whether accountability has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to rectify the data and to prevent recurrence of such lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During 2005-06, the merchandise trade data of textiles exports compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence (DGCI and S) was found to be under-reported when compared with the data of the US customs and the EU customs. A Committee was set up to re-concile these differences. DGCI and S in coordination with DG (Systems) CBEC undertook the exercise of matching the data

received by DGCI and S in the form of Daily Trade Returns (DTRs) with the data entered into the DG (systems) computer network (ICE GATE) from various Customs Houses all over the country. As a result of this exercise, a number of missing records were found in the DGCI and S server. The merchandise trade data for 2005-06 was revised on this basis.

(c) and (d) The present system of collection and compilation of merchandise trade data is in a transition phase. Compared to manual handling of data some years back, presently as much as 85% of trade data is computerised under the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system. The missing entries in the data was a systemic problem that has since been rectified. Hence the question of fixing responsibility does not arise.

(e) Measures have been instituted to ensure proper identification and correction of missing entries in the computer data system so as to avoid recurrence of this problem.

Atrocities by the BSF Personnel

1888. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints of atrocities by the BSF personnel on the people living in bordering areas of Bangladesh particularly in Basirhat sub-division, North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has envisaged any particular plan to curb such menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of BSF personnel prosecuted for such criminal activities during the said period?

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

(b) Six.

(c) and (d) The accused personnel found guilty of the charges have been dealt with sternness and awarded

deterrent punishments. BSF personnel deployed in border areas are sensitized and cautioned from time to time through their field commanders, training programmes etc. Supervisory officers have been asked to remain vigilant and ensure good rapport with the civil population. The disciplinary and Court cases are regularly monitored.

(e) Twelve.

[Translation]

Compensation to Victims of Road Accidents

1889. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any provision to provide compensation to the victims of road accidents in Delhi;

(b) if so, the total number of persons killed in such accidents during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons who have been provided compensation;

(d) the total number of such cases lying pending;

(e) the total number of cases pending for more than two years;

(f) the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which such cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Mining Accidents

1890. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died/injured while mining in gold field during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of relief and compensation paid by the Government to the victims during the said period; and

(c) the details of precautionary measures taken by the Government to stop such untoward incident in the mining field in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines, the Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGMCL), a Karnataka State Government public sector undertaking is the only company presently engaged in the mining of gold in the country. There is no report of deaths while mining in HGMCL during each of the last three years. The number of persons injured during the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 is 37.24 and 9 respectively.

(b) The medical relief was provided to all the injured persons by the HGMCL. A total compensation of Rs. 4,37,411 was paid to the injured persons during the period 2003, 2004 and 2005.

(c) Elaborate provisions for safety and protection of health of Mine workers have been made in Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. These are implemented by the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) an organisation under Ministry of Labour and Employment. Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety make periodic inspection of the mines to oversee compliance and issue violation letters in case of non-compliance. On detection of unsafe conditions in mines, DGMS issues improvement notices and also issues prohibitory orders under the Mines Act, 1952. Prosecutions are launched by DGMS in case no improvement is noticed. Besides, DGMS also issues guidelines, creates general awareness and holds discussions on safety conditions in

mines. Other improvement measures taken by DGMS include the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System and introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.

Textile Park

1891. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme to develop textiles sector infrastructure by merging the old schemes as reported in "*Hindu*" dated October 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the fact of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of apparel parks, weaving parks and high-tech weaving parks for infrastructure development are proposed to be set up, separately, State-wise;

(d) whether some State Governments have sought financial assistance for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, Government has launched the 'Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) by merging the erstwhile 'Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme' and 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme'.

(c) So far 26 projects have been sanctioned under the SITP, details of which, State-wise, are given below:—

Name of the Park	Activities proposed in the park
Andhra Pradesh	
1. Hyderabad Hi-tech Weaving Park	Weaving/Fabric Processing
2. Hindupur Vyapar Apparel Park Limited	Weaving/Sizing/Dyeing/Processing/Apparel

Name of the Park	Activities proposed in the park
3. Pochampally Handloom Park Limited	Yarn Dyeing/Weaving/Fabric Processing/Made-ups
4. Brandix India Apparel City Private Limited	Spinning/Fabric/Processing/Apparel/Embellishment
Gujarat	
5. Gujarat Eco Textile Park Limited	Weaving/Processing/Embroidery
6. Mundra SEZ Textile and Apparel Park Limited	Spinning/Weaving/Garmenting
7. Soham Integrated Textile Park Amdavad Private Limited	Processing/Garmenting/Embroidery
8. Vraj Integrated Textile Park Limited	Spinning/Weaving/Processing/Garmenting/Embroidery
9. Shri Laxminarayan Industrial Co-operative Service Society Limited	Weaving/Embroidery
10. Surat Super Yarn Limited	Texturising
Maharashtra	
11. Metro-Hi-Tech Cooperative Park Limited	Sizing/Warping/Weaving/Fabric Dyeing and Finishing
12. Pride India Cooperative Textile Park Limited	Sizing/Weaving/Garmenting
13. Wada high-tech Weaving Park Limited	Sizing/Warping/Weaving
14. Tarapur Textiles Park Limited	Sizing/Weaving/Garmenting/Embroidery
15. Baramati Hi-Tech Textile Park Limited	Spinning/Weaving/Dyeing/Processing/Garmenting
16. Shri Dhairyashil Mane Textile Park Co-operative Society Limited	Warping/Sizing/Weaving/Processing/Garmenting
Tamil Nadu	
17. The Great Indian Linen and Textile Infrastructure Company Limited	Sizing/Warping/Weaving//Garmenting/Processing
18. SIMA Textile Processing Centre	Processing (Yarn/Fabric)
19. Palladam Hi-Tech Weaving Park	Sizing/Weaving
20. Komarapalayam Hi-Tech Weaving Park Ltd.	Spinning/Warping/Sizing/Weaving
21. Erode Hi-Tech Weaving Park Limited	Wrapping/Sizing/Weaving/Garmenting
Rajasthan	
22. Jaipur Texweaving Park Limited	Weaving/Warping/Sizing

Name of the Park	Activities proposed in the park
23. Kishangarh Hi-Tech Textile Park Limited	Weaving/Sizing/Proofing/Coating
Karnataka	
24. Doddabalapur Integrated Textile Park	Warping/Sizing/Weaving
Uttar Pradesh	
25. Gorakhpur Texpark Private Limited	Weaving/Garmenting/Embroidery/Texturising/Sizing/Spinning Processing
West Bengal	
26. EIGMEF Apparel Park Limited	Apparel (Knitted/Woven)/Embroidery

(d) and (e) The SITP is implemented through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) promoted by the Industry Associations/Group of Entrepreneurs. The estimated project cost (infrastructure component) of the above-mentioned 26 parks is Rs. 2411.20 crore, out of which Government of India support would be Rs. 862.55 Crore.

Jute Packaging

1892. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to dilute the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government received any representation against such reduction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action proposed to protect the interest of the Jute grower, Jute worker and Jute Industry;

(f) whether import of Jute bags is increasing after the decision to serve 100% of food grains and sugar to be packed in jute packing material in case of shortage of jute bags in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some Members of Parliament and others have represented the Government not to introduce any concession/dilution under the JPM Act, 1987 for packing food grains and sugar in Jute bags. The Government has taken a decision for 100% compulsory packaging of two items viz. food grains and sugar in Jute bags during the Jute year 2006-07, to ameliorate the condition of Jute Industry as a whole.

(e) The Government has several schemes like Jute Manufacturers Development Committee (JDMC)'s Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry, Export Market Assistance Scheme, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD)'s Jute Entrepreneurs' Assistance Scheme to protect the interest of the Jute growers, Jute workers and Jute Industry.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. While there is no increase in import of Jute bags during the preceding years, the import of raw Jute has shown a slight increase for its use in sectors other than packaging of food grains and sugar.

Minimum Export Price

1893. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coir Board has withdrawn the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir products;

(b) if so, whether Government has found any adverse impact of this decision on the small scale coir manufacturing sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reintroduce the MEP and purchase price export scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting Up of IIT Golden Jubilee Campus

1894. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from Indian Institutes of Technology, Powai Board to start Indian Institute of Technology Golden Jubilee Campus in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether adequate financial provision has been made in 11th Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have not approved the proposal.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Handloom Mark

1895. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is increasing the coverage of weavers cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken especially in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the Government is launching the handloom mark;

(d) if so, the details worked out so far with the outlay especially for Tamil Nadu; and

(e) the steps being taken for promoting and popularising the mark?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) There are 2.64 lakh weavers enrolled in 1232 Co-operative societies in Tamil Nadu. The Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Tamil Nadu is encouraging the Handloom weavers to form more number of Co-operative Societies enabling them to get regular employment and fair wages and to avail all the schemes intended for them. 91 applications have been received by the State Government of Tamil Nadu from the Handloom weavers to form new Co-operative Societies.

(c) The Handloom Mark has already been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28th June, 2006.

(d) A sum of Rs. 4.00 crore has been allocated for implementation of Handloom Mark scheme during the year 2006-07. No State-wise allocation of outlay has been made.

(e) So far, three cycles of advertisements have been issued across the country in national dailies as well as regional/local newspapers in Hindi, English and vernacular languages, explaining the benefits of the scheme to intended beneficiaries, i.e. individual handloom weavers, Primary Handloom Co-op societies, Handloom Corporations, Master weavers, Apex Societies, retailers/traders and exporters.

In Tamil Nadu, advertisements were published in Tamil language in two popular regional newspapers having wide circulation, namely, Dinathanthi and Dinamalar

covering Chennai, Coimbatore, Thirunulveli, Nagercoil, Salem, Madurai, Tiruchirappally, Thanjavur, Vellore, Cuddalore, Erode and Dindigul editions.

Apart from the advertisements, workshops and training programmes and seminars have been conducted at State headquarters, at important handloom concentrated areas as also in important handloom clusters to sensitize and train the State officials and to sensitise the individual handloom weavers, Primary Handloom Co-op Societies, Master weavers, Apex Societies, retailers/traders and exporters.

Export/Import by MMTC

1896. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC exports and imports various items on large scale;

(b) if so, the complete details of items exported and imported during the last three years;

(c) whether MMTC has drawn up a scheme of export of Basmati rice without getting order from any country;

(d) if so, the objective behind such an export policy; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government for loss of revenue suffered by the export policy of MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Commodity-wise Performance

(Rs. in Millions)

Year ended 31st March	2006	2005	2004
1	2	3	4
Exports			
Iron Ore	21584	21369	12037
Manganese ore/oxide	469	660	589
Chrome ore	3191	3354	1563
Pig iron	3458	3901	797
Slag	1	16	
Barytes			
Guypsum (Aggri. Grade)			
Agro Products		620	2429
Mica			

1	2	3	4
Marine Products			
Industrial Products			
Diamonds/gems/jewellery	291	387	592
Merchanting Trade			
Counter Trade			
Steel/HR Steel Coils	101		
Building Material			
Engg. Product		2	905
LCCT			
Others (Tsunami Cars	159		
Total Exports	29254	30309	18912
Imports			
Metals:			
Copper/Copper Cathodes	3104	1128	639
Zinc	955	248	199
Lead	384	276	85
Tin	373	497	409
Nickel	561	700	738
Aluminium	228	165	221
Antimony Metal	52	9	13
Steel/Steel Scrap/HR Coils	274	100	
Others	145	72	36
Sub Total	6076	3195	2340
Fertilizers:			
Sulphur	160	76	150
Rockphosphate			

1	2	3	4
Ammonia Sulphate			94
Urea	5867	4566	692
DAP	5904	1505	1895
MOP	1692	1368	844
SOP			
Others			
Sub Total	13623	7515	3675
Diamonds/Gold/Emeralds	76928	79582	53873
Agro Products	2726	3354	1641
Hydrocarbons	18087	16585	5113
Others	418	94	144
Total Imports	117858	110325	66786

Seizure of Rocket Launchers

1897. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any investigation into the seizure of sophisticated arms including rockets and rocket launchers as reported in the "Asian Age" dated October 6, 2006;

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

(c) the number of persons so far arrested in this connection; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent manufacture and supply of illegal arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh is investigating into the seizure of rockets and rocket launcher seized from Kranthi Transport at Achampet of Mahabubnagar district and Giddalur of Prakasam district on 7/8-9-06. Investigation has so far revealed that CPI (Maoist) had got manufactured these rockets and rocket launchers in seven lathe workshop foundries at Chennai through Thota Kumara Swamy @ Madhu, a native of Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh. In this case, 2 persons have been arrested in Kedapa, while Thota Kumara Swamy @ Madhu, the kingpin and his wife Sudha Rani surrendered to Warangal Police of Andhra Pradesh on 16-10-2006 and were later arrested by Mahabubnagar Police. The Tamil Nadu Police also arrested 7 persons who manufactured rockets and rocket launchers in their foundries.

(d) The State Government has been advised to take all steps to check the illegal manufacturing of rockets and rocket launchers and ensure strict enforcement of the provisions of the Arms and Explosives Acts and Rules and existing instructions issued in this behalf.

Meeting of Police Chiefs

1898. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and decisions taken in the meeting in Guwahati of the police chiefs of the seven North-Eastern States as well as West Bengal and Bhutan, besides senior officers of the Army, Paramilitary forces, the intelligence agencies and the Union Home Ministry;

(b) whether emphasis was given on the coordination of various security arms anti-insurgency plans and operations more urgent in the Meet; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) In the Annual Conference of Director General of Police of North Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal, held at Guwahati on November 1-2, 2006, the issues discussed included, *inter-alia*, operational coordination, intelligence sharing, counter insurgency strategy and strengthening and technical training of police and intelligence officers.

Screening Committee on Freedom Fighters

1899. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revived the screening committee on identifying the freedom fighters participated in the Hyderabad Liberation Movement to grant the pensions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of applications are still pending for grant of pension; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) A proposal to form a committee is under consideration.

About 7000 cases recommended by the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee (HSSC) headed by Shri G.M. Shroff have been sanctioned.

Exact number of cases considered or recommended by the HSSC headed by Shri C.H. Rajeshwar Rao (N. Giri Prasad) is not discernible from available records. 3384 cases have been sanctioned. About 14,700 cases were sent for State Governments' verification in 1988-1999.

Compassionate Appointment in PMF

1900. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees of Para Military Forces personnels of various States origin died while serving in the forces, during each of last three years, force-wise, name-wise, designation-wise, State-wise, particularly of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the dependents of the deceased employees were provided employment on compassionate ground;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the names thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Information being is collected from the Forces.

Compensation Policy

1901. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame any compensation policy for victims of terrorist activities in view of the prevailing situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has also directed the Government regarding policy on terror compensation as well asked the Government to rehabilitate and compensate dam oustees, people of flood affected areas and victims of accidents;

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

(d) the action so far taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prisoners in Tihar Jail

1902. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of male/female prisoners lodged in Tihar Jail of Delhi, separately;

(b) the details of basic amenities provided by the Government to such prisoners, separately;

(c) whether there is an alarming increase in the strength of the jail inmates; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that inmate population remain within the capacity of Tihar Jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There were 11497 male and 481 female prisoners lodged in Tihar jails, New Delhi as on 29-11-2006. The basic amenities/facilities provided to such prisoners include food, clothing, medical care, legal aid, education, vocational training, recreation and rehabilitation.

(c) and (d) There were 11978 inmates in Tihar Jails as on 29-11-2006 which far exceed their total sanctioned capacity of 5200. The steps taken to ease overcrowding in these Jails include construction of new jails; holding Special Courts to try the cases involving petty offences; compiling of list of under trial prisoners who are granted bail but could not be released and sending such lists to District and Session Judge for considering their cases on relaxed surety conditions; and providing legal aid by the Legal Aid Advocates and nominated counsels deputed by Delhi Legal Services Authority to advise the prisoners on moving appropriate applications before the High Court for their early release.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Freedom Fighter Pension

1903. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is undue delay in finalising the cases for grant of pension to the freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in processing/finalising the cases after receipt of the same;

(c) whether the Government proposes to lay down guidelines for early finding cases for grant of pension to freedom fighters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Applicants for Central *Samman* pension under the *Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980* are required to apply on the prescribed application form. The applications, supported by requisite evidence of the claimed suffering, are required to be routed through the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration.

The claims for Central *Samman* pension can be considered only when these are duly verified and recommended by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in accordance with the provisions of the *Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980*. The verification and recommendatory report of the State Government/Union Territory Administration is mandatory in view of the fact that the documents and evidence of the claims are in the possession of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration, and not of the Central Government. However, the Central Government has to keep all documents/reports/evidence in view and take a decision in accordance with the prescribed eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements of the *Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980*. A positive recommendation of the State Government is, therefore, not binding on the Central Government (if the claim does not satisfy the eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirement prescribed under the Central Scheme).

The receipt, consideration and disposal of State reports is a continuous process. While efforts are made to

dispose off State reports expeditiously, no time-frame can be indicated therefor.

[English]

Implementation of SSA

1904. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan activities are implemented in Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the number of classrooms were constructed and the number of teachers were appointed since the inception of the programme; and

(c) the fund allocation and the expenditure made under SSA during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan began to be implemented by the Union Territory of Lakshadweep in 2003-04.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned the construction of 20 class rooms, 2 primary schools, 2 upper primary schools and appointment of 13 teachers to Lakshadweep under the SSA programme so far.

(c)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	GOI releases	Expenditure
2003-04	28.31	7.15
2004-05	12.03	4.21
2005-06	Nil	19.03

Report of Committee on Working of MCD

1905. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of the Committee headed by Shri Omesh Saigal, former Chief Secretary of Delhi on MCD as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated November 22, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has also received another report of the Committee headed by Shri Ashok Pradhan, former Transport Secretary on the multiplicity of authorities in the capital;

(c) if so, the recommendations given by both the committees; and

(d) the response of the Government on each recommendation?

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

(c) Main recommendations made by the Omesh Saigal Committee on restructuring of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Ashok Pradhan Committee on multiplicity of institutions in Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Government is yet to firm up its views on the aforesaid recommendations.

Statement

(A) **Main Recommendations of the Omesh Saigal Committee on restructuring of Municipal Corporation of Delhi include the following:**

- (1) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi may be restructured at three tiers—the Nagar Nigam at first tier, the Janpad at second tier and the ward at third tier;
- (2) Ward Sabha may be constituted for each of 134 wards with the Councilor of the ward as chairman, and other members nominated from amongst the people living in the ward from the categories of urban management experts, resident welfare associations, market associations, retired officials, non-government organizations, etc;
- (3) Ward Sabha may advise the Councilor in use

- of discretionary fund, hearing and redressal of grievances, drawing up an area plan, bringing the micro-level problems of the area to the notice of various authorities and keeping a watch over implementation of area plan;
- (4) Ward Officer maybe appointed as Secretary-cum-Chief Executive Officer of the Ward Sabha;
 - (5) Enforcement system may be strengthened and revamped by updating the list of offences and increasing the rates of fines and penalties to bring them in sync with the principle of "polluter pays";
 - (6) Special Municipal Officers may be appointed in each ward on the lines of Special Police Officers with the authority to sanction prosecution in case of municipal offences;
 - (7) Municipal Courts may be set up at each Ward Office with the provision for summary trials;
 - (8) Each Janpad may have separate deliberative and executive wings with similar relationship and role as in the present MCD—the Janpad Parishad to be the deliberative wing and the Commissioner its executive wing;
 - (9) All the Councilors elected from the wards that comprise the Janpad, and MLAs and MPs whose constituencies or substantial part thereof falls within the area of the Janpad, should be Members with voting rights and the Deputy Commissioners of Revenue and Police and two or three reputed persons in the Janpad area should be members without voting rights of the Janpad Parishad;
 - (10) The Commissioner of the Janpad may be appointed by the Delhi Government and should be of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India;
 - (11) Taxes should be collected and retained by the Janpad and the needs of Nagar Nigam should be taken care of in the allocations to be made by the Finance Commission;
 - (12) Each Janpad may have a separate fund called the Janpad Fund as distinct from the Municipal Fund to be maintained by the Nagar Nigam;
 - (13) The Nagar Nigam may be composed of the Councilors elected from the Wards constituting the Nigam who would elect from amongst themselves a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman and also a Mayor;
 - (14) The Nagar Nigam should have a Mayor's Committee (Nagar Palika) headed by the Mayor as its Chairman and will have a Principal Commissioner who would be the vice-president of this Committee, the other members of this Committee will include five Janpad Chairmen as non-official members (if there are more, the system of rotation will be followed; if less, the remaining can be elected from amongst the Councilors) and five official members—three from Delhi Government and two from the Government of India;
 - (15) The entire executive power of the Nigam should vest in the Mayor's Committee;
 - (16) The Principal Commissioner will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Nigam and should be of the rank of the Additional Secretary to the Government of India and will be appointed by the Delhi Government in consultation with the Government of India and all the Janpad Commissioners shall report to him;
 - (17) The Nigam should perform only purely civic functions and other functions which are not obligatory or civic in nature like primary education and large hospitals must be shifted to the Delhi Government;
 - (18) The entire responsibility for enforcing the building bye-laws should be placed on the shoulders of Principal Commissioner and more stringent penalties should be put in place for violation of building regulations;
 - (19) The raising and up-keep of municipal police with defined role (such as enforcement of building bye-laws, removal of encroachments, control,

prevention and demolition of unauthorized constructions, and combating illegal colonization etc.) must be added as one of obligatory functions of new Nigam;

- (20) Slum Wing of MCD should be organized into a separate autonomous Slum Improvement Board as recommended by the Balakrishnan Committee and the Janpads should be entrusted with execution of schemes of the Board.

(B) Main recommendations of the Ashok Pradhan Committee on multiplicity of authorities in Delhi include the following:

- (1) The number of authorities should be reorganized/rearranged in a manner that a particular institution is responsible to one single authority;
- (2) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) should confine its activities to its core functions of planning and development of land and its disposal;
- (3) The Chief Minister, Delhi should be the Chairperson of DDA with the stipulation that all proposals and decisions of the Authority should be placed before Lieutenant Governor, Delhi for approval before implementation;
- (4) Housing activities should be taken away from DDA and a special purpose vehicle like Housing Board should be set up under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for the purpose;
- (5) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) should function under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi with the Central Government having powers to issue directions through the Lieutenant Governor, Delhi and in the event of non-compliance to supersede the MCD and also the Central Government to have overriding powers in respect of buildings regulations;
- (6) MCD should confine its functioning to its core activities and shed the functions relating to hospitals and schools to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi;
- (7) Zones of MCD should be co-terminus with the police districts;
- (8) Powers to enforce building regulations should be given to Revenue Deputy Commissioner;
- (9) Teh area falling under Lal Dora (old Abadi)/ Phireni (extended New Abadi) should be brought under the unified building regulations and the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957;
- (10) Special purpose vehicle should be created under the municipal bodies for solid waste management; a separate board for slum and jhuggi jhopri should be created under the Government of NCT of Delhi;
- (11) Commissioner, MCD should be appointed by the Government of NCT of Delhi instead of the Central Government;
- (12) A separate Department of Local Self-Government should be set up in the Government of NCT of Delhi to co-ordinate the affairs of the local bodies;
- (13) The Central Government may continue to exercise supervision, control and superintendence over the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC);
- (14) The facility for providing day-to-day services to the citizens should be as near to the place of his residence as possible and various offices, which citizens have to visit, should be located to the extent possible in contiguity;
- (15) Geographical boundaries of MCD, DDA, Police and Revenue Districts should be co-terminus;
- (16) The offices of Revenue Districts should be strengthened and the District Deputy Commissioner should be able to exercise control over all functionaries of revenue administration, field agencies of different departments of the Government of NCT of Delhi, District/zonal level

functionaries of Delhi Jal Board, Transport, DDA and even MCD;

- (17) All civic services should be unified;
- (18) Uniform fee should be charged for similar services provided by different agencies and application forms should be uniform across the different agencies for similar services;
- (19) Road construction/maintenance agencies should construct/create trenches running parallel to the roads with underground crossings at regular intervals for housing services like electricity telephone, water, etc.;
- (20) Sophisticated equipment and machinery should be deployed for handling solid waste;
- (21) Each of the institutions should be subjected to quality audit by an independent agency; and
- (22) There should be an independent Yamuna River Development Authority.

Uniform Rate for Iron Ore

1906. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to fix uniform rate for mining, especially for iron ore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The Ministry of Mines has no proposal to fix uniform rate for mining, especially for iron ore.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Coir Board

1907. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Coir Trade Information Centre has been established at Coir Board, Kochi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the facilities provided at the centre for the benefits of the coir trade; and

(d) the details of benefits envisaged by setting up of this centre?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to provide Information Technology (IT)—enabled services to the coir industry, a Coir Trade Information Centre (CTIC) was set up at the Coir Board headquarters at Kochi in September 2001. The Centre was set up with the technical support of National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI), New Delhi, a joint venture company of the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and National Informatics Centre (NIC).

(c) CTIC functions as a support service centre to provide useful information on trade and industry related matters to all concerned. The centre collects and stores trade information from national and international sources and other secondary data sources and disseminates it to the trade and industry as well as others seeking such information. CTIC also provides information on outcome of research undertaken in the Coir Board's research institutes, product information, details of schemes and services of the Coir Board, etc. An informative website has also been developed for the benefit of trade and industry.

(d) One of the important benefit of the CTIC is that visitors can access trade information through a "single window" operation. The centre provides the following benefits to the Coir trade and industry.

- The coir portal website developed and maintained by the Centre provides up-to-date information to the trade and industry.
- The centre functions as a reference centre for coir trade and caters to the needs of academic and trade interests.
- The trade enquiries received by the centre are transmitted to all concerned in the coir trade.

- The centre periodically updates the data base of production, export, number of units, workforce, etc.

Digital System for Criminal Investigation

1980. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed a new digital system to make the process of criminal investigation faster, more accurate and standardised;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be available to the investigating agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRISHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A multidimensional scheme named CIPA (Common Integrated Police Application) is presently under implementation by the Government for automation of police stations under which FIRs will be registered and printed on computers. The scheme, *inter-alia*, seeks to computerize all important forms, records, data, etc. pertaining to crime investigation in a standardized form. The scheme has been initially launched in 10% police stations during 2005-06. The remaining police stations are being covered subsequently in a phased manner.

(c) The scheme is under implementation in all the States in a phased manner.

Technical Textiles

1909. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the market of the technical textiles has increased over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has constituted any Committee to promote the use of technical textiles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Report of the Expert Committee on Technical Textiles (ECTT), the market size of Technical Textiles is expected to increase from Rs. 19129.59 crores in 2003-04 to Rs. 29579.23 crores in 2007-08.

(c) to (e) Considering the potential of technical textiles in the country, the Government had constituted an Expert Committee on Technical Textiles (ECTT) in the year 2002 to assess the status of the industry in the country and to formulate an action plan to exploit the available opportunities in the domestic and global markets. The ECTT submitted its report in 2004. The ECTT, *inter alia*, recommended five year action plan in order to create a conducive environment for growth of the technical textiles in the country. Based on the recommendations of the ECTT, the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and a Steering Committee for Growth and Development of Technical Textiles to examine the recommendations of the ECTT and to provide necessary impetus for the production/consumption of technical textiles in the country and to monitor and review its growth on continuous basis.

Participation of Women in Sericulture Sector

1910. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage and the number of Women involved in Sericulture Sector; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has proposed any exclusive women oriented programmes/ Scheme for the development of Sericulture Sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also organizing any training programme for women in Sericulture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) There are approximately 35 lakh women, constituting about 60% of the total sericulture work force in the sector. This percentage applies to more or less all the States.

(b) and (c) Government believes that there is adequate representation of women in sericulture sector as of now and intends to increase it within the ambit of ongoing schemes.

(d) and (e) Training for women is being provided in various schemes under the component of 'Enterprise Promotion and Training' of Catalytic Development Programme being implemented by Central Silk Board in the on going Xth plan.

Scheme for Integrated Textile Park

1911. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam and other North Eastern States have submitted any schemes for integrated textile parks to be set up in the respective States;

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

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, Government of India has launched the 'Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP). The Bodoland Territorial Council has shown interest for development of a textile park.

(b) and (c) Detailed proposal in accordance with the guidelines of the SITP has not been received.

Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme

1912. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enhanced the corpus of the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Scale Industry sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to utilise this corpus;

(d) whether the Government has constituted an

Empowered Group for cluster development and utilise the above money optimally for cluster development apart from other things; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The corpus of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries has been enhanced to Rs. 1336.55 crore. The corpus is meant for settling claims of member lending institutions (MLIs) of the Trust against loans advanced to the small scale industries by the MLIs and guaranteed by the Trust, after the MLIs have taken prescribed steps for recovery of the loans.

(d) and (e) The Government has decided to constitute an Empowered Group of Ministers to lay down policies for cluster development and oversee its implementation. The Government (Ministry of Small Scale Industries) has, however, been implementing a scheme for cluster development, namely, Small Industry Cluster Development Programme, with specific budgetary allocation.

Advisory Committee for UTS

1913. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee named Home Minister's Advisory Committee for UTs to interact with the Home Ministry so as to insure smooth governance of the UTs in the absence of Legislature;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of meetings of the said Committee held so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the meetings of the Committee are held in quick succession at regular intervals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted Home Minister's Advisory Committees for all the five Union Territories without Legislature i.e. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

(b) Besides the Administrator and the Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha representing the respective UT, members from the urban and rural local elected bodies are given representation in the Advisory Committees. During the year 2005/2006 meetings of these Committees were held as under:

Name of the UT	Date of Meeting held
1. Daman and Diu	29-3-2006
2. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	29-3-2006
3. Lakshadweep	12-9-2005
4. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12-2-2005
5. Chandigarh	26-9-2005

(c) The Government has again scheduled meetings of these Committees in the second half of December 2006.

Unauthorised Construction/ Occupation by NDMC

1914. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC is in process of removal of unauthorised construction/occupation on public land/roads/lanes/service lanes etc. in its area;

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been fixed to remove all unauthorised/illegal occupation of public land/roads/lanes etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. [New Delhi Municipal Council has not fixed any time frame for removal of unauthorised construction/illegal occupation from public land/roads/lanes.] The temporary encroachments on public land by unauthorised squatters/hawkers are being removed on daily basis by the field staff of New Delhi Municipal Council. For removal of Jhuggi Jhopari clusters, New Delhi Municipal Council has

deposited relocation charges with the Slum and JJ Department of MCD in respect of three out of five jhuggi jhopri clusters in New Delhi Municipal Council area.

Extension of Ban on Terrorist Outfits

1915. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the ban on ULFA and three other outfits active in the North East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The following militant outfits of North Eastern Region have been declared 'unlawful associations' under Section 3(1) read with proviso to Section 3(3) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in November, 2006.

Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC) and Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) have been declared 'unlawful associations' for two years with effect from the 16th Nov '06 under the above mentioned provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, The reasons for declaration of these two outfits as 'unlawful associations' include incidents of intimidation, extortion and looting of civilian population by their cadres, involvement of these two outfits in violent activities and their links with other insurgent groups of North Eastern Region for carrying out acts of extortion and intimidation. In addition, HNLC has the openly declared objective to secede the State of Meghalaya from India.

2. National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) has been declared 'unlawful association' under the above mentioned Act for a period of two years with effect from the 23rd Nov. '06. The reasons for declaration of NDFB as 'unlawful association' include the professed aim of the outfit for 'liberation' of Bodoland from India, acts of violence and extortion despite the outfit having agreed to abjure violence, its linkages with other insurgent groups of North

Eastern Region and establishment of camps and hideouts across India's border.

3. United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has been declared 'unlawful association' for a period of two years with effect from the 27th Nov. '06 under the above mentioned Act. The reasons for declaration of ULFA as 'unlawful association' include the professed aim of ULFA to 'liberate' Assam from India through armed struggle, large number of violent incidents attributable to this outfit, killings of civilians and security forces, spate of extortion and secessionist activities including kidnappings for ransom by the outfit and its linkages with some other unlawful associations of North Eastern Region to secede Assam from India.

Setting Up of IIMs

1916. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the oversight committee headed by M. Veerappa Moily has recommended the setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and more IIT type institutions;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether any package for creating infrastructure has been proposed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Oversight Committee headed by M. Veerappa Moily has recommended setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and some more IITs like institutions. The Government proposes to set up an IIM at Shillong in Meghalaya. For creating infrastructure for the proposed expansion of the existing institutions, the Committee has estimated an additional expenditure amounting to Rs. 234.25 crore for IIMs and Rs. 3333.85 crore for IITs over the five year period. Accordingly, these institutions have been asked to submit their Detailed Project Reports (DPR) regarding their expansion plans.

Children Languishing in Children's Home

1917. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of children are languishing for years in State run children's homes in the country as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated November 04, 2006 under the news item 'Red tape tangle: wonder years lost in custody';

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government and the direction issued to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Government is aware of this news report. There are around 1200 children in 10 Children Homes being run by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi. These are abandoned, destitute and neglected children. Most of them are run away children from outside Delhi. The Department

of Social Welfare has reported that they have taken adequate steps for tracing the parents and facilitating their restoration. The Child Welfare Committees which have been constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 facilitate in tracing their parents and restoration. Additional steps undertaken are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government of NCT of Delhi for tracing the parents of inmates and facilitating restoration to their respective families

A. Steps taken for inmates belonging to Delhi:

(1) Registered letters/postcard are sent at the address given by children. Letters are also sent simultaneously to the in-charges of the local police station and Pradhans of the respective villages. Missing Persons Squad is also contacted.

(2) Spot visits of the addresses/locations as told by the children are also conducted to trace the families.

(3) If the parents or the address of children are not traceable, then the photographs of such children are published in leading newspapers.

(4) If the address/the parents are located by the above two steps, either the parents of children turn up to take their children or the Welfare Officer of the institution visit them and facilitates them in restoration of their children.

(5) The last step in restoration is that the parents come to the Child Welfare Committees who after identification handover the children to them.

B. Steps taken for inmates belonging to outside Delhi:

(1) Registered letters/postcard are sent at the address given by children. Letters are also sent simultaneously to the in-charges of the local police station and Pradhans of the respective villages.

(2) Telephonic communication is also made in the cases where the children are able to tell their telephone numbers.

(3) If the address/the parents are located by the above two, either the parents of children turn up to take

their children. If the parents are notable to come because of poverty or some other reasons, such children are sent to their parents or the respective children home of the State under Police Protection.

Ceremonial Drill at Wagah Border

1918. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF and Pak rangers have decided to soften the ceremonial drill performed by both forces at the Indo-Pak check post in Wagah;

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

(c) whether both forces have mellowed down the ceremony;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of public who came to witness such ceremony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, certain aberrations in the drill have been rectified by the Indian side. The Pak Rangers continue to do the drill as earlier.

(e) No dampening of the spirits has been noticed among the spectators of the ceremony.

Fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Border

1919. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some stretch on the international border with Bangladesh faces certain problems as some habitations are close to it and hampering erection of fencing;

(b) if so, whether India and Bangladesh are working out some deals in this regard;

(c) if so, whether a joint border working group or boundary management has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) To check infiltration and other illegal cross border activities, the Government of India has decided to erect border fence along Indo-Bangladesh border. The fence is now erected at a distance of 150 yards or more from the international border. However, because of habitation and topographical constraints, the alignment of fence is fixed within 150 yards in some patches. However, BDR has been objecting to the erection of fence within 150 yards from the international border. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channel and in various meetings viz., Home Secretary Level Talks, Director General, BSF-Director General, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) level talks etc. However, the Government of Bangladesh has not responded favourably.

(c) to (e) No Sir. No such group has been formed.

Allocations for Handloom Sector

1920. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the budget allocations made for handloom sector during each of the last three years;

(b) whether budget allocations for handloom sector have been rapidly reducing during past years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Budget allocations made for the handloom sector during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

	2003-04 (Final Allocation)	2004-05 (Final Allocation)	2005-06 (Final Allocation)
Plan	136.97	157.89	196.15
Non-Plan	83.55	83.58	65.12
Total	220.52	241.47	261.27

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Figures shown above indicate increase in Budget allocations during last three years.

Forest Rights Bill

1921. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider Forest Rights Bill;

(b) if so, whether the GoM on the Forest Rights Bill has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said group; and

(d) the action taken so far on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to consider the issues relating to the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 as introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13-12-2005 met on 20-7-2006 and 13-11-2006 and has given certain recommendations to harmonise the issues brought up during discussions in the Cabinet and to finalise official amendments to the Bill. The Ministry is now taking further action to finalise the Bill as per the established procedure.

[Translation]

Admission to Students

1922. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Hindi medium students are facing difficulties in getting admission to certain universities/premier institutions of the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether bilingual mode of teaching is available in all the universities/institutions falling under the purview of the Government; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these institutes/universities have bilingual mode of teaching particularly students of Hindi medium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there has been no complaint with the UGC that the Hindi medium students are facing difficulties in getting admission to certain universities/premier institutions of the Government. Generally, the universities/institutions give the students option to pursue studies in English or Hindi/regional language.

Fake Foreign Universities

1923. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down by the Government for the foreign universities giving their franchise for setting up their institutions in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several unregistered foreign universities are running their franchise institutions in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) action taken by the Government against such institutions during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) In the absence of an appropriate law, there is no authentic information about the foreign education providers operating in the country. For Technical Education, the All India Council for Technical Education has issued

'Regulations for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/Institutions imparting Technical Education of India'. The Government intends to introduce a legislation for regulation of the entry and operations, maintenance of quality and prevention of commercialization by foreign education providers in the country.

[English]

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industry

1924. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes for promoting agro and rural industries in the country;

(b) the details of subsidies extended under various heads by Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to promote rural industries in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Central Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) supports and supplements the efforts of the State/Union Territory Governments in promoting/assisting village industries through various schemes and programmes implemented across the country. Some of the important schemes are:

(i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting eligible applicants in setting up village industry units. Under this programme, loans are provided to eligible applicants by banks and subsidy by the Government.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for assisting eligible applicants in setting up micro enterprises. Under the Yojana, loans are provided to eligible applicants by banks and subsidy by the Government.

(iii) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme for providing bank loans to khadi and polywastra units at subsidised rates of interest.

(iv) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved design and packaging of village industry products.

(v) Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) Scheme for setting up of common facility centers (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to village industries.

(vi) Financial assistance to village industry units for participation in national level exhibitions for market development.

Further, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries (SSI) implements the Small Industry Cluster Development Programme (SICDP) for holistic development of clusters of SSI units. In addition, the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSTI), established by the Government of India and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) provides guarantee cover to banks for collateral-free loans upto Rs. 25 lakh, sanctioned to SSIs, including village industries.

(b) Of the above schemes, subsidies are granted by the Government under three schemes, namely, REGP, PMRY and ISEC, listed at (i), (ii) and (iii) respectively in answer to part (a) above. The details of the subsidy admissible are as under.

(i) REGP—Certain weaker sections like ex-servicemen, SC/STs, women entrepreneurs, etc., are entitled to margin money assistance @ 30 per cent for projects up to Rs. 10 lakh as compared to the rate of 25 per cent admissible to applicants of general category. Entrepreneurs from the weaker sections are required to contribute only 5 per cent of the cost of the project as own contribution (as against 10 per cent for general category). Rs. 330.83 crore as margin money assistance have been provided to the entrepreneurs during 2005-06.

(ii) PMRY—Projects costing upto Rs. 1 lakh for businesses and upto Rs. 2 lakh in industries are eligible for receiving assistance, with the subsidy being limited to 15 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500 per beneficiary. This ceiling is higher at Rs. 15,000 per beneficiary, in the case of beneficiaries from North-Eastern Region. Rs. 251.36 crore of Central Government subsidy has been released during 2005-06 to the banks (to be credited to beneficiary loan accounts) as reported by the RBI to the Government.

(iii) ISEC—Credit at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum is provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the institutions registered with

the KVIC/State Khadi and Village Industries Boards. The difference between the rate of interest of 4 per cent and Prime Lending Rate (PLR) is borne as subsidy by KVIC from grants given by Central Government. Rs. 5.53 crore have been provided as interest subsidy assistance to the registered institutions during 2005-06.

(c) Besides, the Government has introduced the 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) for implementation in khadi, village and coir industry clusters. The scheme envisages improvement in productivity of khadi spinners and weavers, setting up common facility centres (CFCs) to convert khadi fabrics into ready-to-wear khadi products, development of new designs for fabric and garments, market promotion and undertaking activities such as exposure visits to other clusters and institutions, need based training, skill development of khadi workers, etc. Similar approach is envisaged to improve productivity in respect of coir and village industries through development of clusters. 29 clusters of khadi, 50 clusters of village industries and 25 clusters of coir have thus been identified for development under SFURTI.

[Translation]

Export of Foodgrains from India

1925. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the details of foodgrains exported from the country during last three years;

(b) whether several countries have refused to offload foodgrain consignments from India on their land;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) the details of

foodgrains exported from countries during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Quantity in Lakh MTs	Value Rs. Crore
2003-04	82.62	7283
2004-05	72.15	9572
2005-06	58.43	8328

(b) No such incidents have been brought to the notice of this department.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting Up of NALCO Plant in Indonesia

1926. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NALCO proposes to set up plants in Indonesia;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which plants in Indonesia are likely to be set up by NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is exploring possibilities to set up aluminium smelter and power plant in Indonesia. A team from NALCO had visited Indonesia in August, 2006 to discuss with various Government Authorities to assess general business environment. Another team from NALCO visited Indonesia in November, 2006 on invitation from Hon'ble Governors of South Sumatra and Riau provinces to discuss the project proposals/prospects.

Killing of Persons by Blueline Buses

1927. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons killed by blueline buses in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints against the personnel of Delhi Traffic Police charging money at every crossing from blueline bus owners to overlook their offences resulting into killing of innocent persons by blue-line buses;

(c) whether blueline buses in order to fetch more passengers chase each other endangering the lives of road users, scooterists etc.;

(d) whether some of the blueline buses are not fitted with electronic speed governors;

(e) if so, the action taken against such buses; and

(f) the total number of Delhi Traffic Police personnel arrested in connection with corruption charges and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The requisite information is given below:

Sl.No.	Year	Person Killed
1.	2003	70
2.	2004	110
3.	2005	157
4.	2006 (upto 31st October)	85

(b) No such complaint has been received.

(c) It is true that drivers of some blueline buses try to overtake other blueline buses to get more passengers. Such drivers of blueline buses are prosecuted for wrong overtaking and other traffic violations as and when such instances come to the notice of traffic police personnel.

(d) and (e) Delhi Traffic Police prosecuted 1233 blueline buses found to be plying without speed governors during the year 2006 (upto 31st October).

(f) 24 personnel of Delhi Traffic Police were arrested

between 2003 and 31st October, 2006. All these personnel have been suspended and departmental action initiated against them. Out of them, 6 police personnel have so far been dismissed from service.

[Translation]

Employment Schemes of KVIC

1928. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing employment schemes in Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC);

(b) whether the Government proposes to launch special employment scheme through KVIC in the country;

(c) if so, whether the proposed scheme is being launched to achieve the target already set by KVIC for creating employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the target set and achieved till date?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing several schemes for the promotion and development of khadi and village industries to generate additional employment opportunities. Some of the important schemes are:

(i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting eligible applicants in setting up village industry units. Under this programme, loans are provided to eligible applicants by banks and subsidy by the Government.

(ii) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme for providing bank loans to khadi and polyvastra units at subsidised rates of interest.

(iii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved product development and design and packaging improvement of khadi and village industry products.

(iv) Rural Industries Service Centre (RISC) Scheme for setting up common facility centers (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to village industries.

(v) Financial assistance to village industry units for participation in national level exhibitions for market development.

(b) to (d) KVIC has drawn up and submitted some proposals with the aim of creating more employment opportunities in the KVI sector. These have not been approved so far.

[English]

Golden Temple Galiara Project

1929. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds released by the Government to Punjab for the Golden Temple Galiara Project so far;

(b) whether any mechanism has been set up to ensure its speedy implementation; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Central Government had earlier released Rs. 70 crores to the Government of Punjab for the Galiara Project. Out of Rs. 72 crore sanctioned for Phase IV and V of the Galiara Project, the Central Government has so far released Rs. 27.50 crores to the State Government.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has been in touch with the Government of Punjab to ensure speedy implementation of the Project. The CPWD also appraised the work done. The State Government has scheduled to complete the work by 31-12-2007.

[Translation]

Mahila Swadhar Yojana

1930. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Mahila Swadhar Yojana

and the criteria laid down by the Government for the implementation of the scheme;

(b) whether the recommendation of the State Government is required for the construction of shelter homes under Mahila Swadhar Yojana;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any difficulty has been noticed by the Government in the implementation of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Swadhar—A Scheme for Women in difficult circumstances, is being run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The salient feature and criteria laid down by the Government for implementation of the Swadhar Scheme are available at the website of the Ministry namely www.wcd.nic.in.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the extant procedure, proposals duly recommended by the State Level Empowered Committee of the State Government concerned, are placed before the Project Sanctioning Committee which decides the case on merit and on the basis of requirement of the State.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Ragging and Suicides by College Students

1931. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the incidents of ragging and suicide in colleges are on rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether the Committee headed by Lyngdoh has recommended to take steps to check such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court has recently asked the Government to constitute a Committee to check the incidents of ragging and suicide in colleges and universities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including action taken to the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No centralized data is maintained about the incidents of ragging and suicide cases in educational institutions.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The recommendations of Lyngdoh Committee relate to guidelines on students' elections.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed constitution of a Committee consisting of

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| (1) Shri R.K. Raghavan,
former Director, CBI | — | Chairman |
| (2) Present Director, Indian
Institute of Technology,
Kanpur | — | Member |
| (3) Present Principal, Maulana
Azad Medical College,
New Delhi | — | Member |
| (4) Present Principal, Ramjas
College, Delhi | — | Member |
| (5) Two persons, one each
from Chennai and
Mumbai, to be co-opted
by the Committee | — | Member |
| (6) Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint
Secretary, Ministry of
Human Resource
Development | — | Member-
Convener |

The Committee's Terms of Reference are to examine the various aspects of ragging; means and methods of

prevention of ragging; possible action that can be taken against persons indulging in ragging; and possible action that can be taken against college/university authorities in the event of ragging. The Committee has been given four months to submit its report.

Report on Student Union Elections

1932. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received the Lyngdoh Committee Report on student union elections;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in the report;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the recommendations made in the said report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Report of the J.M. Lyngdoh Committee has been submitted to Supreme Court of India and main recommendations are given in the enclosed Statement. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been directed to ensure compliance of Supreme Court's directions on the Committee's recommendations by Universities and other Institutions and also to give the widest publicity.

Statement

The recommendations of the Committee accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for implementation are as under:

1. Conduct of Elections

1.1 Universities and colleges across the country must ordinarily conduct elections for the appointment of students to student representative bodies. These elections may be conducted in the manner prescribed herein, or in a manner that conforms to the standards prescribed herein.

1.2 where the atmosphere of the university campus is adverse to the conduct of peaceful, free and fair elections, the university, its constituent colleges and departments must initiate a system of student representation based on nominations, especially where elections are being held at present. It would be advisable, however, not to base such nomination system on purely academic merit, as is being practiced throughout the country.

1.3 In cases where elections are not being held, or where the nomination model prevails, the nomination model should be allowed to continue for a limited period of time. It is to be noted that the nomination system suffers from several flaws, and must only be restored to as an INTERIM MEASURE.

1.4 Subject to the recommendations in respect of the possible model of elections, all institutions must over a period of 5 years, convert from the nomination model to a structured election model, that may be based on a system of parliamentary (indirect) elections, or on the presidential (direct) system, or a hybrid of both. It is highly desirable that all institutions follow this mechanism of gradual conversion, especially for privately funded institutions that prefer a status quo situation.

15. All institutions must conduct a review of the student representation mechanism. The first review may be conducted after a period of 2 years of the implementation of the mechanism detailed above, and the second review may be conducted after the 3rd or the 4th year of implementation. The primary objective of these reviews will be to ascertain the success of the representation and election mechanism in each individual institution, so as to decide whether or not to implement a full-fledged election structure. Needless to say these reviews will be based on a consideration of the views and suggestions of all stakeholders, such as students, faculty, administration, student bodies, and parents.

1.6 Institutions must, as a primary objective, subject to the pertinent issue of discipline on campus, seek to implement a structured system of student elections by conclusion of a period of 5 years from the date of the implementation of the recommendations.

1.7 Subject to the autonomy of the universities in respect of the choice of the mode of election, all universities

must institute an apex student representative body that represents all students, colleges, and departments coming under the particular university. In the event that the university is geographically widespread, individual colleges may constitute their own representative bodies, which would further elect representatives for the apex universities body.

1.8 The union/representative body so elected shall only comprise of regular students on the rolls of the institution. No faculty member, nor any member of the administration shall be permitted to hold any post on the executive of such representative body, nor shall be allowed to be a member of any such representative body.

2. Modes of Elections

2.1 A system of direct election of the office bearers of the student body, whereby all students of all constituent colleges, as well as all students of university departments vote directly for the office bearers. This model may be followed in smaller universities with well-defined single campuses for e.g. JNU/University of Hyderabad), and with a relatively smaller student population.

In respect of universities with large, widespread campuses and large student bodies either of the following models may be adopted.

2.2 A system of elections, where colleges and campuses directly elect college and campus office bearers, as well as university representatives. The university representatives form an electoral college, which shall elect the university student union office bearers.

2.3 A system of elections where on one hand, directly elected college and campus office bearers, as well as university representatives. The University representative form an electoral college, which shall elect the university student union office bearers.

2.4 A system of elections where on one hand, directly elected class representative elect the office bearers of the college as well as the university representatives, and the campus itself directly elects the campus office bearers and the university representatives. The university representatives shall form an electoral college, which shall elect the office bearer of the university student union.

2.5 A system of election wherein class representatives shall be directly elected in the colleges and universities campus and they in turn shall elect the office bearers for the college unions and the university campus union. Also they shall elect their representatives for university student union. These elected representative from colleges and university campus shall form the electoral college, which shall elect the office bearers of the university student union. This model shall be applicable to large university with large number of affiliated colleges.

3. Disassociation of Student Elections and Student Representation from Political Parties

3.1 During the period of the elections no person, who is not a student on the rolls of the college/university, shall be permitted to take part in the election process in any capacity. Any person, candidate, or member of the student organisation, violating this rule shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings, in addition to the candidature, as the case may be being revoked.

4. Frequency and Duration of Election Process

4.1 It is recommended that the entire process of elections, commencing from the date of filling of nomination papers to the date of declaration of results, including the campaign period, should not exceed 10 days.

4.2 It is further recommended that elections be held on a yearly basis and the at the same should be held between 6 to 8 weeks from the date of commencement of the academic session.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Candidates

5.1 Under graduate students between the ages of 17 and 22 may contest elections. This age range may be appropriately relaxed in the case of professional colleges, where courses often range between 4 to 5 years.

5.2 For Post Graduate Students the maximum age limit to legitimately contest and election would be 24-25 years.

5.3 For research Students the maximum age limit to legitimately contest an election would be 28 years.

5.4 Although, the Committee would refrain from prescribing any particular minimum marks to be attained

by candidate, the candidate should in no event have any academic arrears in the year of contesting the election.

5.5 The candidate should have attained the minimum percentage of attendance as prescribed by the university or 75% attendance, whichever is higher.

5.6 The candidate shall have one opportunity to contest for the post of office bearer, and two opportunities to contest for the post of an executive member.

5.7 The candidate shall not have a previous criminal record, that is to say he should not have been tried and/or convicted of any criminal offence or misdemeanor. The candidate shall also not have been subject to any disciplinary action by the University authorities.

5.8 The candidate must be a regular, full time student of the college/university and should not be a distance/proximate education student. That is to say that all eligible candidates must be enrolled in a full time course, the course duration being at least one year.

6. Election—Related Expenditure and Financial Accountability

6.1 The maximum permitted expenditure per candidate shall be Rs. 5000.

6.2 Each candidate shall, within two weeks of the declaration of the result, submit complete and certified accounts (to be certified by the candidate) to the college/university authorities. The college/university shall publish such audited accounts within 2 days of submission of such accounts, through a suitable medium so that any member of the student body may freely examine the same.

6.3 The election of the candidate will be nullified in the event of any non-compliance or in the event of any excessive expenditure.

6.4 with the view to prevent the inflow of funds from political parties into the student election process, the candidates are specially barred from utilizing funds from any other sources than voluntary contributions from the student body.

7. Code of Conduct for Candidates and Elections Administrators

7.1 No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet,

any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic, or between any group(s) of students.

7.2 Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programs, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the other candidates or supporters of such other candidates. Criticism of other candidates, or their supporters based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.

7.3 There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Places of worship, within or without the campus shall not be used for election propaganda.

7.4 All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting, all activities which are considered to be "corrupt practices" and offences, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters canvassing or the use of propaganda within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meetings during the period of 24 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.

7.5 No candidate shall be permitted to make use of printed posters, printed pamphlets, or any other printed material for the purpose of canvassing. Candidates may only utilize hand-made posters for the purpose of canvassing, provided that such hand-made posters are procured within the expenditure limit set out herein above.

7.6 Candidates may only utilize hand-made posters at certain places in the campus, which shall be notified in advance by the election commissioner/university authority.

7.7 No candidate shall be permitted to carry out processions, or public meetings, or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda outside the university/college campus.

7.8 No candidate shall, nor shall his/her supporters, deface or cause any destruction to any property of the university/college campus, for any purpose whatsoever,

without the prior written permission of the college/university authorities. All candidates shall be held jointly and severally liable for any destruction/defacing of any university/college property.

7.9 During the election period the candidates may hold processions and/or public meetings, provided that such processions and/or public meetings do not, in any manner, disturb the classes and other academic and co-curricular activities of the college/university. Further, such procession/public meeting may not be held without the period written permission of the college/university authority.

7.10 The use of loudspeaker, vehicles and animals for the purpose of canvassing shall be prohibited.

7.11 On the day of polling, student organizations and candidates shall—

- (i) co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;
- (ii) not serve or distribute any eatables, or other solid and liquid consumables, except water on polling day;
- (iii) not hand out any propaganda on the polling day.

7.12 Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass/letters of authority from the election commission or from the college/university authorities shall enter the polling booths.

7.13 The election commission/college/university authorities shall appoint impartial observers. In the case of deemed universities and self-financed institutions, government servants may be appointed as observers. If the candidates have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of the elections they may bring the same to the notice of the observer. Observers shall also be appointed to oversee the process of nomination of students in institutions that are following the nominations model of student representation.

7.14 All candidates shall be jointly responsible for ensuring the cleaning up of the polling area within 48 hours of the conclusion of polling.

7.15 Any contravention of any of the above recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped of his candidature, or his elected post, as the case may be. The election commission/college/university authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.

7.16 In addition to the above-mentioned code of conduct, it is also recommended that certain provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 153-A and Chapter IX-A—"Offences Relating to Election"), may also be made applicable to student elections.

8. Grievances Redressal Mechanism

8.1 There should be a Grievances Redressal Cell with the Dean (Student Welfare)/teacher in charge of student affairs as its chairman. In addition, one senior faculty member, one senior administrative officer and two final year students—one boy and one girl (till the election results declared, students can be nominated on the basis of merit and/or participation in the co-curricular activities in the previous year). The grievance cell shall be mandated with the redressal of election-related grievance, including, but not limited to breaches of the code of conduct of elections and complaints relating to election-related expenditure. This cell would be the regular unit of the institution.

8.2 In pursuit of its duties, the grievance cell may prosecute violators of any aspect of the code of conduct or the rulings of the grievance cell. The grievance cell shall serve as the court of original jurisdiction. The institutional head shall have appellate jurisdiction over issues of law and fact in all cases or controversies arising out of the conduct of the elections in which the grievance cell has issued a final decision. Upon review, the institutional head may revoke or modify the sanctions imposed by the grievance cell.

8.3 In carrying out the duties of the office, the Grievance cell shall conduct proceedings and hearing necessary to fulfill those duties. In executing those duties they shall have the authority:

- (i) to issue a writ of subpoena to compel candidates, agents, and workers, and to request students to appear and give testimony, as well as produce necessary records; and
- (ii) to inspect the financial reports of any candidate and make these records available for public scrutiny upon request.

8.4 Members of the Grievance cell are prohibited from filing complaints. Any other student may file a complaint with the Grievance cell, within a period of 3 weeks from the date of declaration of results. All complaints must be filed under the name of the student filing the complaint. The Grievance cell shall act on all complaints within 24 hours after they are received by either dismissing them or calling a hearing.

8.5 The Grievance cell may dismiss a complaint if:

- (i) the complaint was not filed within the time frame prescribed in Recommendation 8.4 above;
- (ii) the complaint fails to state a cause of action for which relief may be granted.
- (iii) the complainant has not and/or likely will not suffer injury or damage.

8.6 If a complaint is not dismissed, then a hearing must be held. The Grievance cell shall inform, in writing, or via e-mail, the complaining party and individuals or groups named in the complaint of the time and place of the hearing. The parties are not considered notified until they have received a copy of the complaint.

8.7 The hearing shall be held at the earliest possible time, but not within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of the notice described above, unless all parties agree to waive the 24-hour time constraint.

8.8 At the time, notice of hearing is issued, the Grievance Cell, by majority vote, may issue a temporary restraining order, if it determines that such action is necessary to prevent undue or adverse effects on any individual or entity. Any restraining order, once issued, will remain in effect until a decision of the Grievance Cell is

announced after the hearing or until rescinded by the Grievance Cell.

8.9 All Grievance Cell hearing, proceedings, and meetings must be open to the public.

8.10 All parties of the Grievance Cell hearing shall present themselves at the hearing, may be accompanied by any other student from which they can receive counsel, and have the option to be represented by that counsel.

8.11 For any hearing, a majority of sitting Grievance Cell members must be in attendance with the Chair of the Grievance Cell presiding. In the absence of the Chair, the responsibility to preside shall fall to an Grievance Cell member designated by the Chair.

8.12 The Grievance cell determine the format for the hearing, but must require that both the complaining and responding parties appear physically before the board to discuss the issues through a complaint, answered, rebuttal, and rejoinder format. The purpose of the hearing is to gather the information necessary to make a decision, order, or ruling that will resolve an election dispute. To effectuate this purpose, the following rules should prevail at all hearings:

- Complaining parties shall be allowed no more than two witnesses, however, the Grievance cell may call witnesses as required. If said witnesses are unable to appear at the hearing, signed affidavits may be submitted to the Grievance Cell Chair for the purpose of testifying by proxy.
- All questions and discussions by the parties in dispute shall be directed to the Grievance Cell.
- There shall be no direct or cross-examination of any party or witness by complaining or responding parties during hearings.
- Reasonable, time limits may be set by the Grievance Cell provided they give fair and equal treatment to both sides.
- The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.

- Decision, orders and rulings of the Grievance Cell must be concurred to by a majority of the Grievance Cell present and shall be announced as soon as possible after the hearing. The Grievance cell shall issue a written opinion of the ruling within 12 hours of announcement of the decision. The written opinion must set forth the findings of fact by the Grievance Cell and the conclusions of law in support of it. Written opinions shall set a precedent for a time period of three election cycles for Grievance Cell ruling, and shall guide the Grievance Cell in its proceedings. Upon consideration of prior written opinions, the grievance cell may negate the decision, but must provide written documentation of reasons for doing so.
 - If the decision of the Grievance Cell is appealed to the institutional head, the Grievance Cell must immediately submits its ruling to the commission.
 - The Grievance Cell shall select the remedy or sanction most appropriate to both the type and severity of the infraction, as well as the stand of mind or intent of the violator as determined by the Grievance Cell. Possible remedies and sanctions include, but are not limited to, fines, suspension of campaigning privileges, and disqualification from the election.
 - Any fine or total amount of fines against a candidate in an election cycle may not exceed the spending limit as defined herein above.
 - If, after a hearing, the Grievance Cell finds that provisions of this Code were violated by a candidate, or a candidate's agent or workers, the Grievance Cell may restrict the candidate, or the candidates agents or workers, from engaging in some or all campaign activities for some or all of the remainder of the campaign. If an order is issued covering only part of the remaining period, it shall take effect immediately so that after its termination, the candidates and including the election days.
 - If, after a hearing, the Grievance Cell finds that provisions of either this Code or decisions, opinions, orders, or ruling of the Grievance Cell have been willfully and blatantly violated by a candidate, or a candidate's agents or workers, the Grievance Cell may disqualify the candidate.
 - Any party adversely affected by a decision of the Grievance Cell may file an appeal with the institutional head within twenty four (24) hours after the adverse decision is announced. The institutional head shall have discretionary appellate jurisdiction over the Grievance Cell in all cases in which error on the part of the Grievance Cell is charged.
 - The decision of the Grievance cell shall stand and shall have full effect until the appeal is heard and decided by the institutional head.
 - The institutional head shall hear appeals of Grievance Cell rulings as soon as possible, but not within twenty four (24) hours after the Grievance cell delivers to the Appellant and the institutional head a copy of its written opinion in the case. Appeal may be heard prior to this time, but only if the Appellant waives the right to a written opinion and the institutional head agrees to accept the waiver.
 - The institutional head can issue suitable orders to suspend or halt the operation of the ruling issued by the Grievance Cell until the appeals are decided.
 - The institutional head shall review findings of the Grievance cell when appealed. The institutional head may affirm or overturn the decision of the Grievance cell, or modify the sanctions imposed.
- 9. Maintaining Law and Order on the Campus during the Election Process**
- 9.1 Any instance of acute lawlessness or the commission of a criminal offence shall be reported to the police by the university/college authorities as soon as

possible, but not later than 6 hours after the alleged commission of the offence.

10. Miscellaneous Recommendations

10.1 Student representation is essential to the overall development of students, and, therefore, it is recommended that university statutes should expressly provide for student representation.

10.2 Student representation should be regulated by statute (either a Central Statute, State Statute or individual university statutes), incorporating the recommendations prescribed herein.

10.3 The institution should organize leadership-training programs with the help of professional organizations so as to groom and instill in students leadership qualities.

10.4 In the event of the office of any major post of office bearers falling vacant within two months of elections, re-elections should be conducted; otherwise the Vice-President may be promoted to be post of President and Joint Secretary to the post of Secretary, as the case may be."

[English]

Heritage Educational Institutions

1933. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL.

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

(a) the criteria to qualify as heritage school of education;

(b) the number of heritage educational institutions identified in each State;

(c) the number of such institutions closed down for want of funds and other resources;

(d) whether the Government, NCERT proposes to revive the heritage schooling by providing them financial and academic support for promoting democratic, social

and nationalist values through innovative techniques of learning, to impart dignity to labour and training in skills and also to work towards eradication of gender inequality, caste, prejudices, poverty;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government or NCERT proposes to start large number of institutions for the development of skills in various vocations to make the students self-confident to be self-employed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Under the programme "Revival of Selected Heritage Schools in the country", National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) intends to provide academic and other support to those schools which should have:

- (i) been founded during Indian freedom movement inspired by nationalist educational philosophy.
- (ii) represented a heritage of innovative pedagogy and or innovative educational techniques as a viable alternative to the system of formal education evolved during colonial period.
- (iii) developed innovative learning materials using local knowledge.
- (iv) inculcated dignity of labour through curricular and co-curricular activities.
- (v) made endeavors to develop various types of skills and abilities among its pupils and interconnections in an attempt to build all round development of personalities.
- (vi) a heritage of active engagement with the local community and worked towards the eradication of superstitions, gender inequality, caste prejudice, poverty etc.
- (vii) instilled the values of democratic participation among the pupils and promoted such values in running the school.

(b) NCERT has received 93 applications under the programme.

(c) NCERT does not have definite information on the number of institutions closed down for want of funds and other resources.

(d) to (g) The programme envisages NCERT providing them academic and other support for a few years till they regain their glory, declare them heritage schools and help them to have distinct identity. NCERT proposes to assist the existing schools and does not intend to start new institutions.

Export of Textile Items

1934. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total value and quantity of textile goods exported during each of the last three years and current year, item-wise;

(b) whether deteriorating condition of labour is the hurdle in increasing the export; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the details of incentives/assistance provided to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The Government is fully committed to protecting and safeguarding the interest of workers with due regard to create a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity leading to higher exports. Government has undertaken various schemes and programmes for enhancement of welfare of workers so as to provide social security including vocational training to the workers. Some of the important initiatives specific to textile sector, are given below:

(i) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) is in operation for providing interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of any mill.

(ii) To provide the industry with world class

infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, a new scheme namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks' has been launched by merging existing two schemes i.e. Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES). The Scheme has provisions for training and design centres, creche, canteen, workers hostel, labour rest and recreation facilities.

(iii) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing. The training infrastructure for human resource development of skilled and semi-skilled workers at supervisory and managerial level itself adds to the security of job of the workers, besides contributing positively to the factory output in terms of quality and productivity.

(iv) The Textiles committee is providing consultancy services to the industry for implementation of ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems; ISO 14000 Environment Management Systems; SA 8000 Social Accountability Standard; Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS 18001) and Compliance and Supply Chain Management Systems. The implementation of these systems by the manufacturing company demonstrates its commitment to the environmental, social and quality issues, which result in not only better working environment leading to improved productivity but also compliance to national statutes and international market requirement.

(v) Recent initiatives in the handloom sector include Health Insurance Scheme; Life Insurance Scheme; Cluster Development Scheme; Skill upgradation measures etc. In the handicraft sector, Credit Guarantee Scheme has been launched.

Statement
Export of Textile Items
 (Chapter Heading 50 to 63)

(Value in Mn US \$)

Items	2003-2004		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 April-May	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fibre (Tonnes)								
Wool	2338.8	13.91	3191.28	19.81	3096.27	18.28	487.56	2.86
Cotton	176705.1	202.6	79848.46	87	605474.35	648.88	162601.18	187.62
MMF	57759.97	68.48	73625.33	102.7	65597.49	88.83	14773.25	19.28
Flax and Jute	37633.04	8.76	60103.45	12.28	81129.23	14.13	14061.89	2.74
Silk	71.82	1.77	100.68	2.07	201.87	4.8	22.31	0.65
Sub Total	274508.73	295.52	216869.2	223.86	755499.21	774.92	191946.81	213.15
Fibre Waste (Tonnes)								
Wool waste	259.27	0.74	125.11	0.49	186.89	0.55	23.36	0.05
Cotton waste	2898.62	3.03	6788.99	7.24	9328.12	8.36	2089.42	1.93
Waste of man-made fibre	3111.71	2.54	3448.6	2.96	5152.34	3.9	1083.99	1.09
Silk waste	286.01	1.17	85.18	0.33	1369.72	4.5	332.55	0.9
Sub Total	6555.61	7.48	10447.88	11.02	16037.07	17.31	3529.32	3.97
Yarn (Tonnes)								
Silk Yarn	334.24	8.07	410.02	9.67	397.39	10.64	67.16	1.75
Woolen yarn including yarn of animal hair	4000.35	25.77	4236.01	29.75	4980.04	34.36	713.08	5.18
Cotton yarn (Including sewing thread)	466120.81	1308.74	448425.08	1258.3	552155.92	1485.75	99492.84	262.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Man-made filament yarn	97174.97	59.13	131723.42	85.59	77285.68	61.78	13242.75	10.2
Flax and Jute	117980.51	210.44	137920.4	268.77	152252.91	307.78	31373.35	58.84
100% non-cotton yarn (including sewing thread)	156800.79	347.46	152939.53	368.38	153631.73	370.1	27819.77	70.74
Sub Total	842411.67	1959.61	875654.46	2020.46	940703.67	2270.41	172708.95	408.74
Fabrics (Thousand sqm)								
Silk fabrics	40075.61	330.73	43008.09	355.47	42685.42	373.23	6378.42	58.39
Woolen fabrics	3128.22	17.19	3747.65	21.14	4804.8	27.84	831.29	4.85
Wooven fabrics of cotton	772973.27	957.93	654273.85	914.96	613698.39	846.87	87514.25	133.74
Man-made woven fabrics	628372.91	965.51	701142.25	1048.51	659706.37	972.61	91741.54	130.96
Flax and Jute	127752.23	68.25	126004.54	74.61	137498.92	81.88	13008.93	10.21
Pile and Knitted	100406.63	51.78	76240.82	44.29	100619.15	49.71	23079.89	11.59
Special Woven Fabrics	106262.93	111.45	90776.35	114.56	159857.46	152.93	44336.4	30.6
Sub Total	1778971.8	2502.84	1695194.5	2573.54	1718870.5	2505.07	266890.72	380.35
RMG (Mn No)								
Cotton	1557	4751.83	1373.59	5013.96	1817.77	6479.67	333.08	1238.83
Man-made	204	795.03	191.22	767.71	385.8	1086.26	37.07	160.84
Silk	18	124.1	21.94	138.97	85.38	196.29	3.07	23
Wool	98	285.69	44.12	354.4	48.1	371.48	6.88	53.07
Others	84	303	72.21	312.34	121.7	509.22	83.67	80.83
Sub Total	1961	6259.65	1703	6587.38	2459	8642.92	463.77	1556.57
Madeups (Tonne)								
Cotton	277576.44	1237.44	261358.19	1469.1	320719.21	1744.65	105601.7	268.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Man-made	11350.97	85.24	12081.63	79.66	18813.8	133.18	6054.3	24.45
Silk	891.22	19.17	1449.3	25.46	1463.53	26.67	809.24	5.39
Wool	988.89	15.33	1097.99	19.21	1909.04	25.18	563.44	3.18
Others	118574.22	272.25	169052.98	384.63	124504.16	455.5	79035.57	57.65
Sub Total	409381.74	1629.43	445040.09	1978.07	467409.74	2385.19	192064.25	359.15
Other Textiles								
Carpets and other textile floor coverings. (Th Sqm)	132585.85	736.13	138415.22	828.57	255078.88	1123.26	35278.44	187.52
Wadding, felt and nonwovens and other textile items		125.05		125.28		165.78		23.52
Sub Total		861.18		953.85		1289.04		211.04
Grand Total		13515.71		14348.17		17884.86		3132.97

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India. DGCIS, Kolkata.

Production of Agro and Rural Industries

1935. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether agro and rural industries in and around metro cities have become extinct due to lack of Government's support and upcoming multinational companies;

(b) the details regarding production of agro and rural industries in the metro cities during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any special scheme is available with Government to boost the agro industry in the cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES

(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, village industries including agro and rural industries can be set up only in villages and in town with population up to 20,000. Thus, agro and rural industries cannot be located in metro cities, including the surrounding urban areas (towns) unless the above mentioned criterion of population is met.

(b) to (d) In view of the reply at (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Welfare/Safety of Senior Citizens

1936. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy for the welfare/safety of senior citizens of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to implement the same;

(c) the quantum of funds allocated annually for the welfare of senior citizens;

(d) whether the Government has not yet implemented the senior citizen policy; and

(e) if so, the action taken against all such departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government in 1999 had announced the National Policy for Older Persons (NPOP) wherein all aspects of life concerning the aged have been addressed. The National Policy envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse. Exploitation and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives. The Policy promotes active and productive ageing and recognizes the need for affirmative action to ensure an active, creative, productive and satisfying life, encourages families to take care of older family members, supports voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people, to provide health care facilities; to promote research and training on ageing related issues and to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; and to create awareness in society on ageing related issues with a view to promoting inclusion of the senior citizens in the mainstream national life;

In pursuance of the announcement of the National Policy, the Government has set up a National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) headed by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. Its primary function is to advise and aid the Government on policies and programmes for older persons and also to provide the feedback to the Government on implementation of the National Policy. The NCOP is the highest body to advise and coordinate with the Government in the formulation and implementation of policy and programmes for the welfare of the aged. The council also works as a nodal point at the national level

for redressing the grievances of the older persons and to represent their collective opinion to the Government of India. The NCOP's members are experienced and well-known individuals representing NGOs, citizen's group, retired person's associations and from the field of law, social welfare and security, research, and medicine.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also been set up for taking action on the recommendations of NCOP. The Inter-Ministerial Committee comprises representatives of twenty-two Ministries/Departments.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment supports programmes for the welfare of the elderly through financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations under the following two schemes:

- (i) The Scheme of "Integrated Programme for Older Persons", through which financial assistance up to 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. The budgetary allocation for the year 2006-07 under the Scheme has been increased substantially to Rs. 28 crore. Presently, 444 NGOs are being supported to run 338 Old Age Homes, 241 Day Care Centers and 45 Mobile Medicare Units.
- (ii) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups under which funds are provided for construction of old age homes. The budgetary allocation for this Non-Plan Scheme is Rs. 1 crore.

(d) and (e) The Government is taking all possible steps for effective implementation of the National Policy on Older Persons. All concerned Ministries/Departments are being requested to contribute in this mammoth task.

[Translation]

Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

1937. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for workshed-cum-housing scheme for weavers in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government provides information or issue guidelines regarding schemes for welfare of weavers to the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) The Government of India has not received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for sanction of new units under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme. However a request has been received from Government of Maharashtra during the current financial year to grant permission to utilize the balance amount of Rs. 70.72 lakh for sanctioning Workshed to weavers in urban areas instead of rural areas, out of the amount of Rs. 85.00 lakh released for the Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation during 2002-03 under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme. Appropriate action is being taken on the request. As regards issue of guidelines regarding Welfare schemes for handloom weavers, the Government of India has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments from time to time.

Discrepancies in Scheme of Malnutrition

1938. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) whether pilot projects to provide free good grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers was launched in all parts of the country in recent past particularly in the State of West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to wipe out malnutrition and undernourishment;

(d) whether any discrepancies have been found in the schemes started by the Government to check the malnutrition among women and children;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether these schemes have been reconsidered and the Government is contemplating to start a conditional cash payment to promote the education as reported in the "Dainik Jagran" dated September 13, 2006;

(g) if so, whether this scheme is likely to be completed within the remaining period of the 10th Five-Year Plan;

(h) if so, whether such areas have been identified to implement this scheme; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A pilot project to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers was launched in 51 identified districts only in 2002-03. The project has been modified in the year 2005-06 and it now covers adolescent girls only. Pregnant and lactating mothers have been excluded as they are covered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. State-wise list of the districts covered under NPAG is enclosed as Statement. In West Bengal, Jalpaiguri and Purulia districts are covered under the Project.

(c) The expansion of the scheme would be considered after an evaluation of impact of the pilot project which is currently underway.

The problem of malnutrition is multi-sectoral and inter-generational in nature which needs to be tackled through coordinated interventions in areas of food security, health, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation.

The other schemes being implemented which, *inter-alia*, aim at reducing malnutrition include 'Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (M/WCD), Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Rural Health

Mission, National Anaemia Control Programme (M/H and FW), National Programme for Nutrition Support to Primary Education (M/HRD), Targeted Public Distribution System (M/CAF and PD), Poverty Alleviation Programme (M/Rural Development).

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Working Group on 'Development of Children' for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) is reviewing the existing approach and programmes for children and would recommend suitable initiatives and programmes for the survival, protection, welfare and development of the girl child. Conditional Cash Payment/Transfer has also been deliberated upon in the Working Group. The deliberations of the Working Group will serve as an input for 11th Five Year Plan which ultimately would be approved by the National Development Council/Planning Commission.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of districts covered under Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls

Sl.No.	States/UTs
1.	Andhra Pradesh Adilabad Mehboob Nagar
2.	Arunachal Pradesh Lohit
3.	Assam Kokrajhar Karbi Anglong
4.	Bihar Aurangabad Gaya

Sl.No.	States/UTs
5.	Chhattisgarh Sarguja
6.	Goa North Goa
7.	Gujarat Panchmahal Dohad
8.	Haryana Ambala Yamuna Nagar
9.	Himachal Pradesh Kangra
10.	Jammu and Kashmir Anantnag
11.	Jharkhand Paschimi Singhbhum
12.	Karnataka Gulbarga Kolar
13.	Kerala Palakkad Malappuram
14.	Madhya Pradesh Sagar Damoh
15.	Maharashtra Nanded Nagpur

Sl.No.	States/UTs
16.	Manipur Senapati
17.	Meghalaya East Khasi Hills
18.	Mizoram Lunglei
19.	Nagaland Tuerisang
20.	Orissa Koraput Kalahandi
21.	Punjab Hoshiarpur Jalandhar
22.	Rajasthan Dungarpur Banswara
23.	Sikkim East Sikkim
24.	Tamil Nadu Thiruvannamalai Ramanathapuram
25.	Tripura West Tripura
26.	Uttar Pradesh Mirzapur Sonbhadra

Sl.No.	States/UTs
27.	Uttaranchal Hardwar
28.	West Bengal Jalpaiguri Purulia
29.	Delhi North-West Delhi
30.	Pondicherry Karakkal
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands Andamans
32.	Chandigarh Chandigarh
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli Dadra and Nagar Haveli
34.	Daman and Diu Daman Diu
35.	Lakshadweep Lakshadweep

[English]

Self-Help Group

1939. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing a programme to develop and empower the rural women by providing assistance to the rural self-help groups so that they can get involved in various rural industries;

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

(c) the total amount of assistance provided during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to provide employment opportunities by assisting individual entrepreneurs/self help groups, including women, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under the REGP, women entrepreneurs are entitled to a higher rate of margin money assistance at the rate of 30 per cent as compared to 25 per cent for the male entrepreneurs in the general category. Under REGP, self-help groups (SHGs) have also been similarly assisted, with effect from 01 April 2002. This programme is demand-driven and the number of SHGs benefited varies accordingly.

KVIC also provides (i) marketing support to such SHGs by way of assistance for participation in exhibitions and sale of products, and (ii) training through its network of training centres to such SHGs.

[Translation]

NIFT

1940. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding the establishment of NIFT Centre is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Proposals from some State Governments for setting up NIFT Centres have been received in NIFT.

(b) NIFT does not have any financial provision for opening of new NIFT Centres. As per the general policy approved by the Board of NIFT, proposals for setting up

NIFT Centres within the country would be considered by the Board of NIFT, on case to case basis, provided a firm commitment for the funding support, which, as of date, is Rs. 29 crores and 10 acres of land is made by the State Government.

[English]

Deemed Universities

1941. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government had appointed a Committee to study the status of deemed universities as reported in *the Hindu* dated September 25, 2006;

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

(c) if so, the finding thereof;

(d) whether the Government has now permitted the deemed universities to use the word university with their name;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Institutions are declared deemed-to-be-universities by the Central Government on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. The UGC constituted a Committee comprising the Chairman, UGC, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Secretary, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to examine various issues relating to the institutions seeking status of 'Deemed-to-be-University'. The three-member Committee made the following recommendations to the UGC:

(i) The existing guidelines requiring creation of separate and dedicated trust or society for managing the affairs of the 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' will continue to be followed. The

Commission would reserve the right to give exemptions from such requirement after satisfying itself of certain aspects like management of the institutions, maintenance of separate financial accounts, audit of accounts, transfer of assets to the UGC in the event of winding up of the institution, etc. The Commission should keep the interest of the student community, as paramount.

- (ii) The 'Deemed-to-be-University' would not need to take prior permission for starting general courses i.e. basic sciences, social sciences and humanities. Even in the case of professional courses, the Committee recommended that no prior approval of the UGC need be required. The 'Deemed-to-be-University' would, however, be required to maintain norms and standard laid down by the respective professional Councils which would be open to verification by the UGC and the relevant Council.
- (iii) In the case of institutions to be included under the ambit of existing 'Deemed-to-be-University', the Committee reiterated the arrangement as explained in para (ii) above. However, in the interest of the students, faculty, employees and the standard of education some additional conditions need be imposed.
- (iv) There may be no objection to the use of the word 'university' by the institutions of 'Deemed-to-be-University'. A distinction is to be made between the public universities established by the executive charter and the universities established by legislature, Central or State.

UGC has since issued requisite notifications in regard to the said recommendations.

[Translation]

**Marketing of Small Scale
Industries Products**

1942. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to provide relief to the small scale industries for licensing obligations and the complexities of labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any provision of assistance has been made by the Government for the supply and marketing of the products of small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to improve working conditions in Small Scale Industries sector?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 does not require a micro or small enterprise to obtain licence for commencement or continuation of its operation.

Enforcement of most labour laws within a State is basically the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The enforcement machinery is also provided by the State Government. The Central Government has, therefore, been requesting the State Governments to streamline the enforcement of labour laws, etc., in the context of micro and small enterprises so as not to cause undue hardship to them.

(c) The Government (in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries) implements several schemes to assist the small scale industries (SSI) in marketing their products. These, *inter alia*, include (i) reserving 358 items for exclusive purchase from SSI under the Central Government Purchase Programme (ii) Single point registration for Government purchases with the facility of (a) exemption from depositing earnest money, (b) availability of tender document free of cost and (c) waiver of security deposit, (iii) training programmes on marketing and packaging for exports, etc. In addition, under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (SSI-MDA), assistance is provided for participation in overseas fairs, undertaking study tours, conducting sector specific studies, initiating/contesting anti-dumping cases by SSI Associations and reimbursement of 75 per cent of the registration fee paid to GSI India, etc. To make the marketing support measures statutory, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 enables the Government of India and

the State Governments to notify, from time to time, preference policies in respect of procurement of goods and services, produced and provided by micro and small enterprises by their Ministries or Departments or, as the case may be aided institutions or public sector enterprises.

(d) The State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administration are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries. However, to supplement the efforts of the States/UTs, the Central Government implements a number of schemes/programmes to facilitate provision of credit, infrastructure, marketing and technology upgradation to these industries.

[English]

Bills from States

1943. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details/names of Bill received by the Government from various State Governments for approval as on date, date-wise, State-wise particularly from Gujarat; and

(b) the time by which such bills are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) A State-wise statement of Bills and Ordinances received from the State Governments, including Government of Gujarat pending for approval of the Government of India/assent of the President is enclosed.

(b) The State Legislations are examined from three angles viz. (a) repugnancy with Central Laws, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and constitutional validity. No time frame can be fixed for approval of these Bills as each Bill involves examination in consultation with various agencies.

Statement

(Position as on 30-11-2006)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Bill	Date of receipt
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The Industrial Disputes (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2005.	18-01-2006
2.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Special Economic Zones Bill, 2005.	10-01-2006
3.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Chit Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.	11-10-2006
4.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2006. (Amendment of Section 28 and 68)	11-10-2006
5.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2006. (Amendment of Section 2)	11-10-2006
6.	Andhra Pradesh	The Registration (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.	31-10-2006
7.	Andhra Pradesh	The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board Bill, 2006.	20-11-2006
8.	Assam	The Assam Apartment (Construction and Transfer of Ownership) Bill, 2006.	28-09-2006

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Bill	Date of receipt
9.	Chhattisgarh	The Chhattisgarh Protection of Depositors Interest Bill, 2005.	20-04-2006
10.	Chhattisgarh	The Chhattisgarh High Court Bill, 2006.	27-10-2006
11.	Chhattisgarh	The Chhattisgarh Co-operative Societies Bill, 2006.	07-11-2006
12.	Gujarat	The Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003.	23-06-2004
13.	Gujarat	The Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill, 2005.	17-02-2005
14.	Haryana	The Haryana Public Premises and Land (Eviction and Rent Recovery) Amendment Bill, 2006.	21-11-2006
15.	Himachal Pradesh	The Shimla Road Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Bill, 2006.	08-08-2006
16.	Himachal Pradesh	The Code of Criminal Procedure Himachal Pradesh Amendment Act, 2006.	02-11-2006
17.	Jharkhand	The Jharkhand Industrial Employment (Prohibition of Obstructive Practices) Bill, 2003.	11-02-2005
18.	Jharkhand	The Industrial Disputes (Jharkhand Amendment) Bill, 2003.	11-02-2006
19.	Jharkhand	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Jharkhand Amendment) Bill, 2006.	22-11-2006
20.	Karnataka	The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2006.	03-04-2006
21.	Karnataka	The Karnataka Molasses Regulation Bill, 2004.	17-11-2006
22.	Kerala	The Kerala Grants and Leases (Modification of Rights) Amendment Bill, 1999	13-05-1999
23.	Kerala	The Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2004.	18-10-2005
24.	Kerala	The Koodalmanickam Devaswom Bill, 2005.	27-09-2005
25.	Kerala	The Kerala Medical Officers' Admission to Post Graduate Courses Under Service Quota Bill, 2006.	21-02-2006
26.	Kerala	The Kerala (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Regulation of issue of community Certificates (Amendment) Ordinance, 2006.	14-08-2006
27.	Madhya Pradesh	The Madhya Pradesh Labours Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003.	14-01-2004
28.	Madhya Pradesh	The Indian Forest (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2005.	29-04-2005
29.	Madhya Pradesh	The Indian Forest (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2005. (Section 20-A)	05-01-2005

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Bill	Date of receipt
30.	Madhya Pradesh	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2005.	05-01-2006
31.	Madhya Pradesh	The Industrial Disputes (Madhya Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2006.	31-10-2006
32.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 1995.	01-02-1996
33.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra Special Economic Zones and Designated Areas Bill, 2006.	01-06-2006
34.	Maharashtra	The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control), the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) etc. (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006.	29-08-2006
35.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Bill, 2006.	24-08-2006
36.	Maharashtra	The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006.	05-06-2006
37.	Meghalaya	The Meghalaya Transfer of Land (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006.	18-09-2006
38.	Manipur	The Manipur State Minorities Commission Bill, 2005.	06-12-2005
39.	Manipur	The Electricity (Manipur Amendment) Bill, 2006.	10-03-2006
40.	Manipur	The Manipur Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Bill, 2006.	13-06-2006
41.	Mizoram	The Mizoram Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2005.	07-10-2005
42.	Orissa	The Orissa Urban Police Bill, 2003.	12-05-2005
43.	Orissa	The Code of Civil Procedure (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 2006.	16-05-2006
44.	Orissa	The Orissa Special Court Bill, 2006.	17-11-2006
45.	Punjab	The Punjab Self-supporting Co-operative Societies Bill, 2006.	04-10-2006
46.	Punjab	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Anti.) Bill, 2006.	07-11-2006
47.	Rajasthan	The Rajasthan Protection of Interests of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Bill, 2005.	29-08-2005
48.	Rajasthan	The Rajasthan Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2006.	10-03-2006
49.	Rajasthan	The Rajasthan Prevention of Anti Social Activities Bill, 2006.	03-11-2006

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Bill	Date of receipt
50.	Tamil Nadu	The Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2006.	19-09-2006
51.	Tamil Nadu	The Tamil Nadu Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Determination of Fee) Bill, 2006.	27-09-2006
52.	Tripura	The Tripura Vigilance Commission Bill, 1991.	04-08-2006
53.	Uttaranchal	The Revenue Recovery (Uttaranchal Amendment) Bill, 2006.	09-05-2006
54.	West Bengal	The West Bengal Taxes on Entry of Goods in Specified Areas Bill, 2003.	04-08-2003
55.	West Bengal	The Registration (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 2004.	23-08-2004
56.	West Bengal	The Industrial Disputes (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 2005.	26-09-2005
57.	West Bengal	The West Bengal Administrative (Adjudication of School Disputes) Commission Bill, 2006.	19-01-2006
58.	West Bengal	The West Bengal Co-operative Societies Bill, 2006.	28-04-2006
59.	West Bengal	The West Bengal Municipal Corporation Bill, 2006.	17-04-2006

*[Translation]**[English]***Trade with America**

1944. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to increase trade with United States of America (USA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of trade between both countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting held in November, 2005, it was agreed that India and US will aim at doubling the bilateral trade to at least US\$ 40 billion by 2008.

(c) India's exports during the year 2005-06 were to the tune of US\$ 17,353 million and imports were to the tune of US\$ 9,454 million.

Marketing of Khadi Products

1945. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken steps to explore market for superior khadi products in neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to familiarise Khadi in the country during past two years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) promotes the export of khadi and village industry (KVI) products to various countries, including neighbouring countries. The main destination countries of export of KVI products are Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Hong

Kong, Japan, United Kingdom United States of America, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Vietnam, France, Germany, Italy, etc. For promotion of KVI products, the KVIC provides cash incentives to the registered exporting institutions and individual entrepreneurs at the rate of 5 per cent of the 'free on board' (FOB) value of exported items. In addition, KVIC provides financial assistance to its registered units/institutions for participation in international exhibitions, study tours and publicity.

(c) To popularise the use of khadi products throughout the country, the Government, through the KVIC, has taken several initiatives, viz., (i) organizing exhibitions at National/ Zonal district levels, (ii) participation in national and international exhibitions, (iii) providing financial assistance under Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products, (iv) launching 'Mission Khadi' to convert the khadi fabric into ready-made garments of latest designs, targeted mainly at the urban areas, (v) launching brand name "Khadi India" for khadi products and (vi) launching the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for implementation in 25 khadi clusters for their holistic development over five years beginning.

Loan under PMRY

1946. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received and the actual number of applicants provided loan under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not providing loan to the remaining applicants under PMRY;

(c) whether recovery of loans under PMRY is not even 40%;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether this low recovery of loans has any impact on the sanctioning of fresh loans; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The number of applications received and those disbursed loans under Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, during each of the last three years and current year is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Some applications have not been disbursed loan as they did not fulfill the eligibility criteria regarding educational qualification, income ceiling and residency or did not have proof of having adequate or suitable space for the proposed units or did not turn up for interview or had defaulted in repayment of previous loans.

(c) and (d) On the whole, the country average of the recovery of loan under PMRY has generally been below 40 per cent. The reasons for low recovery of loans include (i) units becoming financially non-viable on account of production or marketing difficulties, (ii) under-financing of projects by banks, (iii) delay by State Governments in providing.

Power connections and other statutory clearances etc. The percentage of the recovery rate comes down progressively as the previous unpaid loans are added to the overdue amounts, every year.

(e) and (f) Fresh loan cannot be sanctioned to beneficiaries who have defaulted in repayment of already sanctioned loans.

Statement

Details of no. of applications received and actual no. of applicants provided loan under
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years and current year.

Sl. No.	Name States/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (upto Sep. 06)	
		Appl. Received by Banks (No.)	Cases Disb. by Banks (No.)	Appl. Received by Banks (No.)	Cases Disb. by Banks (No.)	Appl. Received by Banks (No.)	Cases Disb. by Banks (No.)	Appl. Received by Banks (No.)	Cases Disb. by Banks (No.)
1.	Haryana	14912	7277	14786	7755	16654	9508	8970	1410
2.	Himachal Pradesh	4177	2862	3975	2853	4082	2926	1774	768
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	1890	656	1732	639	11900	311	336	67
4.	Punjab	13307	7558	13618	8372	13251	7969	4987	787
5.	Rajasthan	28480	12769	29533	12919	28745	13760	13691	976
6.	Chandigarh	150	68	474	206	389	72	26	5
7.	Delhi	3542	904	2785	819	2331	681	828	116
8.	Assam	13293	5844	15137	8256	13581	5625	2149	1263
9.	Manipur	812	520	907	387	606	357	299	55
10.	Meghalaya	529	403	762	568	918	562	187	94
11.	Nagaland	581	53	1054	109	2291	2225	100	47
12.	Tripura	5100	2043	3149	1747	3880	2032	2011	492
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	740	668	527	440	989	423	6	6
14.	Mizoram	801	775	269	142	818	472	0	0
15.	Sikkim	89	30	75	32	70	31	16	4
16.	Bihar	17247	9860	16034	10396	20256	12075	3246	978

17. Jharkhand	8936	4774	8955	4804	9065	4570	2073	453
18. Orissa	19576	8779	28000	11339	26409	12645	3395	574
19. West Bengal	8757	2822	9073	3796	9282	4614	2624	1119
20. Andaman and Nicobar	297	182	305	142	317	150	39	15
21. Madhya Pradesh	46774	19748	50655	20642	50785	20775	14708	1405
22. Chhattisgarh	7926	3275	8198	3276	7312	3419	2569	395
23. Uttar Pradesh	74471	40481	72335	42534	66289	37238	24174	6642
24. Uttaranchal	8989	5361	10463	6637	11408	7402	3797	1441
25. Gujarat	12146	6755	11037	6406	1180	6315	3402	1270
26. Maharashtra	41278	17230	47166	21819	44227	23485	7804	2604
27. Daman and Diu	5	3	7	4	25	14	1	0
28. Goa	220	116	77	45	78	43	11	4
29. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	27	45	53	24	5	3
30. Andhra Pradesh	24703	17729	41717	22542	40987	20608	8235	3095
31. Karnataka	24778	11929	30136	13931	33999	15256	7753	467
32. Kerala	25100	14024	30794	16553	33726	21540	8523	3213
33. Tamil Nadu	23223	12738	33536	16902	34358	19417	13094	1643
34. Lakshadweep	31	17	17	4	6	5	8	0
35. Pondicherry	553	294	631	329	743	335	284	30
Not Specified	3266	897	3377	897	3412	1397	617	163
All India	436679	219444	491324	248264	494333	258281	141742	31604

Source: RBI data

National Technology Mission

1947. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute a National Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objective of its constitution; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

SC/ST (POA) Act, 1989

1948. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the impact of implementation of the SC/ST (POA) Act, 1989 in the country;

(b) if not, whether the Government intends to conduct a study in view of the rampant violence against dalits by the upper caste in the country; and

(c) the number of cases registered under the provisions of SC/ST (POA) Act, 1989, number of cases in which the accused convicted and number of cases in which victims were given compensation during the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under its Central Sector Scheme of Research and Training has been financially assisting independent research

agencies for conducting research studies related to untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and implementation of the PCR and POA Acts. A list of the studies commissioned during the last three years is enclosed as Statement.

(c) As per information compiled by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), statements containing details of cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes registered and cases in which accused were convicted under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during last three years, State-wise are placed at Statement-II (A) and (B) and Statement-III (A) and (B) respectively.

No data regarding the number of cases in which victims were given compensation is maintained by the Central Government. However, it is a statutory obligation on the part of the State Governments/UT Administrations to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995.

Statement-I

Government of India

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (PCR Desk)

List of the studies commissioned during the last three years

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under its Central Sector Scheme of Research and Training has been financially assisting the independent research agencies for conducting research studies related to the untouchability and atrocities and implementation of the Acts. The list of the studies commissioned during the last three years is given below:

Sl. No.	Topic of the Study	Name of the research agency
1	2	3
1.	Study of the Main Causes/Reasons for increasing crimes on SCs and STs and the Disposed of cases by Designated	National Law School of India University, Bangalore

1	2	3
	<p>Special Courts in comparison to the cases disposed of by Exclusive special courts under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh</p>	
2.	<p>Study on implementation of Projection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act, 1989 in Punjab; An impact evaluation</p>	<p>Ambedkar Centre of Socio-economic study for the Weaker Sections of Society, Department of Sociology, Punjab University, Chandigarh</p>
3.	<p>Study on implementation of Projection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act 1989—Impact of assistance provided for relief to the affected persons/families in Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Voluntary Association for People Service (VAPS), Tamil Nadu</p>
4.	<p>Study on implementation of Projection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act 1989—Impact of assistance provided for relief to the affected persons/families in Andhra Pradesh</p>	<p>Adithya Educational Academy, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh</p>
5.	<p>Study on implementation of Projection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (POA) Act 1989—Impact of assistance provided for relief to the affected persons/families in Madhya Pradesh</p>	<p>Society for Empowering the Youth and Downtrodden, New Delhi</p>
6.	<p>Study on Untouchability and caste based discrimination of Scheduled Castes in Punjab</p>	<p>Department of Economics and Sociology Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana</p>
7.	<p>"Untouchability: Study of its Causes, Mechanism, Consequences and coping strategies (the case of Sehore and Gwalior Districts of Madhya Pradesh)</p>	<p>Department of Sociology/Social Work, Barkatullah University, Bhopal</p>

Statement-II (A)

Number of cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases in which Trial Completed (TC), Cases Convicted (CV) and conviction Rate (VT) under SC/ST (P) of Atrocities Act, 1989 and Relevant Sections of IPC in Crime Committed against SC Victims during 2003 to 2005

Sl. States/UTs No.	2003					2004					2005					
	CR	CS	TC	CV	VT	CR	CS	TC	CV	VT	CR	CS	TC	CV	VT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1. Andhra Pradesh	3394	1831	1704	284	16.7	3187	1695	1842	259	14.1	3056	2302	1604	250	15.6	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	2	2	0	0	—	
3. Assam	67	41	32	5	51.6	20	25	26	3	11.5	282	76	39	13	33.3	
4. Bihar	1665	1150	493	140	28.4	2553	1208	655	125	19.1	1729	1351	482	151	31.3	
5. Chhattisgarh	709	666	440	203	46.1	698	665	817	269	32.9	453	418	441	140	31.7	
6. Goa	2	2	1	0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0.0	2	0	0	0	—	
7. Gujarat	1158	1109	1015	24	2.4	1304	1158	1203	34	2.8	1301	1214	1024	39	3.8	
8. Haryana	195	169	147	12	8.2	217	183	150	20	13.3	288	203	123	21	17.1	
9. Himachal Pradesh	106	56	68	5	7.4	87	41	37	2	5.4	52	47	46	5	10.9	
10. Jammu and Kashmir	5	5	3	1	33.3	1	3	5	0	0.0	0	0	6	0	0.0	
11. Jharkhand	76	66	46	14	30.4	126	66	46	14	30.4	269	216	122	24	19.7	

12. Karnataka	1776	1415	1266	29	2.3	1605	1224	1294	34	2.6	1752	1264	1256	55	4.4
13. Kerala	439	257	292	26	8.9	435	195	296	13	4.4	345	244	406	57	14.0
14. Madhya Pradesh	5506	5235	3544	887	25.0	4698	4540	4126	1082	26.2	4355	4221	4298	1371	31.9
15. Maharashtra	654	594	670	26	3.9	689	531	962	46	4.8	833	699	554	35	6.3
16. Manipur	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
19. Nagaland	27	10	2	2	100.0	0	5	21	21	100.0	0	0	2	2	100.0
20. Orissa	1157	993	741	111	15.0	1398	1163	952	133	14.0	1439	1079	1096	121	11.0
21. Punjab	126	76	61	11	18.0	134	70	74	17	23.0	139	64	42	5	11.9
22. Rajasthan	4329	2445	2635	979	37.2	4360	2728	2227	825	37.0	3794	2659	2197	904	41.1
23. Sikkim	7	7	3	2	66.7	16	5	2	0	0.0	7	9	6	3	50.0
24. Tamil Nadu	1297	1084	1310	323	24.7	1086	777	1502	534	35.6	1194	808	1298	331	25.5
25. Tripura	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	38	29	0	0	—
26. Uttar Pradesh	2769	2400	5451	2613	47.9	3750	3046	5034	2407	47.8	4369	3714	5061	2494	49.3
27. Uttaranchal	129	84	84	40	47.6	137	73	106	47	44.3	99	82	49	23	46.9
28. West Bengal	5	6	3	2	66.7	14	9	12	0	0.0	12	4	2	1	50.0
Total (States)	25598	19701	20011	5739	28.7	26516	19410	21390	5885	27.5	25810	20705	20154	6045	30.0
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
30. Chandigarh			1	1	0	0	—	0	0	2	1	50.0	0	0	0	0	—
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli			0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	2	0	0	0	—
32. Daman and Diu			0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	2	1	0	0	—
33. Delhi UT			13	8	7	0	0.0	4	3	13	1	7.7	20	4	10	2	20.0
34. Lakshadweep			0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
35. Pondicherry			6	5	0	0	—	3	2	1	0	0.0	2	2	2	0	0.0
Total (UTs)			20	14	7	0	0.0	7	5	16	2	12.5	26	7	12	2	167.
Total (All India)	25618	19715	20018	5739	28.7	26523	19415	21406	5887	27.5	25836	20712	20166	6047	30.0		

Source: Crime in India

Statement-II (B)

Number of cases Registered (CR), Cases Chargesheeted (CS), Cases in which Trial Completed (TC), Cases Convicted (CV) and conviction Rate (VT) under SC/ST (P) of Atrocities Act, 1989 and Relevant Sections of IPC in Crime Committed against SC Victims during 2003 to 2005

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2003					2004					2005				
		CR	CS	TC	CV	VT	CR	CS	TC	CV	VT	CR	CS	TC	CV	VT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	550	345	347	77	22.2	562	274	246	46	18.7	515	428	319	40	12.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	66	40	0	0	—	75	57	1	0	0.0	54	37	9	7	77.8
3.	Assam	19	11	8	4	50.0	12	12	8	4	50.0	216	105	61	17	27.9
4.	Bihar	46	28	16	4	25.0	40	16	12	2	16.7	82	20	9	2	22.2
5.	Chhattisgarh	774	722	401	166	41.4	676	628	520	183	35.2	497	470	371	147	39.6
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	1	0	0	0	—
7.	Gujarat	241	219	228	12	5.3	241	185	364	13	3.6	237	207	190	2	1.1
8.	Haryana	0	0	3	0	0.0	0	0	2	2	100.0	0	0	0	0	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	4	2	0	0.0	11	8	4	0	0.0	8	3	7	0	0.0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	3	0	0.0	1	1	1	1	100.0	0	0	1	0	0.0
11.	Jharkhand	108	82	39	11	28.2	123	81	39	11	28.2	323	214	115	24	20.9

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12. Karnataka	162	154	186	154	186	8	4.3	172	138	138	2	1.4	161	129	221	9	4.1
13. Kerala	65	47	37	47	37	1	2.7	82	54	47	1	2.1	82	82	176	14	8.0
14. Madhya Pradesh	1779	1675	928	1675	928	228	24.6	1667	1668	1146	340	29.7	1615	1526	1639	485	29.6
15. Maharashtra	217	201	183	201	183	2	1.1	231	207	290	17	5.9	224	203	207	7	3.4
16. Manipur	4	1	0	1	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
17. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
18. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
19. Nagaland	263	159	182	159	182	180	98.9	0	126	682	655	96.0	0	0	0	0	—
20. Orissa	484	449	230	449	230	39	17.0	519	399	342	57	16.7	602	418	310	39	12.6
21. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
22. Rajasthan	912	512	628	512	628	207	33.0	1031	532	610	204	33.4	863	548	644	237	36.8
23. Sikkim	6	6	5	6	5	2	40.0	32	8	5	0	0.0	22	22	14	4	28.6
24. Tamil Nadu	63	43	5	43	5	2	40.0	26	15	27	9	33.3	13	9	13	0	0.0
25. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	12	7	0	0	—
26. Uttar Pradesh	47	31	156	31	156	77	49.4	5	4	42	23	54.8	6	7	28	20	71.4
27. Uttaranchal	5	4	6	4	6	4	66.7	3	2	7	6	85.7	1	1	11	8	72.7
28. West Bengal	3	6	3	6	3	1	33.3	9	3	4	1	25.0	12	2	2	1	50.0
Total (States)	5827	4740	3596	4740	3596	1025	28.5	5518	4418	4537	1577	34.8	5546	4438	4347	1063	24.5

29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	0	0	—	1	2	0	0	0	—	2	2	0	0	—
30. Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23	15	0	0	0	—	4	9	2	1	50.0	2	1	4	0	0.0	0.0
32. Daman and Diu	1	1	0	0	0	—	1	1	0	0	—	0	0	1	0	0.0	0.0
33. Delhi UT	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	1	1	0	0	—	—
34. Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	—	0	2	0	0	—	0	2	0	0	—	—
35. Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	—
Total (UTs)	25	17	0	0	0	—	6	14	2	1	50.0	5	6	5	0	0.0	0.0
Total (All India)	5852	4757	3596	1025	28.5	5524	4432	4539	1578	34.8	5551	4444	4352	1063	24.4	24.4	24.4

Source: Crime in India

Statement-III (A)

Number of Persons Arrested (PA), Persons Chargesheeted (PC), Persons Trial Completed (PL) and Persons Convicted (PV) under SC/ST (P) of Atrocities Act, 1989 and Relevant Sections of IPC in Crimes Committed against SC Victims during 2003 to 2005

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2003					2004					2005					
		PA	PC	PL	PV	PA	PC	PL	PV	PA	PC	PL	PV	PA	PC	PL	PV
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4110	3285	3502	397	4250	3458	3831	675	3541	3379	3600	531				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0				
3.	Assam	111	45	29	6	26	43	48	2	297	141	79	23				
4.	Bihar	2747	2310	917	205	3447	2436	1230	162	3102	2381	999	223				
5.	Chhattisgarh	1118	1134	566	246	1421	1440	1743	558	666	648	777	276				
6.	Goa	4	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0				
7.	Gujarat	3037	3081	2367	47	3072	3012	2492	81	2987	2994	2266	88				
8.	Haryana	393	402	327	10	453	446	420	69	421	405	231	16				
9.	Himachal Pradesh	177	160	201	27	84	93	65	8	106	95	142	5				
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	8	8	1	2	2	7	0	0	0	6	0				
11.	Jharkhand	265	301	107	32	198	144	246	32	446	195	145	30				
12.	Karnataka	4170	3910	3856	77	4517	4583	4594	111	4366	4095	4340	91				
13.	Kerala	513	547	595	129	510	466	561	20	364	395	877	34				
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11452	11386	8271	1835	10042	10054	8630	2220	8411	8558	7484	2591				
15.	Maharashtra	2057	2063	2298	79	2283	2005	2577	124	2872	2741	1482	73				
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

Care Houses for Orphanages

1949. SHRI REVATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Care Homes and Orphanages keep children up to the age of 18 only as referred in *Times of India* dated September 10, 2006;

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

(c) whether orphan boys and girls reaching the age of 18 are not able to complete education enough to enable them get employment and for factors such as ban on under aged employment;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to provide for retention of orphans for some more years; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to rehabilitate these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children homes which may be established and maintained by the State Governments/ UT Administrations under the Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(c) The Children Homes are supposed to be functioning as comprehensive child care centres and are expected to provide facilities which include education to all children according to their age and ability, either inside the home or outside. The children homes are also required to facilitate vocational training to children under the guidance of trained instructors.

The ban on employment under the Child Labour [Prohibition and Regulation] Act, 1986 as well as the National Child Labour Project [NCLP] scheme being

implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is with the intention of providing better scope for education to these children. There may, however, be children who have not completed education at the age of 18 years.

(d) and (e) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment or recognition of After Care Organisations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave children homes. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments the need for full implementation of the Act.

Rejection of Voucher Scheme

1950. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Muman Resource Development has rejected the voucher scheme—mooted in the draft approach paper to XI Five Year Plan as reported in the Hindu dated October 13, 2006;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to universalisation of elementary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The voucher system in our country may not be a viable alternative to setting-up of government schools since the education gap is more in rural areas, which have very few private schools. It may also result in higher expenditure on education as the average cost of schooling in private un-aided schools is generally higher than that of government schools.

(c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in 2001-02, as an umbrella programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). It covered the whole country, and aims to universal access, retention and quality in elementary education.

Coir Industry in Lakshadweep

1951. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to develop coir industry sector in Lakshadweep;

(b) the number of new units sanctioned under the Scheme for Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) scheme of the Government; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to set up a fibre factory in Chetlat Island?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Coir Board, a statutory organisation set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953, has prepared an action plan for implementation of schemes in Lakshadweep for training of women artisans and providing them equipment like motorised ratts/traditional ratts under the Mahila Coir Yojana.

(b) A coir cluster in Androth island in Lakshadweep has been identified and sanctioned for cluster based development under the Scheme of Fund for regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

(c) The Government of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep propose to set up a fibre processing unit in Chetlat island during this year for which Coir Board's assistance has been sought.

Funds for Primary Education

1952. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enhancement has been made in

the budget allocations in the current financial year to impart primary education in the remotest areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the achievements made in this regard to impart primary education in the rural areas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The budget allocation for elementary education was enhanced from Rs. 12,242 crores in 2005-06 to Rs. 16,893 crores in the current financial year (2006-07).

(d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 97,999 school buildings, 2,81,001 additional classrooms have been constructed and 6.67 lakh teachers appointed. Furthermore, under Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, about 12 crores children are covered for a hot cooked meal every school working day.

Performance of HCL

1953. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the details of production, sales and profit/loss of HCL for the last three years;

(c) whether the HCL has any proposal to reopen its closed mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such mines are likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is not incurring losses since last two years i.e. from financial year 2004-05 onwards.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. HCL has proposal to re-open Surda mine in the State of Jharkhand. The re-opening of the mine will require equipment/machineries, manpower and repair of concentrator plant. The mine will be reopened after completion of the said activities.

Silk Production

1954. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the various types of Silk produced in the country during the last three years indicating the growth rate thereof; State-wise;

(b) the position of India in the World Silk production;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the production of Silk in the country in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The variety-wise Silk production and the growth rate in the country for the last three years over the first year of Xth plan (2003-04 to 2005-06) are given the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) India stands second in the World Silk production and contributes approximately 13% of the total World Raw Silk production.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. With a view to increase the production of raw silk, an additional area of about 50,000 hectares of plantation is proposed to be raised during the XI Plan, apart from implementing the ongoing schemes, which have helped in increasing the silk production and productivity so far. Government intends to achieve raw silk production target of 26,000 MT at the end of Xth Plan (at 8% growth rate) which includes production of 5,000 Metric Tonnes of superior quality Bi-Voltine raw silk.

Statement-I

State-wise Mulberry and Vanya Rawsilk Production

(Unit: Rawsilk Production in Metric Tonnes)

States	2002-03					2003-04				
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Vanya Silk					Vanya Silk		
Andhra Pradesh	5629	21	0	0	5650	6054	14	0	0	6068
Assam	15	0	463	96	574	8	0	480	99	587
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	13	1	16	0	0	3	0	3
Bihar	5	8	30	0	43	6	8	18	0	32
Chhattisgarh	2	64	0	0	66	1	118	0	0	119
Himachal Pradesh	17	0	0	0	17	12	0	0	0	12
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	100	0	0	0	100	85	0	0	0	85
Jharkhand	2	90	0	0	92	0	84	0	0	84
Karnataka	6760	0	0	0	6750	5949	0	0	0	5949
Kerala	3	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	4
Madhya Pradesh	8	7	0	0	15	9	13	0	0	22
Maharashtra	65	9	0	0	74	42	8	0	0	50

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Manipur		27	1	458	Neg	486	27	1	434	Neg	462
Mizoram		5	0	Neg	Neg	5	5	0	3	0	8
Meghalaya		2	0	271	5	276	2	0	317	6	325
Nagaland		Neg	0	78	0	78	0	0	96	0	96
Orissa		6	54	0	0	60	2	37	Neg	0	39
Punjab		4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	4
Rajasthan		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu		490	0	0	0	490	285	0	0	0	285
Tripura		5	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	0	4
Uttar Pradesh		10	3	0	0	13	9	2	0	0	11
Uttaranchal		10	0	0	0	10	9	3	0	0	12
West Bengal		1450	27	3	1	1481	1453	27	1	0	1481
Total		14617	284	1316	102	16319	13970	315	1352	105	15742

SS: 01-12-2006

Neg: Less than 50 kg.

(Unit: Rawsilk Production in Metric Tonnes)

States	2004-05						2005-06*				
	Vanya Silk						Vanya Silk				
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total	
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
Andhra Pradesh	5084	16	10	0	5110	5375	20	27	0	5422	
Arunachal Pradesh	9	0	554	104	667	8		745	104	857	
Assam	Neg.	0	4	0	4	1	Neg.	10	0	11	
Bihar	8	8	15	0	31	3	14	1	0	18	
Chhattisgarh	2	120	1	0	123	3	90	3	0	96	
Himachal Pradesh	12	0	0	0	12	16	0	0	0	16	
Haryana	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Jammu and Kashmir	90	0	0	0	90	95	0	0	0	95	
Jharkhand	Neg.	91	1	0	92	1	96	Neg.	0	97	
Karnataka	7302	0	0	0	7302	7471	0	0	0	7471	
Kerala	8	0	0	0	8	12	0	0	0	12	
Madhya Pradesh	14	14	0	0	28	23	16	0	0	39	
Maharashtra	37	5	0	0	42	44	6	0	0	50	
Manipur	54	3	431	0	488	48	3	235	0	286	
Mizoram	5	Neg.	3	0	8	6	Neg.	3	0	9	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Meghalaya		3	0	327	5	335	3	0	280	5	288
Nagaland		1	0	98	0	99	1	Neg.	130	0	131
Orissa		2	33	1	0	36	2	21	2	0	25
Punjab		4	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	4
Rajasthan		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu		443	0	1	0	444	739	0	Neg.	0	739
Tripura		4	0	0	0	4	4	0		0	4
Uttar Pradesh		10	2	0	0	12	19	3	2	0	24
Uttaranchal		9	4	1	0	14	14	5	Neg.	Neg.	19
West Bengal		1520	26	2	0	1548	1552	34	4	0	1591
Total		14620	322	1448	110	16500	15445	308	1442	110	17305

SS: 01-12-2006

Neg: Less than 50 kg.

*Estimated.

Statement-II

State-wise Mulberry and Vanya Flawsilk Production Growth Rate (2003-04 to 2005-06)

(Unit: Growth Rate in Percentage)

States	Growth Rate for 2003-04 Over 1st year of X Plan			Growth Rate for 2004-05 Over 1st year of X Plan			Growth Rate for 2005-06 Over 1st year of X Plan								
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total (M+V)	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total (M+V)	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total (M+V)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Andhra Pradesh	7.6	-33.3			7.4	-4.8	-11.9			-4.8	-1.5	-1.6			-1.3
Assam	-46.7		3.7	3.1	2.3	-20.0		9.8	4.2	8.1	-15.6		20.3	2.8	16.4
Arunachal Pradesh	-100.0		-76.9	-60.0	-79.4			-34.6	-40.0	-36.8	-16.7		-7.7	-17.3	-9.2
Bihar	20.00	0.0	-40.0		-25.6	30.0	0.0	-25.0		-14.0	-13.3	25.0	-32.2		-19.4
Chhattisgarh	-50.0	84.4			80.3	7.5	43.8			43.4	16.7	13.5			15.2
Himachal Pradesh	-29.4				-29.4	-14.7				-14.7	-2.0				-2.0
Haryana															
Jammu and Kashmir	-15.0				-15.0	-5.0				-5.0	-1.7				-1.7
Jharkhand	-100.00	-6.7			-8.7		0.6			0.0	-16.7	2.2			1.8
Karnataka	-12.0				-12.0	4.0				4.0	3.5				3.5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Kerala		33.3			33.3	83.3	83.3				83.3	100.0				100.0
Madhya Pradesh		12.5	85.7		46.7	37.5	50.0				43.3	62.5	42.9			53.3
Maharashtra		-35.4	-11.1		-32.4	-21.5	-22.2				-21.6	-10.8	-11.1			-10.8
Manipur		0.0	0.0	-5.2	-4.9	50.0	100.0	-2.9			0.2	25.9	66.7	-16.2		-13.7
Mizoram		0.0			60.0	0.0					31.0	6.7				28.5
Meghalaya		0.0		17.0	20.0	16.9	12.5	10.3		4.0	10.2	16.7		1.1	2.7	1.2
Nagaland				23.1		23.1		12.8			13.3			22.2		22.7
Orissa		-66.7	-31.5		-35.0	-33.3	-19.4				-20.0	-22.2	-20.4			-19.4
Punjab		0.0			0.0	0.0	0.0				0.0	0.0				0.0
Rajasthan																
Sikkim																
Tamil Nadu		-41.8			-41.6	-4.6					-4.7	16.9				16.9
Tripura		-20.0			-20.0	-10.0					-10.0	-6.7				-5.7
Uttar Pradesh		-10.0	-33.3		-15.4	-2.5	-16.7				-5.8	30.0	0.0			28.2
Uttaranchal		-10.0			20.0	-5.0					18.0	13.3				30.0
West Bengal		0.2	0.0	-66.7	-60.0	0.0	2.4	-1.9	-16.7	-30.0	2.3	2.4	8.6	11.1	-20.0	2.5
Total		-4.4	10.9	2.7	3.3	-3.5	0.0	6.7	5.0	3.9	0.6	1.9	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.0

SS: 01-12-2006

M+V=Mulberry+Vanya

*Estimated figs.

Indo-Bangladesh Agreement

1955. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into an agreement for setting up adequate mechanisms to fight against terrorism and organised crime jointly;

(b) if so, the details of terms of the agreement; and

(c) the effective steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

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

Textile Expos

1956. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sponsor expos in USA and Germany in collaboration with Kashmir Handicrafts Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expos proposed to be held in other countries; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these expos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no proposal to organize expos in USA and Germany but the Government has received proposal from Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts (S and E) Corporation Ltd., Srinagar for participation in New York Home Textiles Show, New York, USA and in Domotex, Hannover (Germany) which are under consideration.

(c) The Government expenditure likely to be incurred for participation of Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts (S and E) Corporation Ltd., Srinagar will be Rs. 36.00 lakhs each for USA and Germany.

Scholarship to SC/ST/OBC's

1957. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has rejected the proposal of scholarship scheme for SC/ST/OBC students as reported in the Times of India dated October 12, 2006;

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

(c) whether after Molyly Committee suggestions, HRD Ministry has again put the said proposal before the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the details of Molyly Committee suggestions in this regard; and

(e) the action so far taken by the Planning Commission on Molyly Committee suggestions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Oversight Committee has recommended that at least 100,000 scholarships can be provided each year. In the draft approach paper for the XIth Five Year Plan of this Ministry, the Planning Commission has now indicated the need for granting scholarship to two per cent of the student population, which is even higher.

[Translation]

Exports to USA

1958. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated share of small scale industries in total exports from the country during the first half of the current year;

(b) whether the Government is framing any scheme to increase exports to USA by small scale and medium scale industries;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to increase the trade of the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the agreement finalised in this regard with USA?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Data on exports by the small scale industries (SSIs) during the first half of 2006-07 are not available as these are provided by the respective Export Promotion Councils, Export Development Authorities, Commodity Boards, etc. after the close of the financial year. However, exports by SSIs have generally constituted approximately 35 per cent of the total exports of the country.

(b) to (d) With a view to increasing SSI exports, the Government implements schemes to assist SSIs in several areas like upgradation of technology, obtaining quality certification and testing of products, participation in international trade fairs and holding catalogue exhibitions, enabling access to information on international tenders, exchanging business delegations, etc. These schemes are not country-specific.

Moreover, correspondence has been exchanged with the aim of signing a Letter of Intent with the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the United States of America (USA) to promote reciprocal trade and opportunities for strategic linkages between small business of the USA and small and medium enterprises in India.

Unrecognised Educational Institutions

1959. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) whether any mechanism is available with the Government to keep check on the setting of unrecognised educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the unrecognised educational institutions running in different parts of the country and the type of education being imparted by these institutions;

(d) whether the number of such institutions in the country has been increasing since 1996;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to check/regulate such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) While recognition/affiliation of Institutes at College and School levels is a function respectively of the concerned Universities and State Governments, several Statutory Bodies have been empowered to coordinate, maintain or determine standards of education in their respective fields as well as to recognize institutions. There are provisions in regard to dealing with fake institutions as well. However, no Centralized data is maintained with respect to unrecognized educational institutions running in different parts of the country.

Sick Handicraft Units

1960. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handicraft units turned sick and closed during the last three years;

(b) the number of units which have been provided with financial assistance during the said period along with the number of sick units out of them;

(c) whether the said assistance has been provided to such units which have not gone sick;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that financial assistance is given to sick units only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Information on any sick handicraft unit has not come to the knowledge of the Government.

(b) to (e) There is no specific scheme for revival for such handicrafts units. However for the development of handicrafts through out the country, the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing the following schemes, which includes Baba Saheb Hastship Vikas Yojana, Design and Technical Upgradation, Marketing and Support Services, Export

Promotion, Training and Extension, Research and Development, Bima Yojana, Special Handicrafts Training Programme (SHTP), Workshed Scheme and Credit Guarantee Scheme.

[English]

Tax Liability of NTC

1961. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTC has earned capital gains during 2004-05 from the sale of their real estates;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the income earned by NTC during 2005-06 from the aforesaid sale;

(c) whether NTC has requested the Government to waive off the tax liability or devised mechanism to avoid tax payment;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; 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. ELANGOVA): (a) to (e) During 2004-05, NTC sold surplus land worth Rs. 110.12 crores. During 2005-06, NTC earned Rs. 2196.82 crores from the sale of surplus land. In both these years, 47 properties were sold and in the process NTC was required to pay Capital Gains Tax amounting to Rs. 950 crores.

Ministry of Textiles is implementing the Rehabilitation Scheme for NTC as approved by the Government and BIFR. The scheme is self financing and the funds are to be generated through sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. The Ministry of Textiles/NTC realized that a considerable amount generated from sale of surplus land would be consumed as payment of Capital Gains Tax. To that extent, the funds available for modernization and repayment of liabilities of NTC will be affected. The Group of Ministers (GOM) in 2001 approved that NTC would be exempted from the payment of Capital Gains Tax w.r.t. sale of surplus land through appropriate convenient device. The GOM, while approving the Rehabilitation Scheme, also observed that in case exemption from Capital Gains Tax was not granted, budgetary support would be provided to that extent. Accordingly, the matter was referred to

Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for granting exemption to NTC for payment of Capital Gains Tax. The Department of Revenue advised that NTC should pay the Capital Gains Tax and in lieu of that Ministry of Finance will provide an equivalent amount collected as Capital Gains Tax as a grant to NTC. The matter is still under consideration.

[Translation]

Jail Reforms

1962. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds disbursed by the Union Government to State Governments were sufficient to cater to the reforms to be carried out in jails in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds sanctioned in 2002-2003 under non-plan scheme is being regularly disbursed; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to monitor the jail reforms and to ensure that the funds released are not misutilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and therefore the responsibility for construction, maintenance and management of jail lies with the State Government. However, recognizing the need of improving the conditions of prisons, prison staff and the prisoners, the Central Government launched a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 over a period of five years (2002-07) with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has since been extended by another two years w.e.f. 1-4-2007 without affecting the total outlay.

Funds were allocated to the State Governments on the basis of their approved perspective plans.

(c) Funds are released to the States on the basis of their performance and submission of utilization certificates.

(d) The implementation of the scheme is monitored

through review meetings, periodical reports, site visits etc. which has resulted in considerable improvement in the pace of implementation of the Scheme.

[English]

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

1963. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up additional Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas particularly for the benefit of students belonging to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in educationally backward blocks in the country as reported in *Hindustan* dated September 30, 2006;

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

(c) the criteria for selection of sites for setting up of such vidyalayas;

(d) the details of funds allocated during the current financial year; and

(e) the academic year from which these vidyalayas are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) The Government of India has approved 1000 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) for the year 2006-07 whose allotment to States is based on specific State proposals. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are set up in educationally backward blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The location of a KGBV school in eligible educationally backward blocks is decided by the State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Jan Sikshan Sansthan in Tribal and Minority Areas

1964. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a special scheme for setting up the Jan Sikshan Sansthan (J.S.S.) particularly in tribal and minority areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received from Non-Governmental Organisations particularly from NGO based in Malegaon, Nasik district of Maharashtra for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by when the said proposals are likely to be approved?

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

(c) Over 900 proposals have been received out of which two are from Malegaon and one from Nasik District of Maharashtra.

(d) Government of India has approved establishment of 26 Jan Sikshan Sansthans during the last year of 10th five year plan i.e. 2006-07, out of which 22 Jan Sikshan Sansthans have already been sanctioned. Decision on the remaining 4 Jan Sikshan Sansthans will be taken in due course.

Financial Nexus of Terrorists

1965. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial nexus of the terrorists cases reported during each of the last three years in the country including the source of their finance;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to break the financial nexus of the terrorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check funding of terrorists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to available reports, terrorist groups in India are receiving funds from abroad mainly through hawala and other informal channels. The use of banking channels to transfer funds has also come to notice. The terrorist outfits in the North East States and the naxal affected States are mainly raising funds through collection of tax/levy of cess and extortion.

(b) to (d) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 as amended in September, 2004 has provisions to combat financing of terrorism. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA), also regulates and monitors receipt and use of foreign funds by the recipients. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), has provisions to deal with case of unauthorised transfer of foreign exchange including through hawala. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) have also come into effect. The security and law enforcement and revenue agencies are sensitized from time to time to pursue an inter-agency approach to detect sources and channels of funds being received by the terrorist groups.

[English]

Funds for Coaching to STs

1966. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka sent any proposal to the Union Government for sanction and release of Rs. 10 lakhs under centrally sponsored scheme (50% central + 50% State) for coaching to scheduled tribe students for civil service examination;

(b) whether the utilisation certificate for the amounts released during previous years has already been sent by the Government of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, by when the balance grant is likely to be released to the Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has furnished the Utilisation Certificates for grants released up to the year 2004-05.

(c) Further release of grants to Karnataka has been processed.

[Translation]

Survey on Language and Dialect

1967. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to conduct survey in respect of languages and dialects spoken in the country;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(c) the time by which the aforesaid task is likely to be completed;

(d) whether there are some regional languages in the country which are on the verge of extinction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to promote these languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is a proposal to conduct a Linguistic Survey of the country.

(b) The total budgetary requirement during 11th Plan period for this project has been estimated at Rs. 280 crores. During the 12th Plan period, estimated expenditure is Rs. 308 crores.

(c) The 'Linguistic Survey of India report is likely to be available after ten years of its commissioning.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There are about 350 languages having fewer than 10,000 speakers, some of which are on the verge of extinction.

(f) There is a proposal before Government for a scheme for the protection and development of endangered and smaller languages, on the line of the existing schemes for Languages included in the 8th Schedule. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore has worked on documentation etc. of at least 45 minor languages.

Demand of Tasar Silk

1968. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian Tasar Silk has increased in foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent by the Government for the development of this sector during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for increasing production area of Tasar Silk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The increasing trend in the export earnings from Tasar Silk-Goods during the year 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05 is as under:

Export Earnings from Tasar Silk-Goods

Year	Export Earnings*	
	Creore Rs.	Mn. US\$
2004-05	101.47	22.58
2005-06	157.72	35.62
Increase	56.25	13.04

*Tasar Silk-goods export includes Mixed Blended also, because in that tasar component is high.

(c) Year-wise amount spent by the Government for the development of Tasar Silk sector during the last three years is as follows:

Years	Amount spent by the Government (Rs. Lakhs)
2003-04	454.341
2004-05	489.295
2005-06	635.885

(d) (i) During the Xth Plan, farmers have been assisted to maintain approximately 4480 hectares of tasar food plants (upto 2005-06) under the Scheme "Assistance to tasar seed rearers for maintenance of systematic tasar plantation", for production of quality tasar cocoons.

(ii) Under special SGSY Projects for development of Tasar and sericulture in Bihar and Jharkhand, block and chawki plantations of tasar food plants were raised in wastelands, denuded forestlands etc.

(iii) For the development of Oak Tasar sector, a project entitled "Development of Tasar" is being implemented in Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts of Uttaranchal.

(iv) The Sub-Group on Sericulture has recommended an allocation of Rs. 30.78 crores during the XIth Plan period for development of Tasar Sector (Seed and Cocoon).

[English]

Bilateral Trade between India and Japan

1969. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trade between India and Japan during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the efforts being made to increase the bilateral trade between India and Japan to US \$ 10 billion in the next three years;

(c) whether India-Japan Business Summit was held in Japan and have decided to sign a comprehensive trade treaty during this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The details of the trade between India and Japan during the last five years year-wise are as follows:

(Value in UST\$ mn)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
2001-02	1511	2147	3658
2002-03	1864	1837	3701
2003-04	1714	2642	4356
2004-05	2128	3235	5363
2005-06	2459	3552	6011

(Source: DGCI and S)

(b) A number of steps have been taken by the two Governments to improve bilateral trade and economic relations. During the visit of Japan's Prime Minister to India in April, 2005, the two countries announced an eight point action plan to impart a strategic orientation to Indo-Japan bilateral ties with urgent focus on strengthening economic ties. The two countries agreed to work towards quantum jump in trade volume and pursue diversification in right earnest by taking advantage of the complementarities between the two countries. A Joint Study Group constituted by the two Governments to study the feasibility of further Economic Cooperation between the two countries has recommended for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) or Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan. An EPA/CEPA when concluded is expected to result in manifold benefits including those flowing from increased trade and investment. Also the trade will be promoted through participation in fairs and exhibitions held in India and Japan.

(c) and (d) India-Japan Business Summit was held in Japan on June 14, 2006. This Summit was jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

(METI) of Japan and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India and was co-hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). The Joint Statement issued by the two Ministers after the Summit envisages Action Plan to promote Japanese investment to India with focus on SMEs. It was also decided to create an information hub for Japanese and Indian investors. The two Ministers also agreed to widen opportunities for business and technology matching for Indian and Japanese companies. The ministers also recognized the need for working towards better trade and investment climate. The two Ministers also resolved to cooperate towards further economic development and integration in East Asia in spirit of the Joint Statement issued by the two Prime Ministers in New Delhi in April 2005.

Free Trade Pact with European Union

1970. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister discussed the prospects of a free trade pact with the European Union during the India EU Summit held in October this year;

(b) if so, the details of the contemplated agreement; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) At the 7th India-EU Summit held on 13th October 2006 in Helsinki, co-chaired by the Prime Minister from the Indian side, it was decided that both sides move towards negotiations for a broad-based bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement.

The future broad based trade and investment agreement is expected to cover Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Intellectual Property Rights and Dispute Settlement.

ST Status to Kol Tribe

1971. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people belonging to Kol tribe have been given the status of a tribe in the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving recognition to the Kol tribe in other States including Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Kol Tribe has been notified as Scheduled Tribe in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa only.

The list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a State or Union Territory is notified under the provisions of Article 342 of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the list of notified Scheduled Tribes is State/Union Territory specific. Before any community can be considered for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list of any State/UT it must fulfill the criteria adopted by Government of India for identification of a community i.e.: (i) Indications of primitive traits, (ii) Distinctive culture, (iii) Geographical isolation, (iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large and (v) Social and economic backwardness.

The Government on 15-6-1999 has approved the modalities for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to these modalities only those proposals, which have been recommended by the concerned State Government and the Registrar General of India as well as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (now the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes) are to be considered and legislation amended.

The proposal for inclusion of Kol community in other States including Uttar Pradesh have been processed as per approved modalities.

Export of Coir Products

1972. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of coir products exported during the last three years and current year indicating the name of the countries; and

(b) the contribution of Kerala therein?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The value and quantity of coir products exported during the last three years and current year as well as the names of the countries are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Out of the total export of coir and coir products from India during 2005-06, Kerala's share is about 90 per cent terms of value and 40 per cent in terms of quantity.

Statement

(i) *Country-wise export of coir and coir products during 2003-04*

Quantity: Tonnes and Value: Rs. lakh

Sl.No.	Country	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4
1.	USA	26893.82	14889.48
2.	UK	8623.92	4524.60
3.	Netherlands	17856.19	3204.93
4.	Germany	5540.30	2824.62
5.	Italy	5718.83	2385.22
6.	Spain	5389.41	1690.33
7.	France	3378.30	1664.12
8.	Belgium	2983.95	1211.35
9.	Australia	4512.62	1188.10
10.	Canada	1944.06	910.62
11.	Japan	1722.49	717.47
12.	Sweden	1068.08	574.93

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
13.	Turkey	851.78	433.71	39.	Finland	131.54	60.00
14.	Greece	656.09	377.11	40.	Yugoslavia	116.59	58.41
15.	UAE	1903.85	343.72	41.	Austria	109.57	54.69
16.	South Africa	772.63	303.25	42.	Mexico	107.11	45.05
17.	Portugal	755.09	301.66	43.	Ecuador	522.14	38.18
18.	Denmark	384.86	198.89	44.	Iran	105.97	37.98
19.	New Zealand	419.91	194.31	45.	Colombia	57.09	29.76
20.	Sri Lanka	987.76	181.90	46.	Singapore	58.38	29.36
21.	Poland	634.86	152.04	47.	Kenya	447.57	25.06
22.	Maldiv Islands	856.78	151.00	48.	Jordan	71.59	24.03
23.	Kuwait	436.10	136.54	49.	Panama	39.31	23.80
24.	Saudi Arabia	443.85	129.80	50.	Latvia	40.00	22.34
25.	South Korea	1598.39	126.41	51.	Republic of China	113.60	22.18
26.	Irish Republic	185.32	114.16	52.	Pakistan	114.10	22.01
27.	Norway	192.65	108.65	53.	Argentina	42.39	21.84
28.	Brazil	227.62	104.09	54.	Switzerland	32.20	21.06
29.	Morocco	311.93	101.09	55.	Ghana	32.08	20.03
30.	Egypt	234.91	100.52	56.	Nigeria	42.37	19.86
31.	Hongkong	168.95	96.13	57.	Algeria	63.63	19.34
32.	Israel	315.96	88.04	58.	Czechoslovakia	41.34	18.94
33.	Lebanon	271.68	84.68	59.	Cyprus	49.75	16.33
34.	Malaysia	166.80	80.89	60.	Netherlands Antilles	125.89	15.47
35.	Chile	112.22	76.11	61.	Mauritius	68.03	13.89
36.	Russia	163.09	65.36	62.	Qatar	19.35	13.51
37.	Hungary	308.47	62.88	63.	Iraq	48.15	12.71
38.	Taiwan	214.25	61.88	64.	Cameroon	21.46	12.00

1	2	3	4
65.	Trinidad	21.43	11.32
66.	Zambia	132.23	10.25
67.	Ivory Coast	15.00	8.55
68.	Uruguay	13.25	6.32
69.	South Yemen	23.12	6.13
70.	Philippines	5.54	5.23
71.	Lybia	9.45	4.85
72.	Jamaic	10.61	4.28
73.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6.21	4.10
74.	Tanzania	15.88	4.07
75.	Oman	13.35	3.20
76.	Puerto Rico	5.94	2.68
77.	New Caledonia	25.00	2.64
78.	Thailand	5.75	2.43
79.	Barbados	18.90	2.35
80.	Iceland	5.89	2.23
81.	Ukraine	3.97	1.78
82.	Baharain	2.45	1.67
83.	Ethiopia	27.00	1.60
84.	Malta	2.68	1.59
85.	Zimbabwe	24.50	1.53
86.	Uganda	25.00	1.42
87.	Brunei	11.00	.86
88.	Coasta Rica	.27	.15
Total		102253.40	40749.67

(ii) *Country-wise export of coir and coir products during 2004-05*

Quantity: Tonnes and Value: Rs. lakh

Sl.No.	Country	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4
1.	USA	32583.14	18625.43
2.	UK	9333.41	4941.59
3.	Netherlands	22323.01	3667.31
4.	Germany	5909.35	3011.05
5.	Italy	5274.13	2419.48
6.	France	3885.41	1962.23
7.	Spain	7418.98	1848.68
8.	Australia	4082.09	1072.55
9.	Canada	2238.28	1010.17
10.	Belgium	2218.01	903.22
11.	Sweden	1192.67	659.11
12.	Japan	891.96	584.75
13.	Turkey	1131.87	577.41
14.	South Africa	1332.47	500.03
15.	Denmark	692.29	388.32
16.	South Korea	6343.11	380.40
17.	Greece	686.29	378.52
18.	Portugal	853.40	348.24
19.	UAE	1600.87	336.98
20.	Saudi Arabia	662.28	270.91
21.	Brazil	469.24	244.98

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
22.	Chile	350.46	225.85	48.	Mexico	131.22	35.98
23.	Kuwait	666.79	217.36	49.	Colombia	94.16	33.85
24.	Israel	579.21	190.59	50.	Nigeria	67.18	30.22
25.	New Zealand	360.09	181.07	51.	Switzerland	41.65	26.18
26.	Poland	747.53	170.68	52.	Czechoslovakia	55.19	25.16
27.	Norway	296.66	145.28	53.	Lybia	39.59	23.29
28.	Austria	249.25	143.54	54.	Croatia	46.59	23.29
29.	Maldiv Islands	1309.01	128.76	55.	Republic of China	48.10	20.18
30.	Malaysia	387.27	119.38	56.	Cameroon	46.53	19.94
31.	Iran	426.27	108.89	57.	Singapore	32.70	18.73
32.	Lebanon	265.75	106.18	58.	Algeria	53.31	17.68
33.	Kenya	1549.03	102.21	59.	Uruguay	34.87	17.12
34.	Egypt	241.46	92.81	60.	Cyprus	25.93	15.26
35.	Irish Republic	311.16	91.00	61.	Ghana	24.82	13.37
36.	Russia	209.81	89.93	62.	Dominican Republic	21.26	13.08
37.	Hungary	490.42	84.57	63.	Rumania	22.68	12.66
38.	Panama	119.36	61.15	64.	Oman	41.45	12.25
39.	Morocco	186.85	60.01	65.	Venezuela	28.64	11.95
40.	Latvia	101.94	59.18	66.	Pakistan	52.05	11.79
41.	Argentina	114.51	58.19	67.	Jamaic	24.85	11.56
42.	Yugoslavia	132.53	57.45	68.	Peru	22.70	11.36
43.	Taiwan	195.50	56.46	69.	Ukraine	25.01	10.74
44.	Finland	78.04	44.75	70.	Lithuania	19.95	10.61
45.	Ecuador	572.00	43.60	71.	Mauritius	20.90	9.44
46.	Sri Lanka	513.93	42.95	72.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	11.31	6.77
47.	Hongkong	63.88	38.00	73.	Qatar	14.28	6.54

1	2	3	4
74.	Bulgaria	14.52	4.88
75.	Tunisia	7.24	4.61
76.	Fiji Islands	5.64	4.36
77.	Jordan	64.00	3.41
78.	Thailand	5.22	3.39
79.	Baharain	6.49	3.09
80.	Zambia	4.30	2.78
81.	Philippines	3.89	2.42
82.	Malta	4.17	2.37
83.	Brunei	33.00	2.15
84.	Djibouti	28.00	1.80
85.	Syria	24.00	1.64
86.	Uganda	25.00	1.34
87.	Cuba	10.80	.93
88.	Gautemala	1.68	.83
89.	Papua New Guenea	.91	.62
Total		122926.79	47340.27

(iii) Country-wise export of coir and coir products during 2005-06

Quantity: Tonnes and Value: Rs. lakh

Sl.No.	Country	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4
1.	USA	35709.88	20469.77
2.	UK	9319.51	4846.41
3.	Germany	6693.03	3815.30

1	2	3	4
4.	Netherlands	20329.53	3539.77
5.	Italy	4774.05	2130.24
6.	Spain	8243.09	1947.23
7.	France	3530.02	1793.40
8.	Canada	2716.49	1291.22
9.	Belgium	2395.69	1052.40
10.	Australia	3940.65	963.20
11.	South Korea	13287.32	843.87
12.	Sweden	1270.67	714.20
13.	Japan	1052.75	651.81
14.	UAE	3893.91	559.37
15.	South Africa	1319.02	470.24
16.	Turkey	826.06	452.88
17.	Greece	767.03	376.02
18.	Denmark	696.20	344.36
19.	Portugal	922.18	331.99
20.	Brazil	653.00	323.08
21.	Kuwait	855.25	270.83
22.	Saudi Arabia	780.04	267.73
23.	Poland	924.03	236.12
24.	Chile	358.29	226.13
25.	Israel	1251.72	205.64
26.	New Zealand	373.27	185.60
27.	Norway	490.66	182.04
28.	Austria	324.96	174.35
29.	Lebanon	289.71	137.10

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
30.	Malaysia	512.24	130.45	56.	Colombia	53.00	21.64
31.	Hungary	699.74	115.09	57.	Algeria	51.00	21.49
32.	Egypt	375.16	114.72	58.	Singapore	36.34	20.77
33.	Morocco	391.97	113.28	59.	Ghana	32.95	19.95
34.	Iran	306.01	112.78	60.	Lithuania	40.28	19.70
35.	Kenya	1566.87	107.83	61.	Taiwan	43.66	19.69
36.	Russia	204.32	90.05	62.	Mauritius	41.72	17.97
37.	Mexico	377.19	87.20	63.	Hongkong	80.87	17.17
38.	Argentina	161.44	85.81	64.	Thailand	54.51	15.44
39.	Tanzania	629.00	84.54	65.	Nigeria	24.22	13.42
40.	Maldiv Islands	272.46	78.88	66.	Syria	17.40	12.13
41.	Irish Republic	148.88	67.96	67.	Samoa	17.40	12.13
42.	Latvia	107.48	67.37	68.	Baharain	26.86	11.58
43.	Lybia	120.10	63.24	69.	Qatar	20.37	11.50
44.	Ecuador	590.12	57.35	70.	Switzerland	12.92	8.43
45.	Yugoslavia	111.21	43.42	71.	Iceland	13.33	8.32
46.	Finland	77.30	40.94	72.	Republic of China	14.04	7.88
47.	Ukraine	77.61	37.36	73.	Netherlands Antilles	15.00	7.28
48.	Jordan	55.54	33.50	74.	Jamaic	12.83	7.13
49.	Uruguay	44.77	30.71	75.	Oman	15.38	5.96
50.	Cyprus	66.58	30.21	76.	Uzbekistan	100.00	5.78
51.	Peru	40.43	26.98	77.	Bulgaria	14.30	5.29
52.	Czechoslovakia	41.52	25.96	78.	Marshall Islands	8.66	5.03
53.	Croatia	38.60	24.63	79.	Djibouti	78.00	4.80
54.	Venezuela	46.45	22.97	80.	Panama	6.26	4.54
55.	Sri Lanka	48.38	21.98	81.	Pakistan	25.50	4.50

1	2	3	4
82.	Coasta Rica	6.74	4.33
83.	Dominican Republic	5.34	3.37
84.	Slovenia	3.33	2.54
85.	Trinidad	3.15	1.99
86.	Uganda	25.00	1.47
87.	Yemen	3.60	1.14
88.	Tunisia	11.00	1.09
89.	Brunei	11.00	.75
90.	Malta	1.28	.69
91.	Fiji Islands	.34	.32
Total		136026.97	50844.75

(iv) Country-wise export of coir and coir products during 2006-07 (April to September, 2006)

Quantity: Tonnes and alue: Rs. lakh

Sl.No.	Country	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4
1.	USA	19767.12	11461.15
2.	UK	4767.23	2660.54
3.	Netherlands	14313.28	2157.97
4.	Germany	3247.19	1812.14
5.	Italy	3094.28	1207.22
6.	Spain	4651.86	1184.51
7.	Canada	1746.82	870.08
8.	France	1282.94	789.28
9.	Australia	2277.87	656.50

1	2	3	4
10.	Belgium	1228.87	511.80
11.	Turkey	783.69	374.55
12.	Japan	555.83	365.06
13.	Greece	627.46	355.37
14.	Sweden	567.19	354.38
15.	South Korea	3432.97	270.22
16.	South Africa	648.11	266.37
17.	Brazil	411.87	224.46
18.	Poland	804.18	194.34
19.	Saudi Arabia	446.91	188.74
20.	UAE	714.16	183.60
21.	Denmark	350.95	182.73
22.	Portugal	406.79	161.73
23.	Kuwait	379.43	125.35
24.	Chile	165.19	124.75
25.	Mexico	379.88	123.83
26.	Republic of China	1040.74	117.20
27.	Israel	1018.06	113.09
28.	Austria	171.56	87.31
29.	Iran	226.89	82.60
30.	Norway	229.86	81.93
31.	Uruguay	112.20	79.68
32.	New Zealand	201.74	76.85
33.	Egypt	236.11	70.10
34.	Malaysia	723.88	70.05
35.	Irish Republic	276.09	67.84

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
36.	Russia	190.94	63.22	63.	Croatia	26.89	10.64
37.	Latvia	96.18	58.83	64.	Marshall Islands	16.98	8.74
38.	Hongkong	455.39	58.83	65.	Baharain	37.05	7.63
39.	Ecuador	536.74	55.02	66.	Congo	10.45	7.43
40.	Djibouti	580.00	47.91	67.	Ghana	13.57	7.35
41.	Hungary	302.63	47.84	68.	Guatemala	10.16	6.45
42.	Cyprus	125.99	47.18	69.	Nigeria	13.29	6.29
43.	Finland	60.44	39.58	70.	Bosnia and Herzegovi	8.58	5.60
44.	Argentina	63.01	35.86	71.	Jamaic	24.13	5.29
45.	Morocco	189.47	33.54	72.	Czechoslovakia	7.98	4.87
46.	Maldiv Islands	165.84	32.08	73.	Iman	17.06	4.75
47.	Colombia	42.24	30.97	74.	Fiji Islands	6.99	4.66
48.	Algeria	54.00	29.67	75.	Dominican Republic	6.95	4.59
49.	Lebanon	72.58	28.68	76.	Iceland	6.49	4.03
50.	Tanzania	238.20	28.55	77.	Lithuania	8.64	3.94
51.	Kenya	404.10	24.51	78.	Thailand	4.79	3.65
52.	Venezuela	47.23	24.05	79.	Paraguay	4.64	3.20
53.	Lybia	33.50	23.33	80.	Rumania	20.85	2.79
54.	Panama	31.99	21.97	81.	Qatar	4.36	2.45
55.	Jordan	38.40	19.45	82.	Pakistan	12.75	2.39
56.	Taiwan	64.09	18.96	83.	Mauritius	7.00	2.05
57.	Ukraine	53.97	17.01	84.	New Caledonia	1.47	1.34
58.	Switzerland	25.23	15.15	85.	Sri Lanka	.44	.09
59.	Singapore	19.03	13.01	Total		75508.18	28608.23
60.	Peru	20.45	12.62				
61.	Afghanistan	18.57	11.98				
62.	Yugoslavia	17.24	10.94				

Fire Fighting Arrangements in Malls

1973. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate fire fighting arrangements have been made in malls operating in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details and names of malls inspected by Delhi Fire Service (DFS) during each of the last three years, and the deficiencies noticed by them during their inspection and action taken by DFS against the concerned malls;

(d) the names of the high rise buildings inspected by DFS during each of the last three years and the details for their inspections; and

(e) the total number and names of buildings operating without mandatory fire fighting arrangements and action taken by DFS in each case?

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

Setting of Tribal University

1974. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up a tribal university campuses in several areas across the country as reported in the Hindu dated November 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States where its campuses likely to be set up location-wise;

(c) whether the Government has invited comments from various ministries on the said proposal;

(d) if so, the reaction of the various ministries thereon; and

(e) the main objective for setting up of tribal university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is yet to be finalized.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Comments are awaited from the concerned Ministries, except the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which has supported the proposal.

(e) The main objective of the proposed University would be to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research facilities for the tribal population in India.

Setting Up of School of Planning and Architecture

1975. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has given in principle agreement for two more schools of planning and architecture and an equal number of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research as reported in *The Times of India* dated November 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has selected the locations for setting up of these schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which these schools are likely to be set up; and

(f) the extent to which these schools will meet the shortfall of qualified teachers for IITs and other engineering colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. The Planning Commission of India has given an 'in principle approval' for setting up of two more Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs) and two more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs).

(c) to (e) The two new Schools of Planning and Architecture are proposed to be set up at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh. The two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research are proposed

at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. These Institutions are likely to be set up during the XIth Plan.

(f) The Schools of Planning and Architecture will offer Bachelor and Master Degrees as well as Doctoral and Post Doctoral Programmes in Architecture and Planning. The Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research will offer Integrated Masters, Doctoral and Post Doctoral Programmes in Science. This will help in meeting the shortfall of qualified teachers in certain disciplines.

National Disaster Management Institute

1976. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Disaster Management Institute in Maharashtra as reported in "Dainik Jagran" dated August 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the objectives and the details of the proposed Institute;

(c) the name of States in which such institutes are likely to be set up in the country; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objective of Disaster Management Training Centre for Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Latur, Maharashtra is for training the Disaster Management Battalions and capsule course in Disaster Management for earmarked companies of each Battalion.

(c) and (d) The matter is at concept stage only.

[Translation]

Setting of Polytechnics

1977. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new polytechnics in backward districts for expansion of

technical education as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated September 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed for setting of these polytechnics;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the amount to be spent on setting of such polytechnics;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such educational institutions are proposed to be opened in all the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Government of India has identified certain districts on the basis of criteria like Educationally backward minority concentration areas, Schedule V areas, Schedule VI areas, SC female literacy less than 10% areas (districts) and Integrated Tribal Development Project Area Districts. The Government proposes to set up one polytechnic in each special identified district where there is no Polytechnic. The land, development charges will be provided by the respective State Government alongwith recurring expenditure. The Government proposes to provide one time non-recurring grants for establishment of these Polytechnics. The proposal will be implemented after obtaining necessary approvals.

[English]

Firing on Indo-Bangladesh Border

1978. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panic was created due to firing on Indo-Bangladesh Border in the recent past;

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

(c) the number of casualties reported during the such incident, sector-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken up the incident with Bangladesh officials;

(e) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh officials thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by both the Governments to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) No Sir, There have been some incidents of firing between BSF and BDR. There is no loss or causality of BSF troops. However, two Indian women were killed and a child was critically injured in an incident of 9th August, 2006 in Kinokal, Assam. Whenever such firing takes place, strong protest notes are lodged with the Bangladesh Rifles and flag meetings held to normalize the situation.

[Translation]

Basic Syllabi for Higher Education

1979. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic syllabi for higher education is being neglected by the universities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether educational institutions are turning into industry; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by the Government to maintain the standard of higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Since, Universities are autonomous bodies created under Acts of Parliament or State legislatures, they are free to formulate their own Syllabi for each course. Even so, the University Grants Commission (UGC) which is responsible for coordination of standards of higher education has circulated a model curricula at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences. Universities have the option to adopt as it is, or with modifications as may be felt necessary by them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Carpet Industry

1980. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of carpet exported during the last three years and current year; year-wise;

(b) whether the Indian carpet industry has been witnessing decreasing exports during the last two years;

(c) if so, whether help of foreign designers is being taken to achieve the export target;

(d) whether Indian carpet industry is suffering from obsolete machinery and designs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The export of carpets for the last three years and current year, year-wise is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Value of Rs. in Crores
1.	2003-04	2779.79
2.	2004-05	2583.62
3.	2005-06	2749.86
4.	2006-07	1816.32 (upto. April-Oct., 2006)

(b) No Sir. The export of Indian Carpets has not decreased during last two years. In fact, it decreased during 2004-05 but the export of carpets has witnessed growth in the year 2005-06.

(c) Services of foreign designers were not used in carpet sector through Government funding.

(d) Hand operated looms and tools are used for weaving of handmade carpets.

(e) Steps for development and promotion of handmade carpets industry including skill up-gradation of

weavers through training, creating awareness of policy and programme among the stake-holders through workshops/seminars, participation in international fairs/exhibitions have been taken. Besides, IICT has been established at Bhadohi to provide technical support to the industry to make it a vibrant sector.

[English]

Low Production of Cotton

1981. SHRI BADIGA RAMKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that ranked 3rd in the world in production of cotton, the yield per hectare for cotton in the country is lower than the average production of the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the estimated cotton production for 2006-07, made by the Cotton Advisory Board, has placed India only next to China even above U.S.A.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cotton production for the current year, as against 2005-06 and 2004-05; and

(e) the extent to which BT Cotton seeds help to increase the yield per hectare in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(f) whether any target has been set in 2006-07 with regard to greater yield of cotton per hectare; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, it is a fact that though India is ranking third in the world in cotton production and though the yield per hectare in the country has been rising continuously since last three years, the cotton productivity in the country at 467 kgs per hectare during 2005-06 has been low as compared to world average cotton productivity of 725 kgs per hectare. The yield per hectare for cotton in the country has been

low mainly due to the fact that more than 60 per cent area under cotton cultivation is rainfed and other reasons like non-availability of sufficient quality inputs, timely release of canal water and transfer of technology, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes sir, with the estimated cotton production at 270 lakh bales (4.59 million metric tons) during 2006-07, the country is likely to surpass the estimated cotton production of USA at 4.43 million metric tons during 2006-07. The details of estimated cotton production in India vis-a-vis USA during current year as against 2005-06 and 2004-05 are as under:

(Figures in Million metric tons)

Year	India	USA
2006-07	4.59	4.43
2005-06	4.15	5.20
2004-05	4.13	5.06

Source: ICAC release 2nd October, 2006.

(e) Yes sir, availability of good quality and certified seeds plays an important role in increasing the yield per hectare. In recent years, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Government of India have released Bt varieties for commercial cultivation, which has enabled the cotton farmers to increase the yield per hectare. In Andhra Pradesh, the GEAC has so far released seven Bt. varieties viz., RCH-2, RCB-20, RCH-368, MRC-6322, MRC-6918, NCH-145 Bunny and NCH-207 Mallika for commercial cultivation.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir, under the Xth Plan, the yield per hectare in the country for the terminal year 2006-07 had been targeted at 388 kgs per hectare. The same was achieved in the year 2003-04, when the average yield per hectare was 399 kgs. With the estimation of area under cotton cultivation at 92 lakh hectare and production estimate of 270 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board during 2006-07, the average cotton yield per hectare in India can be projected at 499 kgs.

[Translation]

Workshed-cum-Housing Schemes

1982. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enhance the amount of Rs. 45,000.00 to rupee one lakh being given to weavers for Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the total number of weaver institutions in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing Workshed-cum Housing Scheme for the Handloom Weavers under which the maximum Central Assistance for the Workshed in Rs. 10,000 per unit and for Workshed-cum-House it is Rs. 20,000.00 per unit. There is no proposal to increase the central assistance from Rs. 45,000.00 to Rs. 1,00,000.00. However, it is proposed to increase the central assistance during the 11th Plan subject to finalization and approval in the Plan.

(c) There are 277 Weavers Cooperative Societies, one M.P. State Handloom Weavers Federation and one M.P. State Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation. Besides this, there are three weaver institutions namely Government Handloom Training Centres situated at Chanderi, Maheshwar and Indore which impart Training in Handloom Weaving.

Dumping of Electronic Waste

1983. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries are dumping electronic waste (E-waste) in our country as reported in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated September 12, 2006;

(b) whether high exemption on customs duty is the reason for dumping such waste in large quantity;

(c) whether the ASSOCHAM has presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister to prevent the same;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating an amendment in the Customs Act for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Government has received a representation from Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) recommending a suitable e-waste policy. Recommendations made by ASSOCHAM in this regard inter alia include review of customs duty exemption on import of second hand computers to charitable and educational institutions.

All representations received by the Government with respect to changes in customs duty are examined as part of annual budgetary exercise.

[English]

WTO Trade Report

1984. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether WTO's World Trade Report 2006 India ranked the sixth largest commercial services exporter in the world;

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

(c) the details of achievements registered by India in various sectors according to World Trade Report 2006; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of Indian trade and industries to enable them to compete with global challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The WTO World Trade Report 2006 does not give country-wise ranking of leading exporters of commercial services.

However, as per WTO Press Release dated 11-4-2006. India has improved its ranking as a leading exporter in world trade commercial services from the 16th rank in 2004 to the 10th rank in 2005. According to the report, India's services trade has expanded at a faster rate than that of other Asian countries.

(d) The government provides continuous support and incentives through various schemes under the Foreign Trade Policy and other related policies, to enhance India's share in global trad, create an enabling environment to promote trade and industry and to facilitate them to face global challenges.

Import of Vanaspati

1985. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of Vanaspati from Nepal has been growing since the recent past; and

(b) if so, the complete details of consumption (demand), indigenous production and imports from Nepal/ other countries during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Under the current India-Nepal Treaty of Trade which has been in force for a period of five years from 6-3-2002, duty-free import of vanaspati from Nepal into India is restricted to one lakh metric tones per annum, and this is being imported through State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and distributed all over India to minimize its impact in any particular region.

(b) As per the available information, the domestic consumption of vanaspati is around 16 lakh metric tones per year, and the indigenous production and imports from Nepal and other countries are as under:

Indigenous (domestic) production of vanaspati

Year (Oil year November-October)	Production (in thousand Mts)
2002-2003	12.25 Lakh Mts
2003-2004	11.59 Lakh Mts
2004-2005	11.39 Lakh Mts
2005-2006 (up to September)	10.48 Lakh Mts

Import of Vanaspati from Nepal and other Countries

Source of Import	2003-2004 (April-March)	2004-2005 (April-March)	2005-2006 (April-March)	2006-2007
Nepal (Data source: STC)	77,712 MTs	66,042 MTs	90,250 MTs	59,443 MTs (6-3-2006 to 31-10-2006)
Other countries (source: export-import data bank DoC)	10,522 MTs	48,750 MTs	2,57,097 MTs	51,635 MTs (April-June 2006)

[Translation]

Security Cover to Leaders

1986. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU:

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leaders of separatist groups in

Jammu and Kashmir are provided full security cover by the Government;

(b) if so, whether certain separatist groups are opposing the deployment of Indian Army in Kashmir;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of leaders of such separatist groups provided security;

(e) the total amount incurred on their security;

(f) whether Government is contemplating to withdraw security cover from such separatist leaders; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Some of the leaders of separatist groups are provided security cover by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) All the separatist groups, including the leaders of Separatist Groups who have been provided security cover by the State Police, are opposing the deployment of Indian Army in Kashmir.

(d) As per information available, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have provided security to Molvi Mohammad Umar Farooq, Molvi Abbas Ansari, Prof. Ab. Gani Bhat, Shri Bilal Lone, Shri Saleem Geelani—all leaders of All Party Hurriyat Conference (A) and Shri Sajjad Gani Lone of Peoples Conference.

(e) The expenditure on this account is incurred by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(f) Security to these leaders is provided by the State Government and it is for the State Government to review it.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

[English]

ASIDE Scheme

1987. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides grants under ASIDE scheme to the agents/companies of manpower exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government will examine this aspect as a number of agencies export manpower to different countries and as a result of which our country earns a huge amount of foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the Government's views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Under the ASIDE Scheme funds are provided for development of export related infrastructure.

Filling Up of SC/ST Vacancies in Central Universities

1988. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed to all Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities to fill up SC/ST vacancies on a priority basis;

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

(c) since when these vacancies are lying vacant;

(d) whether the shortage of staff has adversely affected the studies of the students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to fill the backlog vacancies in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as obtaining in August 2004. Vacant posts of teachers have a direct bearing on standards of higher education. Accordingly all the Vice-Chancellors of Central

Universities have been advised to fill the backlog vacancies.

Operation Black Board

1989. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of 5900 teachers appointed under OBB Scheme and assured for continuation of their salary from SSA mission in Assam are yet to get their salary for years together;

(b) if so, number of such teachers for whom salaries are yet to be released from the Centre and those who are yet to get their salary after such release by Centre in last three years;

(c) whether the Government has decided to release salary to all those 5900 teachers as a matter of policy by retrospective regularization of the condition of their service;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The salary of the eligible 2851 teachers appointed in Assam under the Scheme of Operation Black Board has been released every year under the special dispensation available for the North Eastern States under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

SEZ's for Educational Services

1990. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up Special Education Zones (SEZs) for educational services;

(b) if so, whether a meeting under chairmanship of Prime Minister decided that developers of universities and institutions of higher learning should be given special sops and tax exemption by using the SEZ route;

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent by which it is likely to be helpful for improving education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Protection of IPR

1991. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industry representatives have expressed concern about protecting intellectual property rights in joint research ventures under the Indo-US initiative and need for hard safety regulation and implementation;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the IPRs of such thing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) In India, inventions are protected under the Patents Act, 1970 as amended by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2005. The Indo-US Science and Technology Agreement provides a framework for cooperation in the protection of intellectual property. Government has not received any representation from industry expressing concerns about protection of intellectual property rights in joint research ventures under the Indo-US Initiative.

Crime against Women and Children

1992. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

DR. R. SENTHIL:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the nature of crime being committed against women and children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the effective measures taken by the Government to restrict such crimes;

(c) whether the UNICEF or any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) have conducted any study with regard to the crimes committed against women and children;

(d) if so, the detail thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to bring comprehensive law to redress and prevent sexual harassment at workplace; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The State-wise and crime head-wise details of crimes committed against women and children during 2005, as furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under Ministry of Home Affairs are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The action being taken by Government to combat crimes against women and to support women who are victims of such crimes is mentioned in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Government has enacted "The Commissions for Protection of Child Righth Act, 2005" for Protection of Child Rights and Children's Courts for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violence of Child Rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c) and (d) This Ministry in collaboration with UNICEF is conducting a nation wide study on child abuse in different settings.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Bill on the prevention and redress of sexual harassment of women at workplace is under consideration.

Statement-I

Incidence of Crimes Committed against Children during 2005

Sl. No.	State/UT	Infan- ticide	Murder	Rape	Kidnapping and Baduction	Foeti- cide	Abetment of suicide	Exposure and abon- donment	Procuration of minor girls	Buying of girls for pros- titution	Selling of girls for pros- titution	Child Marriage Restraint Act	Other Crimes	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	56	315	332	1	4	99	48	9	2	9	74	950
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
3.	Assam	1	12	90	18	1	5	0	0	0	2	0	70	199
4.	Bihar	1	25	8	72	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	115
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	28	382	110	21	8	6	0	0	0	3	430	997
6.	Goa	0	4	15	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	21	53
7.	Gujarat	2	74	90	285	4	1	141	12	0	0	25	202	836
8.	Haryana	0	38	131	101	8	0	32	0	0	0	7	57	374
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	6	58	37	1	0	12	0	0	0	3	14	131
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	4	4	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	57
11.	Jharkhand	0	33	22	11	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	27	97
12.	Karnataka	5	42	48	35	7	1	18	7	0	0	3	25	191

Incidence of Crimes Committed against Children during 2005

Sl. No.	State/UT	Rape	Kid. and Abduction	Dowry deaths	Cruelty by Husband and Relatives	Molestation	Sexual Harrassment	Imppor- tation of girls	Sati	I.T.P.A.	Indecent Repr. of Women	Dowry Proh. Act	Total
1.	Andhra Pradehs	935	995	443	8696	3595	2508	3	0	681	2657	306	20819
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35	39	0	9	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	150
3.	Assam	1238	1456	99	2206	899	19	3	0	25	0	82	6027
4.	Bihar	1147	929	1014	1574	451	13	74	0	28	0	789	6019
5.	Chhattisgarh	990	184	100	732	1450	132	0	0	6	0	5	3599
6.	Goa	20	12	2	11	30	8	0	0	38	0	0	121
7.	Gujarat	324	916	48	4090	802	104	0	0	59	0	0	6343
8.	Haryana	461	344	212	2075	380	597	0	0	85	0	7	4161
9.	Himachal Pradesh	141	102	2	228	286	29	0	0	4	0	1	793
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	201	658	5	76	830	371	0	0	3	0	0	2144
11.	Jharkhand	753	283	257	590	293	36	4	0	13	2	313	2544
12.	Karnataka	343	312	261	1883	1585	71	0	0	1241	0	361	6057
13.	Kerala	478	129	21	3283	2339	175	0	0	225	108	4	6762
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2921	604	739	2989	6426	792	3	0	19	0	36	14529
15.	Maharashtra	1545	851	341	6233	3228	919	0	0	222	8	23	13370
16.	Manipur	25	69	0	20	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	140
17.	Meghalaya	63	19	1	3	44	0	0	0	1	0	0	131
18.	Mizoram	37	0	4	0	49	4	0	0	1	0	0	95

19. Nagaland	17	9	0	0	7	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	37
20. Orissa	799	547	334	1671	2238	184	0	0	29	1	446	6249	
21. Punjab	398	329	99	729	308	43	0	0	58	0	5	1969	
22. Rajasthan	993	1549	361	5997	2503	28	0	1	115	109	1	11657	
23. Sikkim	18	2	0	4	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	
24. Tamil Nadu	571	783	215	1650	1764	665	0	0	2777	30	193	8648	
25. Tripura	162	43	34	439	161	1	0	0	0	0	0	840	
26. Uttar Pradesh	1217	2256	1564	4505	1835	2881	0	0	31	0	586	14875	
27. Uttaranchal	133	125	63	272	100	89	0	0	2	0	2	786	
28. West Bengal	1686	1039	446	6936	1572	54	61	0	74	1	18	11887	
Total (States)	17651	14584	6665	56901	33305	9723	148	1	5742	2916	3178	150814	
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	1	0	5	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	22	
30. Chandigarh	33	45	3	75	31	9	0	0	9	0	0	205	
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5	9	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	
32. Daman and Diu	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	10	
33. Delhi	658	1106	114	1324	762	225	1	0	151	1	9	4351	
34. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
35. Pondicherry	6	3	4	6	60	26	0	0	5	0	17	127	
Total (UTs)	708	1166	122	1418	870	261	1	0	166	1	26	4739	
Total (All-India)	18359	15750	6787	58319	34175	9987	149	1	5908	2917	3204	155553	

Source: Crime in India

Statement-II**Strategy for dealing with violence against women**

On the one hand, the Government is strengthening the existing legislations through review and amendments, wherever required, and developing new institutional mechanisms (National and State Commissions for women, all-woman police stations, etc.), on the other, it is running projects that provide support to vulnerable women (like short-stay homes, Hostels for Working Women etc.) and rehabilitation of victims of violence (through schemes like Swadhar). The National Commission for Women and several NGOs are also conducting sensitisation and orientation programmes for judicial and police officers on gender issues that also focus on violence against women.

Legislative measures—Legal rights of women

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support service especially to working women.

Enforcement

The direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of the crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:—

- setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme;
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided;
- grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking;

- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women;
- organizing Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps;
- implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban programme and Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP);
- review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women;
- sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues;
- follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women;
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence;
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations and ensure wider recruitment of women Police Officers;
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence;

- provide counseling to victims of rape;
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters;
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women;
- setting up of Fast Track Courts;
- setting up of Family Courts;
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

National Commission for Women

The Government has set up a statutory body called National Commission for Women (NCW) with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided to women; review the existing legislations to suggest amendments wherever necessary; and to look into complaints involving deprivation of the rights of women. NCW is receiving complaints relating to Dowry/atrocity cases, Dowry related suicides/death/murder. These cases are duly processed in the Commission under Section 10(1) (f) and 10(1) (g) of the NCW Act, 1990 and referred to the appropriate authorities such as police, District Magistrates etc. with the Commission's recommendations for expediting action under the criminal laws and bringing the guilty persons to trial in the Court. These cases are tried in Courts having criminal jurisdiction under Sections 304-B, 498A, 302 etc. of the Indian Penal Code read with the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Almost all the State Governments have also set up State Commissions for Women in their respective States with similar functions.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The Government has notified the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 on 14-9-2005 as a civil remedy to secure women victims from domestic violence and to provide other relief. The Act has been brought into force on 26-10-2006 and the Rules to carry out the provisions of the Act have also been notified.

[Translation]

Research of Tea

1993. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Tea Research Association (TRA) has urged upon the Government to constitute a Rupees hundred crore fund for conducting research on tea;

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

(c) the amount expended for research on tea during the last three years;

(d) whether the quality of tea produced in the country is falling; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality and production of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of the expenditure incurred by the Government of India through the Tea Board under the head 'Research' during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in lakh)
2005-06	698.37
2004-05	588.93
2003-04	732.43

(d) and (e) No, Sir. A number of developmental schemes are being implemented by the Tea Board during the 10th Five Year Plan for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country under which financial and technical assistance is provided for undertaking replantation, rejuvenation, and new planting

in non-traditional areas, creation of irrigation facilities, setting up of self-help groups among the small tea growers, etc. For improving the quality of made tea, training is imparted to growers for proper plucking and financial assistance is extended for upgradation of tea factories.

Special Economic Zones

1994. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the agro and rural industries are not getting any benefit in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the clarification of the Government with regard to providing benefits to the agro and rural industries in these Zones; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide benefits to agro and rural industries under the SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The incentives and benefits offered to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the SEZ Act 2005 and the SEZ Rules 2006 are available to all sectors including agro based industries.

[English]

Re-employment of Retired Officials

1995. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) has re-employed retired officials as its consultants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of persons re-employed during the last two years alongwith justification of their re-appointment;

(c) the criteria adopted in selection of such officials;

(d) whether any violation of rules/regulations has been reported in the process; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Retired officials with specific expertise were engaged as consultants for specific tasks.

(b) The details are as under:

(i) Shri L.N. Kataria was engaged as a consultant w.e.f. 16-08-2005 after his retirement from the post of Chief General Manager (Personnel) on 31-07-2005. The engagement of Shri Kataria as Consultant was considered necessary in view of the fact that STC was in the process of formulating and implementing a series of new personnel policies.

(ii) Shri Ashok Vinayak was engaged as a consultant w.e.f. 3rd March, 2006 after his retirement from the Ordnance Factories Board. His services were required by STC for a new business of ballistic equipment to cater to the need of the Armed and Paramilitary Forces.

(iii) Shri I.R. Vohra, retired General Manager, STC, who had specific expertise in the insurance matters was engaged as a consultant w.e.f. 16-05-2005 to handle third country insurance business particularly in the context of Corporation's interests in Philippines.

(iv) Shri R.P. Sehrawat, a retired official of STC, was engaged as a consultant recently to provide assistance in import of wheat by STC entrusted to it by the Government.

(c) The basic criteria for engaging the retired personnel has been their expertise to meet the specific requirements of the Corporation. Engagement of consultants is not a regular feature in the Corporation and it is done only for a specific period against specific requirements.

(d) According to STC, the Delegation of Power Rules empower the Corporation to appoint Consultants/Experts and that there was no violation of any Rules in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

**Shifting of Headquarters of
Salt Commissioner**

1996. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision taken in December, 1994 to shift the Headquarters of the Office of the Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gandhinagar (Gujarat) has not been implemented; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The decision of shifting of headquarters of the Office of Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gandhinagar has not been implemented due to a court injunction.

[Translation]

Foreign Tea Companies

1997. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign tea companies have expressed their desire to open outlets in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which our business and present technology would be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Raw Cashew

1998. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requirement of raw cashew in the country has increased;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Government to increase the production of raw cashew in the country;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any representation for special fund for the expansion of cashew plantation in the State of Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development under the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various programmes for development of cashew cultivation in India.

(c) and (d) The Government has received a proposal from Government of Kerala for revival/rejuvenation of various agricultural crops which also included proposal for revival of plantation crops in Kerala. The Union Cabinet has on a proposal made to the Agricultural Department, already approved a special rehabilitation package in this regard for farmers in 31 disturbed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Cabinet has also approved the approach suggested by the Agriculture Department with respect to rejuvenation of plantations, which includes cashew also.

[Translation]

Ranks to Indian Universities

1999. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether no Indian University with highest ranking is listed in the best 100 universities of the world;

(b) if so, the problems being faced to make Indian universities of international level;

(c) whether the standard of Indian university came down due to non-focussing on working of the universities and education level by the University Grants Commission; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring the Indian universities at international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no internationally accepted survey of institutes of higher education.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) is entrusted with the responsibility of determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities. In order to ensure maintenance of standards in University education, the Commission has notified rules and regulations on different subjects. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) was established by the UGC to assess and accredit institutions of higher education in the country.

[English]

Setting of Teacher Education Centres in Universities

2000. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Teacher Education Centres have been set up in several places in Kerala under Kerala, Calicut and Mahatma Gandhi Universities;

(b) if so, whether the Government owned/public owned centers in these universities have been set up where merits and reservations policy are strictly adopted;

(c) if so, the names of these teacher education centers coming under these universities;

(d) whether such teacher education centers in Mahatma Gandhi University are denied facility of new admissions by NCTE and also denied further functioning;

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

(f) whether representations have been received for giving some more time to comply with the direction of NCTE and allow them to continue; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

Patent Applications

2001. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of patent applications filed under the Patents Act, 1970 in the Patent Offices in and outside the country during each of the last three years and current year;

(b) the details of such patent applications made by foreign MNCs in India during the said period, country-wise;

(c) the details of applications filed by Indian companies in India and abroad for patent of drugs under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) during the said period;

(d) whether there is any special cadre officers assigned the task of processing such patent applications; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Patents Act, 1970 is operative only in India and therefore the question of filing applications under the said Act outside India does not arise. However, the details of patent applications filed in India during 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and in 2006-2007 are as under:

Year	Number of Patent application filed
2003-04	12613
2004-05	17466
2005-06	24505
2006-07	15690 (up to 31-10-2006)

(b) The Patent Office does not maintain database of filing of patent applications by multi national companies. However, year-wise and country-wise break up of the applications filed by the foreign applicants in India during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of applications filed by Indian companies through PCT at Patent office in India for patent of drugs during the last three years are as under:

Year	Number of application
2003-04	178

	Kolkata	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai
Number of Examiners specialized in examination of pharmaceutical applications	18	22	10	16

Statement

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
United Kingdom	143	401	785
Australia	100	301	364
Canada	32	284	476
Ireland	5	21	36
New Zealand	5	40	41
USA	1604	5131	7655
Mexico	—	3	9
Brazil	12	29	51
Argentina	1	23	4
West Indies	1	1	5
Panama	—	8	2
Uruguay	—	2	—

Year	Number of application
2004-05	189
2005-06	195

Patent office does not maintain the data about direct filing of patent applications abroad by Indians.

(d) and (e) The applications for patents are scrutinised by examiners of patents. The patent office has examiners specialized in the fields of organic chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology to examine applications pertaining to pharmaceutical sector. An office wise break up of these examiners is as follows:

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
BV Island	15	21	13
Bermuda	3	1	6
Barbados	—	4	7
Cuba	—	9	23
Germany	644	1549	1641
France	317	826	1000
Switzerland	296	433	879
Sweden	184	296	529
Russia	14	9	34
Netherlands	229	527	841
Italy	115	203	366
Hungary	21	13	17
Austria	29	63	99
Belgium	57	68	149
Denmark	82	119	196
Luxembourg	22	22	39
Yugoslavia	—	1	—
Norway	43	55	62
Spain	20	26	105
Finland	121	121	209
Liechtenstein	8	9	8
Iceland	2	1	4
Portugal	—	2	6
EP Countries	1	54	195
Turkey	4	3	3
Czech Republic	1	5	8

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Poland	3	1	7
Slovenia	4	1	1
Ukraine	1	1	4
South Africa	14	51	52
Swaziland	—	181	40
Japan	457	991	1418
People's Republic of China	25	140	192
Republic of Korea	69	345	603
Israel	66	174	217
Taiwan	11	42	97
Hong Kong	1	9	16
United Arab Amirates	—	1	1
Thailand	1	8	4
Malaysia	5	14	17
Singapore	6	34	51
Philippines	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	—	6	3
Kazakhstan	1	1	4
India	211	415	334
Croatia	—	6	8
Bahamas	2	—	6
Cyprus	3	—	17
Challen Island	1	—	6
Slovakia	—	—	3
Monaco	—	—	3
Lebanon	—	—	1

Country	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Greece	2	—	3
Bulgaria	—	—	3
Other Countries	13	—	10
Total	5028	13106	18989

[Translation]

Rice Trade with China

2002. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken fresh initiatives to increase rice trade with China and signed any agreement in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an assessment has been made about decline in rice trade between both the countries during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantum of rice being exported at present;

(f) whether any assessment has been made regarding decline of export of Basmati rice during the current year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Basmati rice exports to China are growing fast and the Government has taken fresh initiatives to increase the Basmati exports to China. A protocol has been signed between the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Quarantine and Inspection of the People's Republic of China on Phytosanitary requirements for the export of Basmati rice from India to China during the recent visit of the Chinese President to India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

An analysis reveals that though a very nominal quantity of Basmati rice is being traded to China, there has been a persistent growth in the quantity and value over the last three years. In non-basmati rice the export of 7,040 tonnes in 2003-04 has followed zero exports in the next two years. Thus, although the Basmati exports from India to China have increased, there is a decline in total trade between India and China during the last three years.

(e) The rice export statistics from India to China are as under:

Export of rice to China

(Qty: MTs Val: Rs lakhs)

Commodity	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Basmati Rice	5	1.60	20	5.28	83	28.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Non Basmati Rice						
* Rice parboiled	40	3.88	0	0	0	0
• Rice except parboiled	7000	475.64	0	0	0	0
Total Non Basmati	7040	479.52	0	0	0	0
Total Rice	7045	481.12	20	5.28	83	28.25

Source: DGC and IS

(f) and (g) The Basmati exports to China have shown an upward trend as reflected in above table.

[English]

Selection from IIM

2003. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Trading Corporation (STC) has ever gone for campus selection from world class institute like Indian Institute of Management (IIM);

(b) if so, the number of students from IIMs have been employed by the STC during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make special provisions for such candidates by providing them better avenues such as fast promotions and foreign postings to utilise their services gainfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 17 candidates were recruited by STC from IIMs through campus selection. However only 2 such recruits are on the rolls of the organisation at present.

(c) The promotion rules of the Corporation have recently been modified which provide for fast track promotions for superior performers at middle management levels. STC do not have any foreign office at present and therefore. No officer of STC could be posted abroad.

Setting Up of an Aqua Technology Park in Kerala

2004. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MPEDA has received any proposal from Government of Kerala for setting up of an Aqua Technology Park in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry received a proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of Technoparks at Thriuvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam and Calicut for Ornamental Fish Breeding Production and Export for a total project cost of Rs. 3 crore. The proposal as forwarded by the Government of Kerala was recently considered by the Empowered Committee on ASIDE (Assistance to State for Developing Export infrastructure and Allied Activities) and has not been approved.

Educational Institutions

2005. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions from Andhra Pradesh have applied for recognition for starting

various courses under NCTE for the academic year 2006-07; and

(b) the present status of each of the applications?

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

Export of Basmati Rice

2006. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is far ahead in the export of basmati rice in comparison with other countries;

(b) if so, the details of quantity/value of production alongwith the quantity of basmati rice exported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has recently notified the super basmati variety rice for export;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to further boost the production and export of basmati rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India and Pakistan are the only Basmati producing countries. India is ahead of Pakistan in exporting Basmati rice.

(b) The production details of Rice including Basmati rice for the last three years is as under:

Year	Production in MTs
2003-04	88.53
2004-05	83.13
2005-06 4th advance Estimates	91.04

Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The quantity of Basmati rice exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity in Lakh MTs
2003-04	7.71
2004-05	11.63
2005-06	11.67

Source: DGCI and S, Kolkata

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Super Basmati has been notified as a variety for export vide notification dated 24th May 2006.

(e) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) promotes export of Basmati rice through various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the exporters for market development, infrastructure development, quality development, research and development and transportation. The efforts are constantly being made for opening up of new markets. APEDA has also set up a dedicated DNA testing laboratory at the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad. Three Agri Export Zones for Basmati rice have also been set up in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Punjab for overall development of the Basmati supply and value chain.

Quality of Sea Food

2007. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is monitoring the seafood processing/manufacturing units regarding compliance of prescribed standards for quality manufacturing of the products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has introduced quality logo to those products similar to that of ISI and also particularly for the marine products exported from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Export Inspection Agencies and the Export Inspection Council of India monitor to ensure the effective compliance of quality standards and laid down specifications for fresh, frozen and processed fish and fishery products as per the requirements of importing countries.

(c) and (d) A 'Q' mark introduced by the EIC has to be compulsorily printed on the master cartons of export packages of fish and fishery products.

(e) Not applicable.

Provision of Rice for BPL Children

2008. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

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

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to provide additional quantity of rice for the additional 19.66 lakh of children at BPL rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) A request to provide additional foodgrains under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for 19.66 lakh students of classes VI and VII was received from Government of Karnataka. Since Mid-Day Meal Scheme covers students of classes I to V only, the request could not be agreed to.

Regulatory Authority for SEZs

2009. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to set up a Regulatory Authority for framing guidelines on SEZs;

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

(c) whether there is a demand to give a stake to farmers in the SEZs;

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

(e) whether the Government has prepared any policy on acquiring farmer's land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The SEZ Act, 2005 provides for setting up of SEZ Authority for management of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up by the Central Government. There is no proposal to set up any separate Regulatory Authority.

(c) and (d) Suggestions have been received for suitable relief and rehabilitation package, including giving stakes, to the displaced persons whose land has been acquired for setting up of SEZs. Land being a State subject, the compensation payable for the acquired land and rehabilitation of the affected people are decided by the State Governments as per their respective policies.

(e) and (f) Land being a State subject, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary, single crop land could be acquired. If perforce a portion of double crop 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 SEZs.

Import of Gold

2010. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demand and availability of Gold in the country at present;

(b) the details of import of Gold during the year 2006, State-wise;

(c) whether the prices of Gold in the country is continuously rising despite of liberal import rules;

(d) the monthly price of 10 gm of gold since January, 2006 onward;

(e) the main reasons for rise in gold prices; and

(f) the effective steps Government have taken to check the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no firm statistics on estimated demand and availability of Gold in the country. However, as per available information, the estimated demand for Gold in the country in the year 2004 was 800 Tonnes approximately.

(b) State-wise data on import of Gold is not maintained. As per available information, the total import of Gold during the period January, 2006 to June 2006 was about 300 Tonnes.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The average price of standard gold per 10 gm of Gold since January, 2006 has fluctuated as indicated below:—

(in Rs.)	
Month in 2006	Average Price per 10 gms
1	2
January	7925.00
February	8038.04
March	8059.40
April	8984.77
May	9969.39
June	8951.92

1	2
July	9559.00
August	9468.93
September	8998.20
October	8694.86

(Source: Reserve Bank of India)

(e) and (f) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar vis-a-vis other international currencies, etc. affect the Gold prices. The same holds good in India too.

[Translation]

Export of Spices

2011. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) the Quantum of spices in tonnage exported during the year and the foreign exchange estimated to be generated therefrom;

(b) the details of the countries to which maximum quantity of spices has been exported so far;

(c) whether the export of some of the spices has been affected during the last three years due to competition from the other countries;

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

(e) whether any evaluation has been made in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Union Government to boost the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the

current year, India could export 1,95,432 tonnes of spices (April-October 2006) valued at Rs. 1725.15 crores. This is equivalent to US \$ 376 million.

(b) The maximum export of spices during April-October, 2006 was made to USA (26124.20 MT) followed by Malaysia (26048.38 tonnes) and Bangladesh (20999.73 tonnes).

(c) There is no regular fall in export of any of the spices during the last three years except that of celery.

(d) to (f) Celery export has declined from 4815 tonnes (2003-04) to 3400 tonnes (2005-06). An evaluation has been made in this regard. It has been found that celery is used mainly in soups and seasonings in the importing countries. The whole celery used for the above purpose is now getting substituted with celery oleoresin. The export of celery oleoresin has slightly increased from 2001-02 (170.9 tonnes) to 2005-06 (183.4 tonnes).

(g) Spices Board is taking a number of steps to improve the export of spices as are detailed below:—

- Upgradation of technology for high end value addition and developing capabilities to meet the emerging global food safety standards.
- Adoption of high-tech processing technologies such as cryo-grinding steam sterilization, super fluid extraction and advanced system of packaging.
- Assistance for setting up/upgradation of in-house laboratories of exporters for testing among other things, pesticide residues, aflatoxin, physical, chemical and microbial contaminants and chemical composition of spices.
- Adoption of quality certification procedures leading to accreditation under ISO, HACCP, SQF 2000, organic certification etc.
- Development of innovative packaging for branded consumer packs for spices and spice products and adoption of barcode.
- Promoting worldwide direct sale of premium

category of branded Indian spices viz. "Flavourit" since March, 2005.

- Promotion of export of organic spices; and
- Quality improvement.
- Government of India has been giving a freight subsidy of Rs. 7 per kg. i.e Rs. 5 for ocean freight and Rs. 2 for internal transport subsidy for encouraging export of pepper up to a maximum of 20,000 MTs.

[English]

India's Share in World Trade Export

2012. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a comparative study of India's export potential *vis-a-vis* neighbouring countries like China in Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the prospect for capturing increased share in merchandise trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India's merchandise exports almost doubled from US \$ 53 billion in 2002-03 to US \$ 103 billion in 2005-06. India's share in world merchandise trade (exports plus imports) has been rising consistently in recent years from 0.8% in 2003 to 1.1% in 2005. It is likely that India's share in world trade will increase further in the coming years.

Processed Fruits and Vegetables

2013. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's share in the world trade of proposed fruits and vegetables is still less than one per cent in the world market;

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

(c) the details of export of processed fruits and vegetables for the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to boost the production and export of processed fruits and vegetable thereby to earn more foreign exchange and to promote more employment opportunities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) India's share of the world exports in processed fruits and vegetables is 1.16%.

(Source: UN COMTRADE data for 2004)

Details of export of processed fruits and vegetables for the last three years are given below:

(Qty: in metric tons; Value: Rupees in crores)

Commodity	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Dried and Preserved Vegetables	58385.91	194.92	101534/94	216.74	124495.71	364.11
Mango Pulp	89514.84	241.99	90988.60	300.86	134613.20	364.24
Pickle and Chutneys	63052.73	119.75	67193.29	120.58	135381.85	260.98
Pulses	152774.18	325.57	249499.39	549.10	441742.50	1095.06
Other Processed Fruits and Vegetables	66070.26	243.58	80760.5	275.53	107335.24	370.21
Total	429797.92	1125.81	589976.72	1462.82	943568.59	2454.60

(Source: APEDA)

(d) to (f) The steps taken by the Government in this direction include development of packaging standards for exports for various products, setting up of common infrastructure facilities in various food processing clusters, financial assistance to its registered exporters by Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority under its schemes on Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development, Research and Development, setting up of Agri Export Zones and benefits under the Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tool Room and

- Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5133/06]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5134/06]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5135/06]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5136/06]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5137/06]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5138/06]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5139/06]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts:
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 2005-2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5140/06]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fragrance and

[Shri Mahabir Prasad]

Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5141/06]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5142/06]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5143/06]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5144/06]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5145/06]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for the year Development of Glass Industry, Firozabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for the year Development of Glass Industry, Firozabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5146/06]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, Firozabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5147/06]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5148/06]

(17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5149/06]

(18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5150/06]

(19) A copy of the National Board for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 596 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 29 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5151/06]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited,

New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5152/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): On behalf of Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 450 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5153/2006]

(2) A copy of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 644 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2006 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5154/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODYLA GAVIT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts

[Shri Manikrao Hodyla Gavit]

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5155/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited (REPCO Bank), Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited (REPCO Bank), Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5156/2006]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5157/2006]

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 Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5158/2006]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5159/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) of (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5160/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5161/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5162/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5163/2006]

- (4) A copy of the intellectual Property Appellate Board (Group 'C' and Group 'D' Posts) Recruitment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English Versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 647(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 157 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5164/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5165/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5166/2006]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5167/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL),
Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5168/2006]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Capexil, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Capexil, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5169/2006]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5170/2006]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastic Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil), Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Plastic Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil), Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5171/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Patna, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Patna, for the year 2005-2006.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5172/2006]

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5173/2006]

(5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5174/2006]

(7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5175/2006]

(9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill

- University, Shillong, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5176/2006]
- (11) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5177/2006]
- (12) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5178/2006]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2004-2005.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5179/2006]
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5180/2006]
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2001-2002.
- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5181/2006]
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizawal, for the year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mizoram University, Aizawal, for the year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.
- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5182/2006]

12.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business transacted during previous week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 101 Starred Questions admitted, only 14 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 994 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

The House discussed one Adjournment Motion moved by Shri L.K. Advani, hon. Leader of the Opposition on 29-11-2006 regarding "failure of the Government to maintain internal security and in particular to deal with alarming growth of terrorists menace in the country". The motion was negatived after debate lasting for five hours and 27 minutes.

The House took up two Calling Attention matters regarding "Situation arising out of a large number of cases pending in various courts of the country for a long time" raised by Shri G. Karunakara Reddy and "situation arising out of handing over of some Hydel projects in Arunachal Pradesh to private parties for which investment has already been made by the National Hydel Power Corporation" raised by Sarvashri Basudeb Acharia and Tapir Gao.

The House discussed for about four hours and 14 minutes a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding "situation arising out of the ongoing sealing drive in Delhi" raised by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'. Another Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding "rise in the prices of essential commodities" was raised by Dr. Chinta Mohan. The discussion took place for about two hours and 52 minutes and was not concluded.

During the period, as many as 78 matters of urgent public importance were raised by Members after the Question Hour and before the adjournment of the House for the day. Another 70 matters were raised under Rule 377.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House

discussed and passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 after a debate lasting for about three hours and 10 minutes.

The House also discussed and passed the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Three Action Taken Reports and 11 Reports on Bills were presented to the house during this period.

During the last week, we lost seven hours and 16 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments.

The House, however, sat late and devoted three hours and 31 minutes of additional time to transact essential items of business. Out of this, about one hour was taken for raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over.

Subject to the above, I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for their cooperation in the conduct of the proceedings.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

Seventeenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

12.04½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demand for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela. You may just lay the Statement on the Table.

*THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2006-2007 and presented their Fourteenth Report in this regard to Lok Sabha on 17th May, 2006. The Report contains 15 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the need to increase the allocations of funds and utilization thereof. This was with a view to improve the implementation of the development and welfare schemes of this Ministry, and raise productivity and quality in various segments under the Ministry of Textiles. The recommendations contained in the Report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in September, 2006. The Ministry of Textiles is making all efforts to implement the recommendation of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ordinarily, Calling Attention is taken up after laying of the Papers on the Table. Today, I have committed to Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa. But I will take up the Calling Attention, after he raises the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Thank you, Sir, today I would like to raise an issue before you and in the House that has never happened in the history of India so far....**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me try to control. My earnest

*Laid on the Table and also played in Library See No. LT 5183/06.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

appeal to you is this. The matter is about forest land, etc. which is involved in that. So, please try to restrict it to the Central Government issue only, and I depend on you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: You know that Mohali is a famous city. It is near Chandigarh and there is a cricket stadium also, you too watch cricket. Capt. Amrinder Singh's Government have formulated a master plan for that and also accorded sanction to it. 120 acres of land which consisted of lesser valley, lake and other forest land including a small portion that belonged to farmers was also included and approved. But when the 120 acres land were included in it, then its cost was evaluated. Then there came a builder, who applied that he may be given permission for land use change of 120 acres of land. When he approached PUDA it was said to him that he does not own the land, even one bigha land does and belong to him. How did you approach us. He approached the secretary and secretary too replied the same. Then Chief Minister asks his Minister to call for a meeting....*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not admissible here. He is cooperating with the Chair. Please do not disturb him now. [Translation] Now please sit down. I will consider, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members with all humility, I ask you, please give me an opportunity to control the House. [Translation] Your raising will not help control, rather it is more disturbed.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly allow the Chair to conduct the business.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:....*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: You raise issue concerning the Union Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see that. I will only request the hon'ble Member to restrict himself only to the issue. He is such an experienced Member. Kindly cooperate. [Translation] Only Speak about Union Government.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I am saying that. After this we shall demand for CBI enquiry for the reasons that...*

MR. SPEAKER: You have written about 12 acres of forest land.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You need not help him. He does not require your help.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Sir, this is a case in the History of India that has not happened so far*. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I shall see to that. I shall see, if you have said any thing in addition to Union Government.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Finance Commissioner (revenue) is a lady...*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There does not come any issue here without rhyme and reason. I will see it.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak on forest land.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Finance Commissioner (Revenue)...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting here? [Translation] All these are bad habits.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: ...*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot discuss Chief Minister's conduct here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying that Shri Dhindsa should express his views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing up?

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: C.M. allows....forest land.....*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing expect the views expressed by Shri Dhindsa would go on record. Shri Dhindsa, you speak about the forest land.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: The C.M. has formulated a committee for Mega project. The C.M. is the Chairman of that committee...(Interruptions) I would like to bring it on a record...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I would like to know as to what did he do there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak about forest land, otherwise I will not allow you to speak.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I am speaking on forest land only. That land belongs to the forest which the C.M. allows...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Sahib, you have given notice regarding forest land.

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that land belongs to the forest department, which is about 120 acres. The Committee allows the land to a company ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Bring the relevant proceedings to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, C.B.I. conducts an enquiry about Taj corridor but ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on. What are you doing?

Dhindsa Sahib, I have given you time. It is not there in the notice what you are speaking. You conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing except Shri Dhindsa's speech will be recorded and that too subject to my scrutiny.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...**...

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not concerned with a State Government project. I am very sorry. *[Translation]* You speak regarding the forest land.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, State Government has no power to allow anybody in case of forest land.

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your views, please sit down. Malhotraji what are you saying? *[English]* You can speak only with regard to the Central Government. *[Translation]* Nothing except this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if C.B.I. enquiry can be made for Taj Corridor * * then why not C.B.I. enquiry for this. You ask the Government to conduct a C.B.I. enquiry...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Every day the time of the House is wasted like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEO SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is conducting a C.B.I. enquiry regarding Taj Corridor. Would the Government conduct an enquiry in this case or not...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I, will take only one minute, Sir...*(Interruptions)* *[Translation]* This is not a State matter, it is regarding C.B.I. enquiry... * *.

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

The forest land was given for construction of a mall. Forest land was given for constructing of shopping complex
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Please bring it to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the first case of Punjab, it is the fifth case. Elections are going to be held there....*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please bring the proceedings to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please listen to me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is responding. Let us hear the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What the Government would respond? Would the Government conduct a C.B.I. enquiry regarding forest land involving Rs. 2000 crore or not...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. Do not record anything more. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)...**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Speaker, Sir, this House has a long tradition to discuss the State subject in case there is a communal riot, atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: And also, Sir, if there is a threat to the integrity of the nation. Individual Chief Minister's performance or his Cabinet colleagues' performance has never been under the purview of Parliament.

The Central Government and Parliament cannot intervene in this matter....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you have raised your point.

...(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

(At this stage Shri L.K. Advani and some other Hon'ble Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into this. Now, we would take up the Calling Attention. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record even one word.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting?

(Interruptions)...*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Note recorded.

*Note recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying? Please go your seat. Nothing is being recorded. You go to Punjab and fight there.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good. I have given you an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dhindsa Sahib, I have given you full opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Please do not bother.

(Interruptions)...*

12.17 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER: Young man, you go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That will be decided by the public. You leave that aside.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody. I have already called Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy to raise his Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you doing this, young man?

*Not recorded.

What other young man will see. I have allowed your leader to speak. You should learn from Dhindsa Saheb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that it is a matter of great agony if young people behave in this fashion. What will happen to this country? You do not believe in discipline.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy's submission.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Mr. Athawale, I am asking you for the last time to go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please go back to your seats. Please co-operate.

...(Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal and some other hon. Members left the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, you take your seat. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I want to speak on this....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded without my permission. You cannot just stand up and speak. I think that matter is over. I am sorry, I cannot allow you. You can write to them.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seats or not.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down;

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding what?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: We have given a notice on the matter of corruption.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is time to take up the Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance but for now, you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have given notice, I will give you time.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I have given a notice....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the time to take up Calling Attention. You are Chairman. Do you not understand that?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is really a very sad thing; I take so much of pain.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow this matter. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me a chance after Calling Attention is over.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that I will give you a chance after Calling Attention.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of non-revision of royalty on
coal and other minerals and steps taken
by the Government in this regard**

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Coal to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of non-revision of royalty on coal and other minerals and steps taken by the Government in this regard".

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you can lay your statement on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, I lay my Statement.

"Sir, I wish to inform that august House that Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce the royalty rates in respect of coal and lignite. The proviso to the aforesaid Section prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty on coal and lignite more than once during any period of three years. Thus, it may be seen that it is not stipulated under law to revise the rate of royalty on coal and lignite after every three years. However, the rates of royalty are revised after taking into consideration the interests of all stake holders and the overall economic scenario of the Country.

2. The Central Government recognize the fact that royalty from coal and other minerals constitutes an

*Laid on the table and also placed in Library. See LT 5184/06.

important source of revenue for the concerned State Governments. A mineral is a non-replenishable resource and once it is extracted and consumed, its economic value gets extinguished forever. Therefore, the States demand to be compensated adequately by way of royalty.

3. The royalty rates on coal and lignite were last revised on 16-08-2002 and 15-03-2001 respectively. Royalty on lignite was fixed at Rs. 501 per tonne and the rates fixed on coal ranged from Rs. 65 to Rs. 2501 per tonne, depending on the grade of coal. At the time of last revision of royalty rates in respect of coal, the rates were about 16% of the average price of coal. Thus, the rates fixed were quite reasonable and compared quite favourably with the international trends in regard to royalty on coal.

4. The Twelfth Finance Commission (2005) recommended that 'since royalty is an important source of revenue for some of the states, the rates of royalty should be fixed on an ad valorem basis.'

5. While appreciating the suggestions made by various coal producing States as well as by many Hon'ble Members of Parliament for early revision of royalty rates on coal and lignite, Ministry of Coal constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal on 2-06-2005 to examine the issue of revision of royalty rates on coal and lignite. The Committee held extensive deliberations on the issues involved and also held consultations with all the stakeholders, which included both coal producing as well as consuming States, the concerned Ministries! Departments! Organisations of the Central Government, the major industry associations such as FICCI, Cement Manufacturers Association, Federation of Indian Mining Industries (FIMI) ect. and the coal companies.

6. In view of the complexities involved, the Government decided that the issue of payment of royalty on coal on ad valorem basis vs. tonnage basis may be examined by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC to PM). The EAC to PM has recommended that the royalty may be shifted from specific levy to a combination of specific and ad valorem levies. EAC felt that this arrangement will provide a certain minimum royalty under the specific component plus a share in the price as a variable component. The royalty on coal has to be

determined so as to take care in a balanced way of the interests of both the producers and the consumers. EAC further observed that our royalty rates are already high relative to those in other countries. This should be kept in view in fixing the royalty rates. Any revision in royalty should not be made applicable automatically to states which levy own cesses. The royalty to be allowed to such states should be adjusted for the local cesses so as to limit the overall revenue to the formula based yield.

7. The Committee constituted by the Ministry of Coal submitted its report on 14-07-2007 after having detailed deliberations with all stake holders. The recommendations made by the Committee are at an advanced stage of consideration in the Government.

8. It is observed that in the wake of the judgement passed by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in *Kesoram Industries Ltd. Vs Government of West Bengal* upholding the legislative competence of the State legislatures to levy cess on mineral bearing lands, a number of States have reintroduced cess or other statutory levies on mineral bearing lands. The rates vary from Rs. 20 per tonne in Andhra Pradesh to 25% ad valorem in West Bengal. Incidence of cess levied by State Governments together with the enhanced royalty rates would have a cascading effect on the coal consuming sector and this would cause disparities across the States.

9. This issue was further discussed in a meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) held on 10-10-2006 with the representatives of the coal producing States. The views of the State Governments on the matter have been obtained.

10. Based on the report of the Committee on royalty and the consultation held with the State Governments, the matter would soon be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for a discussion. May I assure the hon. Members that interests of all the stakeholders would be taken into account while deciding on the revision of royalty rates in respect of coal and lignite.

11. In so far as other minerals are concerned, the rates of royalty of minerals other than fuel and minor minerals were last revised on 14-10-2004 and no revision of royalty rates would be possible before 13-10-2007 for

[Dr. Dasari Narayan Rao]

these minerals. At present, ad valorem regime has been adopted in respect of as many as 39 minerals.

12. Ministry of Mines has already constituted a Study Group under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines for next revision of royalty rates on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing).

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the hon. Minister's statement is most disappointing and mostly evasive. He has not gone into the problems and the demands of the State. This is one of the examples of this Government how they are neglecting the poor States ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House and go home. Let the people of this country see what is happening.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Despite Orissa and other mineral producing States being the owner of the mineral resources falling within their jurisdiction, the revenue receipts from the royalty are too meager to undertake developmental activities in the mineral area.

Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 stipulates that the Central Government, shall revise the rate of royalty and shall specify in the notification...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who wish to talk amongst themselves, please go out in the Inner Lobby or Outer Lobby or Central Hall or wherever they like to.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Central Government has not yet taken any steps to revise the rate of royalty on coal and other minerals for which State Government are losing substantial amount of revenue.

Due to delay in revision and discrimination in the rate of revision of royalty on coal alone, the loss sustained by the State of Orissa from 11-10-97 to 15-8-2002 is estimated at Rs. 750 crore. The other States also have accrued substantial losses.

Although the revision of royalty on coal is required to be revised in every three years, Government of India is not revising it regularly on time and thus depriving the coal producing States of its dues.

For example, it was revised on 12-2-1981 after seven years, then on 1-8-1991 after seven years, then on 11-10-94 after two months and lastly on 16-8-2002 after nearly five years. Now even after four years it is not yet revised.

The mineral producing States are also losing their revenues to a great extent, because of non-revision of royalty on iron ore and other major minerals. The royalty rates on iron ore ridiculously low in comparison to the market price of iron ore and profits accruing to the industries and mining companies.

For example, the State is getting only Rs. 27, Rs. 16 and Rs. 11 as royalty with 65 per cent FE content with 62 per cent FE content and less than 62 per cent FE content respectively for iron ore lumps per tonne. The mining operational cost is total about Rs. 300 per tonne. But the market price per tonne of lumps of iron ore is Rs. 1800 and Rs. 2000 and more. It has reached to Rs. 3000 in the past. The mine owners and industrialists are only investing Rs. 300 and Rs. 350 but they are getting profit per tonne of iron ore about Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000. So, you could see how profit they are earning.

But the States are not getting royalty accordingly. The royalty rates are not enhanced. The Sarkaria Commission has also recommended to amend the provisions of Section 9 of the MMDR Act to reduce the period specified therein for revision of royalty rates to two years. The Eleventh Finance Commission has also recommended that the revision of royalty should take place regularly and in case such a revision does not take place, the State should be fully compensated. Both the Planning Commission and the Twelfth Finance Commission have recommended categorically to switch over to the *ad-valorem* basis for royalty. This was also raised by the State Governments in the meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council and found unequivocal support to switch over to *ad-valorem* basis and to revise the royalty rates. The Chief Minister of Orissa has also requested the hon. Prime Minister in his two D.O. letters dated 24-6-2005 and 12-6-2006 for early revision of the rate of royalty on coal and to fix the rate on *ad-valorem* basis. Although the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs have approved the revised rate of royalty on minerals including the rate of coal, Government is not notifying it for obvious reasons.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is a central legislation against the interests of the people of the mineral based States. Under the provisions of the Constitution, the land belongs to the State but the mineral resources under the earth belong to the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what the Constitution says.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: This legislation was enacted for proper distribution, conservation and preservation of mineral resources. This was the intention at that time. But it is not the intention now. Our experience says that the mineral-based States are the poorest of the poor States in the country. The States which are having mineral resources are losing their entire revenue. They are not getting appropriate revenue. They are not getting the attention of the Planning Commission because they are not in a position to generate additional resources and to raise their revenue. Their main revenue has been stopped by the Central Government as they are not revising the royalty rates. The main source of income of such States is royalty. That is why, we are witnessing more naxal problems in these areas. I am attracting the attention of the hon. Minister to all these points. This tantamounts to transfer of sources from mineral producing States without any compensation for the huge negative externality.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the revision on royalty on coal and other major minerals including iron ore will be notified. When is the Government going to amend the provision of Section 9 of MMDR Act to make it mandatory to revise the royalty in every two years as per the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission? When will the Government fix the rate of royalty on *ad-valorem* basis as per the recommendation of Planning Commission and Twelfth Finance Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prasanna Acharya, your leader has taken a lot of time. Please put only questions.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is really not based on facts. He has said that it is not stipulated under law to revise the rate of royalty of coal and lignite after every three years. I do not know from which law is the hon. Minister quoting. The Eleventh Finance Commission has already

recommended that revision should be made in every three years and the Government of India has long back accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. How is the Government coming out with a reply that it is not under compulsion to revise the royalty rate of coal and other minerals after every three years? Therefore, his reply is misleading and I am sorry to say this. The minerals are non-replenishable resources and once they are dug from the earth, they are gone for ever.

My pertinent question to the hon. Minister is this. The Government has appointed a Committee headed by the Additional Secretary (Coal) to go into the revision of royalty rates.

The Committee has already given its recommendations. So, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Will the hon. Minister fix a particular deadline and when will the Government take a final decision in respect of revision of coal royalty and particularly to revise upwards the royalty on coals?

Secondly, regarding the *ad valorem* system of applying royalty, the Committee, as is known, has come out with a *via media* system between the tonnage system per tonne royalty and the *ad valorem* system and the Committee has decided to go in between. I do not think that this is a practical suggestion. Almost all the coal-bearing States have been urging the Central Government to adopt the *ad valorem* system so far as royalty is concerned. So, I would particularly like to know from the hon. Minister whether the *ad valorem* system will be accepted by the Government of India and the requests of the State Governments will be adhered to....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The whole concept of Calling Attention is changing.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I am just putting some questions....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Just put only one question and 'not questions'. You have to put only one question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I am raising another connected matter. All other points have been raised by

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy. All the coal fields are earning a lot. The Government's argument is that if they go on increasing royalty to be collected by the State Governments, it will have an indirect impact on the prices of coal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of rise in prices of coal in the market during the last five years and in comparison with the rise in prices, what is the rate of royalty that has been increased or what is the amount the State Governments have got out of this. I hope the hon. Minister would kindly reply to this question. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have two or three other questions. ...*(Interruptions)* It is all right. Let the hon. Minister come out with a concrete reply.

Now, I am raising my last question. The hon. Minister has replied that the Government is in the process of taking a decision. I would like to know from the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Enough is enough [English] You have started with that question. I believe that is already in the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: For how long the Union Government will continue deliberations? This is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia. You can ask only clarifications. The rule says that you can ask only clarifications.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I am having only one point. I will be very brief.

Since 1987 the royalty on coal has been revised four times but the revised rate of royalty on coal has not been made available for the State of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that the Supreme Court of India has upheld the right of the State to levy cess...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are an experienced Member.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In spite of that, the Government of India has not made available the revised rate of royalty to the State of West Bengal and because of that the national loss for the State of West Bengal is Rs. 3,500 crore. The State Government is losing Rs. 300 crore every year. The Chief Minister has also written to the hon. Prime Minister to make the revised rate of royalty available to the State of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me one more minute. I have not asked the question. I am yet to ask the question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am not allowing. Please ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Chief Minister has agreed to reduce the rate of cess so that there may not be any cascading effect on the price of coal as has been stated by the hon. Minister of Coal.

So, may I know from the hon. Minister of Coal whether the Government of India will consider the demand of the State of West Bengal that the revised rate of royalty be made available for the State of West Bengal so that the Government of West Bengal may not lose the amount which the Government of West Bengal should get?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members desired that the Finance Minister should also be present. He has responded to our request. I am thankful to him. It is for them to decide who will speak.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals Regulation Act, the Central Government can enhance or reduce the royalty in respect of coal and lignite. This is the rule.

Sir, this Government has set an example of taking seriously the demand for *ad valorem* rates. The NDA Government, of which Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy was a Member, did not take any action during their tenure and no such revision has taken place during their tenure of six years. But when this Government came to power, we have immediately taken steps in this regard. We constituted a Study Group with the Additional Secretary as the Chairman in 2005. That Study Group submitted its Report

on 14th July this year. Then, the Coal Secretary has met the representatives of all the States which are having coal-bearing areas on 10th October, 2006. Now, the discussion is going on regarding royalty and other issues and within one week we are going to circulate the Cabinet Note. It will go to the Cabinet and it is going to be considered. So, actually from day one we are at it.

Regarding *ad valorem* duty, there is an issue and the Committee has suggested that the *ad valorem* duty should be introduced partly. So, now we are going ahead to consider an experiment of *ad valorem* plus fixed rate of royalty. Both the things will be considered and we are going to take the approval of the Cabinet for this.

Sir, the hon. Member raised a matter regarding the State of West Bengal. As you are aware, they were imposing a cess of 45 per cent. It is true that they are not getting revised royalty since 1981, as they are imposing a cess. They reduced the cess recently to 25 per cent. So, when this cess is being imposed, it is very difficult for the players like the power sector to get affordable coal. Out of the total production of coal in our country, 85 per cent of coal is given for power generation and so this imposition of cess should not come in the way of power generation because power in India is already very costly and it is going to cost more. I think a discussion has taken place between the Coal Secretary and the official of West Bengal. In 2005-06, the Government of West Bengal generated a revenue of Rs. 615 crore. In the last 10 years, nearly Rs. 5,000 crore was the revenue which the Government of West Bengal got and it is higher than many other States in India has got....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, how can he deny the State?...(*Interruptions*)

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, we are not denying it.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not questioning your right.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, I am not questioning the right of the State.

As far as coal price is concerned, since February, 2001, when decontrol has come into effect, we have increased coal price only twice. In the last six years, coal price has been increased only twice, not more. Now, the

Government is very much committed to revision. I cannot say the exact date, but within a very short time, I think within nearly three or four months, we are going to take a decision on this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not replied to my question. My question was very specific because with regard to reduction of cess...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has dealt with it. He said the matter is under discussion and it is going to the Cabinet.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not replied to my question....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up urgent matters. Shri Mohan Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the hon. Minister wants to reply....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that your Government has taken Rs. 5,000 in ten years. Now, only Shri Mohan Singh's observation will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)...*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the hon. Minister wants to reply to my question....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to reply further, Mr. Minister?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Yes, only with regard to West Bengal. Sir, so far as West Bengal is concerned, if they reconsider the cess, the discussion will take place and the royalty will be given.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, Now, Shri Mohan Singh.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister wants to say something. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Finance Minister, do you wish to add anything?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Yes Sir.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your State's case is very ably put by Shri Tripathy and Shri Acharia.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I am giving a suggestion only. Will he advise the State Government of Orissa to impose a cess?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talks, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Will you keep on talking with one another?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, silence please.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, my distinguished colleague has ably answered practically all the questions put by hon. Members. The question now is when will the revision take place. He said that the paper is under preparation. It will come to the CCEA. We will take a decision as early as possible. The decision will be taken.

The question now is about cess. What did the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister recommend? The Economic Advisory Council is chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, who also chaired the Twelfth Finance Commission. It is not as if he is unaware of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. That Committee recommended that the royalty on coal has to be determined so as to take care in a balanced way the interest of both the producers and the consumers. In this case, the principal consumer is the power sector and within the power sector it is the NTPC which cannot ignore the interest of consumers of coal because the price of coal will determine eventually the price of power which you and I will pay.

*Not recorded.

Secondly, the Committee has recommended, having regard to all the factors, that perhaps there could be a mixture of a tonnage rate of royalty plus ad valorem rate. The Cabinet will take a decision after keeping in mind all the suggestions made by the hon. Members.

On the question of cess, the Committee recommended, any revision in royalty should not be made applicable automatically—that is the crucial word—to States which levy their own cesses. The royalty to be allowed to such States should be adjusted for the local cesses so as to limit the overall revenue to the formula based yield. As Shri Acharia said, West Bengal has now agreed, it will revise or reconsider the cess.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Chief Minister has already said that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I know that. We will keep that in mind when we take a decision. Once the decision is taken, it will apply uniformly to all the States.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has said that the electricity dues are collected from the consumer States. Can you just allow an amendment to this Act?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter relating to this. This is another matter. Sorry. It is an unconnected matter.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Government of India should compensate it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He serves good tea. Go to him and have a meeting with him.

12.45 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Non-payment of excise and customs duties worth Rs. 240 crores by M/s Starlit Optical Technologist Limited

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up matters of urgent public importance. I will try to accommodate as

many hon. Members as possible. I have a list of about 44 matters.

Shri Mohan Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a very important issue before the House because if an ordinary poor farmer is burdened with a loan of rupees ten-twenty thousand. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is the Central Government involved in it?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Yes, Sir, if an unemployed youth has taken loan, the recovery thereof is made very mercilessly from him. But one famous company of India was imposed with a penalty of Rs. 199 crore for making a fraud of Central and Excise duties. Its recovery is not being made. That company created two companies of its own—one was hundreds per cent export oriented company and the other one an indigenous production company. This company purchased capital goods worth Rs. 122 crore and raw material worth Rs. 145 crore. The company produced finished goods from that material and then instead of exporting them hundred per cent it supplied all the goods to its sister company. As a result of this, the Customs and Excise Department raided this company in the year 2003. Thereafter, a case of fraud was filed against that company. The company was fined a sum of Rs. two lakh forty five thousand by the Custom and Excise Department. When the company made an appeal, its penalty was reduced from Rs. 2245 crore to Rs. 199 crore. This penalty of Rs. 199 crore is still not being recovered from the Vedanta Group of Company which is based in Aurangabad.

Hon'ble Chidambaramji is sitting here and he is the Minister of Finance of the country. He is earning a bad name in this regard. I want that the Union Government should make a statement before this House because these days there is an open discussion in the business community that before becoming Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram was one of the directors of this Company.

When this case was referred to Mumbai High Court. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am not making any allegations....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice on this.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am just narrating the facts and saying that an open discussion is going on in the country that if one is under the wings of any high profile people, then recovery is not made from them even though they may have committed any fraud or proved a tax failure. I am not making any allegations but would want that the image of hon'ble Finance Minister should not be tarnished. Therefore, hon'ble Minister of Finance should make a statement in the House regarding the truth so that this state of resentment in the Business Community of the country can be put to rest. I would like to urge this through you....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is here.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot go on like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There is no notice from you. I cannot start this new practice. I would not allow you. Shri Khaire, why are you doing it?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Mohan Singhji because this company is situated in my area....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the notice but you have not given. Therefore, you please sit down. Jayaprada ji, you also please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be allowed. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, it is entirely for you to respond.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am happy that fortuitously I am present in this House when my distinguished friend raises this issue. Let me assure him that I hold no grievance against him because he did not make any allegation against me; he simply wanted facts and I am giving him the facts as best as I know.

There was an adjudication in the year 2003 by the Adjudicating Authority. Our Government came into office in May, 2004. The company filed an appeal which was pending at that time. The appeal was defended by the Department when the UPA Government was in office and the Government succeeded in the appeal and order of adjudication was confirmed. Therefore, after the UPA Government was in office, no leniency has been shown to anyone. The adjudication order has been confirmed by the appellate authority against which the company has filed a statutory appeal in the High Court of Bombay and the High Court of Bombay has granted a stay. Any number of companies, after adjudication by the Tribunal, go to the High Court by way of statutory appeal and obtain a stay. The Department has moved the High Court to vacate the stay. The case was transferred to the Aurangabad Bench. The Aurangabad Bench, as you know, did not have, during that period, a regular Revenue Bench, and, therefore, the case was not heard for several months despite the efforts of the Department. Finally, the Department instructed its counsel to mention the matter to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bombay. The matter was mentioned. The Chief Justice said: "File an application before me on the administrative side." An application has been filed.

The Chief Justice has heard the application. He has

asked the other side to file a counter. The Chief Justice has assured us that the case would be taken up for disposal very early. It is completely wrong to say that the Minister has anything to do with recovery or non-recovery....(Interruptions) Just a minute....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has clarified that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In fact, I have got a list of companies where there are arrears. There are over 20 companies with huge arrears. This is one of the companies. As I said, after our Government came into force, we have recovered more arrears than any Government before. I have given these figures in this House.

This adjudication, we will contest the case strongly and we will instruct the senior counsel to appear in the matter. I am confident that the Government will win the matter in the High Court, and once the stay is vacated, the money will be recovered if the adjudication order is upheld. Please have no fear, no apprehension that any favour is being shown to anyone in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, we appreciate it. That is good.

Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA(Rampur): Sir, please allow me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaprada, I always allow you but not this time. I am sorry. You have to give a separate notice. I request you not to do this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice. I will allow you. Let us follow some procedure. How can it be done?

Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very sensitive and worrying matter. In Kabirganj, Mohalla of Sasaram district, a rickshaw puller

Nanhu Khan and his wife were burnt alive after tying their hand to feet in the midnight on 2nd December 2006 by some powerful person. Not only that Professor Papia Ghosh of Patna University was killed at mid night while she was sleeping with her maid servant and her belongings were looted. Now, the condition there is ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to the State matters here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am myself doing it. Why are you getting up? I will not allow State matters to be raised here. No law and order matter in a State should be raised here. I will not allow it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, Nanhu Khan's family comprised 4 sons and 2 daughters. ...*(Interruptions)* In Nanhu Khan's family there are four sons two daughters and a disabled old mother. Now, the condition is that, all of them are on the verge of starvation as the earning person was only that rickshaw puller. This incident has sent wrong message among the minority community. They are scared and an insecurity feeling prevails there....**(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I have also given a notice for that....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will get chance at right time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, ...* I ask the Union Government to get the matter investigated. Union Government should get the report from the State Government and present it before the House and I ask for a CBI enquiry the matter...**(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I will delete it myself.

...*(Interruptions)***

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Note recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri L. Rajagopal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not Shri Rajagopal.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, this matter is related to my constituency, and I have given a notice for that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You people do not want the House to run.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting? Law and order in a State cannot be discussed here. I would not allow.

Now, Shri L. Rajagopal.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So long as I am here, I would not allow the State matters, the law and order situation of a State to be discussed in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I would not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You daily give permission.

*Note recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You have just given permission to members from Punjab and Shri Dhindsa also expressed his views.

MR. SPEAKER: That was a different matter.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only submission made by the hon. Member regarding forest land will go on record. Everything else would be deleted from the records.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you do not want the House to run. I wanted to take up some matters, but you are disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

12.55 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 14, Matters under Rule 377. I think they may be laid on the Table of the House. [Translation] A lot of business is there.

*Note recorded.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, I may be allowed to read out matter under 377.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your Minister himself is requesting to lay matter under 377.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I should also be given a chance.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If one of you is given a chance, then I will have to give chance to everyone.

O.K. Shri Jivabhai A. Patel.

(I) Need to purify fluoride-contaminated water caused by oil exploration activities at Mehsana, Gujarat

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the fluoride content is increasing day by day in the potable water available in my Parliamentary constituency Mehsana. Previously, the number of wells with fluoride content was less but now their number is increasing slowly. When ONGC conducts Blasts in oil wells, then the stone particles get mixed with water and the people's bone's are getting damaged by drinking that water and they are becoming handicapped, ONGC also does not provide any help in this regard while the fluoride element in Mehsana water is the results of blasts created by ONGC. The Ministry of rural development has also not prepared any plan and implemented it.

Through House, I request that ONGC and Ministry of Rural Development should take action to purify the water having fluoride content in Mehsana.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Tushar A. Chaudhary—Not present.

Shri Sajjan Kumar—Not present.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Sir, I have given in writing that I will speak in Sanskrit.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It's O.K. You can speak in Sanskrit.

(ii) Need to accord Central University status to Sampurnanand Sanskrit University of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): *Sir, Sanskrit is the most ancient language of the world. It contains a rich and vast literature. The most ancient pieces of literature have been written in Sanskrit. This language is the soul of Indian languages. This language unites the country.

Sampurnanand Sanskrit University is a very important centre of Sanskrit education not only in India, but also in the world. In this University all the subjects are taught through Sanskrit medium. This University has its affiliated colleges in various States of the country as in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand. But this is functioning under the aegis of the State Government which is not commensurate with its dignity and stature.

Therefore, this University should be recognized by the Union Government as a Central University. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University with all its affiliated colleges may kindly be improved further with well-equipped educational institutions.

(iii) Need to reconstruct the bridge near Palanpur railway station in Gujarat which was earlier demolished by the Railway Department

SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Sir, there was an old bridge near Palanpur Railway station in my Parliamentary constituency Banaskantha, which was demolished for the movement of double Decker railways wagons. A new bridge was constructed a year before starting movement of double Decker railway wagons and one was used for going out and the other for coming through it. After the demolition of the old bridge, the new bridge is being used for both ways movement which often results in jam and people are facing much inconvenience. Transport in the city is badly affected.

It is requested through House that the old bridge which existed near Palanpur railway station and has been demolished should be constructed immediately so that the transport in the city is facilitated.

(iv) Need to extend GPF-cum-Defined Pension scheme to the employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I would like to mention that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has been extending dedicated services for the cause of children belonging to rural areas of the country. Though round-the-clock services are rendered, the employees working in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti have been deprived of any kind of retirement benefits like gratuity, pension etc. whereas the persons working in the sister organizations like Kendriya Vidyalaya enjoy these benefits. In particular, the teaching community of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti is deprived of even gratuity benefit.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti was held in February, 2005 to consider the introduction of pension scheme for the employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, but nothing feasible has been done so far.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider and introduce/extend GPF-cum-Defined Pension Scheme to the employees who have joined Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti prior to 1-1-2004; introduction of new pension scheme for those employees who have not joined with effect from 1-1-2004; and reintroduction of gratuity to teaching community which was discontinued earlier so as to benefit the employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

(v) Need to confer Shourya Award and Amrita Devi Bishnoi Rastriya Award upon police personnel who laid down their lives in an effort to rescue and save wildlife from the hands of poachers

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a police man named Gangaram Bishnoi, posted at Dajiawas police station in my Parliamentary constituency, Jodhpur was killed by the poachers while he was trying to save a deer. The case related to the above-mentioned matter is registered in Police Station, Dajiawas, District Jodhpur under section

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Sanskrit.

[Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi]

302/34 I. PC and the case number is 42/2006. After thorough investigation of the matter, a challan has been submitted in the court against the poachers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I earnestly request that hon. Minister of Home Affairs and hon. Minister of Environment and Forests that late Shri Gangaram Bishnoi should be conferred Shourya Award and Amrita Devi Bishnoi Rashtriya Vanya Jeeva Raksha Award so that the conservators of wild-life can get encouragement.

(vi) Need for visit by ICMR scientists to Keonjhar district of Orissa to ascertain the reasons for increase in incidents of death due to malaria and to suggest effective measures to eradicate it

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that a large number of deaths are taking place in my constituency due to malaria every year. According to official report, 38 people died in 2004-05 and 15 in 2005-06, but unofficially, the figure is much more than that. The death toll is increasing every year due to negligence of the Health Department. Chloroquinine given to the patients could not produce any effect. According to Malaria Action Programme 1995, the chloroquinine became resistance free. As a result of that, the Government planned to prescribe salphadoxine and artsunate as substitute to chloroquinine. But the distribution of these medicines was very slow and inadequate. All the patients in the malaria prone areas could not get these medicines as prescribed by the doctors. The present method of treatment and other measures taken to eradicate malaria could not resolve the problem. Rather more people are suffering and the death toll is increasing.

In view of that, I demand the visit of a Central team of doctors with the scientist of Indian Council of Medical Research to Keonjhar district to study the reasons why the medicines circulated at present are not producing any result and thereafter, some innovative initiatives should be taken to prescribe proper medicine and to save the people of my area from untimely death due to malaria.

(vii) Need to establish refinery for petro-products in Western Rajasthan to exploit the petroleum and gas reserves of the region

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as a result of exploration efforts made by many Indian and foreign companies for oil and gas under new exploration licensing policy of the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, huge reserves of oil and gases were found in Barmer region of Rajasthan and Krishna river basin of Andhra Pradesh. As a result of these efforts, Cairn Energy Private Limited has discovered a huge reserve of oil and natural gases in Barmer and Jaisalmer region of Rajasthan. The Company has a plan to produce approximately 6 MMT crude oil from these exploration operations by the year 2009 and the Government of India has nominated ONGC Limited for procuring the entire production from that area. But, it is a matter of regret that ONGC Limited and Cairn Energy Limited have not entered into a 'crude oil sales' agreement which is delaying commercial production of crude oil from Barmer region.

However, Sir, refineries have been established at places like Mathura in Uttar Pradesh and Bhatinda in Punjab where pipelines have been laid to connect these places to Kandla and Mumbai for carrying crude oil. It is also necessary to set up a refinery at Barmer to start commercial production of crude oil in Barmer region of Rajasthan as the lack of refinery facility will block the economic development of the desert area of Western Rajasthan.

So, it is my humble request to the Government of India to facilitate the commercial production of crude oil and natural gas from Barmer, Jaisalmer region, to expedite setting up of refinery for oil refining and to establish crude oil-based industries.

(viii) Need to declare Bharatpur, Dhaulpur and Dausa district of Rajasthan as drought affected districts, and initiate necessary relief measures

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the districts of Bharatpur, Dhaulpur and

Dausa which come under my constituency in Rajasthan have become famine affected due to scarcity of water. Not only the people find it difficult to make both ends meet but the condition of cattles have also become pitiable. Cattles from these districts are being undersold to Haryana and other states. The districts of Bharatpur, Dhaulpur and Dausa are urgently required to be declared as famine affected and the relief measures should be initiated at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam—
not present.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

**(ix) Need to stop illegal mining activities in
Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, 'Braj' is the place which has even been described in the 'Vedas' 'Puranas' and other scriptures. You can well imagine its significance but in that very 'braj mandal' the quarrying activities are going on uninterruptedly at the ancient hills situated in Deeg and Kaman Tehsils of Bharatpur district in Rajasthan which are in blatant violation of the orders of the hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan and the hon'ble Supreme Court of India because the above places fall in the Taj Triposium Zone which is evident from the G.T. sheet no-54E/2 and 54E/6 of the survey of India. As per the court orders, all kinds of polluting activities including quarrying and stone crashing are prohibited in the Taj Triposium Zone. The Central Pollution Control Board on Nov-15, 2005 have issued directions to immediately ban quarrying activities holding such activities at the above place illegal in their report in this regard, but, the Government of Rajasthan have not been able to the ban the quarrying activities so far. This has led to destruction of important hills, wild life and historical heritage considered very sacred by every Hindu. There is a considerable resentment among the people due to these activities and they are constantly staging 'dharnas' and demonstration to stop such activities but the mining business is thriving illegally with the connivance of the mining mafia.

I would like to request the Government to immediately take steps to prohibit quarrying in ancient hills in the Bharatpur district of Rajasthan without and delay so as to prevent destruction of the historical places representing religious sentiments of crores of people and comply orders of the hon'ble Courts of Law.

**(x) Need to take steps to control spread of Malaria
and Kalazar, and creating sufficient medical
facilities in Banka and Jamui, Bihar.**

SHRI GIRIDHAR YADAV (Banka): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Banka and Jamui in my parliamentary constituency face outbreak of Malaria and Kalazar every year leading to death of hundreds of persons and thousands of people suffer from such diseases. Jhanjhar, Chandan, Katoria and Bousi blocks in my constituency are highly vulnerable to these disease. There are neither doctors nor nurses at Primary Health Centres, nor medicines are available there. Even if medicines are available they do not have desired effect. The schemes launched by the Government to control and eliminate these diseases should be reviewed and the shortcomings observed therein should be removed.

Through this House, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to review the work going on under the schemes to control and eliminate Malaria and Kalazar in Banka and Jamui districts.

**(xi) Need for Opening More Numbers of Ekalabya
Model Residential Schools and Enhance the
Scholarship Amount and other Recurring
Expenditure for these Schools in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the human development indicators of the Scheduled Tribe population are much lower than the rest of the population in Orissa. The literacy rate of STs in Orissa as per 2001 census is 37.37 per cent in comparison to the total literacy rate of 63.08 per cent. The drop out rate of tribal children is alarming. Despite various measures taken by the State Government to check dropouts—including free meals, providing free books, scholarship and free dress to girl students—dropout rates are still areas of serious concern.

So far, the Government of India has sanctioned 10

[Shri B. Marmab]

numbers of Ekalabya Model Residential Schools for Orissa and all are functioning well. I would urge upon the Government to sanction 18 numbers of Ekalabya Model Residential Schools, at least one in each Block situated in Scheduled areas. This may be done in a phased manner within a span of five years.

The money that is being released towards expenditure is quite inadequate in comparison to the Navodaya Vidyalayas. There is no provision to construct boundary walls, playground, cultural hall, etc. Funds be provided for such purposes also. It is also found that the scholarship to students who study in Ekalabya Model Residential Schools is much less than that the students are getting in Navodaya Vidyalayas. Even the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is sanctioning grants to NGOs who are running residential schools get much more.

I urge upon the Government to raise the scholarship and other recurring expenditure in tune with that of Navodaya Vidyalayas at the earliest.

(xii) Need to Exclude the Residential Area in the Proposed Expansion of Gandhinagar Airport

[Translation]

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE (Nasik): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a proposal for expansion of Gandhinagar Airport falling under my parliamentary constituency has been approved by the Department of Environment. 660 acres of land is proposed to be allotted for this expansion. An announcement was made by the district administration in this regard on 16th November, 2006. Around 1900 people are likely to be rendered home due to allotment of land. There is resentment against the Government among people of Nasik city due to this. I, therefore urge upon to take action for expansion of this proposed airport excluding residential land which will be welcomed by the residents of Nasik City.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh—
Not present.

Dr. R. Senthil—Not Present.

Shri Hemlal Murmu—Not Present.

(xiii) Need to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had given its nod to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Parliamentary constituency Bijnor in 2005-06. A scheme was evolved to start a school at Bijnor in an old gynecology hospital due to lack of school building. Approximately an amount of three lakh rupees given under MPLADS was also spent to construct lavatory and repair the building. But I came to know that the proposal to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Lok Sabha Constituency Bijnor has suddenly been cancelled. The Vidyalaya supposed to be opened in the year of 2005-06 has not started functioning as yet resulting in heavy resentment among the people of that area, because there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in the periphery of 80 km of my Lok Sabha Constituency.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India through the House to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Lok Sabha Constituency Bijnor at the earliest.

(xiv) Need to provide special relief package for revival of Tea Industry

[English]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Sir, since 1998 Tea industry has been passing through a bad phase, resulting in closure of several Tea Gardens. Ultimately, labour force has to suffer a lot. They are deprived of their statutory benefits as per the Plantation Labour Act, wages are not paid timely as it should have been done. Further medical facilities are suspended; rations are not provided regularly; Provident Fund and LIC premium, although deducted from the salary of the workers, are not deposited at the respective accounts; and PF and Gratuity are not paid to the employees even after retirement.

Replanatation and rejuvenation were not done for long. One lakh seventy two thousand hectares and 42,000 hectares of land required to be replanted and rejuvenated respectively in the existing Tea Gardens. It was given an impression by the hon. Commerce Minister that a package of relief would be announced during the Budget Session to support the Tea industry. Except withdrawal of surcharge of Re. 1.00 on one kilogram of Tea, quantum of sum

required for revival of Tea industry was not declared as yet. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister of Commerce to expedite the matter and a package of relief for the Tea industry may be announced immediately.

(xv) Need to repair the road on Gangadhar Railway Crossing on Surat-Dhuliya National Highway No. 6 in Gujarat

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be present when your name is called.

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the bad condition of road on Gangadhar Railway Crossing in Gujarat.

Gangadhar Railway Crossing is on Surat-Dhuliya National Highway No. 6. The condition of the roads on this crossing, which comes under the control of Railway, is very poor. Road is broken and there are huge pits on the road due to that the traffic on this road is always very much disturbed. Traffic jam on this road is a daily routine which causes hindrances in smooth movement of the traffic. The people who use this road are feeling inconvenience due to the bad condition of the road on this section.

Keeping in view the genuine problem of the people, I request the Ministry of Railways to repair this road at the earliest possible to ease the problem faced by the public due to bad condition of this road.

(xvi) Need to take effective steps to provide adequate potable water to Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the drinking water crisis in the NCT of Delhi is continuously getting acute. The Government of the NCT of Delhi supplies water through various resources which also includes the treated ground water supply. But the supply of water gets suddenly disrupted in absence of written agreement with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Government of NCT of Delhi has conducted lab tests of the ground water and found that the level of fluoride in the water in the south, west and rural areas is 20 times the international standard which is not fit for health and is

the main reason of many diseases. Therefore, the ground water would not be termed fit for drinking purposes which is bound to result in shortage of water. Supply of water is a state subject and the Government of NCT of Delhi is making efforts for supply of water but the Government of NCT of Delhi is concerned because of high level of fluoride in ground water. Keeping in view the forthcoming commonwealth and other games and making Delhi a city at par with international standards, effective steps should be taken to tackle the issue of water so that wrong message does not go into the international circle about water crisis in Delhi.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to take a serious view of it and take necessary steps to tackle this problem of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

14.29 hrs.

**UTTARANCHAL (ALTERATION OF NAME)
BILL, 2006**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item No. 15.

We have very limited time. Hence, I would request the hon. Members to be very brief when they make their speeches on this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal, be taken into consideration."

The Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal has adopted a Resolution on 5th October, 2005 that the name of the State of Uttaranchal should be changed to Utharakhand stating *inter alia* that the general public of the State is of the view that on the basis of mythology and history, the name of the State should be Utharakhand. The Government of Uttaranchal also requested the Central Government to take further necessary steps to alter the name of the State. The Government of India decided to

[Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal]

accept the request of the Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal. The Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006 seeks to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal to the State of Uttarakhand by amending the relevant provision of the Constitution and also by providing for consequential provisions.

I commend the Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006 to this august House for consideration and passing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while expressing my due regards and dedication to the sentiment expressed in favour of the word 'Uttarakhand', I'd like to request that the state was given this name of 'Uttaranchal' on the basis of the administrative, historical and geographical status of the state, after a marathon discussion thereon. The word 'Uttaranchal' is made of two words 'Uttara' and 'Anchal'. The word 'Uttara' has been derived from the first part of the word 'Uttara Khand' and the second half of the word i.e. 'Anchal' is derived from the word 'Koormanchal'. Taking a cue from the above, when the legislative process was initiated in the legislative assembly of Uttar Pradesh, the BJP moved resolutions several times because the party remained active in the movement for constitution of the State of Uttaranchal and its demand was based on administrative set-up.

The Resolution on Uttaranchal was first moved in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 2nd July, 1990. But that could not go through. The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly again passed resolution on 12 August, 1991 to this effect as the entire area of Uttaranchal was within the territory of Uttar Pradesh. From there, this Resolution was forwarded to the Union Government, but further action could not be taken thereon. In 1998, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee—led NDA Government was formed, the Draft Bill was forwarded to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly under article 3 of the Constitution. After the discussion on it, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly

recommended that the state should be constituted with the name, Uttaranchal. That Bill got lapsed since the Parliament was dissolved. Thereafter, the Bill regarding constitution of the State of Uttaranchal was again drafted during the tenure of 13th Lok Sabha. It was again forwarded by Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 2000 with the recommendation that it should be named as Uttaranchal. Here, I'd also like to bring to your kind notice one more thing that the Government Draft Bill, 1998 carried the name 'Uttarakhand' by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly did not justify that saying that it should be constituted with the name of 'Uttaranchal'. Lastly, discussions were held in this august House on 9 November, 2000 and the Uttaranchal State Constitution Bill, which was the renewed form of Uttar Pradesh Re-organisation Bill, 2000, was passed by voice vote. Then it got the H.E. President's consent on 25 August, 2000 and accordingly, the State of Uttaranchal came into existence on 9 November, 2000. There was no opposition, no movement against the change of name. Even till date, there has been no Bandh, Dharna or jail bhara activity. The Congress Party during the run up to the election, had promised in its election manifesto that if it comes to power, it will change the name of the State from Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. Taking this commitment as an ego point, though they have given several other commitments such as employment, development, upliftment of the people and social welfare, on the basis of their majority they brought a resolution, but other ones. A Resolution to this effect was passed in the month of October and sent under Article 3, now it has been returned. With regard to the facts presented by me regarding the grounds for giving the name Uttarakhand or Kumaon, I would like to state that it has been mentioned in the object and reasons of the said Bill that the people are on the view that on the basis of Purans and other historical facts the name of the State should be Uttarakhand. My party won three seats to the Parliament in 2004 Lok Sabha elections. They also differ in their opinion with regard to it. If name of the state is changed on the basis of Purans or other historical events, then its authenticity will have to be proved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with due humbleness on my part, I would like to state that prior to 1960, there were eight districts in this area which was known as Kumaon and there used to be a commissioner after this name.

Prior to 1947 it was known as the Province of Kumaon during British era and later on it was made Kumaon Commissionery. In 1949 when Tehri was merged into India, it was brought under Kumaon-Commissionery. First change took place in 1960. If we look back to history, we learn that in 1960, this information was with the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)* Some justice should be done with us. What is the logic behind the change of name? The present name was not given to the state without any logical grounds. It is a very serious issue because the name of a state carved out through an Act of Parliament has not been changed by this very Parliament. If I am told about it I will correct myself...*(Interruptions)* The Parliament has not committed any mistake. The Members of all political parties were present in the House. If any gross mistake has taken place, it should be set right. It is a right of the Parliament, especially so on the basis of number of seats.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was referring to 1960. In 1960 when disturbance from Chinese side was suspected, three new districts namely—Chamoli, Uttarakashi and Pithoragarh were carved out. Northern part of Uttaranchal touches Tibet and China. These three districts are on Chinese border. A new division for these three districts, namely Uttarakhand division was formed. This way two divisions came into existence, namely Uttarakhand Division and Kumaon Division. The lower areas, just belows now clad area, became Kumaon Division and Uppar one Uttarkhand Division. The law enacted in Uttar Pradesh at that time, included land reform laws which are in vogue today. I will make a mention of them. After formation of these three districts and Uttarkhand Division, land reform law was enacted by the UP Assembly which is applicable even today.

Sir, the Government of Uttaranchal has adopted it and it has not been changed by Uttaranchal Assembly. The name of the said Act is—

[English]

"This Act may be called the Kumaon and Uttarakhand Jamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1960. It extends to the whole of Kumaon and Uttaranchal Division."

[Translation]

I won't go into its details.

Thus they framed the rule, "The Uttarakhand and Kumaon Land Revenue Settlement Rules, 1960. Dozens of Bills were passed in this manner. Two names, 'Uttarakhand' and 'Kumaon' have often appeared in them. I would like to quote from official site of Parliament, which reads—*[English]* "The name of socio-cultural region of Kumaon is believed to have been derived from "Kurmanchal" meaning land of the Kurma Avtar, the tortoise incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the preserver of Hindu trinity."

[Translation]

means Kumaon and Kurmanchal words are same and thus we coined the present name Uttaranchal by mixing these two words. As I have stated earlier, we took 'Uttara' from Uttarakhand and 'Anchal' from 'Kurmanchal'. With due regards for word 'Uttarakhand' I would like to say that by adopting Uttarakhand and leaving Kurmanchal and Kumaon is not going to solve any purpose and it has nowhere been mentioned in objects and reasons of the said Bill.

Sir, I may recall, a movement was launched for statehood in 1994 which resulted in Rampur Tiraha episode on 1-2 October, 1994. Even today we feel sad because many persons lost their lives in that incident. Police opened fire and later the police action was condemned. Afterwards, under my leadership, I got assurance on 7-12-1994 that if one party comes to power, we will form a new State. Since 7 December, 1994 till date there has not been any kind of agitation for statehood and nor any kind of dispute arose with regard to name of the State. People used both names, viz, Uttarakhand and Uttaranchal. Both words carry same meaning. Why the government want to create fresh dispute by bringing this kind of amendment? I think it is not right. If the Government is prejudiced to bring it, then it is unfortunate.

Sir, it is not that people tried to create some kind of misunderstanding after the movement of 1994. The movement for separate statehood was launched which has mass support. Our General B.C. Khanduri who was President of Pradesh Sanghrash Samiti went to jail. Bajra]

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Pasi also went to jail. Thousands of people went to jail which strengthened the movement and finally the state was created.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as it involves historical facts and I will have to mention them so I would take some more time. Pre-1790 history is different. The area was ruled by different dynasties such as Chandravansh, Palvansh, Katthurivansh and Shahvansh etc. and the entire area was never under the rule of any mughal emperor. So this area was never known by any particular name. Kumaon was ruled by Chandravanshis and Tehri by Tehri Naresh. Thus these were known by two different names. In 1790 Gorkhas attacked it and set up their rule. It was under the Britishers from 1815-1947. Till 1960, one part was known as the Province of Tehri and the other one Kumaon Commissionery. If the amendment is similar to that of Puducherry where the name given by the Britishers is changed by Parliament, I welcome it. The name of Madras in Tamil Nadu was given by Britishers which has been changed, I welcome it. If there is any other place named by English, which is not compatible with local language and hurts the sentiments of the people, then amendment should be brought in it. As Ram Gopalji has said that the error should be rectified and should be rectified without fail. But it would not be appropriate to change the name of the any state that has been decided by this Parliament. There is a reference of Purana in it, and the history I have already told you. Now I am here with Purana. It is in the Skandh Purana where there is reference of this region. In it nowhere it has been mentioned that this area is Uttarakhand. I am not going in detail to what has been said in objects and reasons of it because it is a very lengthy story. It includes Nagar Khand, Kashi Khand, Manas Khand and Kedar Khand, there is a Kedarnath Temple described in Kedarkhand. Mansarovar described in Manas Khand in my area, there is a mention of Nagar Khand but there is no mention of Uttarakhand. Therefore to say that it has been done on the basis of Purana is totally incorrect.

While performing some rituals the followers of the Hindu Religion taking a resolve say 'Aryavarte, Jambudipe, Bharat Khande, Uttarakhande', it is not correct. The correct version is 'Aryavarte Jammudwipe, Bharatkhande, Himvant Pradeshe. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): No-No, there is Uttarakhande. Whatever you said earlier, is correct. We read it daily...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA': You read it daily but we are reading Himuant Pradeshe. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Whatever you said earlier that is correct. I reside in Prayag, the Brahmins there say Uttarakhande....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA': The first 'Uttarakhande' is used for four Dhamas....(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Yadav ji, here the mention of Uttarakhand means Himalaya Parvata, it does not includes Kurmanchal....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA': These four Dhamas are Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badri and Kedara. In these Shiva is in Uttarakhand, this is a different subject but Kurmavtar is in Kumanchal, therefore from very beginning we are saying that whatever name you adopt after keeping in view both the area Uttarakhand and Kurmanchal it would be Uttaranchal. But in Uttrakhand the sense of Kurmanchal is excluded but there should be a reflection of Kurmanchal. This is my request.

At last, I request that there is no mention of expenditure expected to be incurred on it. For this there is no financial memorandum in it. But an expenditure of billions of rupees is to be incurred on printing of stationery used in Government offices, in public undertakings, in business works, in educational institutions, and also on Government and private hoardings on transaction of banking accounts, on maps, on revenue records etc. but no financial memorandum has been included in it and the Government of Uttaranchal has nothing to do with this extravagance.

But the main question is employment, the main question is development. Neither the Government of Uttaranchal have paid any attention to it nor the Union Government have issued any direction in this regard. The election is to be held in near future. Only for electoral benefit the matter of changing name has been raised,

which we can not support even if we are willing to do. Even if we support, the public would reply it.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA'(Nainital): Deputy Speaker, Sir, you allowed me to speak in brief on the bill pertaining to alternative name of Uttaranchal. I extend my thanks for this.

The movement for Uttarakhand is not any new one, it is a very old movement. Even at the time of Independence of the country in 1947 there was demand for Uttarakhand. The demand for Uttarakhand even at that time was raised on the name of Uttarakhand and in early days of this movement our comrade was P.C.Joshi who belonged to Kumaun. He raised this demand on the name of Uttarakhand. After that movement was started, many a times this bill was presented in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. By chance at that time I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. Our this demand and the movement started at that time. Irrespective of party affiliation to BJP or others, all fighting with us called this movement Uttarakhand. Even the persons opposing this, opposing the formation of Uttarakhand, naming it Uttarakhand said we will not let Uttarakhand to be formed. In contrary to it we used to say that we will form Uttarakhand. The movements were started in the name of Uttarkhand.

I want to say that this is not a prestige issue of Congress Party. We have to give it the name of Uttarakhand. This was the public demand. The persons were shot in Rampur Tiraha incident, the persons were shot at Khatima in Udham Singh Nagar. At the time, when this movement was going on only the voice of Uttarakhand, not of Uttaranchal was heard. I want to tell you, we had no prestige issue. It was the voice of people, it was a demand of public and due to this voice this was included in the manifesto of our party. And on coming in power in Uttaranchal, our party, to fulfil its promise, to raise the voice of public and to give respect to public, have got this bill introduced after passing it in the Legislative Assembly. I am very happy and I am very thankful to the hon'ble Minister that he has introduced this bill in the House. The name of this state should be Uttarakhand, not Uttaranchal. This is voice of all the people of Uttarakhand and we have to respect it. I am very happy that the Congress Party has fulfilled its promise.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise not to oppose the Bill, but I fail to understand the logic behind this Bill.

Now, during the last Session we have passed a Bill like this. The erstwhile State of Pondicherry was converted into Puducherry State. There also I was unable to understand the logic behind it.

Now, as you all know, the Uttaranchal State came into existence in 2000 by the Uttar Pradesh State Reorganisation Act. It is only six years since then. Now, the change of name is being done on the basis of mythology and history. Significantly, the word 'political' is missing. Now, during these six years what is the historical and mythological change that has taken place? I can understand if you had used the word 'political'. Then, it is all right...(Interruptions) It was not used.

Now, last time we had passed a Bill converting Pondicherry into Puducherry State. You all know as to what is the reality. We are still maintaining practices of colonial rule in India.

I come from the State of Kerala. There is a place called Mayyazhi in Kerala State facing the Arabian Sea. The Pondicherry is on the Southern side facing Bay of Bengal. There is nothing between them. Geographically, historically and politically there is nothing common between these two States. The Mayyazhi a village in Kerala State, is ruled in Pondicherry.

What is the basis for this? I do not understand the logic behind it. The people of Mayyazhi who are part of the present Union Territory of Puducherry have nothing in common with Puducherry. The language is different, the geographical condition is different and these two areas are two areas are two oceans apart. Now, for the simple reason that this particular village Mayazhi or the place called Mahe happened to be ruled by the French people, why should it be retained with Puducherry? What is the logic? I would say even Puducherry is not necessary because it is in Tamil Nadu. Why should it be retained as a separate Union Territory? It ought to have been merged with the State of Tamil Nadu. What prevents the Government to bring a new legislation for merging Puducherry with Tamil Nadu? That is one thing.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Now, take the case of Goa, Daman and Diu. Why are they retained separately? The Portugese do not exist there now....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please come to Uttaranchal now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am coming to Uttarakhand. Now, the position is, the Uttaranchal Assembly has passed a Resolution and on that basis this legislation has come.

Sir, as far as West Bengal is concerned, why should it be called West Bengal? There is no East Bengal now. East Bengal has gone into the past. They are a separate, independent nation with a new name Bangladesh. So, why should we retain the name of West Bengal even now? The West Bengal Assembly had also passed a Resolution for changing their name as Bangla. What happened to that Resolution? Is there any double standard or discrimination? If the Resolution passed by the Assembly of a particular State is the criteria for changing the name of a State, then you will have to follow the Resolution passed by the West Bengal Assembly for converting that State's name into Bangla. There is no meaning in retaining the name of West Bengal because there is no East Bengal now, but still it is being retained. That is why I am saying there is no logic behind it. You change the name of West Bengal as Bangla. I can understand that because East Bengal has become an independent nation now with a new name Bangladesh. But still the name of West Bengal is retained. So, there is no logic behind this.

In the case of Uttaranchal, six years ago, in 2000 this name Uttarakhand was available. At that time, the name of Uttaranchal was given. Now, after six years we are discussing the legislation to change the name of Uttaranchal into Uttarakhand. What is the logic? Has any historical development taken place? Has any mythology come into existence within this period of six years? The Uttar Pradesh State Reorganisation Act was passed in 2000 with the intention of creating a new State Uttaranchal. Now, after the lapse of six years the Government of India is coming before this House with this legislation saying that historically and mythologically the name will have to be changed. This is ridiculous. In these six years, what

happened to history? What happened to mythology? We were the very same persons who passed that Bill in 2000 giving the name of Uttaranchal to the new State. Now we are asked to pass another Bill to give a new name Uttarakhand to that State. That is why, at the outset I said that significantly the word 'political' is missing from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill. So, I request the Government to please come up with some principal.

I can understand Mahe being merged with Kerala, Puducherry being merged with Tamil Nadu and Goa and other smaller States near Maharashtra being merged with Maharashtra due to their geographical vicinity. For political reasons, please do not come before this House for changing the name of a State. This is very objectionable and it cannot be justified. Having said that, I am not opposing this Bill.

15.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when there were talks about doing justice with the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh, i.e., when talks were being held to carve out a separate hill state out of Uttar Pradesh, the proposed name for the newly born state was Uttarakhand and not Uttaranchal. Now the Members of BJP and Congress are involved in a technical debate. Our friends in Congress had no other option because they had promised this in their election manifesto as they had committed that they would change the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. Therefore, now they have to fulfill their responsibility. Just now Shri Bachi Singh Rawat ji presented some historic references here. But six years back when these three states namely Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were formed, both these parties were in such a hurry that the name did not matter to them at all and their only concern was to carve out the three new States as soon as possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the movement for new state, namely, Uttarakhand was started an hon. Member, Shri Kashi Singh Aren from Uttar Pradesh Assembly was heading an organization called Uttarkhand Kranti Dal. I understand that this organisation played a major role in the movement for the said state. Now, lets talk about the question of name. I believe it has no meaning at all. When

justice was done to people of hilly area and when there was a demand to make a separate state for them, at that time, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was the Chief Minister of the State for the second time and Shri Rama Shankar Kaushik ji was a Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Mulayam Singh ji had constituted a Committee under his chairmanship. Shri Rama Shankar Kaushik ji had submitted the committee report to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav on the 5th April, 1994, after carefully studying and evaluating the social, geographical and economic conditions of that area. The committee report was presented to both the Houses of the Uttar Pradesh legislature. Both the Houses passed the proposal of the committee for formation of the State, with the name of Uttarakhand. It was also resolved that Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar should be kept with Uttar Pradesh. At that point of time only Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji had given this idea. The people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar wanted to remain with Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji was a Member of the House at the time when these three states, particularly Uttaranchal were being created in this august House. Both, I and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav ji had opposed this strongly and that inclusion of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar in the new State of Uttaranchal would be against the will of the people of those places....(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': Udham Singh Nagar is a part of Uttaranchal. It was so earlier also and now also. The people of Udham Singh Nagar have never raised any objection in this regard....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you please ask them to sit down. I do not know where from they have come...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Baba ji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Ramji Lal Suman will be recorded and nothing else.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was requesting that the people of Haridwar. ... (Interruptions) Both of you must convince him. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh ji, no partition is taking place. Here we are discussing only their names.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what is this going on? From where name of Haridwar has cropped up in this discussion? Here we are talking about name....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I was submitting that the people of Haridwar had a desire that Haridwar should remain with Uttar Pradesh only. Thousands of people went to jail for this cause....(Interruptions)

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it should not go on record otherwise we will also start replying as to what happened in Muzaffarnagar kand....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: What are you saying? ... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also need time to reply to all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Khanduri Saheb, you please sit down. You may speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, hon'ble Member Shri Bachi Singh Rawat ji of Bhartiya Janta Party hail from that area. He has made his point, now I would like to request him to let me speak, it is not right to create unnecessary interruptions.

Sir, I was requesting that Haridwar should remain with Uttar Pradesh only as the people of Uttar Pradesh also desired the same. On the question that Haridwar should remain with Uttar Pradesh, a movement was launched, thousands of people went to jail and one farmer namely Raghubeer lost his life in Maglor, Gudmandi. Our National executive committee meeting was held in Haridwar, here people met in a large number and desired that it would be injustice to them if Haridwar was to become a part of Uttaranchal. The reservation for backward classes as well as Scheduled Castes has been curtailed there. These people feel like strangers even after staying in the same state. There cannot be anything more important than this. Rajendra Kumar ji is a Member of Lok Sabha from Haridwar, from our party. This was the only issue of our party as well as a public referendum when Samajwadi party fought elections for Lok Sabha. We asked people that we are in favour of retaining Haridwar with Uttar Pradesh. We solicited public votes on this issue only and people of Haridwar elected Shri Rajendra Kumar as a Member of Lok Sabha. I would like to urge that the Samajwadi party had registered its protest when this separate state was being created and I would like to request hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that keeping in view the feelings of people of Haridwar, it must be allowed to remain with Uttar Pradesh only.

We have been in favour of the name Uttarakhand right from the very beginning when these two parties come together in the House, although, we believe that they are

one, then they could easily do all that which should not happen here. These parties were together at the time of division of States. They were not in a hurry for name. Samajwadi party had given the name Uttarakhand and that party is headed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, and when Mulayam Singh Yadav ji's party was in power in Uttar Pradesh, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had recommended the name Uttarakhand and had also passed a resolution in the Assembly in this regard. Therefore, I would strongly like to appeal that keeping in view the feelings of the people, the Government must let Haridwar remain with Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006.

At the outset, I congratulate the UPA Government for bringing about this Bill. Firstly, the Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal has passed a resolution for the change of name. It is the duty of the Central Government to accept the resolution of the State Assembly and honour the aspirations of the people of the State. In a federal structure, the Centre has to come out to maintain the federal structure by accepting the resolution and bringing about this Bill for the change of the name.

The name 'Uttarakhand' is very popular in history as well as in mythology. We have studied in history the names of Bundelkhand, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. In Tamil epic *Kambaramayanam*, Uttarakhandam is very often pronounced. Therefore, Uttarakhand is not only mythological but also historical. It is a historical name that has been brought out once again.

Sir, it is not the alteration of the name. I would like to say that it is the reversion of the old name into the present day. But, Sir, by accepting this one, the Central Government has maintained the federal structure and honoured the sentiments and aspirations of the people of Uttarakhand.

Shri Radhakrishnan ji is saying that mythology is not very important. I would like to say that mythology plays a very important part in the history of our great nation. Without history and mythology, we cannot have the human

history of this country. In mythology only, we come across Adam and Eve; we come across Parvathi and Paramasivam. From these historical characters, we derive the theory of creation.

Science has formulated the theory of evolution, and mythology has given the theory of creation. A long struggle is going on in this world between the theory of creation and the theory of evolution. The theory of creation is the creation of mythology. We are all human beings and have been derived from the theory of creation. Without mythology, we cannot find life in the history of this world and in the history of human history. Therefore, to say mythology is not very important is not acceptable.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, when the Re-organisation of States Committee was formed in 1957, Tamil Nadu was not the name given at that time, and it was Madras Presidency. During the tenure of Arignar Anna, it was changed to Tamil Nadu only after some time. Similar, when this Uttar Pradesh Re-organisation Committee was formed, it was known as Uttaranchal. Now, out of necessity and out of mythological character being brought into light, that name is changed into Uttarakhand. Therefore, I appreciate the Central Government for bringing this Bill, and I wish the Uttarakhand people to lead a happy and long life.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing this change of name Bill for one hour and fifteen minutes. My colleague Shri Bachi Singh ji has very nicely presented our point that why the name Uttaranchal was chosen. In this Bill objectives and reasons for change of name are given. Three reasons are given in it and he has negated these reasons with his arguments. It is written in it that it is opinion of common man. What is the opinion of common man I will explain that later. Our colleague has told about the common man's opinion when the name "Uttaranchal" was given.

Here we discussed Purans and History, which I would not like to repeat. I agree with my colleague Shri Mohidin that Purans and History have their own role. But it is very bad to distort it and put it in a wrong way. We are misusing the name of Purans and History. It is not appropriate to use them just for deciding names.

Hon. Minister has also given reference of History. The present name Uttaranchal is given jointly to Garhwal and Kumaon. Previously this region was known as Purvanchal and Uttarakhand. But I do not want to discuss that.

I want to draw the attention of the House to some points different from those which were taken up here. One of the issues raised was that of timing. Our previous speaker Shri Radhakrishnan had said that what is the reason for introducing this Bill at this particular time. Right now he is not present in the House. But he would certainly be listening to our discussion. The basic reason to present this Bill is the same as he had been telling; it is a 'political' reason. They have said that it is the demand of the people. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the elections were held in the year 2002. Just now it has been told that it was formed on 9th November, 2002. The elections were held in February and the State Government was formed on 16th March. This Government has brought a long manifesto. Congress people are expert in making big announcements but they never fulfill them after elections. Hon. Minister I would like to draw your attention to this. The first thing that is written in it is "Changing the name of the new State from Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand honouring the feeling of the people". It is of February 2002 and you have become conscious only in 2006. Why are you awaking now? It was submitted to you on 5th October, 2005 but at that time you did not ask for votes. Now you need people's vote. Give a picture of common men, they are poor and in rags....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Goyalji, please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Maj. Gen. Khanduri.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Goyal, interruptions by you is a common thing, you always

*Not recorded.

[Ma]. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

interrupt. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister and the House that if the feelings are there for the name to be as Uttarakhand then do it, but people have supported the name of Uttaranchal. You make it Uttarakhand. You asked for people's vote in 2002 in the name of Uttarakhand but for four years you go into hibernation. Hon. Radhakrishnanji is sitting. [*English*] Mr. Radhakrishnan, you wanted to know the reason. The reason is that in February next year; you are again going to have elections there. [*Translation*] How far will you go to defame politics, play with people's feelings, misguide them and forget. May be, that is your compulsion. You have been playing with the feelings of the people. That is a bad thing, a dirty action. You should concentrate on development works.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): He only has the knowledge of what is good and what is bad.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI: If I have said something wrong then I sit down, you say your point. It is a fact that the state Government did not send the proposal from 2002 to October, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Do not put an allegation of four years. Blame us for two years only. When did it come to Central Government?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Manifesto was written in January 2002.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: When was our Government formed in Centre?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: On 16th May 2004.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: It is common for such a long procedure to take two years of time.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: The State Government did not send the proposal from 16th March 2002 to October, 2005. You have also been here since 16th May 2004. You could also have given orders previously. When only two months are there for elections to be held then they become very active to get the Bill passed. Within one months the Bill gets passed in the

State and is sent to the Centre. It is not acceptable thing. Your intention is not good. You are not changing the name because you want to do it for the sake of principle, rather, you are changing it to play with the sentiments of some hilly natives to grasp a few votes. But you would not get votes. Common man is now aware of such tactics and he would not be taken in by your words.

Second thing is that it has been said that it is the wish of people that the issue of change of name has been raised. I want to submit some data in this regard.

Hon. Sumanji has said that they won in Haridwar. When Uttaranchal was in Uttar Pradesh, there were 19 legislative assembly constituencies in our region. During this movement, elections were held there twice. With the same name 'Uttaranchal' we got 15 seats out of 19 seats and in the next elections we got 17 seats out of 19 seats. Probably no party got such support in any State. We contested in the name of 'Uttaranchal' and came here winning 17 seats out of 19 seats. In 1991, Lok Sabha elections were held and I came here for the first time. We got all the five Lok Sabha seats with that name only. Where is your public support? Since people do not like the name 'Uttaranchal' then on the basis of facts it is incorrect. People have extended their support to us in the name of 'Uttaranchal'. You are in power. You change the name as you have power and number but do not give that excuse. Even today 3 out of 5 Members of Parliament are present here. It is not so that people are unhappy with the name 'Uttaranchal' and do not want to see us. Congress people have nothing to do with the name 'Uttaranchal' or 'Uttarakhand'. They strongly opposed it previously and always did that only since the inception of that movement. I got into this movement in 1991 though I had been watching it since 1980s. At that time Congress supported Mulayam Singh ji's Government was in Uttar Pradesh. Had you taken your support back even for a single day, the Government would have been collapsed. We had been subject to atrocities since 1994. That would be the most shameful incident not only in the history of the country but also that of the world that women had been treated tyrannically during a peaceful movement. Not only they open fired at them but also raped them. What did the Congress Government do at that time? On the same day, we went to the hon'ble Prime Minister alongwith senior leaders and apprised him of the extent of atrocities being

committed against them. Women had been physically assaulted openly and no action was taken. Now they claim to be the great champion of the interests of the people of Uttaranchal then why they create Uttaranchal at that time?

One of our colleagues has said that whenever any proposal comes from a State, the Centre approve it. Uttar Pradesh had sent the proposal two times. Why did not they accept the same between 1991-96? This was because they did not want to do that. How Uttaranchal Government is functioning is an another issue and our another colleague would talk about that. It is unfortunate on the part of Uttaranchal that the same Government is in power at present which had opposed that proposal. They do not want to develop the State. They had said that it is unviable to create Uttaranchal. The Congress wanted that it does not become a reality that is why all out efforts are being made to fail it. The Chief Minister of Uttaranchal is a senior leader. It personally respect him very much. He had said once that Uttaranchal will be formed over my dead body. What will happen to that State whose Chief Minister makes such type of remarks. Therefore, they do not want to carry out any development work there. They can do anything as they have got more members than we do. We have no objection over Uttarakhand. A massive rally was organized after the incident of Muzaffarnagar on November 7. Atalji and Advani held public meeting at that time...*(Interruptions)* They said that we want a separate State and it should be developed. We are not insisting about the names. We want development. Bachi Singh ji told why do we want it to be named as Uttaranchal? We want to form Uttaranchal comprising of Kumaon and Garhwal. They have mentioned Puranas which is not correct. Those who talk about historical aspects are also not right. They do not want to know the public opinion. There is nothing right in objects and reasons. Even than if they want to name it as Uttarakhand, then go ahead. We have no objection over Uttaranchal or Uttarakhand.

An another point was referred to. I would not like to go into it. Sumanji is my senior colleague. He has raised the issue of Haridwar. He should not have raised this issue. I would like to remind him about the election held in 2002. According to him, the movement of Haridwar was at its peak at that time and all were against the inclusion of Haridwar in Uttaranchal. How much seats have they won in Haridwar?...*(Interruptions)* They did not get

even a single seat...*(Interruptions)* Even today out of 5 members, 3 members are sitting this side and only one member is sitting opposite side....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded. Only the speech of Shri Khanduri is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I leave this matter to the House to decide. The issue to include Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar in Uttaranchal was at its peak and at that time, the Samajwadi party did not get even a single seat out of 70.

In the end, I urge upon the hon'ble Home Minister to take a decision but do not do so by playing with the sentiments of the people because, at last, you have to bear the burnt of it.

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I rise to support the Bill to change the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Deputy-Speaker, Sir, take care of the members who have given notice at 8 a.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will take care of that but on behalf of your party, Ramji Lal Surman has spoken and he has taken more time that was allotted to him.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Francis Fanthome, please continue your speech.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to him. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have to got of man for excess grants (Railways) discussed also. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Sir, I am standing here to speak in support of the change of name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand.

I would like to draw the attention of Shri Khanduri and Shri Rawat to the fact that during the 1960s, there was an extremely important person in the State of Uttarakhand, who was leading this movement in the State of Uttarakhand. The person that I am referring to is a person who was later known as the Gandhi of Uttarakhand. He is Shri Indramani Badoni, and I would like to quote what he said just before he died:

"The people of Uttarkhand must not feel defeated, and keep on the flag of their cause flying high till they achieve their goal."

Shri Badoni, in the State of Uttarkhand, is what Mahatma Gandhi is to the nation. He had one vision in his life, from 1960 to 1999, and that is to see that the State of Uttarakhand is created. The aspirations of the people were with him, and this aspiration was eventually manifested in the resolution that we are now referring to in terms of the resolution of the Legislative Assembly adopted on 5 October 2005. It is the desire of the people that their State is called in terms of how the State is referred to; in terms of their culture; in terms of their scripture; in terms of their identity; in terms of how they relate to their land and that is, in terms of Uttarakhand. Uttaranchal was a nomenclature that was coined much later in terms of diverting the agitation to a different aspiration. It is a

political domain, and I would not like to comment on it at this stage.

I would also like to mention with regard to this conversation that if we call it Uttarakhand, then the aspirations of the Kumaon region perhaps would not be adequately reflected. I would like to very humbly submit that the agitation for the creation of Uttarakhand was a movement of the people in the entire State Garhwal Himalayas as well as in the Kumaon Himalayas.

There was never a conversation that these are two different people. Unfortunately, we are now witnessing perhaps a divide on this issue.

[Translation]

A new process is taking place with the contradictory remarks on the issue. I would like to make a humble submission that the people of Uttarakhand are united and their aspirations are the same and they want that Uttarakhand should be formed.

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill to alter the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. I extend my support to this Bill for the alteration of name as Uttarakhand from Uttaranchal. The long struggle of the people of Uttarakhand has been heard and their aspirations are sought to be fulfilled now. A corrective measure has been resorted to and a rectification by way of restoring the name Uttarakhand has been taken up to undo what was there for the past few years now. The dreams of the people living in that region has been accomplished. We may not be able to ensure prosperity and development by way of merely altering the name of the State. A mere change of name cannot usher in prosperity. A change of name is just an aspect. Uttarakhand region has got fertile soil in the hilly terrains. Forest wealth and water resources are there in abundance. Poverty conditions and lack of adequate health facilities affect the lives of the people living in that region that has got rich mineral wealth. Educational facilities are also not there properly. At the same time this region has got a rich potential to create tourist centres and spots that can draw the international tourists towards it. Centre may allocate enough funds to

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

create tourist centres with a facelift. This can help the people there to give a boost to the economy. Uttarakhand has also got a vast potential with untapped water resources that can augment hydel power projects. That young State has got water resources, a fertile soil and also manpower. But still the living conditions of the people there needs to be improved and their living standards and quality of life has to be enhanced. The greenary and the climatic conditions there are ideal for setting up dairy farms with high yielding variety of livestock. With this, milk production can be increased providing gainful job opportunities to people of that hilly region. Only when we provide such facilities the people of that state can really feel proud of accomplishing their dreams. Changing the name of the State shall be meaningful only when they get opportunities to work for the prosperity of the State. Hence, I urge upon our Planning Commission and the Union Government to allocate more funds to the State to remove poverty by way of providing job opportunities, by increasing power production and by tapping natural resources. The effort of the Union Government to go in for the alteration of the name to Uttarakhand shall acquire a meaningful dimension only when they also get funds and direction to improve their lot and the standard of living. Expressing my support to this Bill, let me conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR (Haridwar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my view on this important Bill. I would like to point out to the Government, through you, that thousands crores of rupees of hard-earned money of the people is spent on changing the name of a state. But even then, the people do not get any type of benefit. If something at all is needed to be changed in Uttaranchal, it is unemployment to be wiped out and education, food to hungry people, clothes to clothless and rights to the Dalits and other backward people have to be provided.

Sir, when the movement for Uttaranchal begun, the people of hilly areas agitated on the demand of Uttarakhand State and the BJP Government came into power at the Centre and in the State, they named the State as Uttarakhand instead of Uttaranchal. I would like to tell you that at that time the proposal regarding Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar has not been passed by the

Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. The proposal pertaining to the inclusion of Haridwar district in Uttaranchal was passed in the Lok Sabha, since then a movement has been spearheaded by Samajwadi party and one farmer sacrificed his life at Gurmandi in Manglore Town, is referred to by Shri Mohan Singhji. I, therefore, would like to tell you that Congress Government in Centre has decided to change the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. It is totally a political move. I would like to ask the Government about any single benefit likely to be accrued from this exercise. Therefore, I would like to request the Government, through you, that instead of spending hard earned money of the people on changing the name of a state, it should be spent on development of the state and Haridwar district should be included in Uttar Pradesh by ending the discrimination between hilly and plain areas. Shri Khanduriji was telling just now that no legislator of S.P. won from there whereas I reach the Lok Sabha by winning election from that area by the virtue of that movement. I, therefore, urge the Government, through you, that the sentiments of the people of Haridwar should be honoured and it should be included in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The name of Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' may also be associated with him.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, it is a simple legislation. I stand to support the Uttaranchal (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2006. The Legislative Assembly of Uttaranchal has adopted a Resolution to this effect to change the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. But the Statement of Objects and Reasons is not very much convincing taking into account what the hon. Minister stated in the Bill itself. I would say that the Government should take more interest in the development of the State rather than engaging itself in changing the name and other things.

The name of Uttarakhand is very much synonymous to mythological and historical importance with the people of India, we are conversant with one Uttarakhand, that is, in the Ramayana. I do not know whether the Congress Party has taken over the agenda of the BJP and thereby changing the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand. I want to know about this from the Congress Party. We do not

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

mind that they have already taken over the agenda of the BJP Party.

It seems that the Government is not very much serious in the development of the State rather they are very much interested in the gimmickry because elections would be held in the State. Elections are fast approaching in Uttaranchal. Just to convince the people and just to do something, the Government is acting in this manner. Anyway, this is a simple legislation and the Assembly has adopted the Resolution to change the name. Hence, we are extending the support.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has considered the proposal of Uttaranchal Assembly regarding changing the name of Uttaranchal to Uttarakhand very seriously and has decided that keeping in view the sentiments of the people of Uttaranchal the name of this state should be changed as Uttarakhand from Uttaranchal. Our Government was agree with this view and we had sent that proposal to the His Excellency the President. His Excellency the President had sent that proposal to the Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly with his approval that it should be sent to him by passing a resolution. He had fixed a time limit in this regard. Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly has now sent a passed resolution and Union Government wish to materialise it. Keeping in view the emotions of the people of Uttaranchal we hereby materialise the proposal of changing the name of Uttaranchal State to Uttarakhand.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want to reiterate those things said by various hon'ble Members. I do not want to go in what is there in the Puranas and Ramayan. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat ji has mentioned about Purana and has tried to make his point. It is a matter of pleasure for me that hon'ble Members from south have shown keen interest in this discussion and have given their reason by mentioning the Puranas that name of Uttaranchal State should be Uttarakhand. There is no need to go into the details in the Puranas and Ramayana because hon'ble Members from south despite living thousand kilometer

away from here respect the feelings of the people of north in the same manner as the hon'ble Members from north do....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You have said it in your statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Whether it has been written in the Puranas or the Ramayana, emotions of the people are the supreme in the democratic process. Emotions of the people have been reflected in the resolution passed by the Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly. There is no other emotions which can expect such a regard. When this state was not formed, then Uttar Pradesh Assembly had sent this resolution by passing it that the name of is state should be Uttarakhand.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: We all are accepting this name and he is also accepting and you people are also accepting this name. You are saying that your votes will increase. I also say that if you follow me, your votes also will increase.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not think any scope has been left in this debate and no protest has been made. All the political parties have....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my question is whether the Government wish to include Haridwar back in Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, apart from this, any point that has been

raised during this discussion whether it was regarding West Bengal, does not relate to this Bill....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister was mentioning about Uttar Pradesh. I want to let him know that Haridwar was not included when the proposal was received from Uttar Pradesh after being passed. This was raised by B.J.P. and Congress altogether. My question is whether Haridwar is going to be included in Uttar Pradesh?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is not related to the present Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: This is not being discussed at all.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether the Minister has a proposal to include Haridwar in Uttar Pradesh or not?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: The fact remains in that hon'ble Member should reply in yes or no as to whether he is in favour of changing the name as Uttarakhand from Uttaranchal?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I agree with you.

Shri Suman, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Initially we were not in favour but you were in favour....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not disturb him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing except the statement of hon. Member will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: It will not help if you will continue to mention irrelevant things. You are acquainted with the procedure of our Constitution regarding any amendment. There is no need to discuss it in Lok Sabha. You should talk to Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly or Uttaranchal Legislative Assembly in this regard. Only they can pass resolution, whether any area is to be included or any area is to be excluded....*(Interruptions)* There is no need to debate on it here.

I would like to request you that almost all political parties are agree with it. Hence, this Bill may be passed.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, people of Haridwar wish that Haridwar should be retained in Uttar Pradesh. Emotions of the people of Haridwar are being ignored. We walkout from this House against it.

15.46 hrs.

(At this stage Ramjilal Suman and some other hon'ble Members left the House)

[English]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to alter the name of the State of Uttaranchal be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause, 1 the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

* *The motion was adopted.*

15.47 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—
(RAILWAYS)—2004-2005

AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—
(RAILWAYS)—2006-2007

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item Nos. 16 and 17 together.

Motions moved:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 3 to 6, 9 to 11, 14 and 16."

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am here to support the Demands for Excess Grants of Railways for 2004-05 submitted by the Railway Minister.

I hasten to congratulate our Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad and his efficient colleagues for bringing the Railways into profit earning service. The common man is happy with the performance of the UPA Government because fares and freights are not increased nowadays on the other hand so many amenities are being extended to the passengers.

I would like to recall that in the month of October this year Shri R. Velu had met with a road accident. Fortunately, he escaped with some minor injuries. Though he is present in the House, he has not fully recovered. I wish him a speedy recovery. We do hope that he will resume his work with renewed strength and vigour.

I am very much thankful to the Railway Minister for providing a Computerized Reservation Centre for both reserved and un-reserved tickets at Tirumangalam Railway Station which falls in my part of constituency. The turnover of ticketing in that Centre is much encouraging than it was expected. This Reservation Centre is much helpful to *jawans* who reside in large numbers in and around my constituency. I would like to reiterate at this juncture a demand that I have been pressing from 1996-97 onwards to the Railway Minister.

Regarding doubling of the Railway line between Dindigul and Madurai, I would like to say that broad gauge and metre gauge lines are there. The distance between Madurai and Dindigul is 62.5 kilometres and converting the metre gauge into broad gauge will cost only Rs. 96.14 crore. During 2005-06, a sum of Rs. 17.1 crore has been allotted and the balance estimate of Rs. 78.92 crore is pending with the Railway board for sanction. I earnestly request our Railway Minister to allot the total requirement of Rs. 78.92 crore in this ensuring Railway Budget for the year 2007-08 or much earlier. This project is pending for more than 15 years and the completion of this scheme will facilitate the introduction of an additional ten trains between Chennai and Kenyakumari.

Doubling and electrification of Vilupuram and Dindigul line and also Madurai and Tuticorin line are estimated at a cost of Rs. 2700 crore. I learnt that these estimates have been forwarded by the Southern Railway, Chennai to the Railway Board. This Scheme will be the lifeline for Tamil Nadu, if implemented. May I request our hon. Railway Minister to bestow his attention to this most needed scheme

which will promote the economic status of Tamil Nadu and Railways will definitely get very good revenue if this scheme is properly implemented.

Electrification between Trichy and Madurai is a long felt need. Phase-1 should be announced at least in the ensuing Railway Budget. Gauge conversion between Madurai and Manamadurai has been completed and I thank the Railway Board for this. The conversion work between Manamadurai and Rameswaram is yet to be completed. Meanwhile, I would like to request the hon. Minister to introduce an express train between Manamadurai and Chennai via Madurai and Dindigul. It will facilitate the passengers.

There are three railway over-bridges under construction in Madurai City. They are situated at Ellisnagar, Sellur and Koodalnagar. The construction of these three bridges is going on for so many months. I am at a loss to understand why these projects are delayed for a very long time. It is surprising to note that the railway portion of these three bridges alone is pending construction for a long period. Is it due to the negligence of Railway authorities or some one else? I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into this matter personally and see that their construction is completed without any further delay. The people of Madurai and surrounding areas have to take compulsorily circuitous routes which results in delay and sufferings to a great extent.

15.53 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Sir, all the trains which are coming to Madurai should have a stoppage at Koodalnagar Railway Station. Such stoppage will reduce the passenger congestion at Madurai Station to a great extent.

There is a very good potential for the introduction of DEMU train service between Viridunagar and Madurai and Dindigaul for a minimum of five times a day for the benefit of commuters, small vendors and businessmen and other frequent travelers between these cities. If implemented, it will have very good patronage.

Podigai Express in Tamil Nadu is running between Tenkasi and Chennai twice a week. As there is enormous traffic potential and the revenue is encouraging, this train

may be extended as a daily express with a stoppage at Thirumangalam. I would request the hon. Minister to introduce an additional train from Dindigul, the headquarters of my Constituency to Chennai to cater to the needs of those who live in and around Dindigul, Bodi, Palani, Thani, Cumbam, Periakulam and Natham.

As we all know, Kodaikanal is a popular hill station in Tamil Nadu. But if one wants to go to Kodaikanal, he has to get down at Kodai Road Railway Station. As there is no computerized reservation facility at Kodai Road, I would request the hon. Minister to open a Computerized Reservation Centre at Kodai Road which will facilitate the tourists to go to Kodaikanal very easily.

I want to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister three more schemes which need to be implemented in Tamil Nadu. Under gauge conversion, sections like Mayiladuthurai to Karaikudi via Tiruthurai and Agasthiyampalli and Madurai to Bodinayakanoor may be taken up. If these two routes are taken up on priority, it will help the people in and around Trichy and Madurai districts. If Madurai and Bodinayakanoor line may be extended upto Kottayam, it will improve the relations between people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and it will also be helpful to the business community. Under electrification, routes between Tiruchy and Kanyakumari and Maniyachi and Tutucorin should be given priority. Doubling of lines between Villupuram and Tutucorin and Maniyachi and Kanyakumari deserve the attention of the hon. Minister.

I also want to mention some schemes which need allocation of adequate funds. They are (i) Dindigul to Pollachi, Pollachi to Palghat, Pollachi to Coimbatore, (ii) Katpadi to Villupuram, (iii) Thanjavur to Nagore, (iv) Virudhunagar to Manamadurai and (v) Quilon to Tiruchendur. All these five routes are pending with the Railway Ministry for want of funds. Tamil Nadu has been neglected for many years. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to bestow his attention to implement these schemes as early as possible.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister of Railways has presented supplementary

[Dr. Satnarayan Jatiya]

demands for grants for expenditure by the Union Government on Railways for 2006-07 under sub-section 'A' of section 1 of Article 115 of the Constitution for consideration and passing in the Parliament i.e. Lok Sabha and its approval have been obtained from hon. President under the provisions of Constitution. The Railways requires Rs. 568 crores and 50 thousand and out of which Rs. 300 crores and 20 thousand for Capital Fund, Rs. 268 crores and 15 thousand for Railway Fund and Rs. 15 thousand for security fund. This way this House is to approve Rs. 568 crores and 50 thousand for Railways. We are bound by the constitutional obligation to approve of these demands. However, the Railways has to pay special attention to improve the quality offered by them for the convenience of people. The Railways have definitely taken certain initiatives. There is a need to provide relief for the rural people specially for short distance journey by train.

Hon. Minister have converted the passenger trains into superfast trains with great skill and deftness. If this all is happening, there is rise in the fare of trains. There is bound to fare hike if a passenger train is converted into Mail or Express train. The passenger remains unaware about the change of status of trains from passenger to fast trains and fast trains to superfast train. A person waiting on the platform remains unaware about the passing of a superfast train. People need railway services not only to connect villages to cities but also from one city to another city. This should not only confine to neat and clean coaches but other facilities should also be available for rural folks. Whatever facilities are available to the urban passengers, should also be extended to the rural passengers.

16.00 hrs.

There are certain small stations where the platforms are quite low for getting down from certain bogies of the trains which cause a lot of inconvenience for the ladies and children from getting down. It is always dangerous to board and get down from such trains which halt for a short duration. So adequate measures need to be taken for raising the height of the platform at whatever places they exist. Proper lighting facilities are not available at small railway stations. It causes a lot of problems for the passengers. At railway station, the main platform is properly made but the opposite side of it i.e. what is called

down platform or up platform, is not properly made and thereby not safe. Keeping this in view, necessary measures need to be taken. If we make comparative study we find that the report regarding transport and communication which is given at chapter nine of the report, deals with the areas under Tenth Five Year Plan includes expansion through modernization and technical upgradation, improvement in quality of service, the tariffs need to be rationalized as it is commensurate, with services and safety of Railways. As you have said that the Railways have achieved its target in terms of transportation of goods in the first three years of the Tenth Plan. However, the pace of modernization is yet to be accelerated and tariff need to be rationalized. I am not saying but the report says so. It is also stated in the report that the Government have fared nicely so far as rationalization of tariff is concerned but as far as the works relating to modernization is concerned, we are lagging behind.

If we compare the Railways with our nearest country China, in regard to its population and geographical areas, we find that the Indian Railways was ahead of the Chinese Railways in the early years of 1990 with regard to total length of rail lines and route kms/square kms. During 1992-2002 the Chinese Railway expanded 13,797 kms in terms of route kms 24 per cent of doubling of railways i.e. 9400 kms and electrification of 8975 km long route. This has been achieved by China in ten years i.e. from 1992 to 2002. During the same period, Indian Railways laid only 682 km of route kilometre i.e. only one per cent, 1519 kms long doubling of rail lines and electrification of 5192 km long route. If we compare Indian Railways to that of Chinese Railways, we find that they are far ahead of India with regard to expansion, modernization, transportation of goods and expenditure on these works. Even in the freight segment, the Chinese have catered four times more freight during the same period.

Similarly, average passenger tariff charges are 55 per cent lesser. In India average freight tariff is 66 per cent more as compared to China. Keeping all these things in mind if we compare ourselves with China, it seems that there are so many fields where we have to excel and we have to reschedule our targets in order to meet them. There are certain important aspects in National Rail Development Plan 2002-2007. In that, three aspects have been given attention viz. Golden Quadrilateral and

strengthening of rail line meeting diagonally, strengthening of port rail lines and development of multi-system corridor. There is a lot need to be done with regard to doubling or rail line leaving aside four major bridges i.e. Bogibol rail and road bridge across the Brahmaputra river, rail and road bridge across the Ganges in Munger and Patna Ganga bridge and a bridge across the Kosi river. It seems that we have a target of 1911 km and we have been able to complete the works of 1940 km by the time of presenting this report. We had to complete a gauge conversion of 552 km and electrification of 1946 kilometer long route. Ten thousand kilometer long rail lines was to be strengthened, the speed of goods trains was to be increased to 100 kms per hour, the pace of these works need to be accelerated. We will have to achieve these if we want to make our railways modern and have to be in competition with the world. The target set for Tenth Five Year Plan with regard to technical upgradation and modernization must be achieved. The Government should have been given more impetus on technical upgradation and modernization of Railways to fulfill these objectives. The Railways have chalked out a modernization plan for 2005-10. Which includes technological upgradation, increasing the speed of trains and enhancing the efficiency through dedicated freight corridor scheme. It is the right time to say about these. We can not achieve the set target with slow pace. To achieve the targets of these schemes a security plan have been chalked out for the coming ten years i.e. 2003-13. It includes reduction in the rate of per million-train kilometer, further implementation of measures for saving the lives of the passengers in the event of train accidents, conducive atmosphere at the place of working, developmental schemes for the welfare of public imparting training to minimize the train accidents occurring due to human error and to instill safety concept in order to unkeep maintenance depot, work place and at stations are important aspects to be done. These things should not be confined to papers but thoroughly implemented in black and white. We have to take all measures to achieve our target in order to ensure safety and security in the trains. It seems that we necessarily need to work in all the areas until we don't achieve all the targets.

As far as matter of security in the trains is concerned, we find that there are no arrangements of security in the passenger trains. I am trying to explain the difficulties being faced by the common man while travelling with

luggage and it is really very tough to travel in the night with the children and women. There are certain sections where security arrangements need to be strengthened. These are the areas where criminal activities take place like loss of baggage, haressment to women. One shouldn't ignore passenger trains, keeping in view the security of women and to make travel by trains safe and we should go all out to save their life and property. We do say that we have made arrangements of medical treatment in the trains and we want proper arrangements in long distance trains so that people will be able to get assistance in emergency or such other exigencies. Such arrangements needs to be ensured. As stoppage of the trains doesn't come before three-four hours and if any such problem occurs then we need to take measures to remedy the situation. It seems that high-level staff is just for namesake, we need to extract work from them. We are not aware of their duties. If there is any accident somewhere, they reach at the spot unwillingly and it appears that somebody is harassing them.

Same is the situation of maintenance of bridges. Recently there was a very painful accident of a bridge's collapse. Some Bridges are years old. The State Governments are not ready to repair them but the Railway doesn't even know that how many bridges are to be repaired. So, there is special need to repair the bridges by the railways. There is one such bridge in Nagda, which is on the main line between Delhi and Mumbai. This bridge is on the brink of collapsing. All its sides have been damaged and it can collapse any time. Its railing is also not in a good shape. All these things should be taken into consideration. There is heavy traffic on the railway crossings and the Government wait for the proposal of the State Government that the State Government will bring proposal and then it will provide funds and after that pending works will be completed. This is not going to happen because the State Government is not interested and as a result of this public is facing inconvenience. The Union Government provides assistance to the States and they undertake the construction works out of that assistance.

Therefor, the Government at least should give priority to the works related to such crossings and highways. Its not that we need to construct excellent crossings at high cost where traffic is more. We just need to construct crossings according to the cost required there.

[Dr. Satnarayan jatiya]

Work related to gauge conversion is also being done casually. But definitely, pace of gauge conversion work of Neemach and Ratlam has been accelerated.

I believe, this work will be completed within time schedule. But on completion of the work if it is not connected with Ratlam and Indore railway line via Ratlam Sirdore and Ujjain Fatehabad, it will become isolate. Hence if Ujjain and Fatehabad are also included in Gauge conversion work, your scheme will add facility the public.

Some new terminals are to be erected. The existing terminals remain overcrowded. You can see Nizamuddin. It is very difficult to accommodate all the vehicles there. So, you can also add Okhla as a terminal. In the Western Railways, all vehicles terminate at Bairagarh. You can also create new terminals there as to provide more convenience to people while travelling. Similarly, there are points such as catering and other things. The issue of improvement in catering is always raised but there is no scope for improvement. Water, electricity, waiting rooms are also necessary. Aalot is a renowned pilgrimage. Thousands of pilgrims visit there which vindicates its importance. Therefore, to extend that place...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude in a minute. All these works need to be done. It is necessary to enhance waiting rooms an upgradation of platform. An intercity train used to stop there but there is a pain to discontinue its stoppage there because no quota is there and passengers don't board from there. But for a long time people have been using it and if you provide quota, then people will start boarding the train from there. Similarly, an intercity train runs between Ratlam and Bhopal, but it doesn't have any stoppage at Khachrod. Khachrod is the headquarters of an important SDO. People are demanding this and it needs to be addressed.

There is need to make some changes in the time table of some trains. There is a deluxe train which comes here around ten or half past ten. This can be amended. Habibganj Express gets very late eventually. There is a long pending demand of construction work between Ujjain to Agra and Jhalawar to Ramganj Mandi. There is no doubt that the funds you have asked for is meant for development and I think that by spending funds on development we will be able to take our country and Railways ahead. I just wanted to say this much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches on the table can do so. That would be noted down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, supplementary demands for grants for the Railways for the yer 2006-2007 is being discussed in the House. The Railway Budget was presented six months back. In true sense, the Budget is a statement of the income and expenditure during the whole year. It is mentioned therein as to what the tasks are to be carried out by the Railways in a year. The way the Railway Minister has brought supplementary Demands for Grants in indicative of our Budget Estimates going wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): The Expenditure has exceeded the Budget estimates. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: More important than announcing new projects is the review of the ongoing projects and ensuring a time limit to complete these projects however, we are not paying any attention to this. Out of Rs. 58,800.05 lakh crores presented by the Railway Minister as Supplementary Demands for Grants, Rs. 30 lakh crores have been allocated for the capital funds out of which Rs. 26,800.15 lakh crore and Rs. 0.15 lakh have been provided for Railway funds and Railway Safety Fund respectively. He has stated that the Demands for Grants are being required to be presented as some projects were to be completed out of turn. Now I don't understand the meaning of 'out of turn'.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Those urgent projects which are in the interest of the country....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: These may be urgent alright, but the accident which took place in Bhagalpur recently is more important. If, you do not complete the old projects, the accidents will take place frequently. I would like to make a humble submission that nobody in the House has any objection to the commencement of new projects, but if the old projects which are going on for the last 25-30 years are not completed within fixed time limit, nothing will happen. You should pay attention to all the railway bridges which have completed their life span and have been declared by the experts as unfit for use.

Through this House, I would like to urge upon the Railway Minister to get the old projects completed within the scheduled time besides taking up new projects. Similarly, as on 31st March 2006, there were 742 under construction projects in the country out of which 256 projects were under the purview of the Railway Ministry. Out of these 256 projects, 149 projects are 30-32 years old. The total cost of construction of these 149 projects was pegged at Rs. 25.175 crores which has escalated by 91 per cent on account of delay. Luluji, the cost of projects multiplies but the people are deprived of their advantages. So, as I have told you earlier, unless you fix a time schedule for the projects, they are unlikely to deliver good results.

In the year 1999, Justice H.R. Khanna inquired into the Rail accidents and said that 300 bridges need urgent repair work. It also included the Bhagalpur bridge. The Ministry of Railway itself had accepted to have identified 4886 bridges which needed urgent repair work. However, in spite of a provision of Rs. 1530 crores for the special Railway Safety Fund in the year 2001-2002, only 1179 bridges could be repaired by the Government incurring only Rs. 610 crores as on 31 January, 2005.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no shortage of funds with the Ministry of Railway. Despite this, the target fixed for repairing the bridges, could not be achieved by us. At that point of time, the Railways also resolved to complete the construction and repair work of these bridges. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the Railway Minister that a very unfortunate incident has taken place in Bhagalpur. But if you do not pay attention to the bridges or all other assets belonging to railways which have completed their life-span, such incidents in future cannot be ruled out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I would like to make it clear that there should be no confusion in it. All the trains are run after certification in the month of March. So far as the confusion on the Bhagalpur issue is concerned, I would like to make it clear that the bridge has not collapsed. Had this bridge not been broken, it would not have collapsed. It is the result of sheer negligence because two pillars of the bridge were taken out and no precaution was taken which led to the mishap. People get confused. I would like to say that we cannot run a train without certification. The whole chart is there. In my reply, I would explain about the same.

However, you should remove the confusion regarding Bhagalpur from your mind.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Demands for Grants of Rs. 26,800.15 lakh crores under the Railway Funds presented by the Government mentions 46 projects which involve an expenditure of Rs. one lakh on each. As I have already submitted, the number of Railway bridges in the whole country is one lakh twenty thousand, out of which 60 thousand bridges are over 100 years old, 40 thousand bridges are over 60 years old and the number of dilapidated bridges is 2200. These bridges need to be repaired. I would like to submit that the experience has shown that most of the Rail accidents occurred till now are due to human error. There is still 18,490 unmanned railway crossings. I would like to request you to pay proper attention to this.

The Agra-Etawah Rail link was started in the year 1999 for which Rs. 214 crores were earmarked, but perhaps only 60 crores have been released so far i.e. only one-third work has been completed in eight years. Given the pace of work, it will perhaps take another 20-25 years to complete the same. My humble request is that those projects may immediately be implemented which has been lying pending for the last 10-15 years. On this occasion, only this much I would like to submit that old projects should also be reviewed simultaneously along with doing good work and announcing new projects because delay in the projects lead to cost escalation and hamper the development work. If we try to complete these projects in time, it will benefit both the country as well as the Railways.

[English]

*SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): I hereby table my demands on Railways which needs immediate attention of the House:

1. Starting new computerized reservation centre at Islampur, Tehsil-Walwa District: Sangli (Maharashtra) on Central Railway.
2. Starting city reservation centre in Karad town in addition to the centre at Karad railway station

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil]

and also in Satara city in addition to centre at Satara Railway station.

3. Starting new train from Kolhapur to Dwarka once a week.
4. A superfast train between Pune to Bangalore may be started connecting these two IT cities.
5. One 3A coach may be added to 2779/2780 Goa Express. At present there are two 2A coaches and only one 3A coach.
6. Develop Takri Railway Station at Central Railway in Pune-Miraj Section by extending the platform to full length.
7. Doubling of Pune-Miraj Kolhapur section of Central Railway.
8. To carry out survey of Karad-Chiplun new Railway line to connect Konkan region with Western Maharashtra.
9. To start loading-unloading facility at Takari Railway Station on Pune-Miraj Section of Central Railway.
10. To repair approach road at Karsad Railway station in Pune region of Central Railway.
11. To repair good sheds at Karad Railway Station.
12. To cover loading-unloading platform at Karad Railway station to facilitate loading unloading in rainy season.
13. To start new train between Kolhapur-Ahmedabad by using rakes of Kolhapur Hazrat Nizamuddin Express which remain unused for three days at Kolhapur railway station.
14. Kolhapur-Bangalore Rani Cheenama Express to be run from Pune to Bangalore as a superfast express.
15. Stoppage of Sampark Kranti Express i.e. Yashwantpur to Hazrat Nizamuddin at Karad Railway station.

16. Pune-Jammutawi Zillum express to be started from Kolhapur to Jammutawi.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): While participating in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways for 2006-07, at the outset, I would like to say that the Indian Railways should not be interpreted or confused as a means of communication only. Indian Railways is the symbol of our national integration. This aspect has not been given due importance even after 59 years of our Independence. It is true that the functioning of the Railways in the recent past is laudable except a few painful accidents. But, unfortunately, the Railway Ministry could not come out from the narrow outlook so long to take an impartial national outlook for providing benefit of this most important mode of communication to the far-flung areas of the country like North-Eastern States resulting in a sense of deprivation amongst the people of the Region.

Here, I can cite a glaring example of discrimination. The North-East Region is most backward in communication. In the North-Eastern States, railway line is less than 1 km per 100 sq. km which is less than half of national average. As many as seven State capitals of the North-Eastern States are yet to be connected with rail. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the commitment given in the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. I quote: "All North-Eastern States will be given special assistance to upgrade and expand infrastructure". The UPA Government must be sincere to its commitment.

Coming to my State Tripura, I would like to mention that the people of the State are thankful that Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project has been given the status of 'National Project' with a deadline of completion by March 2007 and also with a deadline of completion of broad-gauging by March, 2009.

Unfortunately, despite being a National Project with clear deadlines, the project is delayed. The work needs to be expedited for timely completion of the project. Here I would like to mention that in Jumdung-Badarpur-Sitchar section, the work on broad-gauging is being delayed and at present the work is totally stopped as the Assam Government is not providing security at the worksite. If the broad-gauging work in that section is delayed, then

the broad-gauging work in Badarpur-Kumarghat-Agartala section will also be abnormally delayed.

The State Government of Tripura is providing dedicated security to the ongoing project from Manu to Agartala. The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways has visited Lumding-Badarpur section a few days ago where he has seen that the work is stopped as the security is not being provided by the State Government of Assam. The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways has written a letter to the State Government of Assam for providing adequate security so that the broad-gauging work is completed on time.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways has also visited the on-going project site in Tripura and he is satisfied with the deployment of adequate security forces. The N.F. Railway Authority is also satisfied with the security provided by the State Government of Tripura for the project.

I would request the Railway Minister to take up the matter of deployment of adequate security at Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar section with the State Government of Assam for timely completion of the broad-gauging work.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Government that there has been a longstanding demand of the State Government as well as the people of the State of Tripura for extension of railway line from Agartala to Subroom. This project is extremely important not only for the State of Tripura but also for the entire North-East Region.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Please allow me five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 40 Members in the list. Kindly conclude in a minute or two.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Once Subroom is connected, it would be easier to connect the North-East Region with the Chittagong Port as the distance of Chittagong port from Subroom is less than 75 kilometres through the existing Bangladesh railway network. It would provide Tripura and other North-Eastern States the much needed access to the Chittagong port. With this link in position,

Tripura can be the gateway for trade and commerce to a host of South East Asian countries.

As per the 'Look East Policy' of the Government of India, once this line is linked to Bangladesh Railway System, there will be tremendous generation of traffic, both up-stream and down-stream. I would request the Union Government to take up the matter with the Bangladesh Government for linking of this railway line with the Bangladesh railway System.

It may also be mentioned that the Standing Committee on Railways in its Sixth Report (2004-05) had recommended, and I quote:

"The expansion of rail network in the North-East Region is imperative for socio-economic development apart from strategic relevance."

I would, therefore, strongly demand that the material modification of the National Project should be approved so that the railway line is extended up to Subroom as a part of the National Project, and a token provision be made in this Supplementary Railway Budget.

With these words, I support the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2006-07 and also the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2004-05.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE (Osmanabad): Sir, the work for the new broad gauge rail line is underway on the Latur, Osmanabad Miraj section in my constituency. This work could not be completed for a long time due to inadequate funds. Even in the Rail Budget, an amount of only Rs. 44 crores was allocated for this line. It is our demand that this work should be completed at the earliest by providing maximum funds. The Marathwada region in Maharashtra was allocated an amount of Rs. 90 crores only in the Rail Budget 2006-07. An amount of Rs. 121.44 crores was sanctioned in the Rail Budget 2005-2006. This year Maharashtra has given the maximum revenue to the Railway. Most of the people in Mumbai prefer to travel by train and every villager in Maharashtra has to travel by train and therefore, higher budget should have been allocated for Maharashtra but the Minister of

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Kalpna Ramesh]

Railways has formulated this budget keeping only Bihar and Patna in view.

Only Rs. 10 crores have been sanctioned for new Rail lines of Ahmednagar, Beed and Parahi in Maharashtra. Rs. 26 crores have been sanctioned for Akola-Purna line. The Minister should ensure that the state which gives more revenue to the Railway, should be given more allocation but Maharashtra did not get anything in this budget.

The budget allocation is inadequate given the volume of the works. If the budget allocations were made in this manner it would take a number of years to complete the construction works on the Rail lines in Maharashtra. There is a Rail line at Warshibe in Karmala Tehsil of my constituency. A demand was made to provide a gate at crossing on that line but that too was not met in the previous budget.

Sir, there is booking counter for Rail tickets in my constituency of Osmanabad where booking of tickets is done for four hours in morning and for four hours in the evening. This counter remains closed for rest of the day. I had written a letter to the hon'ble Minister in this regard but no action has so far been taken thereon. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Minister to direct the concerned department to keep the booking counter open throughout the day for twelve hours so as to address the difficulties of the people in this area.

Sir, I would request to undertake survey in respect of the Nanded-Nilangawadi new line. At the same time I would submit that survey had been conducted for the Osmanabad-Tuljapur-Solapur new line but no action has been taken in this regard while its distance from Solapur-Osmanabad Rail line is only 60 kilometres and thousands of devotees visit the Tuljapur 'Bhabani Mandir.' They have to face a lot of inconvenience due to non-availability of any rail line. Therefore, a proposal for laying a new rail line here should also be considered.

Sir, it is my request and also a special demand from the people of my constituency. The work on Latur-Miraj Rail line is in progress. A station on this line at Warshi is proposed to be built but the location where the station is

being constructed is not suitable to the residents of that area as it is far away from the main locality. I have also written a letter to the hon'ble Minister in this regard. I request the Minister to build the station at a suitable place in view of the demand made by the local people.

I hope that the hon'ble Minister would meet the demands made by me.

*SHRI Y.S. VIVEKEANAND REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, endorsing the Demands for Grants for Railway Ministry, I would like to request the Hon'ble Railway Minister through you sir to consider the following.

1. Track doubling of Gooty Ranigunta in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway may be completed on war footing as this important work is slowing down. Rail Nigam is undertaking this project which may be hastened for total completion.

2. Nandyal-Yerraguntla New line is going at a very slow pace because of meager grant allocation. Ample funds be kindly provided for early completion.

3. R.O.B. at Muddanur in Kadapa District in Guntakal Division of South Central Railway may be sanctioned as Andhra Pradesh State Government has proposed to sanction 50% grant.

4. Stopping of Hyderabad-Chennai Express (via) Kadapa at Yerraguntla is been a strong demand. Please order.

5. Stopping Madhurai-Shirdi Express at Kadapa our District Headquarters.

6. Watering station—Kondapuram R.S. is to be considered as stopping station for all those trains which stop for watering.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar): Sir, I support the Additional Demands for Grants (2004-05) and Supplementary Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Railways. I would like to congratulate and thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasadji for the reason that since when he has assumed the charge with resolution

*The speech was laid on the Table.

and firmness, performance of the Railways has started improving. I as well as the country as a whole feels that he has ushered in a revolution of ideas in the Railways with his efficient leadership. I would like to quote some lines published in 'The Stateman'. *[English]* Lalu is great. If Mr. Prasad's performance continued, he would be ranked next to Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and Lal Bahadur Shastri."

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Shastriji had resigned on the occurrence of Rail accident.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: The second instance I would like to cite from a Surey undertaken by the Financial Express. It is worth reading. The things which have been underlined about his performance as well as that of his Ministry in the above survey clearly reveal that highest marks have been given to hon'ble Lalujji. I am referring to the Indian Express and the Financial Express. People have the different view about the work being undertaken. I was listening to other hon'ble Members and the change in ideas is aimed to see as to what extent Railway facilities can be provided to the common man. You can discuss it in any form but the fact is that for the first time in the country hon'ble Lalujji has provided AC facilities to the common man. It has been inaugurated from Saharsa and other programmes are prepared to be launched from Patna. I was also listening to other hon'ble Members who were saying that there was lack of coordination in the approach but the things which we are reading in the news papers and observing ourselves reveals that there is no part left in the country where the Ministry of Railways have not done well. I understand that the intention and firmness with which the Railways have started their work is enough to make all the hon'ble Members from both ruling and opposition parties realize that the work taken up by Lalujji is meant for the entire country and entire population. We have noted that hon'ble Members from the opposition also are giving good suggestions in this regards. I may say that regarding the intention with which Lalu Prasadji started the work, someone has said that 'Apna to kam hai ki jalate chalo chirag, Raste mein chahe dost ya dushman ka ghar mile.' The hon. Minister started the work with this integrity. If I make a mention of the works executed during this period, it would not be possible for me to take up my demands. I couldn't even help

mentioning them. He has done the work openly. He announced to provide the Bapudham Express to Motihari, that is the call of the nation. He introduced a train to Gujarat from there. The shed which was to be constructed for that, where the idol is placed, has not been completed. Please complete that shed. That is the district headquarters' station. The retiring room is not in a good shape, please get it refurbished.

I would like to thank the hon. Minister that he has got our railway station modernized and provided the Motihari-Sitamarhi railway line. You're starting the work there, for which I thank him. We have demands pending since long. These should also be taken care of. The process to link Bargania via Chakia-Madhuban Fenhara, Piparahi, near Nepal Border, with railway line should be accorded sanction and work undertaken there. The pace of work relating to doubling and gauge conversion at Darbhanga, Narkatiyaganj is very slow. It should be expedited to some extent. It would provide an easy access for going to Nepal. The Hazipur-Sugoull railway line has already been sanctioned. This work has not been undertaken as yet. I would like it to get undertaken. The work pertaining to doubling of Patna-Gaya railway line was undertaken, but the work for about seven kilometers remains to be completed as yet. Its completion would address the problems of a large number of people living there. There is a long-standing demand for laying a new railway line between Bihta to Anugraha Narayan Road, and it is very necessary to fulfil it.

You are providing all the stations with computerization facility besides modernizing them. There are some stations in my constituency, wherein computer facility needs to be provided. These include Sugouli and Narkatiyaganj junctions which still lack this facility. Similarly, in many more railway tracks, where big stations exist, the work pertaining to technically link the trains has been carried out. You said you'd undertake technical upgradation and it has been materialized by way of Information Technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Railways is doing well, therefore, there should be no complaint of any sort.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: We should appreciate such a Minister who has increased no fares and benefited the

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

people. He has constructed the railway lines in a better way and that too in a short period. Remaining works should be completed within the fixed time schedule. ...*(Interruptions)* But there are many backward areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.
[Translation] Shri Mitrasen Yadavji to speak.

[Translaion]

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV (Sitamarhi): At last, I support the Demands for Grants. I wanted to speak a lot but there is the shortage of time.

At last, rising to support the DFGs, I say many thanks to the hon. Minister of Railways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten minutes have passed. Mitrasen Yadavji, you please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Mitrasen Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mitrasen Yadav, Kindly start your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translaion]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request all the Members to take care of the time.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): I express my thanks to you for providing me with an opportunity to speak. The Ministry of Railways is the biggest department in our country. Supplementary Budget has been presented here. At the time of presentation of full-fledged budget, the annual funds required by the Railways is fully assessd. Supplementary budget is sought in special circumstances.

Hon. Minister of Railways has sought the supplementary budget, be it less or more, but if it was sought even more, we would still provide it. It was to be definitely accepted by this House since some legal and constitutional circumstances demand so. The biggest thing I want to say in this regard is that the hon. Members from Bihar have been heading the Ministry of Railways as Minister for the last fifteen years, still the people of Bihar are underserved. You may well imagine the number of those in the country who are still deprived of railways service as well as the lack of railways facilities in the country. The Members from Bihar have been heading the Ministry of Railways as Minister for twenty years, yet our people lack railways facilities. There's nothing irrelevant if other people criticize...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Laluji is a good worker and one of the senior leaders of the House and also a capable Minister of the Ministry of Railways. I request him to only compare the Indian Ministry of Railways and railways facilities to that of other countries and to see to it as to how much railways facilities are required by the people of India as per the population of the country and to upgrade the Ministry of Railways accordingly. You please try to provide the facilities to the people. It has been observed for some time that the Ministers take care of the particular state, constituency or area to which they belong. It shows a biased attitude that should not be there. The trains originating from Bihar pass through only some parts of Uttar Pradesh and thereby do not cover some important places of the State. They go to Delhi via Gorakhpur, Barabanki or they go to other parts of the country. These trains do not provide a link from Banaras to Jaunpur, Faizabad and Ayodhya while going to Lucknow from Barabanki. A bridge over the Ghaghra River has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 100 crores, but no train has been introduced for Ayodhya through this bridge. Hon. Minister of Railways, sir, out of the trains originating from Bihar, one, two or four should be routed to Barabanki from Gorakhpur via Ayodhya. It would create no inconvenience rather facilitate he Faizabad commissionerary of Ayodhya a lot. It would also facilitate the travel of those people to Ayodhya who consider the Ram Janama Bhoomi in Ayodhya a place of pilgrimage.

My submission is that the rail line from Barabanki to Faizabad, which is hardly one hundred kms away should be doubled and electrified. It the Railway department

*Not recorded.

connects Faizabd to Trivandrum via Allahabad. Chitrukut a great part of North India will be connected with south India. As a result many things of North India like wooden materials and other industrial items would be available in South India and many things of South India could be sent to North India. There are numerous trains from Gorakhpur or Lucknow, which, by ignoring the route of Faizabad and Jaunpur are routed through Sultanpur and Pratapgarh, the parliamentary constituency of Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Though these trains are incurring losses but these are not routed through Faizabad and Banaras. What I have to say is that this double standard should be given up and it be rectified.

The third thing I want to say is that a number of our roads are being widened, whether these are national highways or state highways and considerable delay is being made in building overbridges. As a result many accidents are taking place. As per the updated norms, the size etc. of the overbridges have been increased four fold but despite that they have not been built till date. There is not even a single overbridge in Faizabad. As soon as the train reaches Faizabad, all level crossings on the rail line between Faizabad and Ayodhya are closed. As a result the town is divided in two parts. Nobody reaches hospital, court. Students cannot take their examination, and patients die on road. But till now the authorities have not constructed a single overbridge. There is a proposal for an overbridge since last fifteen years. With great difficulty 120 level crossings have been approved. The budget has been allocated but the work has not been started. Therefore, it is our humble submission that everywhere you are constructing overbridges, be it Punjab or Bihar but you adopt a step motherly attitude towards Ayodhya and Faizabad whether it is a matter of constructing an overbridge or running a train. Faizabad and Ayodhya are famous places of worship in Uttar Pradesh and India. You must think over it and provide railway facilities there also. People must be provided maximum rail facilities especially in second class. These general facilities will be public conveniences. Whether it is concerned with toilets, electricity, seat or coach. Our country is a land of the poors, the farmers, 75% of our people are common people. You have to provide facilities to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: On the one hand we appreciate your budget, on the other, even if you have increased the allocation, we would have appreciated it. While supporting you, we appreciate the Railway Ministry. But at the same time I would like to say that no department whether it is education, irrigation or some other is complete in itself. You should adopt a uniform approval.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Khaireji, you please speak, Yadavji, not a single word of yours will be recorded.

*SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Sir, I support the demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2006-2007 presented by the Minister of Railways.

Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Railways that ever since he assumed the charge of the Ministry of the Railways has earned profit of over Rs. 10,000 crores without increasing the passenger fare or freight charge.

Sir, I tender the following suggestion on the subject and hope that the Hon. Minister would implement them on priority basis.

1. My first suggestion is that the laying of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi rail line and the construction to bridges be completed by March, 2008.
2. The conversion to broad gauge from Jayanagar to Narkatiaganj via Darbhanga-Sitamarhi-Raxaul be completed by March, 2008 as per the announcement made previously.
3. The rail line between Muzaffarpur and Gorakhpur should be doubled.
4. Overbridges at Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Sugauli, Raxaul, Betia and Narkatiaganj should be constructed.
5. The Railway Minister deserves accolade for his approval of rail line from Motihari to Sitamarhi via Chiraiya-Dhaka-Patahi, Sugia Karsi, Shivahar. The time should be fixed to lay its foundation stone at Shivhar in the next year.
6. Hats off for rename Motihari station as Bapudham, and constructing a life size statue of the Father of the Nation. Alongwith it, a new weekly train from

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

his birth place Porbander to Motihari should be made bi-weekly.

7. The work on rail line from Hazipur to Sugauli Railway station should be completed.
8. A new train should be started from Muzaffarpur, Motihari to New Delhi.
9. One AC 1st, one AC IIrd and one AC IIIrd coaches should be attached to Saptakranti Express and instead of 1200 hrs it should start at 1100 hour from Muzaffarpur to New Delhi.
10. Patna Rajdhani Express should be run daily between Delhi and Patna.
11. Guwahati Rajdhani Express should be run at least once a week to New Delhi via Mujaffarpur, Motihari, Gorakhpur, and Lucknow.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Yadavji, Shri Rathawaji and Shri Veluji towards Maharashtra State. On behalf of the representatives of Maharashtra, I would like to say that so many demands regarding railways are being made for long. Sir, you also belong to Maharashtra, therefore, I would speak about your area also. The Union Government receive 44% revenue from Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra. But, no provision has been made form Mumbai in the Railway Budget for 2006-2007. Even Maharashtra did not get anything. But, here, I would speak about Marathwara.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has it not been given in Supplementary demands?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I am coming to that point. I am talking about 2006-2007. A demand of Rs. 56.800 lakhs has been made. I do not want to repeat what Shri Jatiyaji has mentioned in his speech. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Railways that no work has been executed in Mumbai. A lot of work is required to be done there. The second demand is about northern-Naharashtra. As Member of Parliament, Shri Pranipe, and perhaps yourself also and Shri Anandrao

Patil have said that railway lineis required at Marathwara stretch connecting northern and western Maharashtra from Kalyan Malroj Ghat-Junnar to Narayan Gaon-Ahemad Nagar that means from Malroj Ghat to Ahemad Nagar, Majal and upto Nanded. Majal Gaon and nanded can be covered as Pranipeji and yourself has also mentioned.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: it is budgeted but it is not taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[Translaion]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: It is not going to be taken up in the near future. Rathawaji is laughing at it. I have told him that he did not make any demand in the budget for the western, central and south-central Railways of Maharashtra. Though we support the demand of Rs. 56,800 lakhs. As the other hon'ble member of Parliament has stated that had they demanded more funds, the House would have approved because Railways is a public need. I would like to mention that some Members of Parliament had given a memorandum to Shri Lalu Yadav to lay this from Kalyan to Nanded railway line under BOT system which would cost more than Rs. 900 crores. I request to make a povision for it in the Railway Budget for 2007-08 and get it approved so that people could move easily from Mumbai and Kalyan to Nanded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak fast. Your time is going to be over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the point. Otherwise, your time will lapse.

...(Interruptions)

[Translaion]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: You are from Maharashtra. Therefore, you should give me extra time. I am going to raise the demand of your area also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, It can not happen.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: With great pride, Laluji mentions about saving of Rs. 15,000-20,000 crores in Railways. I congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Laluji, shri Veluji, Rathawaji and Railway Board also for this achievement. However, the Marathwara Railways Board also for this achievement. However, the Marathwara Railway projects require Rs. 673 crore. If the required amount is given from the savings of the Railways, our long pending part project can be completed. Perhaps the new railway line has not been laid since independence. It was started during the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Before that nobody bothered. I raised hue and cry during 13th Lok Sabha. Therefore, the funds were released and now the part project is going to be completed with great difficulty. New railway line which was scheduled to become operational in December, should be made operational as early as possible. Rs. 50 crores are required for the Sikandrabad Muthkhed-Janakmpeth-Bodhan route. With this amount laying of this railway line can also be completed. As I have said, this amount of Rs. 673 crores, will change the fortune of Marathwara. We will welcome Shri Laluji. He has contributed a lot for Marathwara just as Shri Madhu Dandwate has done because he was also of the same ideology. Our Sister Smt. Bhavana Gawali had demanded Rs. 151 crores for Akola-Purna railway route and the Hon'ble Minister had committed to provide the same. We were hopeful that this amount would be provided under Supplementary demands but no such provision has been made therein. It was mentioned in Lok Sabha during the last Budget but no attention has been paid to it. I request you to consider our demand.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rs. 43 crores were to be spent on Meeraj-Latur railway line but the amount has not been released till date. As your Government is in power in Maharashtra, I request you to ask the State Government to sent a proposal to Central Government for the release of funds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Government has not acquired the land for Ahemad Nagar-Beed-Parli-Baljnath railway line. On approaching the Railway Board in this regard we are told that nothing can be done till the State Government allocate the land. As on today, the estimated cost of this scheme is Rs. 428 crores, however, the work

has been pending for long. The foundation stone has been laid by several Ministers but the work has not been started. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that Rs. 673 crores may please be sanctioned for this purpose. Till now the Railways has saved Rs. 15-20 thousands crores. The entire Maharashtra will be thankful to the Minister of Railways if a provision for this amount is made in the coming Budget of 2007-08.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people of Maharashtra have a long pending demand that when they visit Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh and from there when people come to Maharashtra to visit Shirdi, they face a lot of difficulties in the absence of a direct train. I have been making this demand during my several Lok Sabha terms but nothing has been done. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you had done a job by getting Puntaba-Shirdi railway line operational. We had requested to connect the Rotegaon with Puntaba and mentioned about the demand of Rs. 673 crores. A provision of Rs. 725 crores should be made in the coming Budget. It will change the fate of Marathwara and people would be thankful to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon'ble Minister has accepted that the survey work has started.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Tirupati-Rotegaon-Puntaba-Shirdi railway line is completed, we will be able to reach Shirdi direct from Tirupati.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within a minute or two. Kindly cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the promise made by the Hon. Minister, a train has been provided for Tirupati, but it runs only once a week upto Madurai. This train is earning profit, therefore, its frequency should be increased and it should run daily.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): We have already started one train from Madurai and another from Tirupati, to Shirdi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is on a different point. He wants a new route. It is a shorter route; that is what he is suggesting. A survey is going on for that.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a demand for Tirupati-Putamba-Shirdi route for many years, survey for rest of the route should be carried out. This scheme will cost Rs. 35 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Survey of this route has already been conducted. [English] Please go ahead and conclude it soon. You have already taken more than nine minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, several new railway lines are pending similarly. Freedom fighters from the region have made a demand. Our Govindbhai Shraff and Kabraji had made a demand. You should undertake survey of Solpur-Jalgaon route in Marathwada. There are so many routes for which demands have been raised during the last fifty years. You should undertake survey of Solpur-Tuljapur-Usmanabad-Beed-Gevrai-Paithan-Sambhajinagar-Aurangabad-Sillod-Ajanta-Jalgaon route. It can be done in rail budget of 2008-09. It can be get done under BOT, if you wish. Besides, there is Ajanta-Ellora route... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now; please co-operate with the chair.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I have been making speech for the last many years that our demand date back to 50 years but nothing happens. Efforts should be made to get this done. Similarly, the Minister of Railways had promised to visit Purna to introduce a train from Purna to Patna but this has also not been done so far. Train for Nanded-Nagpur has also been not introduced. Similarly, there was a demand for introduction of Manmad-Bangalore train which also has not been materialized.

7.00 hrs.

Kindly extend the Bangalore-Nanded train upto

Manmad. It will be beneficial for Railways. Our Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad station is a tourist place. Nitishji had sanctioned Rs. 5 crore for it. I met Laluji and he also said that it will be done but it has not been turned into a modern station. I had raised a question and Veluji had given a reply as well but so far nothing has been done. Kindly make a provision for it in the Budget. I thought, some provision will be made in the supplementary budget but it was not done. I urge upon you to make such provision in next budget. Mukundbari and Karmar stations should also be developed. Karmar station should be developed because it is an industrial area and an SEZ is coming up there. ... (Interruptions) Laluji has given facilities for transportation of goods in industrial belt. If Rs. 50 lakh are allocated for railway goods of my area then I think that it could fetch good returns and revenue can go up... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate now.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I will say one more thing in the last. Laluji is not present here. The Nanded division of Marathwada should be brought under the Central Railways except Mudkher and Dharmawad. This is our 50 years old demand. This issue relates to our sentiments... (Interruptions). We will do in Hyderabad, Secunderabad... (Interruptions) Please give me one more minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken much time.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than six minutes. Please conclude now, otherwise it will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is about your areas as well... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is like your's or mine. You will sit only when other Member will start speaking.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded now.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: For Mumbai, connect it with Central Railways. Our problem is still continuing. (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijayan, kindly start your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was his turn. He was outside. You start your speech. Khaireji, give your suggestions in writing. [English] You know all the three Ministers. Kindly give it in writing. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Shri Vijayan's speech, nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

**SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants and Excess Demands for Grants for Railways.

With several on joint projects and schemes to modernise the railways and with steps towards improving the safety standards, augmenting number of train services, streamlining and gearing up freight movement and increasing the revenue earnings of railways, Hon'ble Minister for Railway Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Velu are

*Not recorded.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

doing a commendable job and let me congratulate them on behalf of our Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

At this juncture, I would like to impress upon you that better performing and higher income generating regional railways must be apportioned with more of funds. For instance, Southern Railway especially in Tamil Nadu has got several pending schemes for the past 15 years. When you announced that gauge conversion would be taken up in a big way all over the country, it must be ensured that States that have more of metre gauge lines get priority.

Today's 'Hindu' daily comes out with a news item as though Tamil Nadu has got a better deal or even more in gauge conversion during the 9th Five Year Plan period. But the reality is to the contrary. Considering the fact that there are more number of metre gauge railway lines in Tamil Nadu, the schedule for the gauge conversion work is not satisfactory.

I do not know whether such view is spread either due to the over sightedness of that daily or due to the over enthusiasm of the publicity wing of the Railways. During the 9th Plan period, of the 509 km of gauge conversion only 266 km of lines were converted as broad gauge lines. During the 9th Plan period, the total length of railway lines taken for gauge conversion was 2100 kms. Whereas in Tamil Nadu only 266 kms of railway line went through the process. It is not really satisfying when we find that only 266 kms of lines have been converted in a span of 15 years. You find broad gauge lines in the northern part of Tamil Nadu next to Chennai Central and a good old line running up to Tirucharrapalli otherwise major portion of the railway line laid during the British time were all meter gauge. Gauge Conversion at a national level was taken up in a big way from 1992-93. Even before that there was a demand from Tamil Nadu to go for converting Tiruchi Karur and Karur-Dindigul sections into broad gauge lines. This long felt demand was translated into action only after the national level gauge conversion scheme was in full swing. Even then we have to state that the gauge conversion work in Tamil Nadu is not keeping pace with the aspirations of the people and it goes on a slow pace still. If there is any State where people have been put to greater inconvenience due to discontinuance of rail service or delay in gauge conversion or slow progress of gauge

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

conversion work resulting in stoppage of service, it is only Tamil Nadu. Rail passengers have been put to great inconvenience which affected even the operational efficiency of Southern Railway. Madurai-Tirunelveli section was closed for a long time before the gauge conversion could be completed. Tuticorin-Maniatchi section was also finding itself without service for a long time due to delayed execution of gauge conversion. Manamadurai-Rameswaram gauge conversion met with the same fate. Thiruvavarur-Tanjore section has been closed and continues to remain closed for the past four years now, Mayiladurai-Thiruvavarur section is not in operation still.

I welcome the announcement that Thiruvavarur-Nagore section gauge conversion work will be completed by this financial year. I would like to point out that very same announcement was made in 2005-06 also. When you are completing Thiruvavarur-Nagore section, you may kindly include Nagapattinam-Velankanni railway line project for which the Church Authorities have already paid Rs. 2 crores to the Railways. In order to accomplish this project Our Lady of Health Church Authorities are prepared to pay even more. I urge upon the Railway Minister to expedite this work. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has also emphasized the need to complete this particular railway line link project to give a face lift to pilgrim centres there both at Velankanni, and at Nagore. When these two renowned pilgrimage centres are linked with the main stream section after gauge conversion, then it will link many cities and towns in the country so that people may throng to these holy places. There is also a doubt lurking in our minds that somebody had conspired sometime in between to delay this particular project to ensure that these two holy places belong to the minorities do not get a face lift and prominence. This Tiruchi-Nagore gauge conversion project was announced as early as in 1992 by the then Railway Minister Shri Jafar Sharif, but this project is yet to see the light of the day even after 14 years. Our Chief Minister has written to both Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Velu emphasizing the need to complete this gauge conversion project. Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli section remains closed for many years now. I urge upon the railways to complete this project also at the earliest, because it is one of the famous Hindu shrines dedicated

to Tiruchendur Murugan. I would like to record my appreciation for the efforts that are being taken by our Minister of State Shri Velu connecting Chennai Central station with the Chennai Egmore station. I would like to urge upon the Railway Authorities to complete this project as early as possible. Thiruthuraiipoondi-Agasthiampalli section in my constituency is well known to our Minister of State for Railways Shri Velu. I need not remind him about that railway section. That area is an important historical place for the reason that Vedaranyam Salt Satyagrah took place there when Gandhiji led the Dandi March. Hence, I urge upon the Railway Minister to take up this project also. Egmore Railway Station in Chennai has got an escalator through the efforts of our Minister Shri Velu. Such facility may be provided in Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, Erode and some other stations. Kanyakumari is a place that attracts tourists from several parts of the country throughout the year. The Railway Station there must get a face lift with added amenities. We fail to understand the reason for the enormous delay in completing gauge conversion work in Tamil Nadu when two dynamic Ministers both Shri Laluji and Shri Velu, the Social Justice champions are there at the helm of affairs in the Railways. I request them to take immediate steps to operationalise Thanjavur-Thiruvavarur section of the Railways. It ought to have been completed by March last as per your announcement. But it is still non-operational for the past 4 months citing some technical reasons. I urge upon you to operationalise it immediately. Our districts in Tamil Nadu have got metre gauge railway lines laid during the British regime. I for one who would feel that the gauge conversion in Thanjavur region can be completed only by Shri Lalu and Shri Velu. I would like to impress upon them to complete it and commence train service as early as possible.

In Chennai, Stanley Korukkapettai road over bridge project which ought to have been completed by last March as announced in the Budget in 2005-06 is pending still. I request the Minister to look into it. There was also a function with the participation of senior railway officials to inaugurate it. The previous Government in Tamil Nadu failed to extend cooperation to complete this road over bridge project. That also contributed to the delay. But today we have a responsive Government in Tamil Nadu. Hence, I urge upon the railways to complete it seeking the cooperation of the State Government. Our leader Dr. Kalaignar and our

dynamic Minister Thalapathy Stalin are there to extend all possible help and cooperation in this regard. I want the railways to seize this opportunity.

Creation of Salem Division remains as an announcement. Salem must be its head quarters and divisional office must start functioning there soon. We do not know the reason why it is delayed. Of course, it has been mentioned in your proposal. But still I would like to urge upon the Ministers Shri Lalu and Shri Velu to speed up things and commence the functioning of Salem Division. Extending my support to the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways, let me conclude.

[English]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I extend my thanks for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) and Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). ...*(Interruptions)*

As you are aware, Orissa is a State which is full of vast natural resources like iron ore, coal, etc., we are exporting them to different parts of our country and also abroad. Orissa has its unique importance from economic, social, cultural and spiritual points of view. As you know, we feel proud of our Jagannath Temple which is, for centuries together, peaching themes of brotherhood, peace, love and fraternity and it has become a real link of national and social integrity. The hon. Railway Minister, being from our neighbouring State, is well aware that Orissa is dominated by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and people living below poverty line who constitute 47.13 per cent. So, Orissa needs special attention of our Railway Minister from economic and tourism points of view.

Sir, you will be happy to know that we have got an excellent sea beach and the beautiful Chilika Lake which is unique in the world with vast natural resources. A great leader of my State Biju Patnaik has become a national and international hero by rescuing the supremo of Indonesia from the clutches of Dutch soldiers. Our Party, Biju Janata Dal, has been named after him. Sir, to secure speedy development of backward areas of Orissa, our Government has requested for higher allocation of funds for the Railway projects.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRADAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

But no such allocation has been made to the expectation of the people of Orissa.

Sir, I would like to highlight before this august House that a request has always been made for expeditious completion of on-going projects to keep pace with the development of the State. For reasons best known to the Railway Ministry, the on-going projects are still going on for more than a decade. In this regard, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Railways and as senior Member of this House, Shri Basudeb Acharia, has also expressed his concern in different newspapers saying that, from the economic point of view, Orissa has its unique importance and its on-going projects should be given priority for their early completion.

In this regard, it is found that no special attention has been given by the Ministry of Railways though it is lying for more than a decade.

I would like to highlight before this august House that very slow progress of different on-going projects has created impediment in the economic progress of the State of Orissa. The hon. Minister of Railways is aware of these on-going projects. They are: Daitari-Banspani, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh, Khurda Road-Bolangir, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Angul-Sukhinda, Rupsa-Bangripasi and Naupada-Gunupur.

As far as second bridge on Mahanadi and Birupa is concerned, it has its importance in view of the port connectivity. That has also not been given priority and as a result, the progress is now at stake. On a number of occasions in this regard also. All-party Members have met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Railways and submitted a Memorandum with regard to completion of on-going projects and other new railway lines. But I find that the Memorandum which was submitted to the hon. Prime Minister and to the hon. Minister of Railways has been kept in the cold storage and no attention has been given to such a Memorandum though the Memorandum was submitted under the leadership of the hon. Speaker of the Assembly, Leader of the Opposition and all Party members have also joined when that Memorandum was

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

submitted to the hon. Prime Minister and to the Minister of Railways.

I would, therefore, like to highlight that Orissa has its own importance and an industrial revolution has already been started under the leadership of our hon. popular Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, and many memorandum of understandings have been signed with different steel plants including POSCO, where Rs. 52,000 crore of vast foreign investment is going to be invested in the State of Orissa which includes Mittal Steel and SR Steel etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: So, from all these points of view, my humble submission to you Mr. Chairman, Sir is that I may be given a few more minutes to conclude my speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a number of hon. Members who want to speak. So how can I allow you more time?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Now, I come to the doubling of lines. They are as follows: Lanjigarh-Titlagarh, Rajatgarh-Barang, Khurda Road-Puri, Sambalpur-Rengali, Jharsugada-Rengali, Cuttack-Barang, Khurda Road-Barang, Talcher-Bimlagarh. So, I humbly submit before the hon. Minister that there should be adequate allocation of funds and these projects should be targeted by which dates these projects can be completed. In this regard, the hon. Minister should assure the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, now I come to other projects. The other projects like, Daitari-Banspani, Lanjigarh Raod-Junagarh, Khurda Road-Bolangir, Haridaspur-Paradeep, Angul-Sukinda Road, Talcher-Bimlagarh, Rupsa-Bangriposi, Naupada-Gunupur and second bridge on Mahanadi, need immediate attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and on a top priority basis these projects should be completed.

Now, I would like to mention about Puri.

Sir, as you know, Puri itself is a most important place from the spiritual point of view. The construction of the new line should be completed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta to speak. Shri Brahmananda Panda, please take your seat. You have already taken ten minutes.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Sir, I have only one line to complete my speech. For the doubling of Kurdah Road-Puri line, sanction has already been made. So, I would request that sufficient allocation of funds may kindly be made for its early completion since from the spiritual point of view, it has its unique importance. I hope and trust the hon. Railway Minister will never neglect Orissa because the respected hon. Minister is a neighbour of my area.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta's speech.

(*Interruptions*)*...

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MAHESH KANODIA (Patan): Sir, I want to draw your attention towards Patan-Mehsana broad gauge railway line in my parliamentary constituency. Viramgam-Bhiladi project which has been completed from Viramgam to Mehnsana but it is lying incomplete in my area from Mehnsana to Patan. I have drawn your attention towards this project by meeting personally many times and through Parliamentary question hour, Zero hour and under rule 377 and you had made a promise that this will be done but so far it has not been done.

Therefore, I urge you to fulfil your promise in coming budget.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways who has turned railways into profit making department and it has earned a profit almost twenty thousand crores of rupees.

*Not recorded.

**The speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, you kindly fix the time, how long it will go, because arrangement for dinner has also to be made in night. You please let us know in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 35 Members yet to speak. Those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can do so. I am allowing them to lay. These will be treated as a part of proceedings. You please do not take more than five minutes.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have said that Ministry of Railways is now making profit. I want to say that on the other hand number of labourers is decreasing. Those who were working in Railways canteen are being removed in the name of privatization, it is being handed over to private sector. I think, Minister of Railways should pay his attention towards it. These are poor people and they should not be removed. Railways has earned profit but it should streamline its maintenance and safety measures. Railway bridges should be repaired when and wherever required. The number of workers in Railways is decreasing everyday, it should be checked. It is correct that ever since Lalu Prasad has taken over as Minister of Railways, the fare of trains has not increased. But dozen of trains which were express have now become superfast resulting in indirect increase in fare and the poor people are bearing its brunt. People are facing a lot of difficulty due to discontinuation of break journey facility. This break journey facility should continue.

Sir, I want to say about Jharkhand. Jharkhand is a state which gives maximum profit to Railway Board, but be it UPA Government or NDA Government or earlier Governments, they have not paid attention to Jharkhand with regard to Railways. Five years ago, work on about eight rail lines was started but so far, not a single line has been completed. I want to say to the hon. Minister of Railways that you have not initiated any new rail line in Jharkhand within the period of two and half year even though it gives maximum revenue. The Commissionery Headquarters of election commission is located in my constituency Hazaribagh. Work on Kodarma to Ranch via Hazaribagh and Kodarma to Girdih line was initiated five years ago but even one fourth of the work has not been

completed. I have met hon. Minister of Railways, Chairman and Member of Engineering several times, he sent me to talk to them. I have tried several times to persuade the Chairman to take a meeting going over there. A meeting must be held and construction work may be expedited as far as its rail line and the rail line proposed to be laid to connect Hazaribagh is concerned. If the work is carried out at this pace, the work scheduled to be completed by 2007 could take ten to fifteen years to be executed and it would not be completed by 2015. As far as the rail line from Hazaribagh to Torichandva is concerned, for which Coal India have deposited Rs. one hundred crores two years ago, which to talk of starting of the work, the land acquisition work has not been started till date. Similarly, there is a constant demand of a passenger train from Rai Station between Barakakana to Khalari. Rai station is the third largest revenue earner for Railway Board in India but there has been a continuous demand for Express and passenger trains but this demand has not been met till date. There is a place named Digbar between Ranchi Road and Gomia which is visited by thousands of people, there is a continuous demand of making a station there but this demand has not been met till date.

As far as the introduction of passenger DMU train between Dhanbad and Gomia is concerned, there are colliery and other thermal power stations and lakhs of people travel there. However, any train has not been introduced as yet for which an agitation is going on.

I would like to point out the hon. Minister and the officials concerned that the condition of Ranchi Rajdhani Express and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express trains is very bad. Ranchi Rajdhani has a frequency of three days a week from Jharkhand and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani has a frequency of two days a week. It appears that all the rejected boggies have been attached to Ranchi Rajdhani. The catering facilities are much below the standard in that train. Many a time I have complained to hon. Chairman but no attention has been paid towards it. In the absence of a bridge at Tillaiya near Kodarma is causing a lot of inconvenience. Hon. Minister has visited this place hundred of times. Lack of bridge at Gumati is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people and hundreds of accidents take place every year. So I would request to construct rail over bridge there.

[Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta]

Upper class and General class waiting room are not there at Kodarma, Hazaribagh Road, Parasawad. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to request hon. Minister to pay attention towards it.

Many a time, I have requested hon. Minister that he should pay attention towards Jharkhand. Jharkhand should not be given step motherly treatment. The Ministry of Railways must pay attention towards the work of eight new rail lines connecting Jharkhand. These lines should be completed on time. With these words I conclude.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, the Hon'ble Railway Minister has placed before the House: this Supplementary Demands for Grants for approval of the House. I have no intention to support this Supplementary Demand, particularly, at a time when due to the utter failure of the Railways and criminal negligence on the part of the Minister, hundreds of people are dying everyday due to rail accidents here and there. The Minister is known for his habit of talking high and doing less. He is boasting everyday that he has made the Railways the profit making organization within two-and-a-half years of his tenure. But he must not forget that all the initiatives taken by the erstwhile N.D.A. Government to make a lot in the Railways started paying and the Present Railway Minister is harvesting the fruits only. If he claims himself to be the ablest Minister then let him Vow to minimize accidents and stop killing people like rats and goats.

The Railways have numerous incomplete schemes which are pending since decades. Many projects are on-going since years and there is no sign of its completion due to meager allotment of funds. I would, particularly, refer to some of the on-going projects in my own State Orissa which the Railways have been traditionally neglecting. To mention a few, Daitary-Banspani rail line (155 kms), Haridaspur-Paradeep rail line (82 kms), Langigarh-Junagarh (56 kms), Khordha Road-Bolangir (289 kms), Angul-Dhuburi-Sukinda Road (90 kms), Talchar-Bimilagarh (154 kms) and Nawapara-Gunupur, etc. I would request the Minister to allocate sufficient funds for speedy

completion of these projects. A new line has been proposed from Bargarh to Nowapara in Orissa via Padampur for which survey work has already finished and the report is positive. I would request the Minister to sanction this project and allocate funds to start the work in the next year's budget because both Nowapara and Bargarh are the two most under developed districts not only of Orissa but of the whole country. I would also request the Minister for electrification of Daitary-Banspani, Haridaspur Paradeep, Talchar-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda rail line.

New trains should be introduced from Sambalpur to Allahabad, Puri to Kanyakumari, Titlagarh to Puri via Sambalpur, The Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur Inter State Express should be extended either up to Bargarh or up to Bolangir as per the convenience of the Railways.

The East Coast Railway Zone presently consist of only three divisions whereas some important places of Orissa like Jharsuguda, Rourkela, etc. are not coming under East Coast Railways which is creating administrative and otherwise problems. I would, thereofre, suggest that a separate division be formed talking Jharsuguda, Rourkela etc. into it having its headquarter either at Jharsuguda or at Rourkela to function under the East Coast Railways.

I do not know why the Railway Ministry has degraded the status of the project office of the Rail India Technical Economic Services (RITES) situated at Bhubaneswar merging its functioning with the Traffic Division of Gurgaon in New Delhi. It was set up in 1982 which has been executing several major construction works. It is known that the management has asked its Bhubaneswar office to transfer all the construction projects and the projects in the pipe line to its Calcutta office. Now the Bhubaneswar office has started turning down new business proposals. I do not understand the logic behind all these. Is it not another proof of the step motherly attitude of the Railways towards my own State Orissa?

Let the Railways and the Railway Minister shun their parochial attitude. Let the approach of the Railway authorities be national and broad like its broad network. With this, Sir, I conclude.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. At the outset, I would like to congratulate hon. Minister of Railways that Araria-Gasgolia have also been included in the demands for grants from scheme number one to forty six.

It was a heart rendering accident that took place at Bhagalpur few days back and 35 persons were killed in that accident. One of them was an IAS officer who lost his life with all of his family members. I want that the Government should pay a compensation of Rs. five lakh to each of the victim's family, so that they can pull on ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It has been discussed earlier... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister of Railways have replied on that. Please speak on demands.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, few days back Manasi-Saharsa rail section was inaugurated and trains also operate there. But for the other Saharsa-Supaul-Forbisganj section, no allocation has been made, as a result of which the work has not commenced. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly provide funds for Saharsa-Supaul-Forbisganj section.

In the last budget, a survey was conducted for a rail line from Madhepura to Shankarpur, Triveniganj, Jatiya, Chunni, Mirdaura, Narpatganj, Wathanaha-Jogbani but this has not been included in the demand for supplementary grants.

Survey for Supaul, Pipra, Tribveniganj, Jatiya, Margama, Raniganj, Araria was completed years back. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly sanction that also.

Construction work on twenty-two kilometer long Darbhanga, Nimli, Saraigarh, Pratapganj, Narpatganj, Forbisganj mega bridge should also be expedited.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that except mega block works, whole of the work on Katihar Jogbani rail section including broadgauge work and stone chips work have since been completed. If mega block work is

completed and rail track is provided, certainly it would be completed immediately.

I would like to make a special request to hon. Minister of Railways to include it in the budget for 2007-08. Similarly, the work of Katihar-Radhikpur have been completed and the trains are operating there.

Concluding, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways that there is a well-known demand from Purnia-Katihar-Araria are because it is adjoining Nepal. Thousands of tourists come from there to India. If only 100 kms of broadgauge line is laid, the destiny of this area would shine. It will change the face of backward area of Araria and Supaul. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Railways to include Katihar Jogbani rail line in the next rail budget. If it is not included in the budget for 2007-08 for any reason, the people of that division will be forced to launch an agitation for the prepaid.

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Thank you Sir. I fully appreciate the steps taken by Shri Lalu Prasadji and the reformative attitude he has undertaken in the Indian Railways... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, may I make an appeal to you? The hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches may be asked to lay the same.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. members who wish to lay their speeches on the table of the House. They may please do so.

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: But I am constrained to point out some of the points which are detrimental to the interest of North-East.

Sir, when the President of India expresses concern for the historical neglect and regional imbalance, none

[Shri Anwar Hussain]

should defend it. I must draw the attention of the Railway Department regarding its snail's pace in execution of plans and projects and construction of works. It reflects the antipath attitude towards North-East.

Sir, to bring at par North-East with other parts of India, the Government of India has decided to allocate ten per cent of its budget allocation for the North-Eastern region. The UPA Government has been doing it. The Railway Department, having been getting this money, is diverting this money. On the paper they say that they are giving more than ten per cent of money to the North-Eastern region, but practically this money is not utilized for the North-Eastern States. They always confuse, misunderstand and misguide people because the money is spent on the North-Eastern Frontier Railways. These two terms, North-Eastern Frontier Railway and North-Eastern States, are not the same.

I can say and show the records that not even six per cent of money out of the ten per cent goes to North-Eastern States because you know some parts of other States are with North-Eastern Frontier Railway and barring Assam, the money goes there. So, I would request the Railway Minister to see that the fund which is allocated only to the North-Eastern States is fully utilized in the interest on North-Eastern States. Sir, at this juncture, I have a suggestion that as the North Eastern States have been getting 10 per cent money, so a Zone should be created there. The North East Frontier Railway should be divided and the other part should go to the other place, and with purely North Eastern States a new Zone should be created.

From February 2005 to September 2006, in 11 categories, appointments were made for 170 appointees. These appointments were like Technical Grade-III WS, Technical Grade-III CMW etc. There were total 11 categories. It is very strange that from Assam, out of 170 persons, 47 persons got appointments. One person got appointment from Manipur. From the whole North-Eastern Region, only 48 persons got appointments. Most of the appointments, 55 appointments went to Bihar, 46 appointments went to West Bengal and 12 went to Uttar Pradesh. This is the state of affairs. You know that Assam is burning with insurgency problem. Due to under-

development and lack of appointment avenues, insurgency has grown up. At this juncture, when we are talking about to hold talks with insurgent units, during the last one and a half years, the Railway Department has done such a dangerous work. I would like to appeal that the Standing Committee on Railways when recommends that appointments should be made on Division basis, and when Government accepts it, then how this thing can happen?

When the Standing Committee visited Guwahati, the Railway Department assured that the Dhubri-Fakiragram Railway Line will be completed by March, 2007. Now they are saying that it will be completed by March, 2008. The district which has 20 lakh people, it does not have even an inch of effective railway line. The Railway Department's attitude is like that. I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to look into the matter. I invited the Railway Minister one year ago to come to Dhubri. How can he come as there is no railway line? He has not come. So, I would request that the line should be completed immediately.

Another great problem is this. There is Bogibeel Mega Project, a mega bridge over river Brahmaputra. The Prime Minister has declared the Bogibeel Mega Project to be a national project. During the last one year, it is not done. The Railway is also not working. So, I would request that Bogibeel Mega Project should be completed immediately.

New Maynaguri-Jogighopa line is a new line which is to be completed by March 2009. I would like to know from the Ministry that it was New Maynaguri-Jogighopa line, but they are constructing the line from New Maynaguri to Abhayapuri and not to Jogighopa.

How could this happen? In the papers, you will find that it is Jogighopa but they are taking the line to Abhayapuri without giving any notice or taking any opinion from the people. However, I would request that it should be completed immediately.

With these words, I fully support the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2004-05 and also the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways) for 2006-07.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly see Item No. 18—Discussion Under Rule 193. The Opposition Members have not participated in the discussion yesterday. Som, it would not be possible

to take it up today. We should be allowed to take part in the discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be taken up next time. There are 35 more speakers in the debate on the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) and the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railways). So, it will not be possible to take up the discussion under Rule 193 today.

Now, Adv. Suresh Kurup.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Excess Grants for Railways. I congratulate the Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji for making huge profits for the Indian Railways and the whole country congratulates him for this extraordinary feat.

Sir, since the Railways are flushed with funds, I would request that all the pending projects of Kerala should be completed without delay. Kerala is one State which invested money in the Konkan Railway Corporation. So, our idea was this. When the Konkan Railway is completed, its benefit should automatically come to Kerala. If the benefit should come to Kerala, the whole railway line from Mangalore to Trivandrum should be doubled but I am sorry to say that the work is going in a very tardy way.

The doubling work of the line from Shoranur to Mangalore is yet to be completed and also the electrification work has not yet started. It has been the longstanding demand of the people of Kerala that the railway line from Ernakulam to Kayamkulam via Alleppey and via Kottayam should be doubled immediately. In the last three, four years, funds had been earmarked for this project, especially for the railway line from Ernakulam to Kayamkulam via Kottayam. But in so many places, the work has not yet started. The provision for the railway line from Ernakulam to Mulanthuruthi was included four years back in the Railway Budget, and there the work is slowly moving. So, this work should be completed in a time-bound manner. So, the whole line from Mangalore to Trivandram, up to Ernakulam and then from Ernakulam to Kayamkulam, both ways via Alleppey and via Kottayam should be doubled immediately, and sufficient funds should be earmarked for it in the coming Railway Budget.

Sir, I understand that the Kerala Government has submitted a proposal that the Railway Ministry should

sanction for setting up the Railway Development Corporation in Kerala.

It may be on the lines of what has been done in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. So, I would like to know what is the opinion of the hon. Railway Minister regarding this.

While the Railways are making huge profits, there are certain areas which are neglected by the Ministry of Railways. One is regarding the pathetic conditions of porters. Nobody is taking up their cause. These porters have been there ever since the Indian Railways started, and they are the poorest of the poor in this country. Now, the whole parcel service is entrusted to the private parties and these porters are thrown out of their jobs. Therefore, the hon. Railway Minister should clarify as to what he is going to do for these porters. Almost one lakh porters are there in all over India. Similarly, the railway canteens are also entrusted to the Railway Catering Corporations, and I understand that these Catering Corporations are going to entrust this canteen work to the private parties. What is the price they are going to charge for the food items? Have the Railways instructed them that such and such a price should be the charge on food items? But I understand that there is no such instruction from the Railway Ministry, and they are going to charge at their will. That means, these poor passengers, middle-class passengers who are the bulk passengers in the Indian Railways may not be in a position to avail the facilities of these new canteen services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Within a few minutes, I am concluding, Sir.

Another very important point is regarding gauge conversion of Palghat-Pilachi line. The hon. Minister very well knows about it. He is also very much interested in this line. Though the project has been approved, I am sorry to say that the work has not yet started there. So, I would request that the work should start on this project immediately.

Then, Sir, survey for a new line from Kollankodu to Trichur, is already completed. It is only 46 kilometre line. If this new line comes up, it would connect Guruvayur,

[Adv. Suresh Kurup]

Palani, Madurai and Rameshvaram. The major pilgrim centres in the South will also be connected. The tourists place like Nelliampadi, Parambikulam, Kodaiakanal would also be connected. So, it would become a pilgrim line as well as a tourist line. So, this line should also be considered by the hon. Railway Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are other speakers also to participate. We have to accommodate them also.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, kindly allow me just one minute.

Sir, it has been the longstanding demand of the people of Kerala that a railway coach factory should come up in Kerala. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to consider this demand.

Then, there is another longstanding demand for the Tellicherry-Mysore railway line. Right from the British days, the survey has also been completed. But it is still pending. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to see that this demand is also met.

Sir, I had so many other things to speak but due to paucity of time, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

*SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the supplementary budget. Besides, the profit earned by Railways under the stewardship of hon'ble Minister of Railways is unforgettable incident in the history of Railways. I would like to draw your attention towards my parliamentary constituency.

1. Introduce an EMU train between Banka to Bhagalpur.
2. Early completion of new rail line between Sultanganj to Deoghar.
3. To start Banka-Rajendra Nagar intercity from Danapur.
4. Attach AC III bogie in Banka-Rajendra Nagar intercity.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

5. Early completion of Mandarhill-Dumka-Rampur tar rail line.

[English]

*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2006-07. I also thank the UPA Government, Hon'ble Laluji and Veluji for presenting the people oriented budgets during the last three years thereby sparing the common man from any hike in railway fares/freight rates.

Sir, I have some specific points which I would like place before you for your kind immediate consideration and favourable action:—

- (i) Laying of a new BG railway line between Joiarpettai and Hosur Via Tirupathur, Baragur, Krishnagiri and Sulagiri. This is a long pending demand. Survey for the work has been completed long back but so far the work has not yet started. Adequate funds should be allocated for the above project;
- (ii) Hosur is fast becoming an IT major. An Information Technology Park is going to be set up at Hosur shortly. With the result, huge railway traffic is expected at Hosur in the near future. Hence, Hosur railway station should be renovated and modernized. More train services should be operated between Hosur and Bangalore particularly this line should be electrified shortly to facilitate faster movement of traffic.
- (iii) In Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has introduced special bus for the benefit of physically challenged persons. Likewise, the Railways should also consider and introduce special coaches in all the trains exclusively for the benefit of physically handicapped persons;
- (iv) Extension of timings of Railway Reservation counter at Jolarpettai Junction in the evening hours also, i.e. from 1400 to 2000 hrs.;

*The speech was laid on the Table.

- (v) Allocation of adequate funds for the infrastructure—office, staff, etc. to start the work full-fledged for the newly created Salem Division.
- (vi) Stoppage of Blue Mountain Train at Jolarpettai;
- (vii) Time bound completion of all pending/ongoing railway projects in Tamil Nadu and allocation of adequate funds for the same;
- (viii) Early linking of Chennai Egmore and Central railway stations;
- (ix) Accidents are frequently occurring in unmanned level crossings. In the recent past, number of such accidents have occurred. Railways should take steps to convert all unmanned level crossing into manner level crossing where there is significant number of vehicle movement.
- (x) As there are frequent complaints of serving of unhygienic foods in Railways are pouring in—adequate steps should be taken for serving quality and hygienic foods in Railways.
- (xi) To increase the number of coaches in trains which are running in full and usually packed. Introduction of 'Garib Rath' trins in many sections particularly for Tamil Nadu and construction of Budget Hotels at Hosur/Jolarpettai.

*SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): I lay my speech on following points:

1. Survey conducted for Railway New Line for Sriperumbudur and Ennour Port.
2. Doubling from Tirunvalore to Arakkonam and Atthimpet to Elavoor.
3. ROB at Minjur and Gummidipoordi.
4. Extension Foot over Path at Minjun and Gummidipoordi
5. To avoid traffic congestion. Kindly make Thirunvellore and Gummidippordi as sub-urban Halt for Express Trains.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Railway Minister towards some important points. Although some steps have been taken to improve the condition of Railways, yet, a lot more needs to be done. Hundreds of people are still being killed at the numerous unmanned railway crossings across the country. Men, women, children, farmers and students daily lose their lives in accidents at these unmanned railway crossings. When the Railway Minister had presented the annual budget, he had assured us that steps would be taken to minimize this colossal loss of lives. However, no concrete steps have been taken in this regard. Announcements had been made that facilities of a 'Model' railway station will be provided to many stations. My constituency Bathinda too would have benefited due to this announcement. However, the Bathinda railway station has not yet been provided with any such facility.

The condition of railway platforms is grim. Cleanliness is a casualty. The catering service in the trains leaves much to be desired. Sub-standard eatables are being provided in the trains in unhygienic conditions. The complaints of passengers fall on deaf ears.

The Railway Ministry has done nothing to ease the problems of disabled, ill or aged passengers. That is why the Indian Railway is not considered people-friendly.

It was announced in the Railway Budget that 500 new railway over-bridges will be constructed. However, the progress of construction of these ROB is tardy. For instance, Mansa, a district headquarter, falls in my constituency. The proposal to construct an ROB at Mansa was accepted several years ago. It was a long-standing demand of the people of the area who had to face traffic snarls and hardships in the absence of an ROB. The gravity of the situation can be gauged from the fact that over 140 people have died here due to accidents. However, the ROB is yet to see the light of the day. It speaks volumes of the inefficiency of the Railways.

At the time of presentation of the budget, the Hon'ble Minister had announced that 55 new roads will be laid.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

However, a lion's share of 15 roads were sanctioned only for Bihar. Despite repeated requests, the demand for a Ferozepur-Bathinda-Jakhar-Delhi Shatabdi Express has not yet been fulfilled. I have written several letters to the Hon'ble Railway Minister and have forcefully raised this long-standing demand of the people in this august House several times but all my requests and demands have fallen on deaf ears.

In 1999, a train linking the five 'Takhts' or religious places of Sikhs had been announced. However, the approval has remained on paper and the train is still a distant dream.

Sir, Chandigarh-Jammu rail link has been another long-standing demand of the people. It will facilitate the travel of the pilgrims of the area to the Vaishno Devi Shrine. There is an urgent need for Bathinda-Jammu rail link via Rantra Mandi, Barnala, Dhuri and Jalandhar city. Malerkotla is also located on this route. It houses the Shrine of Sufi Saint Pir Baba Hyder Sheikh. Thousands of devotees make a bee-line to this revered shrine. Ludhiana is a metropolis with large markets and world-class health-facilities. Jalandhar is known for its sports goods. It houses an Army Cantonment and is also known for its educational institutions. The Railways will earn a huge profit if trains ply on this route regularly. But, I am sorry to say that the Railway Ministry is not taking any interest in this matter.

Sir, before India became independent in 1947, a proposal for a rail-link between Qadian, Hargobindpur and Beas in Tarn Taran district had been approved. However, even 60 years after independence, the area is still without a rail-link and this project is, lying in the cold-storage.

A few days ago, a lot of people died when an over-bridge collapsed on a railway coach at Bhagalpur. In Punjab too, a bridge on river Sutlej connects Gidderwindi and Makhu in district Ferozepur. This is a hundred year old bridge. It is closed to the traffic at six in the evening and is opened to the traffic only at seven in the morning. Often, critically ill patients die on the spot as the bridge remains closed to traffic at night. This is the only bridge of its kind in India. It caters to train as well as road-traffic. The bridge itself is narrow and only one-way traffic is allowed to ply at one time, whereas the traffic from the

other side has to wait for hours for its turn to use the bridge. I have raised this matter time and again in this august House but to no avail.

Sir, the much acclaimed 'freight-corridor' has been approved only upto Ludhiana. It should be extended to Amritsar. The Ferozepur-Ganganagar Inter-City Express is in a very bad condition. It has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Railway Minister, both orally and in writing. The train needs a face-lift. Two more AC coaches should be added to the train to cope with the huge rush of passengers. However, inspite of repeated requests, nothing has been done in this regard. An AC coach should also be added to the Ferozepur-Mumabi Janata Express. Separate coaches should be made available for women. Police-women should be deputed in trains. On the lines of the Patna-Pune train for the students, trains should be announced for the students of Punjab, too.

Sir, the backlog of recruitment of Scheduled castes in the Railways should be filled at the earliest. The recruitment-drives should be conducted at the district level as the poor and the unemployed do not have means to travel to other states for this purpose.

Sir, I voice the aspirations of the lakhs of people of Punjab. I earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Railway Minister to fulfill these demands at the earliest.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Thank you Mr. hairman, Sir. On behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi and its fonder President, I rise to support the Supplementary Grants for Rs. 568 crore to be incurred for 46 works and also to give the approval for excess of expenditure of Rs. 2,150 crore under voted portion and Rs. 1.99 crore under charged appropriation. While giving this approval, this House should also record its sense of appreciation to the Ministry of Railways headed by hon. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji, hon. Shri R. Veluji and other members of his team for the splendid performance that they are showing in the areas of development of railways.

We should appreciate the hon. Minister of Railways for making Railways as a profitable organization. The erstwhile losing proposition or a losing organization has now been converted into a profitable organization and

this has been done in the face of not increasing the fares for the common man and in the face of rising costs of various materials in railways. This shows the high complexity of economic knowledge that our hon. Ministers have in bringing about profit in the midst of these adverse conditions. We should also highlight the fact that the Railways today, thanks to their initiatives, are able to provide a lot of amenities to the people and make railway journey more comfortable. Therefore, they deserve our appreciation and naturally so. The survey conducted by CNN-IBN has rated Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav as a high profile Minister and we congratulate him for this assessment of the CNN-IBN. I hope that his continued stewardship will take Railways to its glorious success.

Having said that, I have to give some more suggestions to our hon. Ministers. I should thank our hon. Minister of State for Railways Shri Velu who has been taking painstaking efforts in modernizing Railways especially in the southern part, especially in Tamil Nadu. In the last Budget they have announced the formation of Salem Division and the entire people of Tamil Nadu are grateful to the hon. Minister of Railways. But, unfortunately, the preliminary work could not be carried on in the initial stages because we had an adverse Government or a hostile Government. But today we have a very friendly Government, headed by Muttamvill Dr. Kalaignar who is willing to provide all the infrastructure facilities. You should make use of the good offices of Dr. Kalaignar by initiating immediate work in starting the Salem Division.

Coming to my Union Territory of Puducherry you know that it is one of the erstwhile French colonies which is now making very rapid progress economically and socially. But, unfortunately, this territory has not been adequately connected by Railways which I have represented to you several times. Today the *per capita* income of the Union Territory of Puducherry is one of the highest. Educationally and in terms of tourism and in terms of various migration factors and all that we have a dynamic and robust city of Puducherry. But this Puducherry city is not connected. One of the important and peculiar characteristics of the Union Territory is that it is lying in four scatter regions—Puducherry on the one side; we have Karaikkal 162 kilometres away from there, Mahe in Kerala which is again 800 kilometres away from Puducherry and again Yanam at 890 kilometres away near East Godavari

district of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, you do not have this kind of a peculiar physically located, four scattered areas as the Union Territory of Puducherry has. You should pay special attention keeping in view the peculiar circumstances.

You should, first of all, give railway connectivity to the people of these four regions. You must connect Puducherry to Mahe. I am thankful to you that you have recently approved an indirect proposal whereby the Puducherry people can go to Mahe in the Coimbatore Express which has been extended up to Mangalore. I want you to expedite the work of initiating the work on that. We also require a service from Puducherry to Bangalore via Katpadi. Bangalore is becoming a big I.T. city and Puducherry has also become an I.T. city. These two should be connected in terms of employment, in terms of migration of scientists from one place to another.

There is a train from Kakinada to Chennai. Our people from Yanam are coming from the Kakinada Express and that stops at Chennai. I would request you to find out the ways and means of extending that train from Chennai to Puducherry so that the Puducherry people and Yanam people can be connected.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, you know that Karaikal is another part of Union Territory of Puducherry. It is a tourist centre where we have Lord Shani's temple. Your Minister says that Shani is his own God and he worships Shani in his own room. He said that he would visit Karaikal also. He should visit Karaikal and his visit must coincide with the development of railway in that place of Lord Shani. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Please invite me also. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Please you also come. Or, you talk to the Minister and get a railway project there. Then, you can also come with him.

As far as Karaikal is concerned, the Government of Puducherry is willing to give 50 per cent of whatever cost would be incurred. There are two portions. One is there from Nagore to Karaikal and the other is from Karaikal to Mayiladuturai, connecting Tirunellar. As far as Tirunellar-Mayiladuturai area is concerned, lines are already available

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

and there is no need to acquire land. The trustees of the temple are willing to give Rs. 10 crore as donation to the Railways for this purpose. For Karaikal-Nagore project, the Government of Puducherry is willing to give 50 per cent of the cost as their share. Therefore, it should be done.

Then, a survey for Cuddalore-Puducherry-Tindivanam-Chennai section must be completed immediately.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 6 O'clock. I want to take the sense of the House for extending the time of the House by one hour.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): Hon. Minister was to reply today. So, the time of the House may be extended till his reply is completed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: House do agree to extend the time till the reply by the hon'ble Minister of Railways is completed.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir. Let us discuss today. Reply could be given tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister wants to reply today. Hon'ble Members have also agreed to that.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Minister to this aspect. He must connect Puducherry to Chennai. You know that we have been thinking of a third project, like Deccan Queen Express connecting Puducherry and Chennai so that the employed people can go to Chennai and come back. In that respect,

Puducherry can work as a satellite town for Chennai. If you connect it, it will be a two and a half hours journey. So, you kindly pay personal attention to this aspect.

Under the scheme of connecting all the capital cities, Puducherry being a capital city, hon. Minister may give a direct train from Delhi to Puducherry. He can route it via Mahe also. Finally, I would request you that you must try to pay special attention to Puducherry because it is a Union Territory. I would appeal to you to earmark at least 0.5 per cent of total Railway Budget for the development of Union Territory of Puducherry. We are clamouring for statehood.

Today, in my absence, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has said that Puducherry should be given to Tamil Nadu and Mahe should be given to Kerala. It is an absurd suggestion. That should not be taken up. We are moving towards statehood and railway development should help us to achieve it.

[Translation]

*SHRI PARASNATH YADAV (Jaunpur): I want to bring the persistent demands of the people of my constituency to the notice of the hon'ble Minister through this discussion on Supplementary Budget of Railways. I not only hope but feel confident that he will consider these demands sympathetically and fulfill them at the earliest.

The people have been making demand for introducing a fast train from Jaunpur to Mumbai via Allahabad for the last twenty years. This demand is raised from time to time by people's representatives through the House. I had also made the demand in the House to introduce a train during the 12th Lok Sabha. Almost 80 per cent people of the district and areas nearby travel to and fro Mumbai for employment. Passengers face a lot of difficulties due to long journey. They get direct trains only from Varansi or Allahabad. Passengers are robbed of their belongings by giving them sedative drugs. Therefore, kindly introduce a fast train from Jaunpur district (Uttar Pradesh) to Mumbai via Allahabad in public interest. Trains on Patna-Kolkata route via Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varansi run late due to non-electrification between Lucknow to Varansi. Besides, it takes more time and people face inconvenience.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

All the super fast trains going to Lucknow run via Jaunpur. Trains do not stop on station falling between Lucknow and Varansi to save time which causes inconvenience to public. People of Jaunpur have to spend more money and time. Diesel trains are often late. If Lucknow-Varansi line is electrified then trains on this route will run in time. Doubling work on that route is on progress. The people will be benefited immensely if the electrification work is done along with doubling.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Railways, through this House to pass orders for electrification of Lucknow-Varansi section. A National Highway passes through Jaunpur to Varansi via Lucknow, Sultanpur. It has heavy traffic on it. Jagdishpur railway crossing in Jaunpur witnesses long queues due to frequent passages of trains. This leads to traffic snarls everyday in Jaunpur. Working class, traders, students and common people face a lot of difficulties as a result thereof. Every year, diesel and petrol worth crores of rupees is wasted. Several times it causes accidents. Owing to these difficulties local people have been demanding construction of an over bridge at Jagdishpur railway crossing in Jaunpur for a long time. Therefore, an over bridge at Jagdishpur railway crossing in Jaunpur should be constructed keeping in view the problems being faced by the people.

A railway station in Jaunpur named Jaunpur Kachahri was established in year 1925 during British period which was demolished a few years back and stoppage of a single passenger train has also been discontinued from 21 July 2006. The collector office, Civil Court, Banks etc. are located near Jaunpur Kachahri station. Everyday lakhs of people from remote places and other districts come to Jaunpur for livelihood and other purposes since it is a district headquarter. People have to face a lot of difficulties due to abandoning of this station. Advocates, litigants, students, teachers and working class are agitating on this issue. Keeping in view the widespread anger amongst people and usefulness of Jaunpur Kachahri station, the stoppage of passenger trains, ticket counter and other basic facilities should be restored in public interest. Jaunpur Kachahri station should be restored in view of earnest demand of people and stoppage of trains should also be restored there.

Prior to independence, in the year 1920, during the British period a passenger train was introduced for public

from Jaunpur to Allahabad via Jafarabad station. A passenger train goes to Allahabad from Jaunpur in the morning and similarly a passenger train leaves Allahabad for Jaunpur in the morning. The railway track for passenger trains is meant for slow pace trains. Three years back, an Express train Godan Express was introduced from Gorakhpur to Mumbai via Jaunpur, Allahabad on demand from public. This train runs slowly between Jafarabad railway station to Jadhui railway station which has a distance of 60 kms due to weak rail track and strengthening of this rail line has not been done. Owing to it there is always an apprehension of mishap. Any day a major accident can occur. Therefore, kindly carry out the strengthening work of rail track from Jafarabad railway station to Jadhui railway station in public interest.

Sir, accidents often take place in my parliamentary constituency, Jaunpur for want of railway crossings. I have raised this issue in this House earlier also. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister again towards this issue and demand that all such places where railway crossings are needed at Jaunpur should be identified and the facility of railway crossing should be made available there.

Stoppage of Jammu-Tawi Express and Indore Express may be ensured at Jaunpur Railway Station. It is very necessary to renovate all the bridges and culverts that lie on the old railway line from Jaunpur-Jafarabad railway station to Jadhui Railway Station. Besides, the track should be made fit for the fast moving trains by strengthening the said railway line.

A railway crossing should be made on the metallic road existing a both sides of railway line to prevent accidents that often take place there. There are two railway stations namely Jaunpur City and Jaunpur (Bhandari) in my parliamentary constituency, Jaunpur, which are situated in the heart of the city. The stoppage facility of the fast trains on Varanasi-Lucknow Sultanpur route, which have no stoppage between these stations should be made available at Jaunpur city station. An Upper Class Waiting Hall may be constructed at Jaunpur City Station.

At last, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways through this House to consider all the above demands in public interest and to solve the said problems at the earliest by including these demands in the Supplementary Demand for Grants.

*SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Sir, I support the supplementary Demands for Railways and thank the Hon'ble Minister for taking Railways out of red and helping it to earn profit to the tune of Rupees 15 thousand crores. In fact, it is being praised not only in our country but in the whole world. I would like to ask some questions while drawing your attention towards Eastern Railway as well as my own parliamentary constituency.

During the year 2006-2007, you have decided to conduct survey for a new rail line to be laid between Hasdiha and Godda in Jharkhand. The survey work has been completed. Kindly connect the district Head Quarters, Godda with railway line by sanctioning this new rail line in the coming budget.

A super fast train from Patna to Ranchi via Jisidiah, Madhupur, Dhanbad should be started immediately. There is not a single train to Mumbai from Chitaranjan to Jhajha in Eastern Railway. As a result, the passengers of Deoghar, Dumka, Banka, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur have to face heavy problems. Therefore, a train from Asansol to Mumbai via Jasidih, Patna may be started.

Modernisation of Madhupur, Jasidih, Chitaranjan and Giridih railway stations under Eastern Railway may be done immediately. An E.M.U. train from Giridih to Asansol may be introduced.

The region under Asansol Division that falls in Jharkhand is being ignored. It is a serious issue. Please pay attention to it also.

The time table of Vananchal Express that runs between Sahebganj and Ranchi should be changed according to the convenience of the passengers.

Kashi Vaidyanathdham Express should be extended from Vaidyanathdham to Delhi via Kashi, Varanasi.

With these suggestions, I again congratulate you and hope that you will certainly take a decision after considering our demands. Now, I thank the Hon'ble Chairman and conclude my speech.

*SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Today, Supplementary Demands for Grants are being

discussed in the House. I support it. My parliamentary constituency falls in the region of Indo-Nepal border, the most important rail line that passes from Jhanjharpur and touches Lokaha-Nepal border is a meter gauge line. Minister of Defence has been requested to provide money to change this rail line into abroad gauge. Similarly, there is a meter gauge line between Sakari Railway Station and Nirmali, Ministry of Defence was requested through a proposal to change this meter gauge line also into a broad gauge line. Connecting the said meter gauge rail lines into a broad gauge lines will not only connect this Indo-Nepal border area with the mainstream of the nation but also strengthen the Indo-Nepal friendship from strategic point of view by providing facilities to the passengers from both the countries.

Therefore, I demand the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to sanction the proposal of connecting the said meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines during the year 2006-2007 and implement the same immediately.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESWARI: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we are discussing here the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways by the Union Government and I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards this. We may recall the Railway Budget presented in February in which various announcements were made and the people were promised a moon that all these announcements will be fulfilled within the period of one year. Since we are people's representative, we are responsible to people. Whether we act as Member of Parliament, we are responsible for the development of our Parliamentary constituency. Similarly, Railway Minister is also responsible in the same manner for the materialization of the dream shown through the budget to improve the railway service all over the country. I would like to draw his attention that he has said in many announcements that he will introduce 26 new trains. Among these 26 trains, it was mentioned that 16 trains will be introduced in Bihar. I do not want to make comments that whether these trains have been introduced or not but I would like to point out that he had said that a new train from Ajmer to Udaipur will be introduced. Gauge-conversion of Chittor-Ajmer section is going on but that work has not been completed. This work was scheduled to be completed by March, 2007. Till then that new train can not be introduced. Hence, I would like to say that introduction of new train has gone in vain. New

*The speech was laid on the Table.

trains have not been introduced because gauge conversion has not been completed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, both the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Railways are present here. Laluji was also present here, but he has left just now. But through you, I would like to convey my words to hon'ble Laluji that work pertaining to Chittor-Ajmer gauge-conversion should be completed expeditiously. Similarly, work pertaining to Neemuch-Ratlam gauge-conversion is scheduled to be completed by March. I would like to submit that such work should be completed expeditiously. I would like to draw the attention of Railway Minister to complete this work expeditiously. Railway Minister had given an assurance in the previous budget regarding the gauge-conversion. There is a long-pending demand of gauge-conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad. Hon'ble Minister of Railways Narayan Bhai is sitting in the House. Since he is from Gujarat, I think he will support me that even after the period of ten months of the commencement of the survey work pertaining to the gauge-conversion of Ahmedabad to Udaipur section via Himmatpur, Dungarpur, we do not know the status of the work. It was mentioned in the Budget that survey of gauge-conversion has been completed. Whenever letters were written in this regard, it was replied that we are in reception of your letter, work is in progress. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge the hon'ble Members that it is a very important matter but I am annoyed by the manner in which we discuss it in the House. I would like to say that gauge-conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad is needed because Udaipur as a tourist place is not only Kashmir of Rajasthan but foreign tourists and people from all over the country like to visit here and this place is famous tourist place on the international tourist map. Hence, there is an international airport to be constructed at Udaipur to facilitate air passengers. To facilitate road connectivity two national highways from Udaipur are being planned under Golden Quadrilateral Project. Hence, through you, I would like to say that if Udaipur-Ahmedabad is linked with broad gauge, then Udaipur will be connected with the entire South India and Mumbai and it will attract industrial investment and tourists. So, I would reiterate that you may please consider to expedite the Udaipur-Ahmedabad broadgauge line and take firm decision in this regard.

Similarly Mawli, Marwar junction is also important.

Laluji had said in his previous Budget that we are considering the Mawli, Marwar junction and we are going to start the survey work. But I am sorry to say that work pertaining to Mawli, Marwar junction has not been started. There are four places of pilgrimage between Mawli and Marwar. First comes Nathadwara, then is the temple of Dwarakadhish of Kakodi, then there was Char Bhujaji Temple and it will link Marwar station via Bhim ka Kshetra and here is a huge marble industry which will be benefited a lot. Railways will also be benefited a lot by it. In view of freight it is essential that work pertaining to Mawli-Mewar junction should be started. So, work pertaining to gauge conversion and survey should be started so that it may be accorded sanction. As far as extension of trains is concerned, I would like to thank him for introducing Mewar express. I would also like to thank him for changing its time table. But this Mewar express runs between Udaipur and Nizamuddin only. It should be extended to Haridwar. I had made a request in this regard in the past also. Since, I am a Member of Consultative Committee, I have said many a times in the meetings and raised the matter that when this train is going to be extended from Udaipur to Haridwar. But there is no reply. It will be better when we will get the reply. I would like to draw his attention with regard to introduction of new trains that a new train should be introduced from Udaipur to Mumbai via Kota. At present work pertaining to Ajmer is going on. Through this route Kota or Neemuch will be linked then we can introduce a train for Mumbai via Ratlam. Similarly, a new Shatabdi train should be introduced from Udaipur to Jaipur, capital city of Rajasthan which is three hundred or four hundred kilometers away from Udaipur. This Shatabdi train should start from Udaipur in the morning for Jaipur and it should return in the evening. In this manner, this Shatabdi train from Udaipur to Jaipur should be introduced. I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Railway Minister towards this.

I had said in the last meeting of Consultative Committee regarding ROBs that Rajasthan Government has provided fifty per cent fund for 16 ROBs to be constructed in Rajasthan but Union Government has accorded sanction for only 4 ROBs as given in the Supplementary Demands for Grants where no fund has been released for 16 ROBs for which Rajasthan Government has deposited its share with the Union Government'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Let Shri Lal Singh to speak.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESWARI: Since it is being repeated time and again that Railway has been earning profit. We congratulate him for that and submit that he may please get the work of ROBs completed but it should be considered also that where there are self Manufacturing Associations. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHURY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, who will listen two stations?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may start, Lal Singhji, if you will not speak I will move forward and call another name.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Chaudhary Lal Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*...*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record. Lal Singhji, you please speak. You may continue your speech.

CHAUDHAURY LAL SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I am proceeding to speak on the Demandss for Grants for Railways and first of all I would like to congratulate our Hon'ble Ministers Shri Velu Saheb, Rathwa Saheb and their team that the amount of work done this time across Hindustan is a record. It is not that we want to praise someone. I want to say that if we do not praise good work, then it will get discouraged. The Railways is one such Department which has taken good care of the poor people of the country for these Ministers come from the grass-root level and they have been very kind to the general public, railway fare hikes have come to a complete halt which were increased in the past year after year. Our State has got a lot in terms of development and improvement. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Railways for making Udhampur Railway Station and starting DMU trains. This train could not be started during the tenure of

the previous Government. I thought that the region has got an unfair treatment. But this Government has done it. Besides, some promises were made for the people of this region which I would like to remind you.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, common people were promised that a Railway Sleeper Factory will be set up in Udhampur, which has not been implemented. If you do not fulfil your commitment, it will not send a good message. It should be paid attention. Udhampur is the last station in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. You are very well aware that all the trains should terminate at the last station. When Pathankot was the last station, all the trains used to terminate there. When Jammu was made the last station all the trains started terminating there. Accordingly Udhampur is now the last station and all the trains should terminate here. When Vaishno Devi-Katra will be made the last station, all the trains should go there. 70 thousand passengers come here by trains, therefore, I request you to extend the trains to Udhampur. It was said that instructions will be issued for it and this will be implemented. I am happy that this will be done, I wanted to get it on record.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, DRM office was created for Ferozpur station in 1926. At that time trains used to run up to Pathankot and that was a short distance, but that distance has increased today by more than 10 times. Now railway lines are being laid to Baramula and trains are being run up to Udhampur. So there should be a DRM office in Jammu. A DRM office is required there for the smooth running of trains. As Udhampur is an isolated place and construction work is going on there, our State employees work outside, and there are a number of other departments. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has started a number of schemes to generate employment in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, a DRM office should be created there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, survey for rail route from Jammu to Kathua should be conducted. Majority of the people of Kathu-Basauli-Bani-Bhatharvah-Kishtwar are being ignored. People of our area will benefit a lot from this Railway route. The Railway Ministry is doing expansion work. I would like to request you to pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you see our entire area is hilly area with blind covers. There are no overbridges on any railway crossings there. As a result a number of people

*Not recorded.

and cattle lose their lives. We have Lakhanpur-Jagadishpur-Garot-Janglot-Luget-Barwal-Budi-Maladroti-Jasota-Mirpur-Thakurpur-Khatre-Dayalchak stations.

I would also like to request that there should be another direct train for Haridwar, for there is only one direct train for Haridwar at present. This results in heavy rush during the festivals. That train goes overcrowded. There is only one train for Haridwar....(Interruptions) There is no Shatabdi train here. Therefore a Shatabdi train should be started there. Rajadhani Express runs once a week, it should be continued so that it continues to run and it should be extended upto Udhampur.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to make surprise checks for ensuring cleanliness in respect of beddings, food and bathrooms in the trains as he keeps on doing. Besides, Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur stations should be upgraded. At last I would like to say that a sleeper factory must be set up there.

Saying this much I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to speak.

*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, we are discussing supplementary budget for Railways. All the points which are discussed in the General Budget for Railways. All the points which are discussed in the General Budget for Railways, have not been included in it. Supplementary Budget has been presented in respect of certain Demands for Grants pertaining to some railway works. I would, therefore, like to present my views in short regarding those Demands for Grants.

The pace with which technological development is taking place in different fields and the need for rapid changes in the Railway Programmes in view of this is still there. A lot needs to be done by the railways to provide more and more facilities to the people and to fulfil social obligations. The efforts being made for achieving the priorities set for making the railways more efficient and useful within the specified time is very important and for this the concept of uni-gauge should be implemented, though it is gaining momentum, a lot still needs to be done. I would like to thank that gauge conversion work on the Ratlam-Neemuch section under the Western Railways

in my constituency is going on in full swing and it will be completed by March, 2007 and passenger trains will start running and I hope that goods trains will start running even before the passenger trains i.e. by the end of January or February, 2007. Gauge Conversion work in Chittor-Ajmer line is also to be completed and I hope that work on this section will also be completed within the specified time limit so that Ratlam-Ajmer section becomes completely equipped with passenger amenities. In this context I would like to request that if this work gets extended from Ratlam to Indore and Khandwa, then Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will not be only directly linked with Maharashtra and South India, but these regions will also get directly linked with Bhopal and Capital and Madhya Pradesh, Mumbai the capital of Maharashtra, Ahmedabad the capital of Gujarat, and Delhi. I would like to the hon'ble Minister to take concrete steps in this regard.

With respect to Demands for Grants No 4I would like to say that rail lines urgently need to be repaired. Culverts numbering into thousands are in bad shape and need repair and should be repaired on a war footing to prevent accidents. The reason of the accident which occurred recently at Bhagalpur was that the bridge had not been repaired in time. Similarly, other bridges should be repaired by fixing priority for them. It is very necessary keeping in view the security of life and property of the people.

With reference to demand no. 6, I would like to say that engines are not being manufactured in required manner. The manufacturing of these engines be expedited so that old engines may be replaced. Similarly, manufacturing and repair of coaches is also required to great extent. The working capacity of the sources and facilities available with our Coach Manufacturing Factories may be increased. During the discussion on the Railways Budget I had demanded that the survey on the new railway line between Ujjain-Ramganj market be completed and the work on it be carried on but its status is disappointing. Likewise, I had said about providing rail connectivity between Nimach and Barhi Sadri. Kindly pay attention to that too.

I have said about gauge conversion of Nimach-Ratlam railway section. In this regard, I would like to make one more submission that the facilities for loading and transportation for traders, industrialists, various

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

entrepreneurs and general public at various railway stations is positively required and the movement of goods train be arranged accordingly for the sake of railways revenue. On that section Mandsaur is a central station which is a district Head Quarter. It is connected with Rajasthan from three sides and from this station, cement, oil or other agricultural products manufactured or produced in Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh are loaded and cement, chemical manure, edible oil and other goods are unloaded. Soyabean, wheat, garlic, coriander are such products which are transported to several parts of the country from here and imported also. Keeping this in view, a full rake point is required at this station. For this purpose, memoranda etc. have also been given to Railways from Chamber of Commerce and other institutions of Mandsaur.

In this regard, I would like to make one more submission in public interest and it is about Railway crossings. Gauge conversion may lead to the closure of a number of railway crossings and some of them may be shifted. The facilities already available to the public should be continued and as far as possible, the railway crossing may be kept in operation otherwise, such an option should be provided which is convenient for public and travellers both. As overbridges are required on and around the stations, likewise, railway crossings are required. Alongwith gauge conversion the height of platforms is being raised and they are being expanded also. But their construction is not being done in proper way. It needs to be rectified. Similarly, all facilities elated to catering, drinking water supply, sitting arrangement and proper platform sheds need to be provided at platforms. So, I would like to repeat two or three submissions which are concerned with my constituency.

One additional train may be introduced between Kota-Rattam because people travel in large number on this route. The number of reserved sleepers in the trains running presently have been increased but general coaches have not been increased. So the number of general coaches may be increased.

Earlier, I had requested to make Garoth and Shamgarh, stoppages for Intercity and Jammu Tawi respectively. I would like to repeat this request. The difficulties being experienced by the public of the area after gauge

conversion are about the proper arrangement of railway crossings near railway station at Jawra, Midindian In Mandsaur, Pipaliya Mandi and Nimach. Kindly pay attention to it. It would create great inconvenience, if proper arrangements are not made.

While concluding, I would like to draw your kind attention towards consultation committees too. The meetings of Divisional Railways Consumers Consulting Committee and Zonal Railways Consumers Consaltative Committee may be held regularly so that we may express our views about common difficulties and inconvenices and these may also be addressed on the spot. The security of the railways may also be addressed on the spot. The security of the railways may be beefed up and the interests of the railway employees may also be attended to.

I have drawn your kind attention towards some points in brief. I hope that you will take positive steps on these points.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Chairman, I thank you as I have been given the opportunity after waiting for a long time.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, I admire Hon. Minister of Railways shri Lalu Prasad and both of his deputies Shri R. Velu and Shri Rathwaji and Railwyas Board for the reason that with their efforts the Railways which had been running in losses have been able to earn a profit of Rs. 20 thousand crores for the first time after independence. It's a remarkable feat. It is more so, given the fact that Indian Railway is the second biggest railway network in the world. The name of Laluji is mentioned wherever the discussion on railways starts in the world as people are surprised to know that how a Railways have been made a profit making enterprise which had been running in lessees. With this, I would like to say a few things to Laluji. He has done a great job for which he deserves appreciation. We do not want to compare Indian Railways with that of Europe or America but I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Minister towards China and Korea. Bullet trains have been introduced in China and Korea. In our country, Rajdhani Express was introduced at a speed of 130 km/hr. Several years ago and this train is running at the same speed even today. You have introduced a train at a speed of 150 km/hr. from here to Agra but the world is moving very fast and where do we stand? I would urge upon you

that at least such a train may be introduced in the country which runs at the speed of a Bullet Train. After doing this job your name will be written in golden letters. The Ardhakumba fair is due at Allahabad where crores of people are expected to arrive. No fair is organized at such a large scale in the entire world. I want that a Shatabdi train may be introduced to Allahabad before this Ardhakumba fair starts so that people remember you. I have invited you that you may also offer 'Ganga Pooja' and visit Chhawat also. In a way, Allahabad is the religious capital of our country. The rush of many trains of your Grant Trunk Route will be reduced if you double the Lucknow-Banaras-Allahabad Line from here. The railway lines from Lucknow to Allahabad and from Banaras to Allahabad may be doubled. Due to the lack of Double line. It takes 4-5 hours to travel a distance of 200 km from Lucknow to Banaras. A period of two years is left of your tenure. I hope that this work will be completed within this period. Similarly, you have agreed to the railway line from Gwalior to Mainpuri via Etawah. The work on this line is continuing at very slow pace.

18.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, I had said at Rambagh in Allahabad as to where you construct ROB. We are entering 21st century. Your hon'ble Member said that railway line and ROB can be constructed. Your General Manager has also said that ROB can be built. I would like that you send Mr. Rathwa or Mr. Veluji and inform us also about that. General Manager of North Eastern Railway, PWD and Bridge Corporation have said that ROB can be constructed. Therefore, I would like that you kindly get this work done because half of the city is divided and when it is closed, there is a jam for half an hour. The Uttar Pradesh Government has already written to the Railway Board that it will provide the amount of Rs. 14 crores. Therefore, there should not be any difficulty in that.

Sir, the railway Engineer says rickshaws will not be able to move upward on ROB. I would like to tell him that rickshaws, cycles and motor cars ply on railway over bridge. Motor cars and scooters will run on this ROB. I request Mr. Velu, Mr. Rathwa and Hon'ble Minister of Railways to come there for one day and get it done. I hope that you do

introduce one Shatabdi train before Ardh Kumbh fair and come to Allahabad by the same train.

[English]

*PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Sir, the Railway Ministry deserves everyone's appreciation and admiration for the tremendous work done in the sphere of Railway Administration, modernization and continuation of up to dating process in production.

The Railway, being the largest in the world have opened up vast avenues for employment, improvement and development. Millions of people draw satisfaction and contentment from the services extended by the Railways for passengers as well as commercial community.

It is very much appreciable to know that the Railway Ministry is taking very many measures for expending the work of gauge conversion. It opens the avenues for private partnership; it encourages State Governments to come forward to fund the Railway projects and it is reported that the Railway strive to generate new sources of investment in the Railway Projects and Schemes. It is indeed a novel idea that has dawned upon the Railway Ministry.

If this modern trend of modernization with efficient administration continues, the country will certainly reach the pinnacle of glory and greatness in the field of Railway Transportation.

In Tamil Nadu good old railway lines are now taken for gauge conversion. I would like to request the Hon'ble Ministry to speed up the work of completion of gauge conversion.

In order to avoid accidents in the Railway crossings, the work of guarding the crossings and regulating the traffic may be entrusted to the Panchayats of those areas concerned just like the protection of road way trees has been given to the Panchayats.

In my Vellore Constituency, the Railway Ministry has come forward to lay the Railway linking Arni and others towns and villages from Tindivanam with Ranipet. It is indeed a very great boon for the agriculturalist and traders in this region. The people of Arni and the neighboring

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen]

towns and villages express their deep sense of gratitude for the Railway Ministry.

The people of Gudiyattam in my Vellore Constituency demand for a very long period that their railway stations should be developed into a modern railway station and some of fast train should be allowed to have stops in the station. It is a big industrial town and I request the Railway Ministry to concede the demand of the people of Gudiyattam.

The Railway line that links Kotpadi with Villupuram needs doubling in order to help the vast passenger community from the region. Vellore, the tourist Centre and medical centre for people of very vast areas and Thiruvammalai, the neighboring town which is the pilgrim centre—these two towns see vast throng of people from very many places. Doubling Railway line of Katpadi-Villupuram will be of immense help for the lakhs of travelers.

The Railway Ministry with its able and efficient administration will certainly be one of the prides of this great Country.

*SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I give thanks you for allowing me to participate on the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grant on Railways 2006-07 today.

At the outset I should mention that the Revenue earning traffic on Railways has increased by 10.8 per cent to 55.8 per cent million tones in September as compared to 5.6 per cent growth in the corresponding month of the previous year. Traffic has been growing at a healthy pace since the beginning of the fiscal is a good sign. This is mirrored in the 9.9 per cent rise in revenue earning tariff to 344.6 million tonnes during April-September 2006. Tariff of cement on railways rose by a steep 31.9 per cent. Coal tariff on railways has increased by 6.8 per cent. But tariff of raw material to steel plants grew by a meager 2.9 per cent while that of foodgrains and iron ore for export declined by 6.2 per cent and 11.8 per cent respectively. This point should be taken note of and this has happened should be enquired and corrective steps be taken at the earliest.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Although revenue earning tariff on railways is growing at a healthy pace, railways needs to increase production of coaches, diesel and electric locomotives. The container policy which has been liberalized for participation of private sector, is investing about Rs. 2 thousand crore for manufacture of wagons and terminals. I would like to know the results. What is the outcome?

The Tenth Plan identified certain thrust areas in the railway sector. There are, capacity expansion through modernization and technological upgradation, improvement in the quality of services, rationalization of tariff in order to improve the share of rail freight in the total traffic and to improve the safety and reliability of rail services. While the Railways have been able to achieve the targets for freight movement in the first of three years, there are questions about the pace at which the modernization programme is proceeding. The progress regarding tariff rationalization has been very limited. We should remember that the Tenth Plan had targeted a relative low growth rate of 5 per cent in freight. The average annual growth rate of freight in the first three years of the Tenth Plan is likely to be 6.8 per cent. This is commendable. This is a necessity to continue to maintain this growth rate in future.

The rate of growth of passenger tariff is only earned 2.02 per cent, against 4.93 per cent in case of passenger kms. I would expect that the Railways will be able to achieve its targets for passenger traffic of Tenth Plan.

Now, I would like to deal on the financial performance. One is aware that the approved outlay for the Railways in the Tenth Plan is Rs. 60 thousand six hundred crores. Of this, gross budgetary support (GBS) accounts for Rs. 27,600 or which is 46 per cent. There has been a trend of increasing reliance on GBS and a declining contribution of IEBR since the 9th Plan. This appears to have continued in the Tenth Plan. The Railways, have been provided near about 70 per cent of total Tenth Plan GBS in the first three years of the Plan period and the contribution of IEBR is only 55% of total Tenth Plan IEBR. Therefore, the requirement of funds during the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan has been estimated at Rs. 39,765 crore. Since the current level of GBS of about Rs. 7231 crore can be raised only marginally because of fiscal constraints, mobilization of

additional resources through various other measures is unavoidable.

You have one Rail Vikas Yojna. You also have one Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. as a special purpose vehicle. There is a need to reinforce the financially viable projects through RVNL. For Orissa, Haridaspur Paradeep rail line is one such project. So also, Paradeep rail line is one such project. So also, Railways should take active interest to construct new rail line to connect Dhamra Port from Bhadrak by floating a new SPV. It is a size on the part of the Railways to target commodities that are to be carried but it. As far as I understand cement, clinker, fly ash, coal, limestone, dolomite and minerals like iron-ore for the traffic. Adequate attention be given for development of rail traffic in East-Coast Railway Zone which has been providing more revenue to the Railway kitty.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and Railway Minister regarding doubling of rail line. In 2006-07, a target was fixed for doubling 435 km. In this Sambalpur-Sarala-Jharsanguda bye-pans in Orissa was identified which would add to the line capacity on certain congested routes. Though doubling of the entire Talcher-Nergudi-Cuttack-Paradeep line been completed, the second bridge near river Mahanadi costing around Rs. 122 crore is under construction. The doubling of Cuttack-Barang section which has been sanctioned at cost of Rs. 178 crore 98 lakhs is in progress. These two works are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. should be expedited. Cuttack-Barang doubling is partly being funded through the Asian Development Bank funds. Funds are not a problem today. But why the work is not progressing?

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister regarding the problems of the railway commuters are facing, especially in East-Coast Railway in Khurdha-Road Division. Because of congestion near Cuttack and as priority is being given to freight traffic, railway passengers are facing a lot of problems. Trains are running later and amenities are not of standard. Specially the Passenger trains that ply in Khurdha Road Division, such as Kharagpur-Phurdhar Road, Palasa-Paradeep Puri-Cuttack (UP/Down) do not ply as per the time schedule. Khurdha Road Kharagpur Fast Passenger should ply through Cuttack station. Sambalpur-Puri and Sambalpur-Bhubaneswar Inter-city, Amritsar-Visakhapatnam Express

Trains should ply through Cuttack instead of bye-passing Cuttack. Tapaswini Express which plies from Puri to Hatia should leave Puri at 6.15 pm instead of 8.45 pm so that it can reach Hatia by 9.30 am the next day. Vasco-Howrah train is yet to commence. Similarly Bangalore-Bhubaneswar via Visakhapatnam Prashanti Express is yet to fructify. Dhauli Express should leave at 1.50 pm from Bhubaneswar. There is no need to detain the Dhenkanal-Puri Passenger train at Khurdha Road unnecessarily so that it can reach Puri by 11.30 am. Today, passengers are flocking towards railways as it is cheap in comparison to bus rate. But Railway should look after the interest of short distance travelers too. Railways is not only for long distance passengers. There is a need to allow train No. 8413-8414 Bhubaneswar-Samlapur-Bhubaneswar express pass through Cuttack station.

Orissa is now in the process of industrialization. More investment is required. Therefore virgin areas are to be explored. The survey report of Talcher-Gopalpur Broad gauge rail link line submitted to the Ministry has indicated favourable rate of return. The recent thrust of industrialization with setting up of steel, power and aluminum plants would require a dedicated railway line between Talcher to Gopalpur which is declared as Special Economic Zone for export and import of raw material and finished products.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to state that this year a Orissa received a handsome amount. I would be happy if the budgeted amount is spent during the stipulated time period. I would also remind the Minister that the Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways has made a demand for allotment of Rs. 1600 crores for completion of the ongoing projects in the State of Orissa. Therefore, this year's budgetary allocation was a right step in that direction but implementation is the core issue. The money should be spent. I would urge upon the Government to spend the money in the stipulated time.

Wish there worlds, I conclude.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad, his team of Shri Velur, Shri Rathwa and the Railway Board for taking the Railways into profits and also for caring the common man by starting air-conditioned train, namely, *Garib Rath* for them. The common man might not have dreamt of traveling in ari-

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

conditioned coaches. But at the same time, I am also unhappy that in the Supplementary Demands for Grants no allocations were made to the State of Andhra Pradesh. In the South Central Railway there are so many works which need more funds. The funds allocated in the regular Budget were not sufficient for the Railways; on-going projects whether it is doubling, gauge conversion work, etc. It needs to be looked into and more allocations to be made to the South Central Railway.

Coming to the new lines, the Railway Minister was kind enough to give many new lines throughout the country. One railway line between Raichur and Macherla which connects both the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh covers nearly 380 kilometres. The two projects of Gadwal and Raichur and Mecherla-Nalgonda have been sanctioned. The main part which goes through my Constituency and most of the backward areas and the areas in Telengana between Gadwal and Macherla have not been sanctioned. Earlier, when I raised this matter under Rule 377, the then Railway Minister in a written reply stated that this middle part between Gadwal and Macherla or Nalgonda where the junction is going to be, will be taken be subsequently. But in the previous Budget, it has not been given any preference. My request to the hon. Minister is to think of the line between Gadwal and Macherla.

Coming to the RoBs and RuBs, my long pending demand and request is for one RoB or RuB at Jadcherla Railway Station. The gate which is located very much in the yard of Jadcherla Railway Station connects both old town and the new town. Recently, because of the closure of the Gate, a person who was suffering from heart attack could not be taken to the hospital because Railway Gate became the hurdle in that. Ultimately, the person died on the spot near the Railway Gate. People were agitating and they were destroying the Railway property. But we went there and pacified them with the assurance that we would request the hon. Shri Lalu Prasad to see that one RoB or RuB is sanctioned for Jadcherla Railway Station.

Likewise, coming to the ROBs, I have been requesting for it at Yenugonda level crossing gate which is located between Jadcherla and Mahboob Nagar. It is a busy route and every time when the train passes through it, there is

a long queue of vehicle there. There is also a request for an ROB at Gadwal Railway Station and at Devarkadra Railway Crossing Gate. Nowadays, many of the South-bound trains are passing through Secunderabad and South Guntakal. This route requires doubling. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to think of doubling this route.

I also request the stoppage of Dharmavaram Express at Jadcherla Railway Station in both the directions. It is a commercial station where a lot of business go on. It is situated in the heart of the District. People are reaching Puttaparthi to have the darshan of Sai Baba. So, my request is stoppage of Dharmavaram Express which is a long pending demand. Likewise, I am requesting all the passenger trains for a halt at Timmapur and HBL stations. It is an industrial area and an Assembly segment also. Nearly 350 industrial units have come up there and labourers travel between Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Shad Nagar. Because of their poor financial conditions and less wages, it is difficult for them to stay in that area and thus they have to travel from Hyderabad to Shad Nagar to Kottur. My request is to see that all the trains who go through Secunderabad upto Dronachalam halt at Timmapur and HBL stations.

The hon. Minister has promised starting of four superfast trains. My request is for a superfast train between Hyderabad and Mumbai.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I would like to give some suggestions on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2004-05. Indian Railways rank fifth in the world. Hon'ble Lalaji is trying to bring it to the first position. There is an 13-14% increase in the Railways' earning. It earned a record profit of Rs. 20 thousand crores. This earning is due to curtailment in time. The speed of 245 passenger trains is being increased. 30 passenger trains are being accorded the super fast status. 208 passenger trains are being brought to the superfast category. 1500 ATMs of the State Bank of India have been installed at the Railway Stations. There is a provision of installing 5000 ATMs. Freight charges for food items, cement and other consumer goods are being hiked. It has

*The speech was laid on the Table.

been announced that Rs. three lac crores will be invested for extension and modernisation of railways in the 11th five year plan. I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for introducing Garib Rath. 4200 AC bogies are on track. The vacant land of the Railways may be given on rent or lease to people for Agri Market and Godowns. There is a plan to build a super speciality hospital for railway employees in Patna, Bihar. Length of 560 platforms will be increased. Platforms in my district Kaushambi, Alahabad and Fatehpur, Mannori, Barwari, Sirthu, Subedarganj, Rawaga stations should be extended so that trains consisting of 23-24 bogies can have stoppage there. There is a provision to convert 16 stations into international level stations, which includes Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Uttar Pradesh will be taken in second phase, in spite of its being the biggest State of the country. Here Lucknow, Allahabad stations should be upgraded to international level stations in first phase. Hotels consisting of 50 to 100 rooms will be constructed in Hundred major stations by IRCTC, which is essential in Marwari district Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh. There is a provision for Budget Hotel in Lucknow, Varanasi under the North Eastern Railway; Allahabad, Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh should be included therein. here is a provision to open two hundred food plaza hotels. This should also be opened in Marwari Station of Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh. Office of NCR is being opened in my area. There is no outlet for water in Mundera village. Consequently, it is feared that the whole village can be submerged. Arrangement for water drainage through NCR sewer should be made. Kindly extend Subedarjung Division, Phaphamow, Naini Stations in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh to divert the passenger traffic from Allahabad. Marwari and Siratha stations in district Kaushambi should be made junction stations so that stoppage of major trains could be made there.

There is railway crossing at Marwari Station in my parliamentary constituency, which connects GT Road to district headquarter. Rupees four crores have been granted from Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for constructing ROB there. The State Government is providing 6.5 crore NOC may be granted for constructing the said bridge. There is provision to run palace on wheels from Hawra to Allahabad via Varanasi in Baudh circuit, it should be extended to district Kaushambi because Lord Budha lived there for 12 years.

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants on Railways.

Sir, Mr. Laluji is being praised, I am also glad that he has put Railways on track by recovering losses. It is being propogated but when we closely look at it we find that although railway fares have not been hiked but since major trains have been converted into superfast ones, the commonman has to pay more for superfast trains, which is an injustice to them. Please reconsider it. There is a need to increase railway services for backward areas like Bundelkhand and whenever these services are increased Railway's earnings also have increased. There is a need for increased allocation for the Lalitpur-Singrauli Railway Line. An amount of about Rs. 200 crores is needed for Lalitpur to Muvadi and Mavadi to Khajuraho Division.

Similarly, Sir, there is an urgent need to complete Mahova to Khajuraho Railway Line. There is no mention about it completion it in the Supplementary Demand.

Sir, tourism in Bundelkhand will increase if work on Mahova-Khajuraho line is completed immediately. It will facilitate visit of domestic-international tourists. Sir, keeping in view the necessity as well as public demand I have requested to run a new passenger train from Jhansi to Baanda because there is no means of public transport for the common people from 10 am to 6 pm there. Therefore, an order may be issued to run a passenger train. Order may be issued to run Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti on a dally basis. Stoppage of Budelkhand express at Niwadi and Tehorka stations should be restored. This facility was available earlier. Therefore, order should be issued to provide stoppage of Bundelkhand express at Niwadi and Teharka stations.

Sir, we are happy that the trains—'Garib Rath'—have been introduced. Kindly introduce Garib Rath train from Jhansi to Malikpur in a poor and backward area of Bundelkhand. I have made a demand time and again for providing facilities at Harpalpur Station. You have also given assurance; but, Sir, there is no overbridge, at the station for moving to other platform. There is no facility of drinking water. There is no shed on both the platforms. There is no facility for passenger Waiting Hall also. Similarly, there is

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

deficiency of all such facilities at Niwari, Orchha and Tiharka stations. So, there is a need to provide all these facilities at Orchha station.

Sir, similarly, it has been requested to provide to the Bopal Express stoppage at Lalitpur. I believe that this time it will be sanctioned.

At the end, I strongly demand for the doubling and electrification work of the railway line on the Jhansi-Manikpur and Manikpur-Allahabad section.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are more than 25 hon. Members to speak. Those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches may do so on the table of the House and they will form part of the proceedings of the House. Shri Ravichandran may speak now.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): I thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam participating in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grant for Railways 2006-07. Our Indian Railways is the second largest network in the world. Our Railways is the biggest employer with about 15 lakhs of employees on its roll. Recently IIM, Ahmedabad has applauded the efficient management of the Indian Railways. I appreciate the functioning of the Railways under the stewardship of Shri Lalu. But I would like to point out that Tamil Nadu has not got its due. As pointed out by Anna our founder leader of the Dravidian movement we find south is delining while north alone is coming up, the ground reality remains to be so. There are many schemes that remain merely on the paper in Tamil Nadu. The railway line between Chingleput and Tuticorin links the central Tamil Nadu. That long section needs to be laid as a double track considering the increasing rail movement and that too by the time when gauge conversion is to be completed. There is also a long pending demand to go for electrification of this route entirely. As per your announcement now only Chingleput-Villupuram and Madurai-Dindigul sections shall be taken

up for gauge conversion. At this rate I am afraid it may take 7 to 8 years to complete this. Tuticorin port is fast emerging as an important port in the region. Our rain fed southern districts are faced with depleted irrigation facilities. Unless and otherwise some industrial growth is brought about prosperity there could be a pipe dream for the people of those districts. In order to give a boost to industrial growth there, Chingleput-Tuticorin double line as an electrified one is necessary. This is an urgent need. The 67 kms long Virudhunagar-Manamadurai section provides an alternative route enabling the people of the southern districts to go to Tiruchirappalli. This year an allocation of Rs. 97 crores has been made to take up gauge conversion in that section. But so far the works have not been taken up. Considering the aspects like conservation of Energy and alternative route this project may kindly be speeded up. The project that was taken up through the efforts of our leader Vaiko is the Virudhunagar to Kollam gauge conversion works. But it goes on at a snail's pace. Till 2003 the gauge conversion was compelled up to Rajapalayam. Rajapalayam to Tenkasi section went through gauge conversion in 2004. But unfortunately the 8 kms stretch of Tenkasi-Shencottah is yet to be completed. It has been put on hold for the past three and half years. Because of this rail passengers from Tenkasi, Rajapalayam, Sivakasi are denied of direct and daily train service to Chennai. Even after 2 years of its introduction the Pothigai Express has not been made a daily express train. The people of the towns and of the surrounding areas are greatly worried and annoyed by the indifference of the Railways. We have been requesting for a long time to introduce a night passenger train to Coimbatore from Tuticorin via Erode and Tiruppur. But the demands of the public are yet to be attended to. Through the efforts of our Minister of State for Railways Shri R. Velu, new lines between Thiruvannamalai and Tindivanam and Nagari and Tindivanam are to be laid. I welcome this. A line between Madurai and Tuticorin via Aruppukkottai is necessary as Tuticorin is emerging as a bigger port. The 32 kms Rajapalayam-Sankarankoil section had two railway stations when it was a metre gauge section. But after its being converted in to a Broad gauge section there is no railway station in between. A new railway station may be set up at the 608th kms stone on that railway route. Similarly a temporary halt may be provided at the place

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

where the Virudhunagar Collector's Office is situated in order to benefit the railway passengers who throng there. It has been stated 43,000 hectares of land remains surplus. Rajapalayam-Malaiadipatti road needs to have a subway that may need a mere 2 cents of railway land to benefit the public going from Rajapalayam. Railways accepted the public demand but now they are backing out. That may kindly be considered positively by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways at the Pothigai Express Train inauguration function. On receiving a memorandum in this regard, an announcement was made by the Railway Minister. Funds have not been earmarked and the work has not been taken up as yet. Basic amenities must be provided at Thiruthangal and Sattur railway stations.

When our dynamic Ministers of Railways are functioning efficiently, I do not understand how Tamil Nadu has been sidelined both in gauge conversion and electrification. Urging upon you that these announcements must not remain on paper but must be translated in to action, I would like to emphasize on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam that pending projects must be speeded up.

*SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, I want to add some demands from my area to the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

Construction work for Gwalior via Etawa-Mainpuri railway line should be expedited, which is going on at a snail's pace.

The condition of roads of the Railway Colony and Manoranjan Sadan near Etawah Railway Station is very bad, it should be improved.

The stoppage of EMU passenger train should be at Phaphund railway station instead of Etawah.

After construction of under bridge at Etawah Mainpuri crossing, the level crossing has been closed. Due to technical shortcomings in the bridge, water logging occurs. The people suffer a lot. The level crossing should remain functional only for pedestrians and cyclists.

The beautification work on Etawah, Jaswantnagar, Phaphund Railway Stations should be taken up.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to speak on a very important topic which is concerning Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways.

Sir, Railways are the backbone to our country's economy which connect people, people from the rural areas to regional hubs and which connects *aam admi* from villages to towns.

We have a very promising hon. Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad who has a concern for the people. I come from the southern eastern part of Rajasthan. In Jhalawar, which is my parliamentary constituency, there is a proposed Ramganjmandi-Bhopal train line. The said project is about to cost Rs. 720 crore. It is the second route. If the Mumbai route gets Jammed due to floods and due to train accident, this will be the second alternative route from Mumbai to Delhi.

So, I urge the Ministry of Railways through you, Sir that the Ramganjmandi-Bhopal train line work is done in a quick manner. I would go further to ask for further stoppages of train to my area.

Now, I come to extension of certain trains. One of them is the Jaipur-Kota train running from Jaipur to Kota. If it can be extended from Jaipur to Nagda, it will facilitate common man, the *aam admi*. So, train service from Kota to Nagda through a passenger MEMU train should be provided. I would urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to put up this in the next Financial Year.

Every Station has a computerized reservation system. I would urge upon the Minister to provide it in Bhawani Mandi which is a part of my Parliamentary constituency. If I could get a computerized reservation system for the people, for the common man, the *aam admi*, I would be grateful.

Sir, numerous trains are passing through my area because it connects the heartline of Mumbai, the financial capital to the capital city of ours. Each train passes through my constituency. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to provide stoppage of Avadh-Dehradun Express at Chowmela and also provide two extra reservation of berths

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

there. I would also request the hon. Minister to provide a stoppage of the Golden Temple Express at Chowmela.

There is another route going through my Parliamentary Constituency. We have two districts. They are Bara and Atnu. Trains that are coming via Gwalior, Guna come to Bara. There is the Salpura station. If we can get stoppage of trains for the common man to move goods from point 'A' to point 'B', it will be helpful to the passengers. You are having electrification there.

We do have ROBs. We have proposed some of them. We thank the hon. Minister for that. We have other issues like providing more funds for signals and telecommunication management, traffic management which should be looked at. They can be provided in order to curb accidents from taking place. We need to provide safety to passengers.

The new concept is bio-fuel. We have to look at bio-fuel. We have to extract fuel from the Jatropa plant. We can produce bio-fuels which can reduce the cost of fuel and dependency on HSD can be minimized.

At the end, I would say that our Railway staff are working very hard. We have to lay stress on strengthening them. We need to provide them with proper pension, provident fund and medical facilities. We have to provide the medical facilities to the passengers traveling in the trains. We need the help of patrons. People who are traveling in trains should get better way-side amenities. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to provide reservation facility in my Parliamentary Constituency and take care of all the points that I have made.

With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards some problems of my area on the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

Bina Railway Station is an important Junction. Passengers with destination to Jabalpur and Bhopal

change train over here. There has been a constant demand for a long time for a stoppage at this station of Goa Express and Shatabdi Express. Therefore, these trains should be provided a stoppage this station.

The stoppage for Jhelum Express at Mandi Bamosa Station has been in demand for a long time. Therefore, stoppage for Jhelum Express at Mandi Bamora station should be provided.

Bina-Kota section is a single line which causes problems in the movement of trains. This railway line should be doubled.

There is no train from Sagar to Bina between 1200 Hrs. to 1900 Hrs. and similarly there is no train from Bina to Sagar after Bhopal Bilaspur train at 11.30. A train from both sides between 3 pm to 4 pm should be provided before the Bina-Damoh train at 6.30 pm.

An Intercity express at 6.00 am and back at 6.00 pm should be run from Sagar to Bhopal.

The timing of Itarasi Express running from Sagar to Bhopal should be changed from 4 am to 5 am or 5.30 am. The railway is losing revenue and passengers are also not getting benefits by its starting time at 4.00 am. The timings, therefore, should be revised.

The timings of Vishakhapattanam-Amritsar (Hirakud Express) have been changed. It should be as it was previously i.e. 7.00 am.

The reservation quota for the Kamayan Express at Sagar station should be started from Sagar as it was there previously. The length of shade at platform No. 2 of Sagar and Khurai stations should be increased and the number of chairs for sitting should be increased and Kota stone should be laid on the floor. A computerized ticket window should be opened at Khurai Railway Station immediately as the tickets are sold presently from one window only. Arrival of train from both sides causes troubles. Therefore, one more ticket window should be opened.

At Bina, people suffer a lot due to closure of the level crossing, patients die while waiting, therefore, an overbridge should be constructed over there immediately.

A stoppage for Utkal Express at the Ganeshgunj station should be reintroduced.

Light and security arrangements should be increased near the ticket and reservation window at platform No. 2 of the Sagar station.

A stoppage for Kamayani Express and Kshipra Express should be provided at the Jaruvakheda station.

*SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Sir, I wanted to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) but it is not possible due to paucity of time. Sir, through you, I would like to put the following demands in public interest:

1. Action should be taken for early completion of Patna-Gaya railway line—doubling scheme.
2. A metalled approach road should be constructed upto the Tenni Bigha in the west of Jahanabad station.
3. Railway Hospital should be set up on the wasteland of Taregana station. Moreover, metalled approach road should be constructed upto the Malikans in the east of Taregana Station.
4. A new railway line should be sanctioned from Bihata to Anugrah Narayan Road via Bikram pali Arwal.
5. Railway over bridge should be constructed over the West Railway Line from Jahanabad Arwal Mod on the Jahanabad Arwal road.

**SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak during this discussion on supplementary demands and excess demands for the Ministry of Railways. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Railways for having converted this largest network to be a profitable one now after its loss making trend in the previous years. Demand for Erode—Palani railway line is there for a very long time. It was even expected by the railways and an announcement to this effect was made some two years back. Erode, Palani,

Chennimalai, Kangeyam, Dharapuram were all to be linked with a new railway line at a cost of 115 crores of rupees for which survey work had been completed. But the fund allocation is still pending. Hence, I urge upon the Railway Minister to take up this project at the earliest. The presently available electrified double track between Chennai and Villupuram as pointed out by my esteemed colleague Mr. Ravichandran should be extended upto Tuticorin to give a boost to industrial growth in Central Tamil Nadu and Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu. We must also take into consideration the fact that Tuticorin port is emerging as the biggest port in the region. This railway line would link two major ports of India. Southern Railway has sent a proposal for 2700 crores of rupees and it is pending with the Railway Board here. I urge upon our dynamic Minister to look into it and see that the funds are released for the on-going project. Since Southern Railway is a profit making arm of the Railways, you cannot easily say that funds are not available. Even if you want to raise funds from the open market, the people of the Southern region are willing to invest money in railway projects if they go for raising funds. Hence, I urge upon the Railway Minister to take up doubling up and electrification of Chennai-Tuticorin section this year itself. This year the electrification is expected to be completed upto Tiruchi. This may kindly be extended up to Madurai this year itself.

Coimbatore is the Manchester of South India and it is an emerging IT town. At Ondiputhur in Coimbatore on the Tiruchi road a road over bridge is waiting for a long time to be completed. The works pertaining to the approach roads on both sides have been completed, but the railways' work to erect the road over bridge on the railway line is pending for a long time. It is small piece of work. The reason cited for its non-completion is that the contractor has gone away. I want to ask of you as to why such contracts are given to irresponsible contractors? When such contracts are offered, care must be taken to hand over work to responsible people who will take care to finish the work in a responsible manner. Railways must also ensure that the materials needed for the completion of work must be given to the contractors in time. Mayiladuthurai-Karaijadi, Pattukottai-Aranthangi, Thiruthurai-Poondi sections still remain as meter gauge sections. The gauge conversion work is pending for a very long time now. Survey works have been completed there. Similarly, the railway line that

*The speech was laid on the Table.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

links Madurai with Bodi is yet to go for gauge conversion. With the completion of these pending projects, Tamil Nadu could get cent per cent broad gauge lines cover. This needs to be completed because most of these railway lines have been laid by the Britishers. Only then we can have uniform broad gauge network all over the country. Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had spelt out the need to boost our economy with exclusive Freight Corridors. Eastern Corridor and Western Corridor linking Mumbai and Kolkata are on the anvil, but Chennai and South are yet to get one. Since Tuticorin port is emerging as a major port in the region, we may go in for a Southern Corridor at least up to Chennai to begin with. A new line Chennai, Kanchipuram via Sriperumbudur may be evolved considering the rapid industrial growth in that region. The Rajiv Gandhi Memorial is also situated there. Oddanchathiram town in my constituency is a very big market for vegetables and agriculturists around the area are sending their agro-produces to several parts of India. As of now most of them rely on road transport paying heavily to lorry transporters. If enhanced freight services by the railways are provided with refrigeration facilities, it would help the vegetable growers, the consumers as well as the Railways. I urge upon the railways to set up a computerised railway reservation centre in Oddanchathiram. 70 per cent of our population rely on agriculture. Hence, I urge upon you to take upon yourself to provide rail transport facility to move agricultural produce like vegetables and grains from one place to another which will help avoiding price rise. This will be of help to small farmers and agriculturists to move agricultural produce from one place to another by railway trains. Free rail passes for this specific purpose may be extended. I request you to consider this. With this, I conclude.

*SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Hon. Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the demands for supplementary grants for the Railways for the year 2006-07.

Hon. Sir, the subject of the railways is involved with the common man. Development of railways and increase in railway facilities gives relief to the commonman because economic, industrial and agriculture related development

depends much on the development of railways. But the development of Indian railways should be based on backwardness and profit and not on political basis. Through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Railways to stop political discrimination with Madhya Pradesh and work in view of developmental needs and for removal of backwardness in the region by implementing all the schemes thoroughly which will be in the interest of the region as well as of the railways and to fulfill my demands. Sir, I am talking about the Jabalpur-Gondia gauge conversion project in Mahakaushal zone in Eastern Madhya Pradesh. Sir, the project was started in 2002. The Government of the former Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had sanctioned Rs. 109.32 crore for this important 285 kms long Project involving Rs. 511.86 crore in 2003-2004. Later on, UPA Government came to power. Hon. Lalujee became the Minister of Railways and granted Rs. 38.06 crore for this project in 2004-05 and 25 crore rupees in 2005-2006.

The meager amount sanctioned by Laluji in the last few years for such an important project shows that this project can not be completed in the next ten years. Sir, Lalujee must give priority to the backward and neglected areas. One such important area is Mahakaushal Zone alongwith Jabalpur and Katni which has been neglected since independence. As a result, once known as an important town of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur and this region is waiting for its development and Jabalpur Gondia gauge conversion work can open up the gate of development for this region.

Sir, after the completion of this gauge conversion, the distance between east and south would lessen by 274 kms which means that from Bihar and Patna, which always finds priority in Lalujee's scheme, if one wants to go to Hyderabad or Chennai or Bangalore or Thiruanantapuram, he will have to travel less by 274 kms which will have less journey of not only 5-6 hours but it will cost less also.

When the Jabalpur Gondia Gauge Conversion work is completed, not only this whole area will be developed, but mining will get a fillip in this mineral rich area.

In this area, large amount of phosphorus products are also mined alongwith manganese, copper and coal. After gauge conversion it would be easier to transport these minerals. Freight of the railways would also increase.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, through you, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that world famous Kanha National Park, where highest number of tigers live, is near to this route. Not only this, domestic and international tourists will get new and better route to Pench National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park after the completion of this project. Railway will directly earn rupees 300 crores annually after the completion of the project and the wagon turn down of railways will also improve which is necessary for the development of the Indian Railways. Right now one wagon covers the distance of 250 kms in 24 hours in the country and wagon turn down average is 5-6 days which after cutting the distance of 274 kms will come to 4-5 days. It will be a great benefit to the railways. It will save crores of rupees annually due to the reduction in wagon turn down.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that gauge conversion work between Gandia and Ballarshah has been completed in 1999 which is 253 kms in length and which cost the railways rupees 400 crores. But even after spending so much of amount, this completed route is not utilized properly; the Railway Convention Committee had also raised objections in its report in 2002 stating that this route is not thoroughly used and the chief reason behind this is the non-implementation of the gauge conversion work between Jabalpur and Gondia.

Unless the work on Jabalpur Gondia gauge conversion is completed, the route of Gondia-Ballarshah which has been completed, will not be used properly.

Sir, it is also important to complete this work in order to increase the average speed of trains which is the other main objective of the Tenth Five Year Plan, because Itarsi-Ballarshah route is very busy. The utilization of this route is at present, 160% which is very high and consequently checks the speed of trains and the time taken for wagon turn down also increased. After the completion of Jabalpur-Gondia broad gauge there will be less stress on Itarsi-Ballarshah route and new trains on this route can be started. No other route is as profitable as this route in the country for gauge conversion and only 57 crore rupees have been allocated for this year which is very meager. I hope that the Hon. Minister would increase it.

The reason for the slow development of this project is that implementing agency of this project is South East

Central Railway which has its headquarter in Chhattisgarh (Bilaspur). The work of gauge conversion involves land acquisition which involves coordination and discussion with State Governments. In this situation, handing over the responsibilities to the agency situated in other states will necessarily delay the work, notwithstanding the fact that Jabalpur is the headquarter of the West Central Railway. If it is made the implementing authority, the work will gain pace.

I thank the Hon. Minister for providing direct train from Jabalpur to Jammu. It has satisfied the demand of Mahakaushal including Jabalpur and Katni. On 8th February, 2006, people along with women in great number under the BJP banner come on road demanding completion of gauge conversion and a direct train between Jabalpur and Katni. But right now, this train runs weekly. This should be increased four days in a week.

Sir, in and around Jabalpur almost 1 lakh Sikhs reside. The Golden Temple of Amritsar is a place of worship for Sikhs and non-sikhs, but no direct train is available between Jabalpur and Amritsar. Therefore, a new train should be introduced on this route or the Mahakaushal Express running between Jabalpur and Delhi should be extended upto Amritsar.

Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Union Government including the Minister of Railways to submit that a direct train should be provided from Jabalpur to Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore in view of the importance of entire Mahakoshal region including Jabalpur.

Sir, I have especially taken up this matter in this House in all the discussions till date since 13th July 2004, when I delivered my maiden speech on Railway Budget and in all the meetings till date since 1st July, 2004 when the first meeting in this regard had been held in Jabalpur Division. It gives me pleasure that Jabalpur Division has sent the proposal regarding introducing a train from Jabalpur to Mumbai and another train from Jabalpur to Bangalore to the Ministry of Railways. Direct trains from Jabalpur to Mumbai-Pune could link Jabalpur-Katni with the industrial and economic capital of the country, Mumbai.

Sir, IIT has been established in Jabalpur. So by linking Jabalpur with Bangalore, Hyderabad or Chennai by direct train, it will open the vistas of development.

[Shri Rakesh Singh]

Keeping in view the geographical expansion of the Jabalpur city, local train (DMU) from Katni-Jabalpur-Narsinghpur is needed for which I have been making demand since the year 2004 alongwith a demand to provide stoppage at Bheraghat, Ranjhi and Khamaria. Sir, this proposal has also been sent to the Railway Board by the West Central Railways located at Jabalpur. Please accord sanction to this proposal.

Hon'ble Minister should kindly accord his sanction to the work pertaining to the electrification of the Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni rail route.

Hon'ble Sir, Damoh is located at the distance of 110 kilometer from Jabalpur but due to the unavailability of the rail route, all the trains have to cover this distance via Katni to Damoh which is 210 kilometers long. Hence, with the availability of a rail-route between Jabalpur-Damoh, distance will be shortened by 100 kilometers. Survey has been completed in this regard. Hon'ble Minister should accord his sanction to this work.

Rail-route from Jabalpur to Bilaspur via Mandla is related with the development of this whole area and the regional tribes and survey has been completed also in this regard. So provision should be made in the Budget in this regard.

Workshops should be established in Jabalpur for the maintenance and repair of the trains originating from Jabalpur. Jabalpur is the headquarter of the West Central Railway. So, a factory should be established in Jabalpur for the printing of stationery related to commercial, engineering and S.N.T. department.

Work pertaining to the construction of overbridge at Khirhani crossing at Katni should be started at the earliest. Sir, Katni is an important junction of the country. Sir, Hon'ble Minister should upgrade this station by modernization process to make it a ultra modern station.

Hon'ble Minister should incorporate the proposal of making the Bhera Ghat Station well-equipped keeping in view the tourists visiting Bhera Ghat, famous for marble stones.

To ease the pressure at the main station of the

Jabalpur city, Katchpura Station should be made well equipped station for the passengers and Madan Mahal Station should be developed on the lines of Habibganj Bhopal Station and provision should be made in the Budget in this regard.

Sir, work pertaining to laying of rail-tracks between the Jain pilgrimage site of Kundalpur and Damoh should be started at the earliest.

I believe that the Hon'ble Minister will consider my demands seriously and take action to fulfil them.

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir in my constituency Cooch Behar, for gauge conversion of the railway line from Alipurduar to Bamanhat, fund was allotted, but the target date for completion of the work is over, but the work is not yet complete. So, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister, through you, that this guage conversion work shouldbe completed immediately and more fund should be allotted for the same.

Secondly, on 20th November, 2006 at 1820 hours a bomb blast occurred at Belakoba Railway Station in Haldibari-New Jalpaiguri Train. In this incident, seven people died and 71 were badly injured. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to give compensation of minimum Rs. one lakh to the family of those people who died and give job security to one person from the affected family. I would also request the hon. Minister to give Rs. 50,000 thousand who are injured.

Sir, after this incident, vegetable growers of Haldibari area have been greatly restricted to transport their vegetables in this train to Siliguri and other market. So, a critical situation has arisen in this area for vegetable growers. So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to attach a vegetable vender coach to this train immediately for the betterment of vegetable growers.

With these few words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways for 2006-07.

[Translation]

*SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Railway Ministers Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji and Shri Veluji. Railway has indeed achieved considerable progress in recent times. There should be no partisan attitude on the issue of development.

Kerala has a high density of population. Thousands of passengers commute by trains daily. A large number of our people work in Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata and Chandigarh but these places are not adequately connected with our State by trains.

The doubling of the railway lines wherever they have been sanctioned should be completed in time. Also the process of electrification is on slow pace. EMU trains should run wherever they are feasible. Passenger trains should be converted into EMUs. An exclusive EMU station should be constructed at Thiruvananthapuram.

The works of railway over-bridges are progressing slowly. They should be completed in time. The Veli station near Thiruvananthapuram should be made a mega station. The passengers should get more facilities. There should be a coach repairing unit at Nemam near Thiruvananthapuram.

Rajdhani express should run on a daily basis. A separate railway track for the goods train should be constructed on the Shornur-Ernakulam line, since the existing line is already congested. In several trains there are no non-AC first class coaches. They should be made available wherever necessary. The season ticket passengers should be allowed to travel in reserved compartments during day time as and when these compartments are partially occupied.

Two trains should be started from Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram to Bangalore and Goa respectively to meet the requirement of the tourist passengers. There are no 'Garib Rath's' in Kerala so far. One from Thiruvananthapuram to Ernakulam and another from Ernakulam to Kozhikode should be considered. The security of passengers who travel on long routes should be ensured. There should be special trains to meet the heavy flow of

passengers during festival seasons. The welfare of the railway porters should be immediately looked into. On long distance routes pantry cars should be made mandatory. Good food should be ensured.

Kerala needs separate railway zone in which Palghat, Konkan divisions should be covered. Maintenance of trains should be taken care of. There was a complaint that even Rajdhani trains are found to be rat infested. Such short comings should be avoided.

The survey for Telacherry-Mysore railway line should be immediately undertaken. There is a heavy flow of pilgrims to the Sabirimala shrine; therefore, the railway line to Sabirimala should be undertaken without delay.

We the MPs of Kerala have drawn out a plan enumerating our demands. We have submitted the same to the Minister. Please consider it. We hope that all the pending projects for Kerala will be undertaken and completed during the tenure of the UPA Government. I request for the same.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I rise to support the supplementary demands of grants presented by the Railway Minister. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister that he has sanctioned the construction of ROB at kishangarh which is the largest marble market of Asia in collaboration of the Rajasthan Government. We are grateful to him for that. He has done a lot for the North Western Railway. He has sanctioned the works pertaining to Abu Road, Dousa and Fiber Bikaner and we are grateful to him.

Sir, we have a long pending demand which I would like to present through you before the Hon'ble Minister. Had I prayed that much to God, even God had answered it. There is a Byawar city in the Ajmer district. Rathwaji knows it. It has a population of more than one lakh. This is a big trade market. Cement is loaded from there for the Railways. Two cement factories are located there. That is why the railways are having good from here. There is a military area nearby. Every family over there has two or four soldiers in the Army. Thousands of soldiers commute from here. I will be grateful if one minute stoppage of Delhi-Ahmadabad Ashram Express at Byawar Nagar is provided. We will be extremely grateful to him. This is our long pending demand. I am tired of making frequent

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Prof. Rāsa Singh Rāwat]

demand in this regard since I have been M.P. for the last 20 years.

I hope that he will accept my submission by sympathetically considering over it. Apart from it, there is the work in laying of the respect of Ajmer-Puskar broad gauge railway line. He knows about Puskar, it is a pilgrimage place. He has agreed to link Puskar by railway network but the work is progressing at a very also pace. Only primary work has been done....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We will do it expeditiously.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I will be grateful if Ajmer-Puskar railway line is completed soon. This will connect this place of pilgrimage. He will earn divine grace ... (Interruptions). Work pertaining to conversion of Ajmer-Chittor meter gauge into broad gauge is going on. We want that it should be completed soon.

Sir, I would like to say that DPM office building at Ajmer is 150 years old heritage building built in the British era. It will be better if it is taken care of. There are two factories of the Railways at Ajmer which are just like the back-bone for Ajmer. Now when meter gauge has been abandoned, these factories will continue to work and thousands of labourers will continue to work and he will be praised if the assigns them some work related to the broad gauge. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Sir, please allow me to speak from this place.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can proceed. I always accede to your demand, but you also should listen to me sometimes.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, I keep telling my friends in the Opposition, but today I am happy that they are appreciating Lalujee, otherwise they always criticize him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude and felicitate the Ministry of Railways and hon. Lalujee. I rise to support the supplementary Budget. We go through magazines, newspapers and feel proud that Lalujee is in demand abroad and they are looking for him. He has become a legendary figure worldwide by dint of his work

in cooperation with Shri Rathwa Jee and Shri Velujee and with his officials with great team spirit which has been witnessed for the first time in the history of India. I congratulate Lalujee and his team for it....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please speak on your demands.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, people are all praise for the demands, I want to tell the fact. The way the bridge accidentally collapsed, it had not collapsed on its own, but it was given a political colour. I came to know from the people and my relatives residing there that there was no way to reach the place of accident and it takes six to seven hours to reach there by car. Lalujee himself visited that place and while Paswanji was making a demand in the House, he reached there to express his grief and consoled them and announced to provide them employment, compensation and other facilities. So far as my demand is concerned, I have already got it from Lalujee regarding which our friends were saying that it had not been acceded to for the last 20 years even after repeated demands. Nitishjee's term is also included in these 20 years. I congratulate the Hon. Member and express my gratitude that at least they have thanked him from that side.

Sir, I come from Ghaziabad-Hapur constituency. Seven or eight ROBs have been approved for that area and work on them is in progress. Stoppages for a number of trains have been given. So far as demand and supply is concerned, it will be there so long as human beings are in existence. This is a natural process of development. I would like to remind Lalujee of his speech in which he had referred to the maxim "earth's joys and heaven's combined—that is if TV sets are installed in major trains like Shatabadi Trains, it will not only entertain the people and help them in passing their time, but the railways will get revenue also by way of advertisements. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you also had supported it. It is my luck that on that day also you were presiding and listening. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: That TV sets will be connected by cable TV.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, my second request is about a place named Hanumanpuri at Modinagar in Ghaziabad. Thousands of workers commute to and from that place. I, therefore, request you to build a seven-eight feet wide underpass, so that rikshaw and poor people could pass through them. Around eight thousand children study at Simbhawali. A foot-overbridge has been approved for that place. In this respect, I request you to make it completely outside. Around fifty children have died on the railway line. If you make a provision for this foot-overbridge, then lives of thousands of children studying there can be saved.

Ali Hazrat Express passes through Pilkhua. We indulge in double talking. On the one hand we say that every train should stop at our stations for two minutes, if it happens, every train will start running late by hours and we then will say that why do trains get late. Even then, I would request for a two minute stoppage of that train at Pilkhua.

Sahibabad is in the NCR and near Delhi. It has a population of 10 lakhs. If an underpass is built there, it will be helpful for the people. Sahibabad is an industrial area and a substantial number of people from the eastern region live there. They will also be obliged. I have been elected from that region with the grace of Lalujee. He visited my constituency for campaigning. Had he not campaigned for me, perhaps I would not have been elected.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Who was addressing the meeting nearby?

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Ataljee was holding a meeting nearby. He drew a gathering of three thousand people and there were more than 30,000 people in your meeting. He was Prime Minister at that time and you were a leader. A shuttle runs between Rewari and Meerut. Mostly milkmen board that train and most of the passengers travel on the roof of the trains. I demand that more coaches be added in that train. Railway Line from Meerut to Ghaziabad-Moradabad should be doubled and electrification should be done there, it will help them a lot.

At this point I would like to say only this much. I will raise the remaining matters during the ensuing discussion on the railway budget. I hope the Minister of Railways will certainly accede to my petty demands.

[English]

SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU (Chittoor): Sir, my constituency, Chittoor is a district headquarters. Now, the Railways have started a new line. The electrification work is pending for a long time and it has to be completed immediately. Chittoor is a business centre, and people are exporting a lot of jaggery and mangoes from here. Previously, there was a goods-shed and facilities were there. At present, there is no facility. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to extend Venkatadri Express, which is going to the holy town of Tirupati, to Katpadi. All the trains coming from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are passing through Chittoor. The Venkatadri Express, which is going to Tirupati, is terminating at Chittoor. That is why, I would request the hon. Railway Minister, through you, Sir, that this Venkatadri Express should be extended up to Katpadi station. Similarly, Padmavati Express can be brought to Chittoor station so that there will be more convenience to the people. Also Kanyakumari-Mumbai Jayanti Janata Express should be stopped at Chittoor station and Kuppam.

Many southern trains are going to Tirupati. There are four railway gates—Murkampattu, Kalavagunta, Puthalapattu and Tirupati. An overbridge is essential at all these railway gates.

Our hon. Minister of State, Shri Veluji is coming from Arakkonam, which is next to my constituency. He knows the difficulties of the people of my constituency. I have written several letters to him. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to extend this Venkatadri Express up to Katpadi station so that it can be stationed there and starts in the evening.

Similarly, the Padmavati Express can also be stationed at Chittoor. At the same time, they may think of doubling the line. The Railways can think of the second line also so that there would be a lot of savings to the Railways.

Sir, I have got copies of the letters and representations, which I would hand over to the hon. Railways Minister. I would request him to kindly expedite the matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma. Kindly conclude your speech within one minute.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, kindly allow me also to speak. I would not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your party had said that only one Member would speak on it, and Mr. Sita Ram Singh has already spoken. Anyway, I would try to accommodate you also, but you will have to wait for sometime.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing Supplementary Grants for the Railways for 2006-2007. You have given me an opportunity to speak, I am thankful to you for it. Hon. Lalujee has always presented profit budget, we should congratulate him for it. You have advanced Railways to a new era. The Railways were running into losses for the last 50 years, you have infured life into it. There is a long pending demand for broad gauging the Bareilly, Pilibheet, Lakhimpur, Sitapur, Lucknow sections under the Eastern Railways. These five districts will get opportunity to mingle with the mainstream of the country. The estimated cost for it is Rs. 416 crore. But this route can become an alternative route for freight carrier from Bihar to Delhi. You please consider it.

Secondly, I would like to say that Survey concluded upto Farukhabad-Majhapur-Karnal should be extended upto Bharat-Nepal Border, In the Dudhva National Park animals have been crushed on the Tikukia railway lines a number of times and an alternative route from Palia to Mazgai, Nigasan, Singai should be laid. There are three major level crossings in our district. One level crossing is in Kuthania, the second in Fardan and the third one in Rajapur near Lakhimpur, you kindly build ROBs over them.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): It is my request to the hon. Railway Minister to construct a railway line from Pushkar to Medhta. Mr. Velu earlier had consented to it and he is nodding right now. ...*(Interruptions)* Since the times of Aurangzeb, there is a mosque for Muslims and there is a temple of Meena and Charbhujia also. One has to travel via Marvar Junction and Phuhera to reach Ajmer. So, please construct a line from Pushkar to Medhta. I have requested this to you 20 times.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Whether line is laid there?

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: New line needs to be laid there. Survey has been done there on several occasions. I have also written to you several times.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA (Karnal): Hon. Railway Minister has presented three budgets and all of them were pro-poor and pro-middle class. I, through you, would like to make one point to the hon. Railway Minister that on all the three occasions, I have raised two or three points and if our strong Railway Minister had once given an indication, the work would have been done immediately. I have raised these small points thrice. The hon. Minister has increased the speed of the trains and have introduced so many good things.

Sir, We should also care about the old trains. They have small stoppages such as Karnal which is a historical place and lies on the route of Shan-e-Punjab. It is a city of the Sikhs. Since the times of the introduction of Shan-e-Punjab there is a Key and long pending demand that the train should halt for one minute at Karnal. Lakhs of passengers go to Golden Temple and Beas. I have written repeatedly to the hon. Minister and I also wish that the hon. Minister should form a department, which should look into the demands of MPs and the points raised by them should be accepted immediately. The hon. Minister desires to work for betterment but perhaps because of certain officials, the work does not seem to be completed.

There is a small place called Samalka in my Parliamentary constituency which falls on the route of Himalayan Queen. Since a long time, railway passengers have been demanding for a stoppage over there. I would like to request the hon. Minister that Shan-e-Punjab and Himalayan Queen should halt at Karnal and Samalka respectively. I would be very grateful to the hon. Minister if the arrangements are made for Gharib Rath to reach Amritsar or Jammu-Tawi via Karnal and Panipat.

Sir, accidents are increasing day by day on railway crossings. If we made these crossings manned, then unemployed youths will get work and the number of accidents will also come down. These small demands are there for around 20 years. Many accidents occure on the places which are usually frequented by the poor people, labourers, and agricultural labourers. I have also written on several occasions to make these crossings manned. Shahpur crossing in may Panipat constituency needs to

be manned. There is Azadpur and Sanjay Colony in Panipat. As far as I know, average 3-4 persons here are run over by trains in six months. Survey has also been done, officials also come here. An MP keeps contacting the officials for five years. They come and survey the site. But the scheme again is put into cold storage. People have deposited money also and if the hon. Minister gives attention to this work, then this work will definitely be done.

I would also like to speak about the sports quota. Wrestling and Kabbadi are important games in Haryana and Punjab. There used to be a quota for these games in the Railways, but now it has been done away with. This needs to be reintroduced for sports persons and players belonging to other sports such as Judo, Shooting, Archery also need to be included in this.

Survey has been completed for the railways line between Panipat and Haridwar via Diwana, Bapauli, Karana, Shyamli and Saharanpur. I request the hon. Minister to incorporate this railway line in the coming budget. I again request the hon. Minister to provide a stoppage to Shan-e-Punjab and Himalayan Queen.

[English]

*SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): I rise to support the supplementary demand for grants of 2006-07 and excess grants for 2004-05.

While supporting these I urge upon the Hon'ble Railway Minister to approve the almost century old. Bandel-Katway Single Railway Line into Double Railway line in West Bengal.

Better to mention here that out of 105 kms long Railway of 1914 only 22 kms have been approved but not yet completed. No body known when it will be completed.

I demand the approved part soon be completed and the remaining 83 kms be approved without delay.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways. Also, I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Minister, Laluji, the Minister of State for Railways and all the officials and employees of the

Railways for having achieved a very rare feat considering the fact that this is one of the largest rail networks that we operate in the world.

I would mention only one or two facts specifically related to Kerala. Along with the ongoing doubling and electrification work, which has to be completed on a war-footing, there is one project which has been long pending.

It has been mentioned here, is the Angamali-Sabari Railway, the Angamali Azhutha Railway. This railway passes through the mid-land of Kerala. Kerala traditionally has been serviced by the Railways only in the coastal belt. The mid-land and the high ranges of Kerala, which form the main agricultural cash crops and spices growing area, along with the main tourist centres, are yet untouched by the Railways. This railway passes through the mid-land. Instead of terminating it at Azhutha, it has to be connected with the Trivandrum line which will make it year-round operational and more profitable for the Railways. I would request the hon. Minister to take up this particular work on a war footing with utmost urgency.

Along with that, there have been other demands from the State. One particular thing is the Kochi International Airport railway station. The Kochi International Airport is one of the best international airports in the country. The railway line passes nearby the airport. The State has demanded for a railway station there. The Airports Authority has offered land free of cost to the Railways. But the Railways have not taken up this particular project. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this favourably.

Another thing is tourism. Since the country is progressing in this particular area of tourism industry, the Railways should come more into this sector. Like the Palace on Wheels in Rajasthan, a new train has to be started connecting all the tourist destinations in Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the southern belt. I would request the hon. Minister to please consider this particular aspect. Along with this, setting up a new wagon factory in Kerala is very important. No productive unit of the Railways has been set up in Kerala so far. Proximity to the Kochi port and also the technical manpower which is available in Kerala will help this particular project. We can export railway wagons to

[Shri K. Francis George]

developing countries from Kochi. It can be developed as a hub for wagon manufacturing.

Along with this, the Kochuvilli railway terminal is an extension of the Trivandrum railway terminal, nothing has been done much there to service the long-distance trains which come to Kerala and reaching the Capital city. More funds have to be invested there. We need to have more platforms, more pit lines, station building, waiting halls, retiring rooms etc. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this also.

Along with that, several ROBs are pending in Kerala for want of performance from the Railways. These are joint ventures. Many of these ROBs, railway overbridges are pending for want of the Railways fulfilling its part. I would request the hon. Minister to consider all these aspects.

Due to paucity of time. I conclude now though there are many points.

[Translation]

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, while supporting Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), I have some demands to make and some suggestions to give.

Sir, there are many problems related to railway facilities in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts in my constituency. There are no railway facilities in Gadchiroli district. Main rail line passes through Chandrapur city in Chandrapur district. Some super fast trains do not stop in this city which has population of 4 lakh. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala Express, Rajdhani and some superfast trains do not stop here. These trains should have a stoppage at Chandrapur station. Similarly, there is a dire need to provide stoppage to some trains at Varora and Bhandak cities. I demand the construction of overbridges in Varora city, Rajura-Hyderabad Road (SCR) and Chandrapur Babupeth.

Sir, kindly introduce Hyderabad-Howrah and Howrah-Chennai trains via Chandafort (SECR) station and a

stoppage of Vilaspur-Chennai (weekly) train should also be provided at this station. Computerised reservation system should be introduced in Varora Bhandak and Manikpur (Rajura), Chandafort stations.

Ministry of Railways has completed the survey of rail line from Vadsa to Gadchiroli. Please make provision of Rs. 78 crore in the coming Budget for this purpose. Gadchiroli is a tribal dominated and inaccessible hilly district affected by activities of naxalites and it is deprived of train facilities.

A new direct train from either Kagazuagar or Ballarshah to Mumbai and a shuttle train from Ballarshah to Nagpur needs to be introduced. There is a dire need to lay a third line from Nagpur to Hyderabad because the volume of traffic is increasing on this route.

Sir, patients suffering from various diseases are given concession in train travel but concession should also be given to patients suffering from Anaemia for traveling in trains. Its patients also needs to be included.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Thank you, Sir. For the last three years we are consistently insisting on the demands of Karnataka in particular. Many of the demands are still pending. As far as so many gauge conversion works are concerned, we have demanded specially between Bagalkot and Gadag and every time the reply was given that the State Government has not paid its share under the scheme. But now the State Government has paid the entire amount. It has paid excess. But still that Bagalkot-Bijapur work is pending for want of the sleepers. It is a ten-year old issue. The sleepers have to be arranged and the gauge conversion has to be attended to immediately.

Another issue is the South Western Railway's workshop in Hubli is a century-old workshop. The modernization work has to be taken up now. For the past so many years this demand is pending. Now it has been brought to my notice and I have learnt that the South Western Railway has sent modernisation proposal to the Railway Board which the Railway Board and the hon. Minister have to expedite. It has to be taken up earlier. It

is a century-old workshop. This workshop has got many awards. This railway workshop has to be upgraded.

Another major issue is the Hubli-Ankola line. I have mentioned it in my every speech while taking part in the discussion on the Railway Budget. The Ministry of Environment has rejected this line. Now they are reconsidering it. But, unfortunately, whatever attention was to be paid by the Railway Department and the user agency, the South Western Railway, the adequate attention has not been paid.

I urge upon the Central Government to look into this Hubli-Ankola line, which is a very important line, I do not want to narrate the importance of this line once again because I have already narrated so many things about the importance of this line. That is why, I once again urge upon the Government to expedite Hubli-Ankola line work.

My another point is about construction of a goods shed at Hubli. They have allotted Rs. 9 crore. This sum is not enough. So, it is required that more allocation should be done.

I had demanded one more night train, super fast train between Bangalore and Hubli. Now, a special train is arranged. It has to be regularised at least from April, which was promised last year.

It was the claim of the Railways that the tariffs were not hiked, but because of change in classification, at least the tariff of fertiliser rakes has gone up. That aspect has also to be looked into.

Alnawar is one of the important towns in Hubli-Dharwad district. This is the second biggest city. There was stoppage of Haripriya Express at Alnawar, which has been cancelled now. That is also to be looked into. That has to be reconsidered. People are agitating.

South-Western Railway has been opened in 2002 at Hubli. But so far, all the offices have not been brought to Hubli, which is the headquarters. We speak about congestion in Bangalore, but we do not bring all the offices to Hubli. Your officers do not want to come to Hubli, leaving Bangalore. All officers, all HoDs have to come to Hubli and sit there. That instruction has to go from the Railway Ministry.

Regarding Railway Recruitment Board, I would demand that it should also be brought to Hubli. With these demands, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Supplementary Budget of the Railway Ministry has been presented and I have risen to support it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will get only three minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have not started yet. I will not deliver a long speech. You will at least allow me to read out the demands. I always receive your favour, so please give me the chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Alright, we will see.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Railway Minister who with his personal efforts and with the cooperation of two Ministers of State, officers and employees, has saved the Railways and turned it into a profit-making venture, which the erstwhile Government had made a loss making one and set for privatization. The Hon'ble Railway Minister has not only established himself as the number one Railway Minister by carrying out the tasks in the whole country including Bihar under his effective leadership but also proved himself the number one Minister leading the department. The Hon'ble Minister has got several works done in Bihar and my parliamentary constituency. However, there are several tasks which are necessary and therefore, I would like to draw his kind attention toward them. I would also like to thank the Hon. Minister for starting the Garib Rath from Saharsa to Punjab. Many people are taking advantage of it. The Minister has declared to start a new Garib Rath train from my parliamentary constituency Patna to Delhi by the 10th of this month. Many people will travel at very low fare. The common poor persons used to dream whether they would be able to travel in an AC boggy or not? The Railway Minister has done this historic task of fulfilling the dreams of the poor. This will be written in golden letters. I am grateful to the Hon. Railway Minister for fulfilling the dreams of the poor people.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Besides, I would like to submit that the frequency of three days in a week of the Garib Rath going to be started by you on the 10th of this month is not sufficient. I would like to request you to allow it to run the whole week. This is the demand of a lot of people and it will take off as per expectations as all the trains on this line will be crowded.

This is a very old demand and meeting it not only benefit the people of my parliamentary constituency Bihta but the people of the constituencies of the four Hon. Members of Parliament will also take advantage of it.

There is no railway line from Bihta to Anranarayan Road station at Aurangabad. If the Railway line is laid there, it will benefit the lakhs of people. The hon. Minister had ordered the same in the first session itself and assured in the house on 14th July also. However, the survey work in this regard is yet to take place. If it is done there, it will be fine enough.

It was decided to construct a rail overbridge upto Bihta including Patna. However, the work has been obstructed leading to delay in the construction of overbridge and the people are facing difficulty. I would like to request to get the Rail overbridge constructed there at the earliest by removing the obstruction. The work had been started and some amount was also spent. You are requested to get this done quickly.

There is a rail section from Patna to Gaya, but there is no double line there. The double line is only up to Parsa and Punpun. If it is extended by laying a 60 kilometer double line, the problems of the people of the area will be sorted out to a great extent. Apart from this, I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards Jamlapur Rail factory. This factory is very famous in Asia. You are responsible for the setting-up of this factory. You have allocated crores of rupees for this work and given the opportunity to the labourers to work there. I think that you have done a very important job. It is the major factory of the eastern region as well as the whole country but the construction work is yet to take place there. You have yourself visited the place three times and assured the people to get the construction work started. I would like to request that the construction work of the factory should be started.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please lay the rest of the speech as, the Minister belongs to your state.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I will conclude in two or three minutes. A new rail line should be laid from Jayanagar to Ladiana, via Lokaha-Lokabi and Nirmali. The people living at the Indo-Nepal border area will feel a lot of convenience. I request you to pay attention in this regard and hope you will certainly get it completed. My parliamentary constituency has Phulwari, Banka, Bankaghat, Parsa, Patna Sahib stations which are very famous. The condition of Gulzarbag, Dedarganj that Pallhal stations is worse. It is my request to get these stations beautified. You have taken decision in this regard. Apart from this, the Salisopur stations is yet to be upgraded. It belongs to British times. If it is upgraded, it will benefit the people. Therefore, it is my request that you pay proper attention in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give in writing.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The survey has been conducted from Barjarpur to Khadagpur, Lakshimpur to Mananpur and Kiul. I would be grateful, if funds are allocated for laying a new rail line.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give in writing.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Apart from this, I am putting the written demands with the hope that you will pay attention to them. Furthermore, you are to carry out two important tasks. You have assured to get them completed. I would be grateful, if you at least given order to lay a new railway line from Bihta to Anuranarayanpur Station Road.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as per your order I am laying the rest of my speech on the Table of the House so that it gets once included in the proceedings. Once again, I am grateful to you and conclude with the hope that you will continue to work for fulfilling your dreams of bringing the Indian Railways on top position in near future.

*I demand for the half of Jansadharan Express at Kulkhadia station. A halt may be given at the Mahatvansia village from Buxar to Arrah route in the public interest. Four Rajdhani Express trains pass through Dehri On Sone route. Jharkhand Rajdhani Express among them may be

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

provided a halt there. As per your instructions, the survey work of a new rail line to Sultanganj, Asarganj, Tarapur, Sangrampur, Katuria, Devghar has been completed. Please give clearance for further construction work. A gate may be erected at the Aitbarpur Railway crossing between Parsa and Patna Junction. The Railways had acquired land in Jamaluddin Chak near Danapur but despite assurance the foot bridge has not been constructed. And the people face a lot of difficulty in the absence of foot overbridge there. The Railways have assured earlier but the foot overbridge is yet to be completed. This may kindly be expedited.

Jamalpur factory may be brought under the Hazipur Zone. A link road should be constructed from the western side of Jahanabad station to Tehani Bigha. A hospital may be constructed in Taregana.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next speaker is Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya. Please try to conclude your speech within three minutes.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Supplementary Demand for Grant for Railways.

I find that additional demand is sought for North East in two cases, namely, for construction of a new Railway line from Dimapur to Kohima, and the other is for construction of a new Railway line from Ajra to Barnihat. One of the lines is in Nagaland and the other is in Meghalaya. Both these States will get new infrastructure for Railway transportation. This will help the industrial development and growth of this region, which will help the nation also.

I would like to make a sincere appeal to the hon. Minister. The hon. Railway Minister—while replying to the debate on the last Railway Budget—earmarked an amount of Rs. 1 crore for conversion of the Dhaleswar to Bhairabi Railway line, which is in my constituency, in response to my discussion for taking up of the work this year, I hoped that this time an additional sum would be allocated for this but that was not done. I would request that a sum may kindly be earmarked for conversion of Dhaleswar to Bhairabi metre gauge also into a broad gauge line. If it is

not possible to do that now, an adequate sum should be earmarked for its full-fledged conversion in the next Railway Budget.

During the last two years, at least five times I raised the issue of railway service in the North-Eastern States especially service in Barak Valley, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura. Railway service is frequently disrupted due to land slides at a particular point between Bandarkhali and Damchara. During the last three years, an amount of about Rs. 5 crore was spent on clearance of debris at this point. With this sum they could have got a permanent solution to the problem and this problem of frequent disruption of rail service could have been avoided.

The broad gauge line from Badarpur to Lumding is to be completed within another four years. However, if the work on Barak bridge is not completed, no broad gauge train can go to Mizoram, Tripura, Barak Valley or any other State. One pillar of the Barak Valley bridge collapsed about four years back and it took two lives. Reconstruction of that pillar has not yet started. That work is abandoned. Even if it is resumed now, it will take another five years to complete it. So, we do not know when work on the bridge would be completed, when this broad gauge line would be started, and when we would get the benefit of this line to develop our region is a big question.

In reply to a submission I made in Matters Under Rule 377, the hon. Minister of Railways wrote to me referring to an ideal railway system in Barak Valley. But the reality does not match with that. It was stated by him that trains move at a speed of 70 kilometres from Badarpur to Silchar, and at a speed of 65 kilometres between Badarpur and Karimganj. The distance between these places is only 50 kilometres. If what the Minister says is true and trains really run at this speed on that line, it should take not more than one hour and thirty minutes to travel between Karimganj and Silchar. In practice we find that the train takes more than two hours and thirty minutes to travel between Karimganj and Silchar. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to improve our railway system.

It has also been said that we have all the railways amenities like railway counters, waiting rooms, platforms, water taps, latrines and all these things. But it has not been mentioned whether these are working and are in

[Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya]

usable condition. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly provide us railway amenities on par with the other parts of the country.

Our Railway system which is going to be one of the best railway systems in the world, under the leadership of our Railway Minister, and which is now competing with even the airlines, cannot compete even with the road transport in our region. So, I would request the hon. Minister to improve the railway system of Barak Valley, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOAHN (Madurai): Sir, I would like to record my appreciation and congratulate our Ministers of Railways both Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri R. Velu on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu. Ever though Chennai is the headquarters of Southern Railways, Tamil Nadu did not get a better deal. But the situation has changed now even after Shri Lalu and Shri R. Velu took over. Of course, things in Southern Railways started moving towards Tamil Nadu also after Mr. Moorthy took over as Minister of Railways during the previous regime. Several projects have been the light of the day. Several new projects are being taken up.

I thank the Minister for Railways for announcing in the Budget the carving of Salem Division. A new train linking Madurai-Tiruppati-Manmad has been introduced last month as announced in the last Budget. I thank you for that too.

Now, let me bring to your notice certain pending schemes and unattended requests for your consideration. In order to speed up industrial growth in Tamil Nadu, these proposals and demands must be attended to. Chennai-Villupuram double line is already there. There is a genuine demand and need to extend this electrified double line up to Kanyakumari and Tuticorin. I urge upon you to include this in the Railway Budget for the year 2007-08. Announcement about electrification between Villupuram and Tiruchi came as a welcome move. This may be extended up to Kanyakumari and Tuticorin. As a first step, within this

financial year, you may kindly extend it up to Madurai. Let there be doubling the line and electrification up to Madurai.

The freight corridor between Mumbai and Delhi, Kolkata and Delhi must be expanded. Chennai in the South must also be linked and hence I urge upon you to expand it. With the construction of 9th Berth, the Tuticorin major port is expanding further to become a bigger port in the region. Hence, you may kindly provide a corridor from there at least up to Chennai to begin with. Sethusamudram project is taking shape now, as it evolves, it will provide more of fleets anchoring in our Tuticorin port. Nanguneri SEZ and IT park are also in the making. Hence, I urge upon the Railways to consider taking up Southern Freight Corridor linking these places. The on-going doubling of railway line between Madurai and Dindigul may be speeded up while adding impetus to the three pending railway over bridges in Madurai city.

Emphasizing again the need to lay double line between Chennai and Kanyakumari, Chennai and Tuticorin, let me conclude. At this juncture, I would like to impress upon you the need to go in for electrification also along with this doubling up work. With this I conclude.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salem): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I want to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Railways that he has turned the deficit railway budget into surplus railway budget. It has created hope among the downtrodden and the poor.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards some problems of my parliamentary constituency. I have written several times about introducing Intercity Express from Chhapra to Siwan via Gorakhpur. People are agitating there. I urge you that an Intercity Express may be introduced from Chhapra to Gorakhpur.

The town of Baba Raghavdas 'Barhaj' is situated in my constituency. The people there persistently demand to introduce train to Gorakhpur, Chhapra and Varanasi. Most of the downtrodden and poor people of Balia and Devaria live there. The matter of providing stoppage of the Durg-Gorakhpur trains there is regularly raised. Besides, the stoppage of this train may be provided at Salempur-Bilthara road. The Intercity Express was provided a

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

stoppage at Noonpar railway station in my constituency which has been withdrawn now. The stoppage of this train may be revived. Moreover, the stoppage may be revived at Krdiapur. The people of my constituency write to me asking that the Minister of Railways happen to be my old friend and I have close relations with him, then why the train stoppage is not being provided. I have told them that I have conveyed their message to him and it is understood that the work will be done but this train has not been provided stoppage till date. I request the Minister of Railways that he may kindly work for my constituency as he has worked to remove backwardness of the entire country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, due to absence of overbridge on southern level crossing of Salempur, the trains from Dewariya to Bihar and Assam face problem. Survey has been made twice. The overbridge has not been constructed even after your report. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is providing funds for the construction of the overbridge. I would like that the Hon. Minister of Railways may pay attention to these suggestions. In addition to this, there is a long list of persons seeking employment on compassionate grounds, but appointments are not being made, kindly pay attention to that too. Moreover, irregularities are being committed in catering service of railways, kindly improve this service by considering this aspect too. With these words, I congratulate the Hon. Minister and conclude.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I differ from all those Members who have participated in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands on Railways today because there is no railway line in our Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, kindly provide me extra time of two-three minutes to make my point. Irrespective of the fact that there is no railway line in Arunachal Pradesh, you will definitely allow me time in this House.

Sir, while participating in the Railway Budget, always, I have been demanding from Laluji, Veluji and Rathwaji that only Arunachal Pradesh in India is not connected by railway line so far. Kindly connect that State also with railway line. In regard to schemes and projects given in Supplementary Demands for Grants for north-eastern States, MPs forum of North-Eastern States had made a

demand that under these schemes and projects, about which we had given memorandum to Laluji and the Prime Minister, Bogibil Bridge may be included in the national project. It is not in these demands. Laluji will have to think about the North-Eastern States also and include it in the national projects in the next budget or prior to this. Laluji had written a letter to me in 2003-04 when he was newly appointed Minister of Railways that the line from Ruian to Murkongslek may be converted into broadgauge but there is no mention even of that in these demands. I understand that you will bring it in the general Railway Budget. I have even been demanding to connect Arunachal Pradesh with railway line. You find that Beijing in China has been connected up to Lhasa by railway line and now it is proposed to connect Lhasa with Kathmandu by railway line. Hence, you can connect Arunachal Pradesh within a distance of 25-30 km or 70 km by railway. One Member before me has said that each capital should be connected by railway line. Harmati is 25 km from Itanagar. It has not been connected by railway line so far. You had proposed survey in the budget from Murkongslek to district H.Q. Pasighat. I was hopeful that you would bring it in this supplementary budget, but you have not done it. With regard to proposal from Rupai to Parshuram Kund, Ministry of Railways had communicated that it is not economically viable. If connecting, Arunachal Pradesh is perceived as not being economically viable then our country would be incurring huge losses. We were defeated in the war of 1962 due to lack of facility to carry tanks and arms and ammunition there. From Rupai to Parshuram Kund is a place, where China had killed all soldiers of India at Valong. This place also requires attention. I am saying so because if connecting Arunachal Pradesh by railway line is viewed from the economic viability angle, then we will suffer, our country will suffer and our soldiers will also suffer. Therefore, connecting Arunachal Pradesh by railway line is not only in the interest of people of Arunachal Pradesh but in the interest of the entire country.

At present, there is no economic development in Arunachal Pradesh because it is not connected with railway. So, the prices of commodities are very high; the Ministry of Railways will come to understand the intensity trouble and problems being faced by the people of the state. The Government of India, the U.P.A. Government has a look East Policy that North East States may be paid

[Shri Tapir Gao]

attention to and the South East Asian countries may be connected with railways, but not a single word in this regard has been incorporated in it. Therefore, I demand to extend this policy on the basis of look East Policy which figures in the agenda of UPA.

Sir, I shall place my demand time and again before Laluji, Rathawaji and Velu until they connect Arunachal Pradesh with railways. With what words I should support or oppose these Supplementary Demands because I hail from the State, which has not been connected with railways. I request you that if you connect our state with railway, I will support it even if my party opposes.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Excess Demands for 2004-05 and Supplementary Demands for 2006-07 of the Railways. The work performed by the Ministry of Railways is changing the face of the country. Ministry of Railways has done a marvelous job of gauge conversion and starting new and fast trains for the poor. So, I would like to thank Laluji for he has done a commendable job. I wish you may improve further and strengthen the Railways further.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I belong to Gujarat state. Laluji has started a new train there. The survey for broad gauge conversion from Dhansa to Jetalsar is going on. I would like that the new train which starts from Pipavav terminates Bhavnagar. There is large scale diamond business in my area. My constituency is adjacent to Surat, we have good trade there. Agriculture is another source of occupation in my area. I would like that the train running between Mahua and Bhavnagar terminates at Dhola. A new train runs from Dhola to Bhavnagar and another train starts from Bhavnagar which terminates at Bandra, Mumbai, which connects them. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Railway Minister to provide us two or three coaches in the connecting trains. The train which is connected with Pipavav and Mahua, should be connected from Dhola. Earlier, Pipavav track was not meant for passenger train. It is being started for the first time. That's why the Railways is facing so many problems. I can understand it. Even though we are having an intelligent Minister like Laluji and Gujarat has got representation in the Ministry of Railways. I would like to ask Laluji to bestow special rights to Rathwaji

regarding Gujarat. Too much injustice was done by Railways to Gujarat till now, you are rectifying it. My area is also like the one as mentioned by an MP before me. Rail services are very poor in my area also. The task of broad gauge conversion from Jetalsar to Dhansa is about to complete. I would like to request that a provision should be made in the budget for broad gauge conversion from Ketalsar to Dhansa. The Railways has made a provision to start a new train from Bandra, Mahua i.e Diamond city to Bhavnagar except Dhola to Bhavnagar, which I think should be started from Mahua. If it runs via Ahmedabad, Surat to Valsad, then it will boost diamond trade in my constituency. A new track has become operational there, the work pertaining to Pipavav Double Decker container has started but a bridge in Dhansa had been demolished.

Sir, a bridge in Dhansa had been demolished which is causing great difficulty is journey between Rajkot and Bhavnagar. A bypass is there but it has not been constructed by the Railways but vehicles are passing just through fields as a result they are facing great difficulty. There is no Rake point in my Amreli District for loading and unloading of fertilizers. So my request is that a fertilizer rake point should be given in my Lok Sabha constituency either in Dhulia or Rajol.

Sir, the Railway Minister has started a Garib Rath train from Liliya to Rajula. It is a very good thing, but there is no such facility from Delhi to Mumbai. All the trains start from Amritsar or other places and reach Mumbai via Delhi. I demand that a train should be started from Delhi to Mumbai so that poor people may be benefited.

Sir, I support the Demands for Supplementary Grants for Railways presented by the Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasadji, he has made so many reforms in the Railways. He should take them further so that the common man could be benefited.

SHRI ATMA SINGH GIL (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak the Demands for Supplementary Grants for Railways. I have got first opportunity to speak during the last two and a half years. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasadji for his reforms in railways. The achievements of Mr. Laluji during his tenure as Railway Minister are far better than those of any other Railway Minister. That's why Laluji is at No. 1.

Sir, I want to make a few demands for my constituency, Sirsa. There is a need of an ROB on National Highway No. 10 in my constituency. It has been sanctioned. Please get it completed as early as possible because it is a very important National Highway. It has heavy traffic on it as a result traffic jams remain for hours. Due to traffic jams, many accidents take place there. This highway goes from Abohar Mandi to Pakisatn border via Fazilka. It is a Cotton mandi. There are so many major foodgrains markets on this route. That's why a long traffic is a regular feature there. Farmers have to face many problems due to traffic jams.

19.53 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RAHDAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second demand is about the Fodder farm of Sirsa which is very old. It has not been expanded. There is a need to expand it keeping in veiw the increased railway traffic. My third point is that there is no facility of transportation of foodgrains. That's why, attention should be paid to this. My fourth demand is that most of the railway crossings are unmanned in my constituency, so they are always accident prone. That's why, they have to be converted into manned railway crossings. With this I welcome Laluji and support the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I demand that whatever work I have demanded should be started in my constituency as early as possible. If possible, these should be started in January itself.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are eight more Members to speak. I would request the hon. Members to confine their speeches to only two or three minutes so that everyone will get a chance to speak and the Minister will have to reply to the debate by today itself.

Dr. Manoj, please be brief.

[Translation]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to take part in the discussion on Demands for Grants on Railways. I would congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for making the Indian Railways a profitable one and for payment of dividends. At the same time, I

would like to emphasise that this should not be done by adding burden on the shoulders of the poor passengers, the poor porters and catering workers.

Sir, many trains are converted into super fast trains without adding any benefits to the passengers. My colleague, Shri Suresh Kurup, has already pointed out about the sad plight of the poor porters and workers. These porters and catering workers are evaded by giving those services to the private players. This should be reconsidered.

Sir, Alappuzha is emerging as a tourist destination in the country. It is famous for its backwater tourism, house boats, lakes and silver sandy beaches. The Railways can contribute much for its tourism development and they can earn more also.

The doubling of railway line from Ernakulam to Kayamkulam via Alappuzha is essential. Now, the utilization of this line is more than 120 per cent. Recently, Southern Railway's General Manager has made a public statement that the doubling work via Alappuzha would be taken up only after the completion of the doubling work via Kottayam. This was a block to the people of Alappuzha. It was a highly condemnable statement on the part of the General Manager, Southern Railway.

Sir, the doubling of the Ernakulam-Kayamkulam railway line via Alleppey should be taken simultaneously along with the doubling work via Kottayam. Even though Alappuzha is a major station and several trains start from here, there is no stabling line facility at Alappuzha. This should be included in the next year's Railway Budget.

The platform in various stations in Allappuzha district, viz., Thumpolly, Kalavoor, Thiruvizha, Vayalar, Aroor, Punnapra, Karuvatta are short and low lying. Even for a nine bogie train it is not sufficient. Since ladies compartments are at the end, ladies are the worst sufferers. So, sufficient funds may be allotted for the elevation and elongation and roofing of the platforms in those stations.

Sir, Alappuzha-Kayamkulam is one with maximum number of unmanned level crossings and a number of accidents have occurred several times. So, I request the hon. Minister that these unmanned level crossings should be manned at the earliest.

Sir, recently the railway time table has been changed.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

The timings of many passenger trains have become inconvenient to the daily commuters. So, when the railway authorities change the time table, they should consider the convenience of the daily commuters also.

Sir, there is one more point. Thiruvor railway station in Alappuzha district is emerging as an important railway station along the Alappuzha-Kayamkulam route. It is also a very busy station and also a crossing station. There is no foot over bridge there. So, I would request that this should be considered with utmost priority.

Sir, there are only nine or eleven bogies in the passenger trains plying between Kayamkulam and Ernakulam. During the busy hours, viz., during morning and evening hours, all the trains are densely packed. There are several incidents of accidents also. So, would I request the hon. Minister to increase or more bogies should be added to these passenger trains.

Sir, with these few demands, I support the Supplementary and Excess Demands for Grants of the Railways.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir thank you very much. I rise to express my views on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gadhavi, you can lay down your written speech here.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I will lay down. I have to speak only a few points because the hon. Minister of Railways is here. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, during the last Budget, we have supported the Railway Budget. The hon. Minister of Railways announced certain new trains. But I am sorry to inform that those trains have not yet started. In my constituency one train was announced by the hon. Minister, which is Bareilly to Bhuj three days a week via Palanpur. But this has not been started.

Secodly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that in my constituency, particularly in Rajasthan, there is salt being produced in large quantities. Now, these salt producers are put to heavy loss due to the increase in freight charges. In a year, six or seven times the railway

authorities have increased the goods freight which is very detrimental to the salt producers. They have come to standstill. A large number of labourers are working there. They are fearing to have a retrenchment. I can quote all the circulars. One circular is for the withdrawal of freight concession. The second circular is for change of classification from 1900.

20.00 hrs.

There is another circular for additional surcharge for 2-point destination. So, on the one hand, the hon. Railway Minister has done very good work in not increasing the passenger fares. But, at the same time, the freight rates in respect of goods train have been increased. That will adversely affect the common man.

Now, I would like to bring to the hon. Minister's notice that there are large properties of the Railways which lie unattended. For example, in my constituency, there is the old Bhuj Railway Station covering an area of about 100 acres of land. The market value of the property is more than Rs. 100 crore. They are not keeping a watch over the property. If they had taken care of these properties, then, there would have been no need for coming with this Supplementary Demand.

I would like to say certain things about my constituency. There is the demand for the restoration of the inter-City Train which was there between Bhuj and Vadodara. It has been discontinued for the reasons best known to the Railways. So, I demand that this Inter-City Train should be re-started from Bhuj to Vadodara via Gandhidam, Maliya, Haload, Viramgam and Ahmedabad.

There is no direct train between Bhuj and Patna. A large number of Bihari people are settled in my constituency. There are more than 40,000 people. It is a demand of those people to have a direct train from Bhuj to Patna. There is a demand for one additional train from Bhuj to Mumabi. Now, there are only two trains. About four to five lakh Kutch people are settled in Mumbai. So, it is their demand that there should be one additional train from Bhuj to Mumbai. As goods traffic between Kandla Port and Mundra Port is increasing day by day, there is a demand for doubling of the railway track. If we do not do it now, then, in the future, there will be so much of congestion. So, my demand to the hon. Railway Minister

is that there should be the doubling of the railway line between Ahmedabad and Mundra. There should be electrification. If we plan from now itself, then, we can meet the future demand. Otherwise, a day would come when there will be congestion.

My last point is this that there should be a direct train.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You can lay it on the Table. After all, it is very late.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: All right, Sir, I lay it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, I call Shrimati K. Rani to speak. Raniji, it is late. So, please take a few minutes.

*SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: I may kindly be allowed to submit my written submission on the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railway) for 2006-2007.

1. We, Members of Parliament passed main Railway Budget and in that Hon'ble Railway Minister announced

Date	Rate Circular No.	Applicable Date	Difference in %age	Definition
26-12-05	CIR No. 75	1-1-2006	6%	Withdrawal of Freight Concession (N.F.)
06-01-06	CIR No. 03	15-1-2006	10%	Change of Classification from 90 to 100
28-3-06	CIR No. 25	1-4-2006	5%	Additional surcharge for 2-point Dest.
29-3-06	CIR No. 26	1-4-2006	5%	Busy Season Surcharge
24-5-06	CIR No. 45	1-6-2006	6%	Change of Classification from 100 to 110
21-6-06	CIR No. 59	1-7-2006	3.25%	Rate Table Revised
5-10-06	CIR No. 81	1-11-2006	6%	Busy Season Surcharge

Thus, increase in this Railway freight is approx. 49.31%.

On one hand Hon'ble Railway Minister claims that he has not increased Railway fares for passengers, but unbearable increase in goods freight which has ultimately adversely affected the common man.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

certain New Trains, but I am sorry to say that in spite of more than 10 months' period passed, the train between Bareilly and Bhuj via Palanpur three days a week, has not yet started and flimsy reasons are given viz Northern Railway has not received necessary NOC from Western Railway and constraints of Railway Compartments, etc.

2. Sir, we understand that when Hon'ble Railway Minister announces in Railway Budget of introduction of new trains, the same announcement is supposed to be made after all procedural formalities for starting of new trains were completed.

3. Hon'ble Railway Minister deserve our compliments for not raising passenger's fare, but at the same time during the period of only last one year, Railway has increased goods freight which is unbearable and that has also affected the common man.

4. I would like to quote only one instance, i.e. for unbearable hike in Railway freight in transportation of Salt. Railway has increased freight for salt seven times since 1-1-2006 to 1-11-2006 by issuing circular Nos.

5. I would like to submit that if Railway properly manages its valuable property plug the leakages, and complete the important gauge conversion works in time, it need not to have come to Parliament for Supplementary Demands for Grants. For this I would like to give few instances.

6. Sir, in my Constituency Le Kutch District (Gujarat)

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

Railway has got very valuable land of old Bhuj Railway Station, say about 100 acres, which remains unguarded, open for encroachment. The market value of this land can be said to be approximately Rupees One Hundred Crores, but Railway is neither making any use of this land, nor protecting it and not putting the same land for its commercial use or selling the same.

7. Secondly, if Railway completes the work of gauge conversion on Bhiladi-Samdari Section, Railway can get huge goods traffic of whole Jammu and Kashmir, Western Punjab and Western Rajasthan as by this completion, gauge conversion distance to major port Kandla and fast developing Mundra Port can be reduced more than 100 kms.

Sir, here I would like to submit for some important demands of my constituency which are narrated in brief asunder, which I hope, Hon'ble Railway Minister will certainly consider very positively:

1. It is our long standing demand for Inter-city Train between Bhuj-Vadodara via Gandhidham, Valiya, Halvad, Viramgam, Ahmedabad.

2. Direct train from Bhuj to Patna as large number of labourers and business persons from Bihar and North India are settled in Kandla Port and Mundra Port Complex.

3. One additional train between Bhuj and Mumbai, as normally every year Western Railway run about 175 extra trains on this route.

4. As the goods traffic on Kandla and Mundra Port is increasing enormously, so planning for doubling of Railway Track between Ahmedabad and Gandhidham and electrification over this track requires to be made as immediately as possible so as to meet with the requirement of future demand.

5. It is our long standing demand that Kutch district should have direct railway facilities viz:

- (a) Bhujn to Hyderabad
- (b) Bhuj to Chennai
- (c) Bhuj to Puri

(d) Bhuj to Howrah

Alternatively, extension of long distance trains which are coming to Ahmedabad be extended upto Bhuj as large number of people from my constituency are settled in almost all parts of country and similarly people from various States in my constituency.

My compliments to Hon'ble Railway Minister and all employees of Indian Railway for doing good job. I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.*

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram) : Sir, I cannot speak in just two minutes. Kindly allow me to speak for five minutes.

Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demand for Grant relating to the Railway Ministry. I stand here to support the Railway Ministry's Supplementary Budget presented in this House by the hon. Railway Minister. I would like to emphasise a few more lines. First and the most important one is the Salem-Karur Broad Gauge line which is pending for a long time without any solution in sight. It is a small line covering only 80 kms. But this is unduly delayed due to some other factors. The main factor is that the Railway Ministry acquired the land from the villagers. It has not given the money for the land owners because of some problems. They are demanding the right compensation. The Ministry of Railways is now trying to give the land back to the villagers after many years. This is against all norms of judicial facts. As per the law also, once the Government takes possession of any land and the Government alters the physical feature of the land, it cannot return the land to the land owners. So, Sir, kindly consider the poor condition of the land owners and the villagers. The hon. Minister has to take steps quickly for completing it by way of settling it soon. I would request that this matter may kindly be settled by giving the right compensation to the land downers.

Now, I come to the other point relating to Namakkal which is coming under my constituency. It has a Computerized Railway Reservation Counter. It has only one reservation counter to cater to the needs of all sorts of people. It is catering not only to the reservation needs but also to providing enquiry details etc. This causes long delays for the passengers who have to stand in long

queues for a long time. In order to avoid the inconvenience to the passengers, if the POET, the Passenger-Operated Enquiry Terminal is connected to one or two computers, that would help the passengers. That would solve most of the problems of the passengers and reduce the inconvenience caused to them. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister personally to look into the matter.

Though Namakkal is a district headquarters having the Computerized Reservation Counter, yet for releasing the tickets on EQ, the Railway officers ask us to go to Salem which is far away from Namakkal. It is 45 kilometres far away from Namakkal.

This gives a lot of hardship to the people residing in and around Namakkal. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to extend this facility to Namakkal also.

Sir, our hon. Railway Minister Lajuji is announcing novel schemes to improve the Railways. I would request the Minister to appoint girls as rail hostesses in Super Fast Train coaches.

I would request the hon. Minister to provide escalator facility at Salem Railway Station which will facilitate faster movement of all passengers in general and it will help in easy movement of elderly people and children in particular.

Sir, we have been demanding an overbridge at Deviakurichi in my constituency, for a long time, which is a dire necessity. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to sanction the overbridge and include it in this Supplementary Budget itself.

Then, Athur is another important town in my constituency which has a large population. So, I would request the hon. Minister to sanction an overbridge at Athur also.

With these few words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways for 2006-07.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to one ROB construction at Haveri Railway Station. During the last Parliament Session also, I spoke on this matter and the hon. Minister is well aware

of that. In addition to that, I have given a number of petitions and the public also have given a number of petitions on this matter.

Then, one RUB was constructed at Haveri Railway Station in 1996 during gauge conversion work, but technically it is not feasible to use that and lakhs of people of Haveri town are cursing the Government for this. I have received a letter from the Ministry stating that it is not possible for the Central Government to construct this ROB and it should be constructed from the funds of the State Government. So, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to consider constructing this ROB on cost sharing basis. With regard to the construction of this ROB, I am prepared to give any amount of money from my MPLAD Fund. Therefore, I would request the Railway Minister to consider this demand.

Then, there are two ROB's, one at 711 kms and another at 328 kms on NH-4 and they are constructing these two ROB's on cost sharing basis in collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India which has taken up this work as part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project. So, I would request the Government that approval for construction of these two ROB's at revised rates should be given immediately. This is a long pending demand of the public of that area. If these ROB's are not constructed, it will result in escalation of rate and will give untold misery to the general public. Therefore, I would request that these ROB's should be constructed immediately.

As far as Bangalore Metro is concerned, I would like to say that this should be taken up at the earliest. Bangalore is a very important city of our country and lakhs of people live there. Now, the authorities are going to foreign countries to study the metro systems there before constructing Bangalore Metro. Instead of touring foreign countries, they should come and see Delhi Metro which is one of the best metros in the world. We are having 'Suvarna Karnataka' celebrations in our State now. So, to coincide with 'Suvarna Karnataka' celebrations, the Railway Minister should see that Bangalore Metro work should be taken up and completed as soon as possible.

Sir, I do not want to take much time. I would earnestly request the hon. Railway Minister to consider my requests and do the needful.

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demand for Grant (Railway) for 2006-2007.

Arasikere-Tumkur line is single line. This has to be made a double line and I am pressing for this during last one decade. The density on this has increased tremendously and hence the doubling work of this important route should be taken up immediately. And it should be completed expeditiously as this demand is pending for the last on decade.

Special train which is running between Bangalore and Tumkur has limited number of bogies. There is heavy rush in the compartments, particularly during peak hours. Most of the Government employees working in Bangalore depend upon this train. There are a large number educational institutions in Tumkur. Hence the increased number of passengers find it very difficult to find place in the compartments. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Railway Ministry to provide, at least, four more bogies to this special train.

Tumkur is a very important business centre. Entire city is overcrowded. Goods shed is located in the city and that is causing several problems to the people. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to shift this goods shed to the neighbouring Kyata Sandra. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will do the needful in this regard at the earliest.

The people of my constituency Tumkur are demanding a new railway line between Maddur and Davanagere via Huliurudurga, Kestur, Kunigal, Nagavalli, Guler, Tumkur, Shira, Hiriur, Chitradurga. My colleague Shri Hanumathappa has already put his demand in this regard. Mr. Siddeshwara is also pleading the centre for construction of this new railway line between Maddur and Davanagere.

The Railway Station of Tumkur is very old and it lacks basic facilities. Passengers are facing too many problems. Waiting room is there only for name sake. Toilets are not maintained properly. Drinking water facility is also very bad. This old railway station should be modernized as early as possible. The Railway Canteen is also in a

bad shape. I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide sufficient funds from the Supplementary Budget for his modernization of the Tumkur Railway Station.

All the trains particularly the shuttle trains should stop at Karadi as it is a very important centre of my constituency and the people of that area are demanding this for a long time. The trains which run between Sampige and Nittur should be given a stop at Ramapura. Here also many commuters are depending on railway journey. It is a place where variety of vegetables, fruit, flowers are grown. Apart from this many other commodities have to be transported. Hence Ramapura should get a stop, otherwise the residents of this place have to walk ten to fifteen kilometers to catch trains and buses. I hope and trust that the Railway Ministry will take note of these points and help the people of Tumkur by providing better railway facilities. Sir, I thank you once again and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to join the discussion on Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for the year 2004-05 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2006-07.

Sir, I support the passing of these demands. The first demand relates to the expenditure already incurred during 2004-05 in excess of the amount granted by Parliament. It is presented for regularization only under article 115(1)(b) of the Constitution of India. The total demand is of Rs. 2,150 crore only. Taking into consideration the very commendable job done by the hon. Railway Minister in the last two years, the Parliament should pass it unanimously. I support it.

The second demand relates to the requirement of the Ministry to complete the ongoing projects and to further continue other new projects under article 115(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. These demands are justified and the amount is negligible so the Parliament should agree to these proposals and pass them. These are constitutional obligations which are to be fulfilled by the Parliament. I place on record my praise for the hon. Railway Minister for the good job done by his Ministry and his team of officers.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Sir, my State Manipur has no rail line till now. Now, Manipur will have a rail line by 2010. Thanks to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. UPA Chairperson and the hon. Railway Minister, Laluji, for laying the foundation stone of the first ever rail head at Jiribam for the Jiribam-Tupul (Imphal) Rail Line in 2004. This is a national project and is targeted to be completed by 2010. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to give his personal supervision for the timely completion of this project within the stipulated time, that is, by 2010.

Finally, I once again support the passing of these demands.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, eighty per cent of the rail accidents take place at the Railway level crossings. There are so many proposals for the construction of rail over-bridges pending with the Railways. The Ministry of Railways all the time say that 50 per cent of the total cost should be borne by the State Government; the land should be provided by the State Government for the construction of the approach road. But as you know, no State Government is capable of just providing this 50 per cent of the total cost. So, in most of the cases the rail over-bridges are lying unfinished.

The Railway Minister and the Railway Ministry claim that they are making a very hefty profit. The Railway Ministry is flushed with profit of Rs. 10 crore or Rs. 15 crore or Rs. 20 crore. The hon. Railway Minister is here. I would like to appeal him that he should establish a Rail Over-bridge Fund of Rs. 1,000 crore from the profit of the Railways so that without asking for assistance from any State Government, all the rails over bridges—though they are pending with the Ministry of Railways—could be constructed by the Railways itself. Only the State Government should provide the land required for the approach roads.

My second point is this. Is it true that the Ministry of Railways is going to have another rail coach factory at Raebareli? Why Raebareli? What is so specific about it? We are already having two rail coach factories one at Perambur and another at Kapurthala. Do we actually require a third rail coach factory at Raebareli? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether we have to become a VIP to get a rail project of such a magnitude. I very strongly protest the parochial attitude of the Railway

Ministry of just having the rail project only in the constituencies of the Railway Minister himself and UPA Chairperson. First, he had the wheel and axle plant, and now the UPA Chairperson is going to have the rail coach factory in her constituency.

My last point is this. There is a great demand from the hon. Railway Minister himself that because of him only, the Railways have earned such a hefty profit. So, I would request him that he should have a debate on this. He should convince this country and ourselves—and he should listen to us—as to who is responsible for this profit whether he or the Railway Minister who was there before him.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got just three suggestions to make. I would like to tell about my constituency.

[*Translaiton*]

While extending my thanks to you I would like to submit only three four points. I support these demands for supplementary grants.

My Parliamentary constituency is located along Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. For a long time, it has been my suggestion and demand that there is 15 km long railway line from Morhsa to Shamlaji. For this I had met the hon'ble Minister who had assured me also in this regard that he would do something. On this occasion, I demand that it should be sanctioned so that a new railway route from Mumbai to Delhi via Baroda, Morhsa, Shamlaji and Udaipur may become operational. My second demand is that metre gauge railway line going to Udaipur via Ahmedabad and Himmatnagar should be converted into broad gauge. If the said metre gauge line is converted into broad gauge, the trains from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh would reach upto Udaipur-Chittorh and Mandsoor and more and more passengers would be able to travel as well as more goods could be transported. My third suggestion is regarding the freight corridor. I would like to express my thanks to the hon'ble Minister for Mumbai-Delhi corridor that will pass through Gujarat. I would like to demand and as hon'ble Gadhaviji has also submitted that the railway line between Samthiani and Mahesana and from Samthiani to Palanpur should be linked to Himmat Nagar so that the goods unloaded at Kandla port which

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

are transported to Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh through this broad gauge line may directly reach this area. Otherwise, presently they have to be taken to Palanpur. Those goods will be transported from Palanpur to Ahmedabad and from there to Ratlam. If this small segment of rail line is replaced by new one, it will ensure uniform development of the entire region. It will also generate revenue for railways and fuel cost and other operational cost of railway will also decrease which will lead to profit for Railways. Stoppage of Rajdhani Express 2957 should be provided at Sabarmati station which is a small station near Ahmedabad as Delhi Cant is in Delhi. Similarly, Ashram Express runs between Delhi and Ahmedabad. The train remains very dirty. The government should take care of this train. Both the Minister of State for Railways are present here. I would like to submit that some more coaches should be added in the said train and it should be kept neat and clean. It will be comfortable for the passengers travelling in the train. It will earn good reputation for you and the Ministry of Railway as well.

With these words I conclude and support the Demands for Grants for Railways.

[English]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on Demands for Grants (Railways). I would like to submit about an incident of my area that would have led to a serious accident. An intercity Express in Jhansi Division of North Central Railway runs from Jhansi to Kanpur and vice versa. On 10 November, 2006 the train was going to Urai from Ata at 8.30 pm in the night. Either terrorists or some other persons had welded girders in the middle of the rail line near the bridge on Chamari streamlet. However, the driver of the train saw it and tried to stop the train but before halting, the train collided with the girder and the girder was broken into three pieces. But the train crossed the bridge. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government because recently a few days back two gunny bags of explosives were recovered from Urai railway station. Such incidents are occurring in Jhansi Division of North Central Railways.

I would like to submit one thing as a suggestion. Most of the railway accidents occur during night between 2 am and 5 am. The main reason behind this is that the duty hours of station master and pause man is from 12 O'clock in the night to 8 am in the morning and they do this duty continuously for entire week. It is on account of this that they do not get time to sleep. My suggestion is that if they are engaged for night shift then instead of whole week the night shift should be for two days only. Thus they will get two days for sleep and they will be able to perform their duty more efficiently.

I would like to make a demand from the hon'ble Minister of Railways. Trains go to Patna and Howrah from Delhi. Out of these trains if one or two trains are made to run via Jhansi and Kanpur and then return to Delhi, it will be convenient for the people of that area.

*Sir, in Jhansi Division of North Central Railway those trains, that come from Kanpur, Lucknow to Jhansi stop at Jhansi outer signal and it is on account of this that the passengers who have to travel to Banda and Delhi from Jhansi remain help up at outer signal and they miss the trains in which they have reservation. So no train should be stopped at outer signal to avoid inconvenience to the passengers.

Chhapra-Gwalior Mail departs from Gwalior at right time. However, when it returns from Chhapra, it is delayed for two to five hours between Lucknow and Jhansi. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to streamline the timings of train so that passenger may travel in Chhapra mail without losing time. There is a manned railway crossing near Urai station and the vehicles going to Chitrakut, Banda, Hamirpur, Satna, Allahabad pass through this crossing. At the time of passing of trains the gates of the crossing are closed and it is on account of this that the people face difficulties. So, I would like to demand that an overbridge should be constructed on this road.

A shuttle train runs from Etah to Konch in my parliamentary constituency. If Konch station is linked with main line (Jhansi-Kanpur) and Pirauna station, which is on Jhansi-Kanpur main line, is linked to Etah junction via Pirauna it will certainly be profitable for railway. The expenditure incurred on it will also be not very high.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

There is single line between Kanpur and Jhansi via Urai. It is nearly 200 km long. If the doubling and electrification of this line is done, there will be no delay in running of trains because from Lucknow towards Mumbai it is main line on which it takes 6 to 7 hours.

Kalpi station is located along Jhansi Kanpur rail line. Tehsil SDM court and other offices are located on the other side of the station. Several factories are also located there. Trucks etc. cannot pass under the bridge and the people of nearly 100 villages also use the same way. If the said road is lowered by two feet the people at the said villages will be benefited and the Government vehicles will also be able to pass through it.

Konch station is located in my area. If computerized reservation facility is provided there it will certainly increase the revenue of the railway. Nearly two months back same process was initiated in this regard but the said process was stalled due to some unknown reasons. So, the computerized reservation facilities should be provided at Konch station at the earliest.

Puja intercity runs from Jhansi to Kanpur. If one AC chair car coach is added, it will certainly enhance the revenue earned from this train and the said train should also be extended upto Allahabad.

Udyog Nagri Express runs from Kanpur to Mumbai. This train has been introduced from entrepreneurs. The stoppage of the said train should also be provided at Urai station so that the industrialists of Urai may also travel to Mumbai and the passengers of Janpad Jalaun will also be able to travel in this train. If Pushpak and Rapti Sagar Express trains are given a stoppage at junction then it will definitely be useful for the Railway Department.

Sir, it has been seen that the increasing number of reserved coaches in trains is causing problem to the poor commuters. The hon. Minister of Railways understands it very well. So I urge him to increase the number of general coaches in trains so that the poor could sit in the general coach and travel. The poor are always running about whenever the trains arrive so they do not even get a place to stand. Therefore, it is requested that the number of general coaches may be increased.*

20.23 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-first Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to present the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

20.24 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS— (RAILWAYS), 2004-05

AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS— (RAILWAYS), 2006-07

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I express my gratitude to you. Approximately 49 Members of all the parties participated in this discussion and making a brief reference to the railways and in regard to their parliamentary constituency gave valuable suggestions. They also threw light on the achievements of the Indian Railways family and extended felicitations. I on behalf of the entire Railway family thank all the hon. Members present. I welcome the invaluable suggestions given by them and the desires expressed by them that there are many work which are still lying incomplete. Besides they have also referred to certain lapses which I admit. Admitting those lapses, I would also assure all the Members that the U.P.A. Government will keep on working without any discrimination. Sir, for the ongoing projects I myself admit that these were taken on the basis of political consideration. Given the large network of the Railways our ongoing projects worth Rs. 25 thousand crore were pending for a long time. With the passage of time the cost of inputs like iron and cement escalate and at times the contractor runs away but we have invested a great deal in this project. We release funds in installments for projects

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which have been sanctioned and on which some investment has been received. We already have a formula. The Government on a priority basis wants to bring the people of underdeveloped states like that of North-East, Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Assam in the mainstream. Two projects have been introduced for the consideration and approval of the House. The discussion is going on the bridge from Landimg to Bandarchur, it is under consideration. These are two national projects. I will read out the scheme of bringing the North-Eastern States in the mainstream. I shall give further clarifications in March when budget will be introduced in detail. There are several works yet to be completed I shall present the actual picture on the Indian Railways in March.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): We want him to give it now so that we can hold a discussion on it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He was an officer in the Railways and is now an hon. Member, I shall continue to take advantage of his experience. The Indian Railways has started making a great fortune. However, I would not like to claim that it is owing to my efforts alone rather our entire Railway family deserves a pat on the back. The employees of Railways used to apprehend for fear of losing their jobs that it would be handed over to the multinational companies and that the Railway is unable to pay even the dividend and the situation was going from bad to worse. Accidents occurred every now and then. Be it the incident of Mukerian in Punjab, safety is our priority yet owing to the negligence of two station masters who allowed two different trains in a single line caused the accident. There were casualties, I reached the spot of the accident and lodged an FIR there and then took action against the guilty. My image gets tarnished despite my achievements and people start doubting my intentions. There was a bridge, which was constructed by the Rabri Devi Government. There was another bridge which dated back to British era called the Ulta Pul of Bhagalpur.

These bridges were of the British era. There was no problem in the bridge. This bridge collapsed owing to the gross negligence of the officers of the Engineering Department and Contractors who left the bridge after demolishing its two pillars while full caution should have been taken. Not even girders were used; we have admitted

this lapse and gross negligence. Criminal cases have been registered against persons found responsible. Those who have erred will not be spared but we are all praise for those who do good work. We have decentralized power to the General Manager up to Rs. one billion, since the officers used to visit the headquarters. I have never interfered with anybody's work. Because any approach is always result oriented. The Hon. Prime Minister gave assurance from the ramparts of the Red Fort that Indian Railways was number three in the world. We would make it no. 1. Safety of Railways is our first priority. People from America visited us, they spoke with officers and wondered at our management and increased profit whereas it took them 10-15 years to take a decision. Our country and the Indian Railways is being appreciated all over the world and we also feel encouraged. That is why a while ago I said that the magic is yet to be completed.

Just now an Hon. Member from Kerala put forth the typical problems being faced by the people of Kerala. I agree with the land problem of that area and we are contemplating in this regard as to how we can develop the area. Project of two new railway lines for North-Eastern region has recently been accorded approval. I do not waste my time in Rail Bhawan. There is a processing of the Expanded Railway Board on national projects which accords approval to the projects. Thereafter it is sent to the Planning Commission where it is scrutinized. At times projects get rejected then I have to take up cudgels in public interest. Thereafter it is sent to be Cabinet Committee where discussion goes on problems like from where the funds would be drawn and how they would be spent. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and hon., Pranab Mukherjee with whose relentless efforts the project of two broadgauge lines worth Rs. 1050 crore was given approval. In Meghalaya a new broadgauge line will be laid from Azra to Banihar for the first time. Another line will be laid from Dimapur to Kohima in Nagaland. These two projects will be implemented as National Projects. These are new projects. As regards the old projects, I want to submit that we have not left Arunachal Pradesh. The project of Arunachal Pradesh has been sanctioned. The Chief Minister came for that project and suggested that alignment should be changed and we are pushing the work ahead. I have also apprised the hon. Member and I shall visit the North Eastern States myself.

Besides survey will be conducted for the flood affected remote areas which has no other connection except the railways.

20.35 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Besides there is a proposal for Chitauni to Tamkuhi road with a cost of Rs. 235 crore in the Supplementary Demands, Chitauni is on the Western corner of Bihar and links Uttar Pradesh. There is Araria which is the last corner and an alternative route and is a single line linking Galgalia costing Rs. 300 crore crossing near Bangladesh. It will serve as an alternative route. A scheme with the cost of Rs. 456 crore from Tindivanam to Nagari has been taken up. Rs. 211 crore for the flood affected area from Motihari and Sitamarhi and Rs. 12 crore for the area from Tindivanams to Thiruvanamally have been earmarked in Supplementary demands. Rs. 205 crore have been allocated for the construction of new railway line between Darbhanga and Kusheshvarshan. Besides, doubling of railway line from Chengalpattu to Villupurram at a cost of Rs. 247 crore has also been included. The gauge conversion of railway line from Rajpepla to Ankleshwar and Aloadabi road to Silliguri at a cost of Rs. 115 crore and Rs. 170 crore respectively have also been included in the supplementary demands. And this is not the end. Railway network is to be extended in West Bengal, Bihar and remote areas of other States where people have not seen railway line so far and about which we have made an announcement in the House for conducting a survey.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the survey of your area has also been included.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a demand for Jaijon to Anandpur Sahib also. 300 years of Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh is going to be completed.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We are doing it and will definitely complete it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Patna station is also to be taken up.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We will certainly do it.

One of our friends was arguing about Raibareli. Raibareli is in Uttar Pradesh and is a very big city. Railway

coaches will be manufactured in maximum capacity in the latest coach factory of Raibareli and other coach factories. Many of our colleagues have stated that we cannot manufacture coaches beyond a certain capacity. I will be the Minister for five years. Thereafter, who will be the Minister, I do not know but the vision of the Indian Railways should be clear.

Dedicated Freight Corridor from Ludhiana to Mumbai will be extended upto Kolkata and cover all the parts of the city. It will be extended from Delhi to Mumbai also. It will cover Mumbai-Chennai-Chennai-Howrah and other areas in the next stage. How many loco, rails and coaches will be required? Hon'ble Members and common people have demanded new trains for the saturated route on western line. We will lessen the pressure on this route. We need loco to be self reliant. Coaches are also required on a large scale. Not only in Raibareli and Madhura but coach factories will also be set up in other parts of the country so that we may not remain dependent on others. It is our endeavour to be self reliant in the next five years. The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit Japan. He had made commitment about the lowest rate and even if the private investors intend to enter this sector, the Government will remain the owner of the railway. The work will be allocated on piecemeal basis. I cannot explain the pitiable condition of the railways prevailing earlier and I do not want to blame others for creating such a situation.

Why to allow the out flow of country's funds? Why not to become self-reliant. Problems like unemployment, Poverty, helplessness etc. are prevailing in the country and we are losing our skills. Therefore, There is a need to strengthen our country. Besides, Mokama, heavy engineering factories for manufacturing open wagons will be set up in Barh also where once a Banyan tree was existing. We wrote off our share there and started both the factories. Such a factory has also been started in Kolkata also. We will upgrade it to meet the requirement in future. People should not make remarks against a person. The performance of Sonia Gandhiji cannot be assessed for a coach factory. She has relinquished the highest position of the country which has elevated her stature all over the world. Atalji made many statements in Lucknow but the output was nil. Practical methods will be adopted by the Railway Administration to meet the requirement of the country.

[SHRI LALU PRASAD]

Sir, we had made a commitment to introduce four fully air conditioned garib raths. The announcement regarding second garib rath is going to be implemented and from 10th it will run between Patliputra and Delhi. For the time being, it will halt at some selected places but more halts are likely to be provided on its route. Two more trains from Delhi to Chennai and Delhi to Mumbai are being introduced. Railway fare ranges between Rs. 475 to Rs. 576 which seems expensive for a poor person. It is equal to the rate of three kilogram of chicken. There is no need to be scared of media. Media publicise the issue and we get scared. Recently, some persons from electronic media were showing leakage of water from a tunnel and bricks giving way. They were making several types of comments. It will be included in the proceedings. I would like to tell the House, that is why I am speaking selectively. A decision was taken in the year 2001 to reconstruct 2370 bridges through Railway Safety Funds. Reconstruction of 1920 bridges have been completed till March 2006. And a target has been fixed to complete the construction of 280 bridges by the end of the year 2006-07. The remaining bridges are likely to be completed during the year 2007-08. Railway engineers got the report about all the bridges falling in their segments before March. They suggest the remedy if they find any defect and if they do not find any defect, they issue certificate for traffic worthiness. The old bridges over the rivers and wooden sleepers are being replaced with the steel sleepers. In this way we have earned profit without increasing the fare. I will also tell you about the increase in the profit. Figures for the projects are not being given as this is supplementary budget. Doubling of railway lines, improvement in the infrastructure, construction of bridges, electrification and other schemes have been taken up on large scale. In spite of increase in the prices of fuel, fares have not been increased.

SHRI P.S. GADHVI (Kutch): Freight rates for salt have been increased by 49%.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Transportation of salt was stopped. We are going to resume it without increasing the freight rates. Salt is being exported to various countries. We are paying attention to it also. Salt will not be made dearer, and if required, suitable action would be taken. Be rest assured about it. Salt is a need of everybody. Bapu's sacrifice created a history in this regard.

Sir, perishable items like oranges and potatoes become rotten. We will look into this matter in detail. I have mentioned about the farm houses in this very House. We are working on this project. No fruitful results can be achieved till the farmers get remunerative prices for their produces. Traders insist on cold storage as there would be no buyers for their rotten products. ... (Interruptions) Sometimes we also do the same thing. There are 7500 in the Railways. Farmers produce various vegetable like potato, onion, cauliflower, tomato, oranges, makhana, brinjal, pumpkin, papaya, lady finger and bittergaud etc. using costly fertilizers. They also employ labourers at high wage rates in their fields. Farmers produce their crops while braving the vagaries of nature. The bumper crop of potatoes make the big traders to sell potatoes at throw away prices while mixing the fesh potatoes with old stock. They give the plea for throw away price that potatoes have been imported on a large scale. The same crop becomes dearer after reaching in cold storage. For the rise in prices they argue that the potatoes are being exported to Bangladesh. In fact no such export takes place and the potato crop remain in the cold storage. But the farmers get very low prices for their produces.

Besides, there are potia fish, small fish and Jhinga fish which if not sent from the Bihar will create crisis in Bengal.

There is crisis if it does not go to Andhra Pradesh, however, it does not have market or distribution center there. Beside this, shoes and slippers which are foot wears are sold in air conditioned show rooms. However, foodgrains, fruit and vegetables which are edible items are sold on footpaths. So, I would like to submit that unless the economic condition of farmers is improved whatever efforts are made or discussions are held on technology, India cannot progress. So, in order to improve the economic condition of farmers we are going to provide land on lease at every station. We will provide land on long term lease. That will be outlets of farmers where they will be able to sell their produces. Their goods will be packed by way of providing container service, fridge and deep freezes facilities, thus the produces will be preserved and our goods will be exported all over the world. I feel then our economy will grow in this way. The railway belongs to all and we are taking action in this direction.

The hon'ble Prime Minister has directed that some fast trains should be introduced. The Members also talk about bullet trains that China has done this and we are logging behind. We should ponder over the situation that we have in India. The creams of society who act as the guide of the country formulate laws for the country compare ourselves with foreign countries, however, one should see the condition of our railway. It is quite evident. The trains pass through agriculture fields. *[English]* There is no fencing, no dedicated line, no fund. *[Translation]* The Government have no fund to design it. Rajdhani has been designed, it has to run at a speed of 130 km. However there is saturated line at different places and repair works are going on and at many places caution plates are placed where speed is decreased and the drivers have chart that inform them as to before how many poles they have to stop trains. The Government are formulating separate plans for bigger cities like Madras and Mumbai. We are seriously pondering over it and it will require huge funds. All the animals remain there in clusters and all the residents dispose their entire garbage there. The lines of the houses open at the railway line. Kiran Maheshwariji is not present here. Kiranji was discussing about Rajasthan. If one goes on her route, he will know as to how much work has been done there and how many trains have been introduced in Jaipur, Rajasthan and how much work is going to be done by us in this regard. The routes in that area are a complete mess. There is complete hotch-potch. The entire thing is being done....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KAHIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, though you, I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister that the railway has made enormous savings and has earned profit. I would like to extend thanks to him on behalf of Maharashtra region, however, he should make some provision for Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra will extend their thanks to him and will wish a long life for Laluji

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Teh Member has indicated towards that. My State Ministers have also told me that Rs. 800 crore will have to be given for Marathwada next time. The present budget has a low amount. We will take up this issue later. Presently we have to clear the orange stock piled up in that area....*(Interruptions)* Everything is written in the speech. I am going to lay it on the Table of

the House. Please pass this Bill. I extend my thanks to all of you. The names of all the hon'ble Members who have participated in the discussion have been mentioned in it. The Members are so sincere that they have given their so much time discussion. We have noted down the smaller demands of the members like providing stoppage of trains at certain station and priority will be given to such demands. However, many a Member who has spoken has left the House after speaking.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The announcements made by the hon'ble Minister should be implemented....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Yes, that will be implemented because railway department is required to give report about the implementation of the announcements made before the next budget.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I had submitted that the station masters who do night shift from 12 O'clock to 8 O'clock in the morning do their duty continuously for one week. They say that they find it difficult to sleep during that period. So, if their night shift is made for three days they will at least get time to sleep and will be able to perform, their duty efficiently. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, there is another very important matter which is related to all the hon'ble Members. I have also submitted to the hon'ble Speaker that the Members are entitled for two or three passes of First Class. There should be provision of co-traveller in the railway pass issued to Members. The co-traveller can be the wife or any close relative of the Member, however, if the wife is not travelling in that case any male can also be allowed to travel with the Members as per their entitlement. But in the absence of such provision TTEs have insulted Members at various places. Minor children should also be allowed to accompany them. I have submitted to the Hon'ble Speaker in this regard and have also requested the Gamang Committee to submit their report in this regard. As soon as report is received the facilities will be provided to the Members as per their entitlement. The Members are unnecessarily insulted while travelling with their brothers or daughters. So, they should be entitled to it. As soon as such a provision is made, we will implement it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I give due respect to the

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constructive suggestions that has been made by the hon'ble Members and I also have regards for those Members who have criticized us. It should be gracefully accepted.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am listening the reply of the hon'ble Minister for a long time. I would like to ask only one question whether the Government propose to raise the R.O.B. Fund of Rs. 1000 crore.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question I would like to submit that this burden should not be put on the Government of India. He should get this done by his State. This fund is constituted the amount of cesspool that the State Government gets from Highways. The Central Government have written to many State Governments that if they do not have money at present with them they can pay it later on. Meanwhile the Central Government are doing development work under dedicated freight corridor, modernization at station, platform work their sanitation with their own funds. That fund is kept separately. We are going to deposit this amount. Beside this, I have also told them that first they should give commitment in this regard then the payment will be made or it will be adjusted. As far the GRP railway policy is concerned, they are paid by the respective State Governments. I would like to request the hon'ble Member that he should write to the Chief Minister to his State and should give suggestion in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House and I request the Supplementary Demands of Grants (Railways) be passed.

1. *Sir, first of all I extend my gratitude to all the Hon'ble Members who participated in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 and Demands for Excess Grants for expenditure during 2004-05. The Demands for Excess Grants relates to year 2004-05. The Public Accounts Committee recommended for its regulation in its 31st Report after reviewing it. The Supplementary Demands for Grants of Rs. 568 crore for the current financial

year are mainly presented due to assistance given by the Central Government worth Rs. 300 crore as dividend free budget assistance for funding Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Project and for acceptance of the House for performing certain work out of turn.

2. Sir, connecting citizens of the country living in far-flung areas by rail is a high priority of UPA Government. Therefore, we have proposed 8 new lines in this grant for budget. North East area of the country is inaccessible area. Here, it is very difficult to travel in many of these hilly areas. I am glad to inform this House that we have sanctioned two new broadgauge line projects for North Eastern area with the cost of One Thousand and Fifty Crore Rupees. New Broadgauge Line will be laid for the first time in Meghalay from Ajra to Banihaat. The second line will be laid in Nagaland from Dimapur to Kohima. Both these projects will be implemented as National Projects.
3. Beside this, the Supplementary Demands includes railway lines from Chhitoni to Tumkuhi Road at a cost of Rs. 235 crore, from Arariya to Galgaliya (Thakurganj) at the cost of Rs. 300 crore from Tindivanam to Nagaari at a cost of Rs. 456 crore, from Motihari to Sitamarhi at a cost of Rs. 211 crore, from Tindivanam to Tiruvannamale at a cost of 125 crore and construction work of new line between Darbhanga to Kusheshwarstan at a cost of Rs. 205 crore. Beside this doubling work of rail line between Chengalpathu to Tiruvennamale at a cost of Rs. 247 crore and gauge conversion work of railway lines from Rajpeepla to Ankalashwar at a cost of Rs. 115 crore and from Alluabadi Road to Siligudi at a cost of Rs. 170 crore are also included.
4. These Supplementary Demands also include proposals regarding increase in capital of Indian Railway Finance Corporation, New Rail Coach Factory at Raibareili, New Diesel Rail Engine Factory in Madhora. Sir, one thousand modern and comfortable coaches will be maintained every year in the new coach factory and Raibareli.

... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Similarly, 150 engines of increased Horse power will be manufactured on annual basis in the New Diesel Engine Factory. The construction of both these factories will began as soon as possible under the joint enterprise. It will cater to the needs of increasing traffic.

5. Sir, East and West Dedicated Freight Corridors have been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited has been set up to implement this historic project. The Supplementary Demands for the required provision for share capital have also been put for sanction before this august House.
6. Keeping better relations with our neighbours is also the foundation foreign policy of India. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister always tries to improve relation with our neighbours. In this direction the work of upgradation of Atari Railway Station for providing better facilities to passengers coming from India-Pakistan border is also included in the Supplementary Demands.
7. We have proposed ROBs and RUBs in place of 14 level crossing for security of railway and road passengers in view of increasing traffic. Safety and Security of passengers and trains is our main priority. Most of the work undertaken from funds taken from Railway Special Security Fund will be completed as soon as possible. Out of modernization works of 15 thousand and five hundred kms rail road, more than 14 thousand kms have been completed and work on the rest of 1 thousand kms will be completed till the end of the year. Under signaling outdated assets in 982 stations have been changed and work on rail road circuits on 3,670 places has been completed. Rehabilitation works on 663 stations have been completed.
8. Sir, Maintenance and regular inspection of old bridges is an established process in Railways. Physical inspection is carried out on these bridges at appropriate level and decision are then taken. If it is found during inspection that some bridge is not safe for rail transport, then action for

rebuilding that bridge or construction of a new bridge is taken up immediately. Reconstruction work was undertaken for 2370 bridges through Railway Security Fund. Reconstruction work of 1920 bridges was completed till March 2006 and work on 280 bridges is targeted to be completed till the end of 2006-07. Work on rest of the bridges is expected to be completed till 2007-08. Bridges are rebuilt on the basis of their physical condition and not on the basis of their age. Continuous vigilance is kept over operational bridges and it is safe from traffic point of view. All General Managers have been directed to perform these kind of duties as per the set procedure while taking all precautions. We are making every possible effort to minimise such kind of accidents as a result of which the number of rail accidents have come down from 431 in the year 2001 to 234 in the year 2005-06. In the first eight months of the current year, the number of accidents have come down to 144 from 169 during the corresponding period, last year.

9. Sir, during last few months, the terrorist incidents had occurred in Mumbai sub-urban trains and near Guwahati station. As per requirement railway is installing security equipments like hand held and Door Frame Metal Detector, CCTV, Bomb Disposal kits and x-ray scanners. Wherever required dog squad is also pressed into service. We are trying our best to strengthen security system by increasing number of vigilance and security personnel. Under the aegis of UIC, Indian Railway has organized an International Seminar on terrorism on 29 and 30 November. Experts from various countries participated in the seminar and gave many suggestions for improvement of railway stations, which are under our consideration.
10. Sir, in the first eight months of current year, the Railways have registered much more growth in its business and income vis-a-vis the budget estimates. During the period starting from April to 20 November, 2006, our initial traffic income has registered 15.5% increase. Despite reduction in fares of almost all categories 42% growth in our income has been registered. More importantly,

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during these 8 months, around 10% historic growth has been registered in the number of railway passengers other than sub-urban passengers. I not only hope, but sure that we will continue to maintain financial turnaround of railways in future also.

11. Sir, many Members have presented some demands in regard to their parliamentary constituencies and States before us. I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that after paying serious consideration to their suggestions, an appropriate action would be taken in this regard. I would intimate them in writing at the earliest the actual status and the action taken in this regard. I again extend my thanks to the hon'ble Members for giving full support to Railways and again request the House to pass the additional Demands for Grants, 2004-05, Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2006-07 Appropriation Bills presented in this regard".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before passing the demands, I would like to say one thing.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to make one submission that the issue of modernization of Bihar-Aurangabad rail line and Patna Sahib Railway Station....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell Shri Yadavji, that first approval for conducting survey for Bihata-Aurangabad rail line is to be obtained from Planning Commission, then it is sent to CCA. I can say that this area is backward and undeveloped. Railway line should be laid for the development of this

area. Till the ground work is completed, giving assurance does not sound appropriate. This is a remote and distant area.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would like to thank the Minister of Railways that he has announced on the occasion of 300th Martyrdom day of Guru Gobind Singh that rail connectivity to Amritsar to Anandpur via Jaijon would be provided. I would also like to thank the Minister of Railways for linking Patna Saheb to Anandpur Saheb by rail. The survey of this rail line is being conducted, I would again like to thank him for this. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav has requested to modernise without any delay Patna Sahib Railway Station, which is very old. I too strongly support this matter.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I will see whether this matter has been taken up or not. If it has not been taken up, be assured as if it has already been taken up.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2004-2005 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 3 to 6, 9 to 11, 14 and 16."

Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2004-05 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Excess Grants submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha (Rs.)
1	2	3
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	6,00,07,173



1	2	3
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	22,63,70,163
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	13,73,45,243
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	55,93,22,859
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	48,14,51,313
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	60,20,84,638
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	7,27,14,952
14.	Appropriation to Funds	479,09,54,060
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement—Capital	1458,97,03,159
Total		2149,99,53,560

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demand for Supplementary Grant (Railways) for 2006-2007 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the years ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

Demand for Supplement Grants (Railways) for 2006-07: submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Supplementary Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha (Rs.)
1	2	3
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	

1	2	3
Other Expenditure		
	Capital	300,00,20,000
	Railway Funds	268,00,15,000
	Railway Safety Fund	15,000
Total		568,00,50,000

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The motion was adopted

21:00 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 5 BILL, 2006*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up item No. 17A of the Supplementary List of Business.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 5-12-2006.

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the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2005 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2005 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 17B of the Supplementary List of Business.

The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2005 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for authorization of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2005 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The Question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

21.05 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 6
BILL, 2006*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 17C and 17D together.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment of appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 5-12-2006.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may not move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on 6th December, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

21.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 6, 2006/ Agrahayana 15, 1928 (Saka).

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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