

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, September 10, 2007/Bhadra 19, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

REFERENCES BY THE SPEAKER

**Loss of lives in road mishap near Rajsamand
District of Rajasthan and due to collapse of girder
of a bridge in Hyderabad**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members on 7th September, 2007 in a road mishap about 86 people lost their lives and 81 were injured when a truck carrying about 150 pilgrims to the annual fair of Babaramdeo temple at Ramdevra in Jaisalmer fell into a deep gorge at Desuri-ka-Nall village in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan.

In another incident on 9th September, 2007, about ten people are reported to have lost their lives due to collapse of a girder of a bridge at a bridge construction site at Punjagutta junction in Hyderabad.

We deeply mourn the loss of lives in these mishaps.

The House may now stand silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received two notices from two hon. Members, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Prabhunath Singh, for suspension of Question Hour. My earnest appeal to all the hon. Members is, please raise it after the Question Hour because Question Hour is important.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what questions can be asked to such a Government which do not even recognize the opposition?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr.

Speaker, Sir, you are the guardian of the House. You are aware that a dispute is going on in the House for the last several days. Demand by the opposition for a JPC is the cause behind the said dispute. All the Members want the House to run as discussion is to be held on price-rise, on the issue of farmers, on Sachar Committee report and various other issues which are still pending. The stubborn attitude of the Government is preventing any discussion to take place in the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, we very much recognize the principal Opposition in Parliament. We very much recognize the respect for the principal Opposition in Parliament. According to the Constitution and the established statutes of Parliament, we have done nothing to undermine the importance of the Opposition. The Opposition is taking the House to ransom. Every day, the whole House is being taken to ransom. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in the List of Business itself, I have admitted all the important issues raised by the hon. Members. They are appearing in the List for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing all the subjects to be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Growth Pole Scheme

*361. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- whether the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector has suggested the scheme named 'Growth Pole' for the development of unorganised sector;
- if so, the blueprint prepared by the Government in this regard;
- whether the Government has initiated action for the implementation of the said scheme; and
- if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance to the Finance Minister's Budget speech, 2005-06, the National Commission for Enterprises

in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) has proposed Growth Pole Scheme in the Country with a view to integrating a number of clusters engaged in manufacturing and/or services within a given geographical location that would facilitate expansion of production and employment in Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) sector. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Growth Poles are under preparation.

(c) Yes, Sir. The NCEUS has identified six Growth Pole Pilot Projects (Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and Assam) in consultation with State Governments and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these Growth Poles are under preparation.

(d) The time frame for implementation of the Growth Pole Scheme depends on preparation and feasibility of DPRs.

National Agricultural Development Fund

*362. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase in loan amount being provided to the farmers through the said fund; and

(d) the total amount of loan likely to be disbursed to the farmers during each of the next two years through the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Financial Irregularities in Department of Food

*363. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether cases of financial irregularities in the Department of Food due to non-maintenance of proper records has come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the recent incident of misappropriation of huge quantity of foodgrains held by the Department; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has reported 82 cases of defalcation of accounts/misappropriation. These cases are presently under investigation in FCI.

World Bank Assistance for Repair of Dams

*364. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several irrigation dams are on the verge of collapse and there is urgent need to repair them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds provided by the World Bank for the repair of dams has so far not been released to the States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of the strategy chalked out by the Government for repairing of the said dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There are no specific reports from any of the State Governments about any dam being on the verge of collapse. However, some of the dams are relatively old and necessary actions for review of safety of existing dams and initiating appropriate measures in respect of dams in distress are taken by the respective State Governments.

Realizing the importance of measures for safety of dams, the "Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (DSARP)" was implemented with World Bank assistance during 1991-99 in which States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu participated. At present, no World Bank assisted project for "Repair of Dam" is under implementation. However, based on the proposals received from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, the "Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)" has been posed for World Bank assistance.

[English]

Committee to Review the Functioning of DRDO

*365. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an independent and external committee of experts to conduct a comprehensive review of the functioning of the DRDO;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the report of the Committee; and

(c) if so, the details of its main recommendations and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) The Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar essentially to examine and recommend changes in the defence acquisition process in order to synergize the efforts of various stakeholders for improving the prospects of indigenous production and utilizing the resources available both in the public and private sector with the objective to strengthen self-reliance in defence preparedness. In order to examine the effectiveness of R&D support provided vis-a-vis in-house research facilities with DRDO, and to ensure effective participation of the private sector in Defence Research, the Committee had recommended a Review of the functioning of DRDO by a separate Committee of independent group of external experts.

In the light of above recommendations, an independent Committee of experts has been constituted by the Government on February 8, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rama Rao. The constitution of the Committee is as under:-

Chairman:

Dr. P. Rama Rao, Former Secretary, Deptt. of Science & Technology and Vice Chancellor, Central University, Hyderabad & Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and presently ISRO Dr. Brahm Prakash Distinguished Professor.

Members:

1. Shri AK Ghosh, Former FA(DS)
2. Dr. C.G. Krishnadas Nair, Former Chairman, HAL & presently President SIATI
3. Mr. Satish K. Kaura, Chairman & Managing Director Samtel Colour Limited & Chairman Industry Council, CIL.
4. Prof. (Dr.) Tapan Kumar Ghoshal, Prof & Head Electrical Engineering Deptt, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
5. Vice Admiral P Jaitly, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), Former Chief of Materials, Naval Headquarters.
6. Air Marshal Ajit Bhavnani, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC (Retd.), Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
7. Lt. Gen. C.S. Chima, PVSM (Retd.), Former DG AAD
8. Shri K. Sekhar, Outstanding Scientist, DRDO

The Committee is in the process of interactions with senior officials of Ministry of Defence, DRDO and Services. The Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government within a period of one year from the date of its constitution.

[Translation]

Procurement of Foodgrains

*366. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) checks the quality of foodgrains before procuring the same;

(b) if so, the arrangements put in place for the purpose and the procedure laid down therefor;

(c) whether cases of procurement of substandard foodgrains have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years despite these arrangements and procedures; and

(d) if so, the details of the officials, if any, found responsible in this connection and the action taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) issues instructions every year to procure foodgrains strictly conforming to the uniform specifications laid down by the Government of India. Technical staff of Quality Control Division of FCI are posted at the procurement centres to check the quality of foodgrains at the time of procurement. Besides, moisture meters, physical analysis kits and other items viz. tarpaulin, weighing and stitching machines, dunnage material, etc. are also made available at the procurement centres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of FCI officials who were found responsible for procurement of substandard foodgrains and against whom disciplinary proceedings were initiated by Vigilance Division of FCI are as under:

S. No.	Year	Category-I	Category-II	Category-III
1.	2004-05	12	621	1359
2.	2005-06	-	3	8
3.	2006-07	-	7	9
Total		12	631	1376

[English]

Menace of HIV/AIDS in Defence Forces

*367. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether HIV/AIDS is spreading in Defence forces for which WBS, APCS and BSEF were compelled to join hands to spread awareness among jawans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to control the damage;

(c) whether there is any plan to bring changes in the service rules like increasing leave, reducing job stress and to provide family quarters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) The incidence of HIV positive cases in the Armed Forces during the last 5 years has shown declining trend from 501 cases in the year 2001 to 377 cases in 2006.

The Armed Forces Medical Services have an elaborate HIV/AIDS control programme, which includes the following:

- a) Health education of the troops and their families.
- b) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis patients, ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from there.
- c) Hundred percent screening of all ante natal cases.
- d) Hundred percent screening of all blood/blood products for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria.
- e) Encouraging voluntary counselling and testing.
- f) Spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS through audio-visual means.

The Armed Forces Medical Services are running a comprehensive prevention and control programme for HIV/AIDS in close coordination with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and United Nations AIDS Programme (UNAIDS). Assistance of West Bengal State AIDS Prevention and Control Society (WBSAPCS) and Border Security Force (BSF) has however, not been sought.

A system of educating and counselling on stress related issues already exists in the Defence Forces. This includes increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit, using services of psychiatrists and counsellors to conduct lectures/presentations and educate officers/personnel; identifying personnel under stress and carrying out psychological conditioning and therefore of identified individuals.

With a view to further improving the service conditions of the Armed Forces personnel, Government has also approved the following measures:

- (i) Officers have been assured time scale promotions up to the rank of Colonel (Time Scale), thus increasing the promotional avenues and enhancing the satisfaction level.
- (ii) Grant of additional rail warrant to all ranks of the Armed Forces serving in field/high altitude/counter insurgency/counter terrorism operational areas.
- (iii) Removal of restriction of 1450 Km for availing Leave Travel Concession (LTC) and rationalization of LTC entitlement of officers and Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) making them similar.
- (iv) Grant of High Altitude (uncongenial Climate) (HA[UC]) Allowance at enhanced rate to troops deployed at more difficult, hazardous and isolated areas within the existing (HA[UC]) Area.
- (v) Leave regulations have been liberalized where necessary.
- (vi) A married accommodation project has been undertaken for providing adequate residential/married accommodation for Defence Service personnel. Besides, provisions also exist to hire married accommodation. When an individual is posted to field area, separated family accommodation is also available at various stations.

Construction of Border Roads

*368. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated during 2007-2008 for the construction of border roads by the Border Roads Organization (BRO);

(b) the expected length of roads likely to be constructed in the North-Eastern States, especially in Assam, during 2007-2008; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) During 2007-2008, Border Roads Organization (BRO) proposes to spend a sum of Rs. 1635.58 crores for construction/improvement of 1497.38 Km of Border Roads in the country.

BRO have planned the construction/improvement of 262.49 Kms of roads of Operational/strategic importance in North Eastern States during 2007-2008 at the cost of Rs.321.27 crores. BRO also has a plan to construct/improve 150.39 Km of roads in North Eastern States under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme- North East (SARDP-NE) at the cost of Rs.250.00 crores. Thus the total length of roads to be constructed/improved by BRO during 2007-2008 is 412.88 Kms with the total cost of Rs.571.27 crores.

In Assam 129.97 Km of road is to be constructed during 2007-2008 at the cost of Rs. 147.92 crores.

[Translation]

Setting up of New ESI Hospital

*369. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employees State Insurance (ESI) hospitals functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the ESI hospitals are less in number as against their actual requirement;

(c) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to set up new ESI hospitals;

(d) if so, the time by which new hospitals are likely to be set up, State-wise; and

(e) the amount likely to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) to (e) At present, there are 144 ESI hospitals all over the country (Details enclosed as statement).

New hospitals are sanctioned on the request of the State Government and keeping in view the norms laid down by the ESI Corporation. Requirement of the ESI hospitals depends upon the concentration of the Insured Persons (IPs) in the area.

The ESI Corporation has given in principle, approval for setting up of new hospitals in the following States:

1. Raipur, Chhattisgarh
2. Baddi, Himachal Pradesh
3. Gurgaon (100-bedded), Haryana
4. Tirunelveli & Tiruupur, Tamil Nadu
5. Haldia, West Bengal

In addition, ESIC has also given approval for setting up of 10-bedded diagnostic centre at Dehradun, Uttranchal & Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The expenditure on setting up of a hospital depends on various factors like size, number of beds, cost of land and cost of construction in the region, etc.

Statement

List of ESI Hospitals

Andhra Pradesh	-	11
Assam	-	01
Bihar	-	03
Jharkhand	-	03

U.T. Chandigarh	-	01
Delhi	-	04
Gujarat	-	12
Goa	-	01
Haryana	-	05
Karnataka	-	09
Kerala	-	13
Madhya Pradesh	-	07
Maharashtra	-	14
Orissa	-	06
Pondicherry	-	01
Himachal Pradesh	-	01
Punjab	-	07
Rajasthan	-	05
Tamil Nadu	-	09
Uttar Pradesh	-	16
West Bengal	-	14
Jammu and Kashmir	-	01
Total	-	144

Supply of Fake Seeds

*370. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of supply of fake/inferior quality seeds detected in the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which fake seeds supply has affected foodgrains production; and

(c) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The status of the Seed Quality Enforcement under The Seeds Act, 1966 and The Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 as reported by the State Governments and Union Territories for the last three years is given in the enclosed statements I to VI.

The proportion of substandard seed to quality seed is declining which indicates increase in availability of quality seeds and consequently increase in production of food grains.

The Government is taking all possible measures to check sale of substandard seeds. The Government has advised all the States to take necessary action against the

producers and vendors who supply or sell substandard seed under the relevant provisions of The Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rule, 1968, Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 and Environmental

(Protection) Act, 1986. Financial assistance has been extended to States and Union Territories to strengthen seed quality enforcement.

Statement-I

Progress Report on Seed Act, 1966 during 2003-04

S.No.	State	No. of Notified Inspectors	Total No. of samples drawn	No. of samples found substandard	No. of seed dealers sold substandard seed	No. of cases in which warning issued	No. of cases stop sale order issued	No. of cases filed in the Courts of Law	No. of cases decided by Court of Law fine/imprisonment awarded	No. of cases pending Cburt of Law	No. of cases where seed forfeited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1160	9413	672	142	4	28	51	8	135	3
2.	Assam	474	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Andaman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1029	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	*Bihar										
6.	Chandigarh UT					Nil Report					
7.	Chhattisgarh	237	535	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Delhi	10	163	3	3	3	3	3	24	13	-
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli					Not Applicable Reported					
10.	Daman and Diu					Not Applicable Reported					
11.	Gujarat	76	3332	98	98	54	5	42	50	37	34
12.	Goa	10	1170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Haryana	81	3281	65	65	59	4	2	-	5	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	225	675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	192	11	8	-	15	8	5	3	-
16.	Jharkhand	22	721	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Karnataka	1232	6107	61	44	50	36	10	-	-	-
18.	*Kerala										
19.	Lakshadweep					Not applicable					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7.	Chhattisgarh	237	1353	36	-	14	36	-	-	-	-
8.	Delhi	9	127	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
9.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Gujarat	77	4245	63	54	18	46	18	39	14	-
12.	Goa	10	308	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-
13.	Haryana	81	3140	35	Nil	23	3	-	-	-	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	10	509	-	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Jharkhand	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Karnataka	1207	6883	50	22	42	20	8	-	-	-
18.	*Kerala	155	50	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	948	3959	332	-	332	332	2	1	1	-
21.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Maharashtra	884	10755	186	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Mizoram	8	1000	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Orissa	748	1409	420	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Punjab	1190	2636	250	42	152	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Pondicherry	14	203	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Rajasthan	391	3310	27	27	-	38	13	-	13	-
30.	Sikkim	8	1246	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Tamil Nadu	57	22688	1195	982	787	1621	195	147	48	2
32.	Tripura	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Uttar Pradesh	228	3733	88	-	23	53	7	5	2	-
34.	Uttaranchal	20	325	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	West Bengal	250	2850	48	887	887	863	-	-	-	485
Total		8529	87588	3829	2261	2207	3021	343	197	173	488

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
22. Maharashtra	885	9011	-	301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Mizoram	8	1010	-	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Orissa	748	1501	-	455	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Punjab	1190	2503	-	305	162	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Pondicherry	14	210	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. Rajasthan	391	3311	-	131	-	38	38	13	13	-	-	-
30. Sikkim	8	1240	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Tamil Nadu	57	16620	-	1290	587	1501	1555	295	137	163	6	-
32. Tripura	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33. Uttar Pradesh	228	325	-	1	28	51	57	12	8	4	-	-
34. Uttaranchal	20	2801	-	51	888	762	835	-	-	-	-	-
35. West Bengal	250	30015	391	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8518	93354	244	3537	2335	2693	2829	450	176	274	8	-

Statement-IV*Progress Report on Seed (Control) Order, 1983 during 2003-04*

S.No.	State	No. of seed dealers to whom licence issued	No. of cases to whom licences refused	No. of samples drawn	No. of cases where documents seized	No. of cases prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act	No. of cases where seed seized	Details of appeals by seed dealers during the period	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law for appeal	No. of cases pending before appellate authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8080	-	3860	-	51	28	2	-	-
2.	Assam	137	-	3300	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Andaman and Nicobar							Reported Nil		
4.	Arunachal Pradesh									
5.	*Bihar									
6.	Chandigarh							Reported Nil		
7.	Chhattisgarh	272	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Delhi	389	-	163	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli						Reported Nil			
10.	Daman and Diu						Reported Nil			
11.	Gujarat	2043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Goa						Reported Nil			
13.	Haryana	5722	-	3281	-	2	-	-	-	-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	578	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	161	-	923	-	33	-	-	-	-
16.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Karnataka	4931	10	-	21	-	8	-	-	-
18.	*Kerala									
19.	Lakshadweep						Reported Nil			
20.	Madhya Pradesh	176	-	2379	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Meghalaya						Reported Nil			
22.	Maharashtra	28527	-	10902	-	-	13	-	-	-
23.	Manipur						Reported Nil			
24.	Mizoram	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Nagaland						Reported Nil			
26.	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Punjab	4464	-	4249	-	-	1	15	-	-
28.	Pondicherry	47	-	153	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	Rajasthan	-	-	4176	35	27	5	2	27	-
30.	Sikkim	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Tamil Nadu	5318	3	21685	7	3	2	-	-	-
32.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7711	-	1803	-	-	-	4	4	-
34.	*Uttaranchal									
35.	West Bengal	7905	-	4648	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		75180	13	61260	63	116	57	23	31	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Maharashtra	31167	0	11068	0	8	40	10	0	0
23.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Punjab	5071	0	4521	8	13	7	52	0	0
28.	Pondicherry	58	0	154	12	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	11528	0	4931	0	34	2	0	0	0
30.	Sikkim	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	6286	14	9746	0	0	4	0	0	0
32.	Tripura	250	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	12468	0	3743	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Uttamchal	50	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	2
35.	West Bengal	7045	0	7651	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	109640	18	63336	175	72	56	64	1	2

Statement-VI*Progress Report on Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 during 2005-06*

S.No.	State	No. of seed dealers to whom licence issued	No. of cases to whom licences refused	No. of samples drawn	No. of cases where documents seized	No. of cases prosecution launched under Essential Commodities Act	No. of cases where seed seized	Details of appeals by seed dealers during the period	No. of cases filed in the Court of Law for appeal	No. of cases pending before appellate authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9998	0	8379	141	13	12	2	0	0
2.	Assam	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Andaman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	0	0	1404	2	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh UT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Delhi	476	0	138	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Gujarat	11412	0	4430	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Haryana	7205	0	3286	0	1	0	0	1	0
14.	Himachal Pradesh	648	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	161	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Karnataka	5214	4	0	12	3	0	0	0	0
18.	*Kerala	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	240	0	2930	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Meghalaya	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Maharashtra	31167	0	11068	0	8	41	10	0	0
23.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Orissa	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Punjab	5071	0	4521	8	13	7	52	0	0
28.	Pondicherry	58	0	154	12	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Rajasthan	11528	0	4931	0	34	2	0	0	0
30.	Sikkim	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	6286	14	9746	0	0	2	0	0	0
32.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	12468	0	3743	0	0	0	0	0	2
34.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	West Bengal	7045	0	7651	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		109538	18	62381	175	72	64	64	1	2

Degeneration of Agricultural Land Into Ravines

*371. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in erosion from various rivers, particularly from the river Chambal every year has made the agricultural land degenerate into ravines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such erosion all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The process of soil denudation and formation is a natural process which is occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in natural eco-system. Land degradation is a dynamic natural process and can be minimized with proper management of natural resources. As per available estimates, out of the total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. is subjected to various kinds of land degradation in the country, which includes water erosion to the extent of 93.68 million ha. Out of total eroded soil, 61% moves from one place to another, nearly 29% is lost permanently to the sea and remaining 10% is deposited in the reservoirs. The soil erosion leads to land degradation in upper reaches of the river system, whereas when deposited at various locations of the river systems it may increase the soil fertility. With a view to minimize soil erosion, land degradation, siltation of multipurpose reservoirs and to reduce flood peaks & volume of runoff a Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR) is being implemented. Presently, this programme is being implemented in 56 catchments of 27 States in the country.

The ravinous land is a form of highly degraded land and is usually associated with network of gullies formed generally in deep alluvium soils and entering nearby river, flowing much lower than the surrounding table lands. The ravines therefore, are extensive system of gullies developed along river courses. There are three categories of ravines, namely deep (more than 5 metres deep), medium (2.50 to 5.00 metres deep) and shallow ravines (less than 2.50 metres deep).

As per the Wastelands Atlas of India-2005, brought out by Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, the total ravines area is 19.04 lakh ha. in the country. The estimate for

the ravine ingress ranges from 0.45% to 2.41% with an overall average of 0.865% per year. This implies that every year about 16,469 ha. of more land is engulfed by existing ravines. Villages situated within about 2 Kms. range of Chambal river or its tributaries are under the grip of gully erosion.

The Chambal ravines are spread over in four States, namely Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat as per details given below:-

S.No.	Name of the State	Area in lakh ha.
1.	Gujarat	0.39
2.	Madhya Pradesh	5.28
3.	Rajasthan	6.60
4.	Uttar Pradesh	3.25
Total		15.52

In addition to the Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes with a view to prevent soil erosion and land degradation. These are (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iii) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) (iv) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (v) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vi) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (vii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (viii) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs). Under these programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan about 50.83 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed as per details given in the enclosed statement.

The Working Group of the Sub Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Wasteland, Watershed Development Programmes has recommended about 38 million ha. land for development with estimated cost of about Rs.32095.00 crore during XI Plan including development of gullied & ravinous lands.

Statement

Lands Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes, since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan

(Area in Lakh ha. and Expenditure in Rs. Crore)

S. No.	Ministry/Scheme and year of start	Progress since inception upto IX Plan		Progress during X Plan* (2002-07)		Progress since inception upto end of X Plan*	
		Area	Expr.	Area	Expr.	Area	Expr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)							
1.	NWDPR (1990-91)	69.79	1877.74	23.30	1147.82	93.09	3025.56
2.	RVP & FPR (1962 & 81)	54.88	1516.26	9.98	727.98	64.86	2244.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	WDPSCA (1974-75)	2.58	166.27	1.35	129.31	3.93	295.58
4.	RAS (1985-86)	5.81	76.39	1.30	45.35	7.11	121.74
5.	WDF (1999-00)	0.00	0.00	0.59	26.02	0.59	26.02
6.	EAPs	13.35	2039.81	4.80	1927.54	18.15	3967.35
Sub Total		146.41	5676.47	41.32	4004.02	187.73	9680.49
Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)							
1.	DPAP (1973-74)	68.95	3284.74	68.32	1557.76	137.27	4842.50
2.	DDP (1977-78)	33.56	797.38	45.17	1152.50	78.73	1949.88
3.	WDP (1988-89)	37.34	616.51	62.22	1821.64	99.56	2438.15
	EAPs	1.40	18.39	3.60	274.28	5.00	292.67
Sub Total		141.25	4717.02	179.31	4806.18	320.56	9523.20
Total (A+B)		287.66	10393.49	220.63	8810.20	508.29	19203.69

* Includes tentative achievement of 2006-07.

Abbreviations:

NWDPRA	- National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area
RVP & FPR	- River Valley Project & Flood Prone River
WDPSCA	- Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area
RAS	- Reclamation of Alkali Soil
WDF	- Watershed Development Fund
EAPs	- Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	- Drought Prone Area Programme
DDP	- Desert Development Programme
IWDP	- Integrated Wasteland Development Project

Source: Working Group Report of Natural Resource Management for Eleventh Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, New Delhi, Feb., 2007.

**Availability and Procurement
of Foodgrains**

*372. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability and procurement of foodgrains in the country during the last three years and thereafter till date. Grain-wise. Year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the demand for foodgrains has far exceeded its supply in the country during the said period;

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

(d) the steps taken to meet the demand for foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The details of availability and procurement of wheat in the country during the last three years and current year are given in enclosed statement-I and

II respectively while similar details in respect of rice are given in the enclosed statement-III and IV respectively.

(b) and (c) The production (supply) and projected consumption requirement (demand) for wheat and rice during the said period is given in the enclosed statement-V.

(d) To increase cereals production, Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals is in operation from October 2000. Under these schemes, assistance is provided on 90:10 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, pest management, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Likewise, to increase the production of pulses, Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under operation since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis by the Government of India and the State Governments.

The Government of India has initiated two schemes for increasing foodgrains production and improving the agricultural growth in the country. These are (i) National Food

Security Mission (NFSM), and (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY).

Statement-I

State-wise details of availability of wheat in the country during the last three years and current year

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Crop year State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Production	Availability	Production	Availability	Production	Availability	Production	Availability
Andhra Pradesh	7	6.1	5	4.4	9	7.9	7	6.1
Arunachal Pradesh	6.3	5.5	8.7	7.6	6.1	5.3		
Assam	73	63.9	68.1	59.6	53.7	47	65	56.9
Bihar	3688.9	3227.8	3263.4	2855.5	3239	2834.1	3584	3136
Chhattisgarh	108.6	95	82.4	72.1	90.7	79.4	92	80.5
Gujarat	2036.5	1781.9	1805.5	1579.8	2473	2163.9	3000	2625
Haryana	9114	7974.8	90058	7925.8	8857	7749.9	10053	8796.4
Himachal Pradesh	498	435.8	684	598.5	679	594.1	186	162.8
Jammu and Kashmir	459.4	402	474.4	415.1	444	388.5	461	403.4
Jharkhand	118	103.3	150	131.3	77.7	68	129	112.9
Karnataka	96.2	84.2	179	156.6	217	189.9	184	161
Madhya Pradesh	7364.6	6444.0	7176.6	6279.5	5957.7	5213	7159	6264.1
Maharashtra	778	680.8	1016	889	1300	1137.5	1765	1544.4
Meghalaya	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1		
Nagaland	20	17.5	13	11.4	1.9	1.7		
Orissa	7.5	6.6	5	4.4	4.5	3.9	7	6.1
Punjab	14489	12677.9	14698	12860.8	14493	12681.4	14521	12705.9
Rajasthan	5875.8	5141.3	5706.6	4993.3	5865.3	5132.1	6925	6059.4
Sikkim	8.1	7.1	8.3	7.3	9	7.9		
Tripura	5.1	4.5	2.8	2.5	2.9	2.5		
Uttar Pradesh	25566.7	22370.9	22513.9	19699.7	24073.8	21064.6	25031	21902.1
Uttaranchal	745	651.9	803	702.6	645	564.4	801	700.9
West Bengal	985.7	862.5	841.5	736.3	773.5	676.8	792	693
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0.9	1.1	1	1.1	1		
Delhi	102.3	89.5	71	62.1	79.4	69.5		
Others							128	112
All India	72156.2	63136.7	68636.9	60706.2	69354.5	60685.2	74890	65528.9

Note: Availability of wheat has been taken as 87.5% of wheat production (excluding 12.5% as seed, feed and wastage)

Source: Dte. of E&S, Department of Agriculture and Coopn in respect of production figures.

Statement-II*State-wise details of procurement of wheat in the country during the last three Marketing years and current year*

(in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Punjab	92.40	90.10	69.46	67.57
2.	Haryana	51.15	45.29	22.29	33.46
3.	Uttar Pradesh	17.41	5.60	0.49	5.49
4.	Rajasthan	2.79	1.59	0.02	3.84
5.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
6.	Delhi	0.02	0.02	-	0.01
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	Neg.	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3.49	4.84	-	0.57
9.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-
10.	Bihar	0.15	0.01	Neg.	0.08
11.	Uttaranchal	0.54	0.40	-	0.02
12.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	Neg.	-
	Total	167.95	147.85	92.26	111.04

Statement-III*State-wise details of Availability of Rice in the country during the last three years and current year*

Crop year State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Production	Availability	Production	Availability	Production	Availability	Production	Availability
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	8953	8272.6	9601	8871.3	11704	10814.5	11864	10962.3
Arunachal Pradesh	154.6	142.9	135	124.7	146.2	135.1	-	-
Assam	3880	3585.1	3470.7	3206.9	3552.5	3282.5	2573	2377.5
Bihar	5447.8	5033.8	2472.2	2284.3	3495.5	3229.8	4996	4616.3
Chhattisgarh	5567.6	5144.5	4383.3	4050.2	5011.6	4630.7	5041	4657.9
Goa	170.7	157.7	145.2	134.2	147.3	136.1		
Gujarat	1277	1179.9	1238.2	1144.1	1298	1199.4	1390	1284.4
Haryana	2790	2578.0	3023	2793.3	3210	2966.0	3371	3114.8
Himachal Pradesh	120.6	111.4	122	112.7	112.1	103.6	104	96.1
Jammu and Kashmir	504.2	465.9	492.2	454.8	556.8	514.5	501	462.9
Jharkhand	2310	2134.4	1677	1549.5	1558	1439.6	2968	2742.4
Karnataka	2550.3	2356.5	3547	3277.4	5744	5307.5	3262	3014.1
Kerala	570	526.7	667.1	616.4	629.9	582.0	631	583.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	1750.3	1617.3	1169	1080.2	1656.3	1530.4	1368	1264.0
Maharashtra	2835	2619.5	2164	1999.5	2695	2490.2	2529	2336.8
Manipur	381.2	352.2	435.9	402.8	386.1	356.8		
Meghalaya	200.7	185.4	193.7	179.0	151.9	140.4		
Mizoram	114.6	105.9	104.1	96.2	99.2	91.7		
Nagaland	248	229.2	259.8	240.1	263.1	243.1		
Orissa	6733.7	6221.9	6466	5974.6	6859	6337.7	6794	6277.7
Punjab	9656	8922.1	10437	9643.8	10193	9418.3	10138	9367.5
Rajasthan	164.8	152.3	150.4	139.0	150	138.6	170	157.1
Sikkim	21.2	19.6	21.6	20.0	21.5	19.9		
Tamil Nadu	3222.8	2977.9	5062.2	4677.5	5220	4823.3	6842	6322.0
Tripura	516.6	477.3	545.1	503.7	552.9	510.9		
Uttar Pradesh	13018.8	12029.4	9555.6	8829.4	11133.7	10287.5	11090	10247.2
Uttaranchal	569	525.8	572	528.5	590	545.2	570	526.7
West Bengal	14662.3	13548.0	14884.8	13753.6	14510.8	13408.0	14636	13523.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.9	28.6	29.2	27.0	30.7	28.4		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.3	20.6	23.4	21.6	23.7	21.9		
Delhi	11.1	10.3	14.3	13.2	24	22.2		
Daman and Diu	3.9	3.6	4	3.7	3.7	3.4		
Pondicherry	67	61.9	65.7	60.7	59.9	55.3		
Other							1920	1774.1
All India	88526	81798.0	83131.7	76813.7	91793.4	84814.3	92758	85708.4

Note: Availability of rice has been taken as 92.4% of rice production (excluding 7.6% as seed, feed & wastage).

Source: Dte. of E&S, Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation in respect of production figures.

Statement-IV

State-wise details of procurement of rice in the country during the last three years and current year

(in '000 tonnes)

State/UT	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Neg.	1	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	4230	3906	4971	5216
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-		
Assam	17	Neg.	1	
Bihar	383	343	524	475
Chandigarh	-	19	13	10

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	2374	2837	3265	2833
Delhi	-	-		
Gujarat	-	-		
Haryana	1334	1662	2054	1772
Himachal Pradesh	3	2	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	1	3	-
Jharkhand	2	1	2	4
Karnataka	-	21	48	21
Kerala	-	33	94	151
Madhya Pradesh	112	42	136	73
Maharashtra	308	205	194	97
Nagaland	-	11		-
Orissa	1373	1590	1785	1987
Pondicherry	-	-		5
Punjab	8662	9106	8855	7827
Rajasthan	41	22	23	10
Tamil Nadu	207	652	926	1077
Uttar Pradesh	2554	2971	3151	2549
Uttaranchal	323	316	336	176
West Bengal	925	944	1275	641
All India Total	22828	24685	27656	25024

*As on 06.9.2007

Statement-V

The details of production (supply) and projected consumption requirement (demand) for wheat and rice in the country during the last three years and current year

Wheat

(Figures in million tonnes)

Crop Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Production (Supply)	72.15	68.64	69.35	74.89#
*Demand (Total consumption)	68.21	69.25	70.29	71.32

*Excluding industrial demand

Rice

Crop Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Production (Supply)	88.53	83.13	91.79	92.76#
*Demand (Total consumption)	87.92	89.24	90.54	91.84

#As per 4th Advance Estimates.

Source: Directorate of E&S, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

[English]

Growth in Employment of Women

*373. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of women employed in the public and private sectors has increased during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether men employed in the public and private sectors have decreased during the above period; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) As per information collected under Employment Market Information (EMI) Programme of this Ministry, employment of women in both public and private segments combined of the organised sector has increased from 49.5 lakh in 2001 to 50.2 lakh in 2005. Women employment during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 as on 31st March, was 49.4 lakh, 49.7 lakh and 49.3 lakh, respectively. Employment of men in public and private sectors has declined from 228.4 lakh in 2001 to 214.4 lakh in 2005. Total employment in the organised sector, public and private combined, for both men and women has declined from 277.9 lakh as on 31.03.2001 to 264.6 lakh as on 31.03.2005. No specific study has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the reasons for decrease in male employment in the above context.

Labour Laws and BPO Centres/ Call Centres

*374. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Business Processes Outsourcing (BPO) Centres and Call Centres fall within the purview of the existing labour legislation;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make an assessment of the implementation of labour laws in this regard;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring in a special labour legislation to regulate the labour activities in BPO Centres and Call Centres; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) units and Call Centres are covered under the existing labour laws. The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and are legally vested with powers to deal with violation of labour laws in the BPO Sector. The

Central Government has, however, written to the State Governments to implement the labour laws in the BPO Sector.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration as workers in BPOs & Call Centres are already covered under existing labour laws.

Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

*375. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJAMOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to include natural losses caused to various crops by frost, fog, heat-wave and hailstorms in order to provide compensation to farmers in the modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);
- (b) whether the Government also proposes to make NAIS more comprehensive by including in it life insurance and insurance for agricultural implements for the farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A proposal to modify the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) based on the recommendations of the Joint Group constituted by the Government which inter alia includes personal accident insurance cover and a composite package insurance, covering all assets, including agricultural implements of the farmers is under consideration of the Government. The proposed Modified NAIS is a comprehensive risk insurance scheme which will provide insurance cover to yield losses due to natural calamities including frost, fog, heatwave and hailstorm.

(d) Does not arise.

Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables

*376. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of fruits and vegetables which go waste due to non-availability of post-harvest technologies and supply chain efficiencies in the farm sector; and
- (b) the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The wastage of fruits and vegetables due to improper post-harvest management and supply chain inefficiencies, has been estimated to be to

the extent of 25% to 30%, valued at Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore annually, as reported in the fifth and final report of the National Commission of Farmers.

For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim' since 2001-02 which has been extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04 and 'National Horticulture Mission' during 2005-06 for the remaining States. These schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other states. During 2006-07, a new Component has been sanctioned under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of the Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/ processor/ exporter.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes 'Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce' having the same norms and 'Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post - Harvest Management' providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States. Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MFPI) has launched schemes for encouraging development of food processing industries including horticulture crops. The schemes includes (a) Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing for which assistance is given in the form of grant, subject to 25% of the plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, and (b) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Park for which assistance is given in the form of grant at the rate of 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, processing facilities, power, water supply, etc.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, titled 'Gramin Bhandaran Yojana' for Construction/ Renovation of Rural Godowns in the country through the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection since 01.04.2001. One of the objectives of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage near the production centres (excluding municipal corporation areas) in order to reduce

the losses. Under the Scheme, subsidy @ 25% is given to all categories of farmers, Agriculture Graduates, cooperatives, Central Warehousing Corporation/ State Warehousing Corporations etc. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are entitled to subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of North-Eastern States/ Hilly areas for SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives, subsidy is provided @ 33.33%.

A reform-linked Central Sector Scheme, entitled "Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture on 20.10.2004 to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services, infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post-harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies. Assistance to State agencies is also being provided under the Scheme for the modernization and upgradation of existing marketing infrastructure. Under this Scheme, the rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas, in the States of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and to entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes (ST) and their cooperatives, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% of the capital cost of the project. For each project, maximum amount of subsidy is restricted to Rs.50 lakh and 60 lakh respectively. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme.

Commitment Regarding BSNL

*377. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made commitments at the time of formation of BSNL to ensure reimbursement of license fee, access deficit charge, Universal Service Obligation Fund etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these commitments have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was set up on 1st October 2000 by corporatisation of Department of Telecom Services (DTS) and Department of Telecom Operations (DTO). The

Government, at that time, decided that a package of measures shall be provided to ensure that the viability of BSNL is not impaired on account of the services provided by BSNL, which are uneconomic but socially desirable, at the behest of the Government.

As per the package approved by the Government from time to time, the Government reimbursed 100% license fee and spectrum charges net of Universal Service levy payable by BSNL from the year 2001-02 to 2003-04. BSNL was also reimbursed 2/3rd and 1/3rd of license fee and spectrum charges during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Approved package did not provide for reimbursement of license fee and spectrum charges to BSNL from the year 2006-07 onwards.

The Government has reimbursed Rs. 9,248.64 crore to BSNL for the purpose during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Agricultural Biotechnology

*378. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the application of agricultural biotechnology in the production of various crops in order to achieve food security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government is promoting research through many multi-institutional network research projects on application of biotechnology in agriculture. A network project on transgenics is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to intensify research on development of transgenics to increase yield and quality in 14 crops of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable, fruits, and fibre, involving 20 ICAR institutions. Department of Biotechnology is supporting various programmes on capacity building, research and development including institutional infrastructure and regulatory regime for development and release of transgenics crops. The Government is also providing assistance to various agencies for establishment of tissue culture facilities for large scale multiplication of elite/disease free planting material.

[Translation]

Vaidyanathan Committee

*379. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released funds to the States for paying compensation to Cooperative Societies of their States for the losses suffered by them as per the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the funds released so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has also issued guidelines to the States for the allocation of funds to Co-operative Societies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations made by the Task Force on revival of Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions (Chairman: Prof. A. Vaidyanathan), Government of India has approved a revival package for the Short-term Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions involving financial, legal and institutional measures. Under the revival package, so far, Rs.423.64 crore and Rs.57.63 crore have been released to Andhra Pradesh and Haryana respectively as Government of India contribution towards recapitalization of eligible Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The funding liability under the revival package will be shared by the Government of India, State Government and Cooperative Credit Structure based on origin of the losses and existing commitments. The release of funds by Government of India under the package is dependent mainly upon:-

- (i) State Government accepting the Package
- (ii) State Government signing MoU with GoI & NABARD
- (iii) State Government amending the Cooperative Societies Act through Ordinance/Bill, and
- (iv) State Government releasing its share.

Investment in IT Sector

*380. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the investment in information technology has been made in those cities which have high quality educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote investment in information technology sector in those States which are lagging behind in the investment in information technology sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Software companies set up their operations in locations and plan their investment driven by business needs. In this context software companies are also guided by the availability of talent in cities.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) is having 48 centres across the country, out of which 7 centres are in Metros and balance 41 centers are in Tier II and Tier III cities.

As per the current policy for setting up of New Software

Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centre, the State Government has to make available 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 crore to STPI. The location selected should have export potential which depend upon factors like availability of Human Resources, Industrial infrastructure, IT infrastructure, State Government IT Policy and their proactiveness/receptiveness, business environment, living cost, social infrastructure etc. A detailed Feasibility Study should be carried out by STPI jointly with State Government officials to examine potential and commercial viability of establishing STPI Centre at the new location.

[English]

Cross border trade with Bangladesh

3553. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to bridging the gap with Bangladesh and facilitating cross border trade with that country, Government proposes to construct a two-lane bridge over the river Umngot at Dawki, to replace a 136 meter long suspension bridge which has outlived its life and utility;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the project; and

(c) the steps taken and progress made in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (c) There is no proposal to construct a two-lane bridge over the river Umngot at Dawki to replace a 136 meter long suspension bridge which has outlived its life and utility.

[Translation]

Power Based Tubewells

3554. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power and diesel based tubewells at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Solar Light Voltic Water Pumping Systems (SLVWPS) required in various States to decrease the dependence on power and diesel for running tubewells, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals received by the Government to establish the said systems; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve target of installing SLVWPS in various States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to Minor Irrigation Census 2000-2001 brought out by the Ministry of Water Resources, a total of 10270553 electrical and 6551235 diesel pumps have been used in minor irrigation schemes including dugwells, shallow and deep tubewells. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Ministry of Renewable Energy is responsible for developing different applications of solar photovoltaic technology and their demonstration. Solar Photovoltaic (SPvV) water pumping system is one of the systems developed and demonstrated for use in agriculture and allied applications and drinking water applications in different parts of the country. With present very high cost of the system, it may not be possible to replace the conventional diesel and electric pump sets for running tubewells in the country. No such assessment has been carried out by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) A cumulative total of 7068 solar pumping systems have been installed in the country till 31.03.2007 under promotion of Solar Photovoltaic Pumping Systems implemented by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. No funds have been allocated for solar pumping programme at Budget Estimate stage during the current financial year, therefore, no projects have been sanctioned so far. A request to supplementary demands for grants has been made for allocation of budget for this programme.

Statement

Electrical/Diesel Pumps used in Minor Irrigation Schemes

(In no.)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Electrical Pumps							Total
		Dugwell	Shallow Tubewell	Deep Tubewell	Lift on river	Lift on Stream	Lift on Drain/Canal	Lif on Tank/Pond	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	975358	628662	87482	8845	10833	1344	922	1713446
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	5
3.	Assam	9	516	760	287	15	10	9	1606

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Bihar	12261	28421	6190	316	9	49	55	47301
5.	Chhattisgarh	116376	75997	5227	12516	871	61	236	211284
6.	Goa	2666	29	60	709	43	3	71	3581
7.	Gujarat	430004	43931	94182	311	7	199	34	568668
8.	Haryana	8880	220556	24339	232	0	0	32	254039
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1334	1678	351	219	367	16	19	3984
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2283	1247	20	201	99	58	17	3925
11.	Jharkhand	3703	289	28	119	11	6	31	4187
12.	Karnataka	283509	523836	32	37588	8924	3068	2845	859802
13.	Kerala	133303	4112	227	4110	1232	781	4873	148638
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1066676	265406	36398	82806	20898	3329	4075	1479588
15.	Maharashtra	1462929	53884	77223	49812	14076	16248	11776	1685948
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	21
17.	Meghalaya	1	6	8	5	0	0	4	24
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	147	0	0	147
19.	Nagaland	22	1	3	1	0	4	3	34
20.	Orissa	13833	15322	4592	6882	457	1212	564	42862
21.	Punjab	1301	777852	9990	192	43	79	16	789473
22.	Rajasthan	424717	28539	56764	469	58	12	42	510599
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1206662	122025	84010	4774	357	1056	239	1419123
25.	Tripura	9	623	168	551	154	15	38	1558
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6668	445375	35085	123	42	30	26	487349
27.	Uttaranchal	121	8564	883	91	9	8	2	9678
28.	West Bengal	753	237	5139	1873	130	317	824	9273
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	0	0	33	121	24	317	501
30.	Chandigarh	0	108	57	0	0	0	0	165
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	325	0	0	71	0	0	0	396
32.	Delhi	0	7978	645	0	0	2	0	8625
33.	Pondicherry	74	4314	328	7	0	0	0	4723
Total		6153784	3259508	530194	213164	58901	27932	27070	10270553

Source: Report on 3rd Census of Minor Irrigation Schemes, October 2005 published by Ministry of Water Resources

Statement**Electrical/Diesel Pumps used in Minor Irrigation Schemes**

(In no.)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Diesel Pumps							Total
		Dugwell	Shallow Tubewell	Deep Tubewell	Lift on river	Lift on Stream	Lift on Drain/Canal	Lift on Tank/Pond	
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97708	20629	0	560	780	118	244	120039
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0	9	2	4	5	23
3.	Assam	138	77780	0	650	203	179	331	79281
4.	Bihar	65145	611225	0	1135	164	180	786	678635
5.	Chhattisgarh	15446	481	0	1392	1534	33	686	19572
6.	Goa	233	0	0	81	7	2	6	329
7.	Gujarat	466759	6565	0	646	63	609	256	474898
8.	Haryana	5610	142401	0	156	39	8	9	148223
9.	Himachal Pradesh	357	930	0	28	58	0	3	1376
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	178	115	0	57	37	6	6	399
11.	Jharkhand	146658	759	0	1343	613	418	7281	157072
12.	Karnataka	28827	1484	0	1779	1920	171	848	35029
13.	Kerala	9358	252	0	867	471	31	843	11822
14.	Madhya Pradesh	163656	8249	0	43746	27688	2561	4270	250170
15.	Maharashtra	65027	389	0	1166	1175	927	571	69255
16.	Manipur	3	3	0	21	2	0	0	29
17.	Meghalaya	0	69	0	0	2	0	0	71
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0	6	40	23	0	69
19.	Nagaland	155	1	0	3	4	2	15	180
20.	Orissa	29821	25411	0	5027	830	2877	3688	67454
21.	Punjab	1604	285880	0	312	209	402	157	288564
22.	Rajasthan	482114	82568	0	629	784	95	92	566282
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	269862	27164	0	1858	402	538	210	300034
25.	Tripura	8	121	0	157	84	32	119	521
26.	Uttar Pradesh	105218	2978677	0	2015	2381	1075	698	3090064
27.	Uttaranchal	341	42980	0	48	24	3	2	43398
28.	West Bengal	14523	52923	0	10195	2254	17284	48132	145311

1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	66	194	11	184	456
30.	Chandigarh	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	247	0	0	0	0	0	0	247
32.	Delhi	0	2347	0	0	0	7	0	2354
33.	Pondicherry	4	50	0	0	0	0	0	54
Total		1969004	4369477	0	73952	41764	27596	69442	6551235

Source: Report on 3rd Census of Minor Irrigation Schemes, October 2005 published in Ministry of Water Resources

Decline in Jobs in Government Sector

3555. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- the total number of employees retired and the number of new employees appointed in their place under the Government of India during each of the last three years;
- whether there has been a sharp decline in the number of Government jobs during the said period;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- the steps taken by the Government for providing employment to the unemployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Information is not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c) Globalization and economic liberalization, technological advancement, mechanization, restructuring of public sector and rightsizing of the Government sector are among the major reasons for decline in organized sector jobs.

(d) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid and contains important policy initiatives for generation of employment. Besides, various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes such as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana; Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; Rural Employment Generation Programme; Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana; and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are being implemented to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed.

[English]

Quality Control of Food, Cosmetics and Toiletries

3556. SHRI M.P.VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- whether a large number of food supplements, cosmetics and toiletries are entering the market in recent years without any quality control;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enforce quality control on such products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The quality of the food supplements is regulated by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 and rules framed thereunder which are administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The quality of cosmetics and toiletries is also monitored by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through Drugs Controller General of India under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Translation]

Development of Agricultural Research and Technology

3557. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- the details of contributions made by the agriculture universities of the country in the development of agricultural research and technology during the last three years;
- whether the Government has taken steps to bring about improvement in the research works of Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Agricultural Universities (AUs) in the country played a pivotal role in generating scientifically trained manpower and generating region specific research technologies. The AUs played a key role in making country self-reliant on food front and also providing technological empowerment. Salient research accomplishments made by the AUs in the last three years include: collection, conservation and evaluation of genetic biodiversity; development of improved plant, animal and fish varieties/breeds/stocks, generating resource conservation technologies like zero tillage for rice-wheat cropping system; development of eco-friendly pest management techniques like biological control, botanical pesticides and other safer alternatives; production of quality inputs like nucleus/breeder seed; development and improvements in farm machinery and implements and transfer of technologies to grass root user.

(b) and (c) Agriculture being a State subject, major responsibility of improvement in the research and development programmes of under State Agricultural University is of State Government. The DARE/ICAR has, nevertheless, extended Central financial assistance of Rs.23.70 crores to Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (JNKVV) during the last 3 years (2004-05 to 2006-07). Other important projects sanctioned to JNKVV include: 61 All India Coordinated projects; five Network projects on veterinary, organic farming and lentil diseases; niche area of excellence project on medicinal plants, project on seed technology including fish seeds and three experiential learning programmes on veterinary, tissue culture and agro-processing of fruits and vegetables.

Investment in IT Sector

3558. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-East States, specially Arunachal Pradesh are much lagging behind in respect of investment in Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme in North-East States, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh to promote investments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (d) Department of Information

Technology (DIT), Government of India has setup Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) facility in the states of Assam, Manipur, Sikkim and Meghalaya. Setting up of STPI facility in Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland is under consideration. However, no request for such facility has so far been received from Arunachal Pradesh.

As per the current policy for setting up a new STPI center, the state Government has to provide 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI and for the Northeast States, the State Government has to provide 3 acres of land and 3000 sq ft. built up space.

A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal.

[English]

Jobs in Housing Sector

3559. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the housing sector is estimated to create huge quantum of jobs by 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Details of employment by industry of work are also obtained. As per the survey report for 2004-05, construction and real estates industry, which broadly contributes housing sector, provides a large scope for direct and indirect employment of persons with a wide range of skilled and unskilled persons. It employs over 30 million people, many of whom are women and migrants; and has been growing at over 10% per annum over the last five years. In housing sector there is a large unmet need and a growing demand due to growing working population and nuclear families, Housing sector has, therefore, great possibilities for creating employment.

Mandatory Registration for Trade Unions

3560. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered Trade Unions in the country, particularly operational in Multi-National Companies (MNCs)

(b) the details of existing laws for registration of Trade Unions;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make registration mandatory for Trade Unions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Trade Unions Act, 1926, is administered by the State Governments. The information about the number of registered Trade Unions, particularly operational in Multi-National Companies (MNCs) in the country is not centrally maintained.

(b) Section 4 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926 provides that any seven or more members of a Trade Union may, by subscribing their names to the rules of the Trade Union or by otherwise complying with the provision of this Act with respect to registration, apply for registration of Trade Union under this Act. Provided that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless at least 10 per cent or one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected are the members of such Trade Unions on the date of making of application for registration. Provided further that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless it has on the date of making application not less than seven persons as its members, who are workmen engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected. For registration of Trade Unions only the Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration to make registration mandatory for Trade Unions.

PCO/ISD/STD Booths

3561. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with the Union Government for allotment of PCO/ISD/STD booths in the country specially in Karnataka, State-wise;

(b) the time by which these applications are pending; and

(c) the number of PCO/ISD/STD booths sanctioned and allotted by the Union Government in the country specially in Karnataka during each of the last three years, as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, as on 31.08.2007, 9791 applications for PCOs are pending in the country as a whole

out of which 266 are pending in Karnataka Circle. The data is maintained circle wise and the circle wise breakup of pending applications is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The date of oldest pending application (Circle-wise) is given in last column of enclosed statement-I.

(c) The number of PCOs allotted in the country (Circle-wise) including Karnataka Circle, during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 01.04.2007 to 30-06-2007 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement

Circle-wise details of Pending Applications as on 31-8-2007

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle/District	No. of application pending as on 31-8-07	Date of oldest pending applications.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	N.A.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27	10-8-2007
3.	Assam	31	05-7-2007
4.	Bihar	1503	03-2-2006
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	N.A.
6.	Gujarat	42	31-12-2006
7.	Haryana	0	N.A.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	N.A.
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	682	24-4-2003
10.	Jharkhand	2	04-8-2007
11.	Karnataka	266	03-04-2007
12.	Kerala	875	03-5-2007
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0	N.A.
14.	Maharashtra	1830	17-1-2003
15.	North-East I	3385	31-8-1998
16.	North-East II	21	01-8-2007
17.	Orissa	0	N.A.
18.	Punjab	0	N.A.
19.	Rajasthan	110	29-5-2002
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	N.A.
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	N.A.
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	N.A.
23.	Uttaranchal	16	5-9-2006

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
24.	West Bengal	963	16-8-2001	27.	MTNL, Delhi	0	N.A.
25.	Calcutta Telephones	38	20-4-2007	28.	MTNL, Mumbai	0	N.A.
26.	Chennai Telephones	0	N.A.	Total		9791	

Statement-II*Circle-wise gross number of PCOs providing during last three years and upto June 2007*

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto 30-6-07)
		Gross no. of PCOs provided	Gross no. of PCOs provided	Gross no. of PCOs provided	Gross no. of PCOs provided
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andaman and Nicobar	121	410	11	56
2	Andhra Pradesh	65560	130902	65552	10199
3	Assam	4285	3838	2431	397
4	Bihar	8766	11225	10672	2308
5	Chhattisgarh	3224	7524	90	220
6	Guajrat	40041	20169	5629	1290
7	Haryana	6922	3538	1706	209
8	Himachal Pradesh	2059	1753	1216	326
9	Jammu and Kashmir	1871	1456	1804	66
10	Jharkhand	79159	62398	1196	130
11	Karnataka	21720	29371	40823	12831
12	Kerala	9775	6567	20944	3039
13	Madhya Pradesh	1839	2078	5379	5774
14	Maharashtra	70198	52002	112096	17311
15	North East-I	1137	1170	644	261
16	North-East-II	648	1970	746	101
17	Orissa	5695	3284	3383	197
18	Punjab	4969	4001	2354	760
19	Rajasthan	11882	11832	6086	718
20	Tamil Nadu	55799	62257	38146	9034
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	13996	13503	19303	4833
22	Uttar Pradesh (West)	11023	4355	1612	385
23	Uttaranchal	3052	1523	515	69
24	West Bengal	9447	18122	9026	4052
25	Calcutta	10814	1055	2952	282

1	2	3	4	5	6
26	Chennai	12403	13222	9377	671
27	MTNL, Delhi	21003	7597	6826	3663
28	MTNL, Mumbai	33578	13464	4035	803
Total		510986	490586	374554	79985

**Support of State Extension Programme
for Extension Reforms**

3562. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms has been introduced in 2005;

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

(c) the details of the financial assistance provided to each State including Maharashtra since its inception; and

(d) the number of Agriculture Technology Management Agencies established since its inception in each State including Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" in May, 2005 based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model for promoting farmer friendly extension system.

(c) The funds under the scheme are released to the States on the basis of approved State Extension Work Plan (SEWP), Performance Report and submission of Utilization Certificate (U.C.), etc. The state wise details of financial assistance provided since inception are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) The number of Agricultural Technology Management Agencies established since its inception in each State including Maharashtra is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Financial Support provided under Extension Reforms Schemes since Inception

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the State	Fund released by G.O.I. 2005-06	Fund utilized during the year 2005-06	Opening balance as on 01-04-2006	Fund released by G.O.I. 2006-07	Total of Column 5 & 6	Fund utilized from 01-04-2006 to 30-06-07	Unspent balance as on 01-07-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.00	59.27	163.73	467.00	630.73	466.20	164.54
2.	Bihar	176.00	28.02	147.98	239.10	387.08	215.48	171.60
3.	Chhattisgarh	125.00	102.44	22.56	110.00	132.56	131.16	1.40
4.	Goa	27.00	3.86	23.14	0.00	23.14	11.40	11.74
5.	Gujarat	116.00	14.67	101.33	194.00	295.33	32.75	262.58
6.	Haryana	123.00	49.36	73.64	116.00	189.64	88.47	101.17
7.	Himachal Pradesh	122.00	122.00	0.00	183.00	183.00	218.05	-35.05
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	104.00	0.00	104.00	0.00	104.00	3.98	100.02
9.	Jharkhand	163.00	130.00	33.00	157.00	190.00	278.42	-88.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Karnataka	180.00	112.55	67.45	155.00	222.45	102.01	120.44
11.	Kerala	80.00	30.00	50.00	117.00	167.00	33.96	133.04
12.	Maharashtra	231.00	57.43	173.57	383.00	556.57	573.69	-17.12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	200.00	0.00	294.00	294.00	123.88	170.12
14.	Orissa	255.00	245.63	9.37	419.00	428.37	79.37	349.00
15.	Punjab	159.00	31.63	127.37	133.00	260.37	100.55	159.82
16.	Rajasthan	231.00	81.50	149.50	242.00	391.50	306.91	84.59
17.	Tamil Nadu	128.00	0.00	128.00	263.00	391.00	244.91	146.09
18.	Uttar Pradesh	547.00	4.80	542.20	601.00	1143.20	524.00	619.20
19.	Uttaranchal	149.00	38.88	110.12	182.00	292.12	167.90	124.22
20.	West Bengal	92.00	42.99	49.01	193.00	242.01	20.33	221.68
21.	Assam	160.00	17.62	142.38	0.00	142.38	141.38	1.00
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	73.00	50.63	22.37	126.00	148.37	85.37	63.00
23.	Manipur	59.00	59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Nagaland	61.00	61.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	39.70	10.30
25.	Meghalaya	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Mizoram	49.50	49.50	0.00	118.60	118.60	76.60	42.00
27.	Tripura	22.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	11.00	11.00	0.00
28.	Sikkim	39.00	7.95	31.05	65.00	96.05	52.90	43.15
29.	Delhi	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00
30.	Pondicherry	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	35.00	3.01	0.00	18.00	18.00	2.85	15.15
32.	Lakshadweep	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00
34.	Daman and Diu	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00
Total		4023.50	1644.74	2378.76	4825.70	7204.46	4133.22	3039.26

Statement-II**State-wise status of ATMs established since inception of the scheme**

S. No.	State	Coverage of Districts No. of Existing Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18
2.	Bihar	15

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	5
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	8
6.	Haryana	6
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	7

1	2	3
9.	Jharkhand	22
10.	Karnataka	13
11.	Kerala	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15
13.	Maharashtra	33
14.	Orissa	30
15.	Punjab	10
16.	Rajasthan	22
17.	Tamil Nadu	9
18.	Uttar Pradesh	32
19.	Uttarakhand	8
20.	West Bengal	18
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
22.	Assam	12
23.	Manipur	4
24.	Mizoram	4
25.	Nagaland	3
26.	Sikkim	2
27.	Tripura	2
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
29.	Puducherry	2
	Total	321

Mobile Employment Registration Camps

3563. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have created monitoring cell in employment exchanges for monitoring the progress in registration and placement of minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mobile employment registration camps organized in minority concentration areas during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the number of job seekers belonging to minority registered with such registration camps during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the number of job seekers belonging to minority benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise and exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Monitoring of progress of registration and placement of all types of job seekers including minorities is carried out by the respective State/UT Governments.

(c) to (e) Employment Exchanges are required to maintain statistics of all registered job seekers including those registered through mobile employment registration camps. Statistics of registration made through mobile employment registration camps is not maintained separately and it is reflected alongwith the overall registration statistics of the Employment Exchanges. State-wise number of job seekers belonging to minorities registered with the employment exchanges at the end of the years 2003, 2004 and 2005; and placement effected during these years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise number of job seekers belonging to minorities registered with the employment exchanges at the end of the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 and placement effected during these years.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	2003		2004		2005	
		Registration at the end of year (in thousands)	Placement Effected during the year (in actual number)	Registration at the end of year (in thousands)	Placement Effected during the year (in actual number)	Registration at the end of year (in thousands)	Placement Effected during the year (in actual number)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	216.2	186	217.6	127	216.1	152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.7	1	2.3	55	2.7	18
3.	Assam	287.9	212	302.3	445	338.9	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	130.9	3	121.2	2	110.4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	53.7	11	55.9	10	57.9	7
6.	Delhi	45.9	23	44.2	1	40.7	1
7.	Goa	38.0	108	37.4	31	37.1	100
8.	Gujarat	112.0	663	111.6	670	111.8	575
9.	Haryana	27.8	17	28.6	8	30.8	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	17.8	21	18.1	9	18.0	44
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	67.4	-	67.3	1	75.8	1
12.	Jharkhand	177.2	318	151.6	10	116.5	13
13.	Karnataka	193.2	154	183.1	101	178.0	83
14.	Kerala	1389.3	2541	1419.7	2756	1362.3	3253
15.	Madhya Pradesh	158.1	616	157.2	342	160.7	34
16.	Maharashtra	454.5	745	482.7	661	496.8	795
17.	Manipur	161.2	-	167.7	-	192.8	47
18.	Meghalaya	23.5	35	23.0	3	27.6	18
19.	Mizoram	86.2	-	84.5	-	83.1	-
20.	Nagaland	40.5	51	44.0	44	43.3	4
21.	Orissa	43.4	2	44.2	3	49.2	97
22.	Punjab	231.3	1410	249.5	1025	250.4	1150
23.	Rajasthan	52.4	82	54.6	91	56.1	79
24.	Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	812.6	1710	780.3	1201	716.1	1303
26.	Tripura	10.4	20	11.0	34	11.8	4
27.	Uttaranchal	9.0	43	10.3	20	13.4	37
28.	Uttar Pradesh	204.1	63	206.2	45	206.2	96
29.	West Bengal	912.6	497	935.0	458	976.6	381
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.0	-	3.0	-	3.0	-
31.	Chandigarh	31.6	250	26.3	113	24.1	78
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.2	-	0.2	-	0.2	-
33.	Daman and Diu	0.7	1	0.8	-	0.8	-
34.	Lakshadweep	8.3	-	8.3	-	8.3	-
35.	Pondicherry	6.4	6	6.7	-	7.4	4
Total		6010.0	9789	6056.5	8266	6024.9	8389

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in the State

**Private Investment in Watershed
Development**

3564. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to encourage private investment in watershed development; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government recognizes the importance of private investment to increase the growth rate in Agriculture Sector. In the Approach Paper to the 11th Five Year Plan prepared by the Planning Commission of India, it has been stated that the Public Private Partnership (PPP) offers a distinct possibility for increasing total investments by using a limited amount of public resources to leverage a much larger amount of private investment. The Working Group of Sub Committee of the National Development Council on Agriculture & Related Issues, on Dryland/ Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Wasteland, Watershed Development Programme has also recommended the involvement of private sector in watershed development programmes to the extent possible to give impetus to these watershed programmes. For the XI Five Year Plan the Working Group has recommended development of 38 million ha. of lands, out of which 2 million ha. is recommended to be developed under Public Private Partnership.

**Strengthening of Central Footwear
Training Centres.**

3565. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Central Footwear Training Institutes functioning at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to upgrade/strengthen the said institutes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released for the purpose during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise; and
- (d) the time by which the above institutes are likely to be upgraded/strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Under the Ministry of MSME, the following two Central Footwear Training Institutes are functioning at present:-

- (i) Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) at Agra (Uttar Pradesh).
- (ii) Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) at Chennai (Tamil Nadu).

(b) Under the Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises as announced in Lok Sabha on 27.2.2007, both the CFTIs are being strengthened to expand their outreach and assist the MSEs in upgrading their technology.

(c) The CFTIs are being strengthened by adding latest technology machines etc. at the estimated cost of Rs. 2.00 crore. The budget allocations for last three years are given below:

	(Rs. In Lakh)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
CFTI, Agra	60.00	115.40	18.00	100.00
CFTI, Chennai	92.00	100.00	90.00	100.00

(d) Both the CFTIs are likely to be upgraded/strengthened before the end of the financial year (2007-08).

[Translation]

Increase in Financial Powers

3566. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence have recommended to increase the financial powers upto Rs.200 crores to accelerate the process of modernization of army and to speed up the process of defence procurement;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the time by which the recommendation is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence (14th Lok Sabha) (2006-2007) in its 22nd Report have recommended the following:

"2.12: The Committee, however, feel that the Defence Minister should be further delayed (sic) financial powers upto Rs.200 crore in case of non scaled items without the concurrence of the Finance Minister, if the purchase proposal is within the allocated amount of Ministry of Defence, as the Finance Minister may not have that knowledge of the purchases to be made as the Defence Minister is likely to have."

The financial powers of Raksha Mantri under the category of non-scaled items was enhanced from Rs.50 crores to Rs.100 crores during the year 2006. The

recommendation made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, as stated above for further delegation is under examination.

Funds for Micro, Small and Medium Scale Industries

3567. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a fund for Micro, Small and Medium Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) To ensure better flow of credit to micro and small enterprises by reducing the risk perception of financial institutions and banks in lending without collateral security, the Government has set up a Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The corpus fund of CGTMSE is jointly contributed by the Government and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the ratio of 4:1. Till the end of August 2007, the Government and SIDBI have jointly contributed Rs. 1,346.55 crore to the corpus.

In addition, a Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Growth Fund has been set up with a corpus of Rs.500 crore, contributed by SIDBI and eight banks. The Fund focuses on sectors such as, life sciences, retailing, light engineering, food processing, information technology, etc.

Wireless Telephone Connections

3568. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wireless telephone connections provided in the country specially in Bihar as on date, State-wise;

(b) the share of percentage the above number constitutes against the total number of the said connections in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of telephone services in the country, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The number of wireless telephone connections provided in the country as on 31.07.2007 are 19,28,83,621 and in Bihar are 71,76,632. Circle/State-wise wireless connection as on 31.7.2007 is given in the Statement.

Circle/State-wise share of percentage of the above number against total number of connection in country is also shown in the enclosed statement.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regularly monitors the performance of mobile operators on the basis of the prescribed Quality of Service (QoS) parameters. Government, besides watching general performance with reference to QoS, facilitates service providers in addressing interconnection issues and also pursues matters for clearance of cell sites with local authority.

Steps proposed to be taken by BSNL to improve its services:

(A) Wireline Services:

- (i) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by jelly filled cable in a phased manner.
- (ii) Creation of pole less network.
- (iii) Opening of more telephones exchanges (RSUs/RLUs) to reduce length of under ground cable.
- (iv) Conversion of SBM into RLUs and CDOT 256 port exchanges into AN RAXs (Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges).
- (v) Provision of centralized computerized fault booking with IVRS (Integrated Voice Response System) for whole of SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area) at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Center).
- (vi) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and engine alternators for back up power supplies.
- (vii) Induction of digital line concentrators to reduce length of under ground cable and made available new facilities.
- (viii) Provision of reliable media to all the telephone exchanges.

(B) WLL Services:

- (i) BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has already deployed a large WLL network in the country. Out of 36.76 lakh lines WLL network, 30.29 lakh lines are deployed in rural areas to meet the demand for telephone connections from scattered and far flung remote rural areas. The network of WLL service is being expanded further to cover additional remote rural and far flung areas.
- (ii) BSNL plans to provide umbrella coverage by providing up to three BTS in all SDCAs.
- (iii) This large scale deployment of WLL network will facilitate provision of telephone connections on demand in rural areas.

(C) Mobile Services:

- (i) BSNL plans to cover all District Head Quarters on priority basis. It has also planned to cover all Tehsil Head Quarters and villages having a population of 5000 progressively during 2007-2008.
- (ii) The future plan envisages augmentation of

capacities to cover villages having a population of more than 1000 in the next three financial years progressively.

- (iii) BSNL has already covered National Highways, State Highways and Railways Routes and Pilgrim centers by which a large number of rural villages are benefited with incidental cellular coverage of BSNL's Mobile Services.

Statement

Circle/State wise Wireless/Total Telephone Connections as on 31.07.2007 (Provisional)

S.No.	Name of Circle/ State	Total wireless connections	Percentage of wireless connections against total wireless connections in the country	Total telephone connections (Wireline + Wireless)	Percentage of wireless connections against total telephone connections
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andaman and Nicobar*	48655	0.03%	76984	63.20%
2	Andhra Pradesh	15181968	7.87%	18037587	84.17%
3	Assam	2633044	1.37%	3090397	85.20%
4	Bihar	7176632	3.72%	8138437	88.18%
5	Chhattisgarh*	508106	0.26%	777884	65.32%
6	Gujarat	12774833	6.62%	15149994	84.32%
7	Haryana	5265569	2.73%	6252486	84.22%
8	Himachal Pradesh	1643729	0.85%	2088389	78.71%
9	Jammu and Kashmir	1663218	0.86%	1951317	85.24%
10	Jharkhand*	551885	0.29%	999484	55.22%
11	Karnataka	13072802	6.78%	15921777	82.11%
12	Kerala	8741960	4.53%	12412966	70.43%
13	Madhya Pradesh	8364599	4.34%	9875854	84.70%
14	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	15003468	7.78%	18794501	79.83%
15	North East	1459587	0.76%	1810829	80.60%
16	Orissa	3620539	1.88%	4391388	82.45%
17	Punjab	9401521	4.87%	11196284	83.97%
18	Rajasthan	9797033	5.08%	11584862	84.57%
19	Tamil Nadu (-) Chennai	12826552	6.65%	15466577	82.93%
20	Uttarakhand*	563909	0.29%	901081	62.58%
21	Uttar Pradesh	20887670	10.83%	23390419	89.30%
22	West Bengal (-) Kolkata	6311603	3.27%	7489415	84.27%

1	2	3	4	5	6
23	Kolkata	5873778	3.05%	7288545	80.59%
24	Chennai	5337672	2.77%	6673638	79.98%
25	Delhi	13288163	6.89%	15609896	85.13%
26	Mumbai	10885126	5.64%	13403006	81.21%
	Total	192883621	100.00%	232773997	82.86%

Note:-

- (1) * Figs. for wireless connections provided by Private Operators in Andaman & Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand are included in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and U.P. respectively.
 (2) Reliance GSM subscriber figures for July 2007 is not available, taken of March 2007.
 (3) Source BSNL/MTNL/COAI/AUSPI.

*[English]***Clearance of UASL**

3569. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reorganized the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPCW) and monitoring organization to speed up the clearance and issue Universal Access Service Licences (UASL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications pending at present in this regard;

(d) the time by which these UASL are likely to be issued for the benefit of customers for their choice; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for early disposal of pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The functions of RF spectrum management by Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing and Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) have been augmented, automated and modernized through a Project with World Bank loan. Most of the applications for frequency assignments and related issue of licences, can now be submitted on-line. Five regional licensing offices have also been established. This has speeded up clearance of various cases for wireless licences.

Unified Access Service Licences are issued by 'Access Service' Group. As on 05.09.2007, there are 129 applications for UASL (Unified Access Service Licence). UAS Licences are granted to the applicant companies under section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on fulfillment of the laid down conditions in the guidelines for issue of UAS Licences, by the applicant companies. However, no time frame can be fixed in general for decision on grant of licences on these applications due to related issues which need detailed examination.

Further, on 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

*[Translation]***Poor Mobile Services**

3570. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile service in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh is unsatisfactory and of low quality;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the mobile service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based cellular mobile telephone service being provided by BSNL is generally working satisfactorily in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh at present.

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

(c) The cellular mobile network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the Quality of Service parameters prescribed by TRAI. The network is also being augmented progressively including in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh for enhancement in coverage, capacity and Quality of Service.

[English]

Production of Coir and Coir Products

3571. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production of coir and coir products during each of last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the production of coir products have registered a declining growth during the above period;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the target fixed for production of coir and coir products during the year 2007-2008; and
- (e) the steps taken to further boost the production of coir and coir products?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The details of State-wise production of coir during the last three years are as follows:

State	(Quantity in MT)		
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Kerala	1,80,000	1,80,000	1,84,000
Tamil Nadu	1,01,200	1,12,200	1,19,000
Karnataka	36,900	40,900	43,000
Andhra Pradesh	28,900	32,900	41,500
Orissa	1,655	1,700	1,900
Others	15,345	17,300	20,600
Total	3,64,000	3,85,000	4,10,000

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The target fixed for production of coir during the year 2007-2008 is 4,70,000 M.T.
- (e) The Coir Board, a statutory organization set up under the Coir Industries Act, 1953 implements various schemes for the development of coir industry in the country. With a view to assisting the coir sector in increasing production of coir products, enhancing its productivity, etc., the Coir Board, has been implementing the following programmes/schemes:
 - (i) For development of production infrastructure financial assistance is provided for setting up new coir units at the rate of 25 per cent of the cost of machinery, subject to a maximum of Rs.1.5 lakh.
 - (ii) Financial assistance for promoting domestic market for coir through publicity measures, Market Development Assistance to units in the

cooperative and public sector, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, maintenance of Coif Board Showrooms & Sales Depots to supply quality products at standard prices.

- (iii) Training women artisans in spinning under the "Manila Coir Yojana" which also provides subsidy of 75 per cent of the cost for purchase of (coir spinning) rats.
- (iv) Entrepreneur Development Programme and Quality Improvement Programme to promote enterprises and instill quality consciousness respectively.
- (v) Intensification of research and development efforts for introducing new technologies for extraction and processing of coir fibres, development of machinery, product diversifications, introduction of new products etc.

Allocation of Indus Water

3572. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the allocation of water made to various States from the various eastern rivers as per the award of 1981 indicating the names of the States and quantum allocated to them;
- (b) whether the said award was based on re-assessment regarding the availability of water in these rivers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any suggestions have been received from the States particularly Gujarat for convening a meeting of riparian States of these rivers for reallocation of water;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government and the concerned States thereto; and
- (f) the demand of the State of Gujarat for allocation of water from River Indus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Reallocation of surplus Ravi-Beas waters of the Eastern Rivers of the Indus System was made in 1981 under an agreement among the Chief Ministers of Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab, as under-

Share of Punjab	4.22 MAF
Share of Haryana	3.50 MAF
Share of Rajasthan	8.60 MAF
Quantity earmarked for Delhi water supply	0.20 MAF
Share of J&K	0.65 MAF

- (b) and (c) The said agreement was based on a reassessment of water availability as it considered flow series.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Haryana	678	656	1334	713	949	1662	538	1515	2053	409	1364	1773
Himachal Pradesh	3	-	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	3	-	-	-
Jharkhand	2	-	2	1	-	1	2	-	2	5	-	5
Karnataka	-	-	-	-	21	21	47	1	48	21	-	21
Kerala	-	-	-	-	33	33	-	94	94	-	151	151
Madhya Pradesh	69	43	112	20	22	42	86	50	136	49	24	73
Maharashtra	183	125	308	157	48	205	92	101	193	12	85	97
Nagaland	-	-	-	1	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	1303	70	1373	1370	220	1590	1223	562	1785	852	1135	1987
Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Punjab	3148	5514	8662	3138	5968	9106	1772	7083	8855	6925	902	7827
Rajasthan	41	-	41	22	-	22	23	-	23	10	-	10
Tamil Nadu	-	207	207	-	652	652	-	962	926	-	1077	1077
Uttar Pradesh	-	2554	2554	849	2121	2970	526	2625	3151	241	2308	2549
Uttaranchal	197	126	323	186	130	316	198	138	336	-	176	176
West Bengal	629	296	925	318	626	944	809	467	1276	176	465	641
Total	10973	11855	22828	11633	13052	24685	11105	16551	27656	14173	10853	25026

Neg. - below 500 tonnes

* - Position as on 31.09.07

Statement-III

Procurement of Coarse-Grains

(Figures in Tonnes)

State/Year	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
2003-2004					
Andhra Pradesh	4274	2174	270473	-	27691
Bihar	-	-	707	-	707
Chhattisgarh	-	-	2863	-	2863
Gujarat	-	1	705	-	706
Haryana	-	199121	-	-	199121
Karnataka	-	-	15591	-	15591
Madhya Pradesh	863	87	20310	-	21260
Maharashtra	42980	192	16838	-	60010

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rajasthan	-	44297	29277	-	73574
Total	48117	245872	356764	-	650753
2004-2005					
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	223223	-	223223
Chhattisgarh	-	-	10891	-	10891
Haryana	-	130122	-	-	130122
Karnataka	-	-	380341	48730	429071
Madhya Pradesh	-	259	1782	-	2041
Maharashtra	11928	4810	14757	-	31495
Punjab	-	-	227	-	227
Total	11928	135191	631221	48730	827070
2005-2006					
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	593891	-	593891
Chhattisgarh	-	-	8737	-	9218
Haryana	-	4900	-	-	4900
Karnataka	-	-	379650	63273	442923
Madhya Pradesh	220	-	2788	-	3008
Maharashtra	67258	58	29649	-	96965
Total	67478	4958	1014715	63273	1150424
2006-2007 (Position as on 03-09-2007)					
Maharashtra	193	-	-	-	193
Total	193	-	-	-	193

Statement-IV

List of Purchase Centres operated by FCI/State Agencies during Rabi Season 2004-2005 to 2007-08

Region	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
	FCI	State agencies	Total									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Punjab	525	1007	1532	364	1111	1475	334	1255	1589	236@	1337	1573
Haryana	107	240	347	88	260	348	74	280	354	67@@	294	361
Uttar Pradesh	43	4623	4666	184	4778	4962	596	4672	5268	1079	4006	5085
Rajasthan	23	46	69	35	39	74	90	22	112	146	113	259
Madhya Pradesh	95	854	949	121	945	1066	142	923	1065	179	929	1108
Delhi	2		2	4		4	7		7	7		7
Bihar	97		97	105	323	428	119	3497	3616	66	5025	5091
Himachal Pradesh	4		4	4		4	5		5	5		5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Uttaranchal	34	190	224	30	219	249	30	206	236	50	149	199
Gujarat		149	149		113	113		188	188		188	188
Chhattisgarh												
Jharkhand										0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir							16		16	19		19
Total	930	7109	8039	935	7788	8719	1413	11043	12456	1854	12041	13895

*including agencies of FCI

@65 on shared basis by FCI/State Agencies

@@ 32 on shared basis by FCI/State Agencies

Statement-V*Number of Purchase Centres Operated for Paddy & Coarsegrains during K.M.S. 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06*

	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
	FCI	Jointly	State agencies	Total	*FCI	Jointly	State agencies	Total	FCI	Jointly	State agencies	Total
Punjab	292	156	1010	1458	162	192	1098	1452	159	174	1152	1485
Haryana	22	40	168	230	26	38	159	223	12	72	126	210
Uttar Pradesh			1500	1500			1682	1682			1756	1756
Delhi	2			2	2			2	2			2
Rajasthan	40		99	139	12		101	113	12			12
Andhra Pradesh	230		264	494	194		322	516	182		111	293
Madhya Pradesh	139		469	668	244		393	637	236		390	626
West Bengal			630	630			630	630			680	680
Karnataka			2	2			32	32			43	43
Tamil Nadu			571	571			1098	1098			1200	1200
Bihar	98		NA	98	105		647	752	119		647	766
Orissa	20		42	62	96		204	300	245		NA	245
Himachal Pradesh	4			4	4			4	5			5
Maharashtra			886	886			819	819			819	819
Chhattisgarh			1443	1443			1334	1334			1334	1334
Uttaranchal			50	50			51	51			51	51
Gujarat			76	76			49	49			9	9
Assam	22			22	23			23	11			11
Nagaland							4	4	N.A.			
Jharkhand	8			8	10			10	5			5
Kerala							174	174			118	118
Jammu and Kashmir									2			2
Total	937	196	7210	8343	878	230	8797	9905	990	246	8436	9672

including agencies of FCI

Number of Purchase Centres Operated for Paddy/Coarsegrains during K.M.S. 2006-07

(Provisional)
(As on 16-01-2007_

Region	FCI	Jointly	State Agency	Total
Punjab	95	118	1296	1509
Haryana	6	27	142	175
Uttar Pradesh			1694	1694
Delhi	4			4
Rajasthan	12			12
Andhra Pradesh	175		522	697
Madhya Pradesh	229		406	635
West Bengal			1824	1824
Karnataka			123	123
Tamil Nadu			667	667
Bihar	166		N.A.	166
Orissa	420		1752	2172
Himachal Pradesh	5			5
Maharashtra			765	765
Chhattisgarh			1459	1459
Uttaranchal			55	55
Gujarat			188	188
Assam	8			8
Nagaland				
Jharkhand	17		327	344
Kerala			130	130
Jammu and Kashmir	2			2
Total	1139	145	11350	12634

[Translation]

**NABARD Fund for Construction
of Dams**

3575. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to the Government of Rajasthan for the construction of dams for irrigation purposes;

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

(c) the total estimated agricultural land likely to be benefited after the completion of construction work of these dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned loan assistance amounting to Rs. 1260.23 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the Government of Rajasthan for taking up irrigation projects as per the following details:

Category	No. of Projects Sanctioned	RIDF Loan sanctioned Rs. crore	Irrigation Potential (Ha)
Major Irrigation	13	417.36	181590
Medium Irrigation	10	372.19	64389
Minor Irrigation	273	470.68	115362
Total	296	1260.23	361341

[English]

Setting up of Ministry for Fisheries

3576. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Ministry for fisheries;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has taken various steps through Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes by providing financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territories for the welfare of fishermen. These schemes are broadly comprised of namely (i) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, (ii) development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations, (iii) National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, Training and Extension, (iv) Strengthening of Database and Information Networking and (v) Assistance to the Fisheries based Institutes of Department. One of the Schemes namely, National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen, Training & Extension is designed to provide basic amenities like housing, drinking water, Community Hall along with Group Accident Insurance for active Fishermen and financial assistance to Fishermen in lean season.

[Translation]

Employment Opportunities In Abroad

3577. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the information regarding employment opportunities abroad is being received and maintained in the District Employment Exchange;

(b) if so, the number of posts in different categories received from foreign countries during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) the number of Indians benefited there from during the said period; and

(d) the norms adopted by the employment exchange to provide assistance in getting the employment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Employment Exchanges register jobseekers and sponsor them against the notified vacancies to the employers within the country. Apart from these activities, the Employment Exchanges also render vocational guidance and career counseling to the registrants seeking employment.

Seeds Trade

3578. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Multinational Companies are gradually gaining control over the trade of seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage share of Indian seed companies and the Multinational Companies respectively in the trade of seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The share of multinational companies in Indian seed industry particularly in hybrids of paddy, maize, jowar, bajra, sunflower and cotton is gradually increasing. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Quantity of Seed Produced by Public and Private Sector (2005-06)

(Qty. in Lakh qtls.)

Crops	Public		Private		Total Quantity
	Quantity	%Share	Quantity	%Share	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Wheat	24.74	54	20.94	46	45.68
Barley	0.27	38	0.44	62	0.71
Paddy	27.14	67	13.24	33	40.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maize	0.80	10	7.28	90	8.08
Jowar	0.45	16	2.36	84	2.81
Bajra	0.67	9	1.64	71	2.31
Arhar	0.68	57	0.51	43	1.19
Urd	0.78	53	0.68	47	1.46
Moong	0.94	58	0.68	42	1.62
Gram	1.56	27	4.14	73	5.70
Lentil	0.21	81	0.05	19	0.26
Peas	0.37	84	0.07	16	0.44
Groundnut	9.24	82	1.99	18	11.23
Soybean	9.23	68	4.25	32	13.48
Rape/ Mustard	1.12	57	0.85	43	1.97
Sunflower	0.15	15	0.87	85	1.02
Cotton	0.46	17.90	2.10	82.10	2.56
Jute	0.29	80.86	0.07	19.14	0.36
Grand Total	79.1		62.16		141.26

Dereserving of SSI Items

3579. PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the certain items reserved for production under the Small Scale Industries (SSI) have been dereserved by the Consultative Committee;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor along with the items whose production would be left with SSI;

(c) whether any allegations have been levelled regarding pressure from Multinational Companies behind these recommendations;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been constituted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Review of the list of items reserved for SSI sector (now micro and small enterprises sector) is a continuous process. During the process, consultations are held with the stakeholders concerned followed by deliberations in the meeting of Advisory Committee constituted under Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Items are dereserved

by the Government based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. During the review the modification in the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture is made, inter alia, for creating opportunities for higher investment, facilitating technological upgradation, improving quality, promoting exports & achieving economies of scale in manufacturing the said items. At present 114 items are reserved for exclusive manufacture by MSE Sector. The list of these items is available on website www.dcmsme@gov.in under the link 'Publication.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Genetically Modified Food Crops

3580. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Genetically Modified Food Crops on which the Government has conducted research relating to their impact on human beings;

(b) the details of the outcome of such research so far; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of farmers while giving permission for cultivation of such crops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, which is the Nodal Department, has not conducted research on Genetically Modified (GM) Food Crops related to their impact on human beings. However, M/s Mahyco, Mumbai have conducted toxicity and allergenicity study on GM food crop i.e. Bt brinjal, with the approval of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) of DBT. The study report submitted by M/s Mahyco, Mumbai does not indicate any adverse impact.

(c) No food crop has so far been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India for commercial cultivation by the farmers. All genetically modified food crops/organisms and products thereof are regulated in India under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells Rules, 1989, framed under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules provide that all food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall

not be produced, sold imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. Therefore, the Government is following a policy of case-by-case approval of GM products. As per the prescribed biosafety guidelines, all genetically modified food are required to be tested for toxicity and allergenicity prior to their approval for human consumption.

Facilities to NCC 'C' Certificate Holders

3581. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-cadets holding National Cadet Corps (NCC) 'C' Certificate are facing hardships due to lack of job opportunities;

(b) if so, whether any financial/job assistance, canteen (CSD), medical facilities have not been provided to ex-cadets holding NCC 'C' Certificate who could not succeed to get benefit due to non-availability of ample job opportunities and such dedicated cadets are always ready to serve the nation at any time without any job oriented/assurance policy in the civilian areas;

(c) if so, the detail and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make a provision for financial assistance, canteen (CSD), medical, jobs in civilian areas and other types of welfare facilities to the ex-cadets and to make this corps more attractive and charming for fresh students so as to get the trained, disciplined devoted, faithful and dedicated officers for the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) In order to address the concern of providing adequate job opportunities to NCC 'C' Certificate Holders, Government provides reservation for recruitment to the Armed Forces and certain weightage of marks in the para-military organization to NCC 'C' certificate holders. Vacancies reserved per year for institutions are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Institution	Vacancies
(i)	Indian Military Academy, Dehradun	64
(ii)	Officers Training Academy, Chennai	100
(iii)	Naval Academy, Ezhimala	12
(iv)	Air Force Academy, Dundigal	10

For entry into Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, the NCC Cadets have to appear at the Combined Defence Services Examination, as well as qualify at the Services Selection Board (SSB) Interview. For other institutions, written examination is exempted for the NCC 'C' Certificate holders.

(b) to (d) No such proposal is currently before the Government.

Disease in Cardmom Plants

3582. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an outbreak of a viral disease in the large cardamom plant affecting its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to control the spread of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per reports received from State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture of large cardamom growing States/UTs as well as from Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) located in different States, no outbreak of viral disease in cardamom plants has been reported affecting its production.

Illegal Construction in Kanpur Cantonment Area

3583. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of illegal constructions are going on in the cantonment areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the Kanpur Cantonment area;

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

(c) whether the Government has got information that the officials of the Cantonment Board in nexus with the encroachers, have allowed illegal constructions at Pandit Upvan, Mahatma Gandhi Park, Kanpur Cantonment covering ten thousand sq. ft. area against the initial lease of 1000 sq. ft. area;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to probe such illegal constructions in Cantonment Areas through CBI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) During the period commencing 1.4.2006, about 650 unauthorized constructions were detected in 13 Cantonments located in Uttar Pradesh. Out of this, about 50 unauthorized constructions pertain to Kanpur Cantonment.

(c) Pandit Upvan in Kanpur Cantonment is Cantonment Board property. It has a covered area of 6905 square

feet and the construction has been approved by the Cantonment Board, Kanpur.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal.

Panel on Disposal of Consumer Cases

3584. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert panel set up for recommending measures for ensuring speedy redressal and disposal of consumer's cases has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said panel;

(c) the details of action so far taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) the details of the suggestions received from the States alongwith the names of such States; and

(e) the time by which all the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs had constituted a Working Group to suggest further amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Working Group submitted its report to the Government in February, 2006. The recommendations were categorised by the Working Group under the following headings:

- (i) Definitions of terms in the Act.
- (ii) Provisions to deal with challenges posed by Online Purchasing/Telemarketing Etc.
- (iii) Improving the working of Central, State and District Consumer Protection Councils.
- (iv) Composition of District Forum, State Commission and National Commission.
- (v) Charging of Fee for filing complaints.
- (vi) Improving procedural efficiency of District Forum, State Commission and National Commission.
- (vii) Provision for Adequate Costs to Parties.
- (viii) Improving the Enforcement of Orders of District Forum, State Commission and National Commission.
- (ix) Promotion of Alternate Dispute Redressal.
- (x) General Recommendations.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations made by the Working Group, the Department of Consumer Affairs had prepared a comprehensive note containing the draft proposals to further amend the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The note was circulated to inter-alia all States/ Union Territories for their comments. While most of the States/ UTs which responded were supportive of the proposals, a few of the States/UTs suggested some changes/modifications to the proposals. Those were taken into consideration while finalising the note containing the draft proposals for amendment of the Act. These proposals have not yet been concurred in by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

(e) No time frame can be indicated at this stage in view of answer to parts (c) and (d).

Expedition of Indian Army

3585. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Army expedition has recovered the bodies of three soldiers who are believed to have been killed nearly forty years ago when an Air Force Antonov-12 troop carrier transporting them crashed in the Higher Himalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bodies of the dead soldiers have been identified even after such a long gap and the family members informed;

(d) whether any attempt was made immediately to locate the wreckage of the aircraft and the dead bodies; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 9th August, 2007, the Indian Army Expedition recovered the bodies of three soldiers who were killed in an aircrash in 1968. The bodies of the deceased soldiers were identified and handed over to the family members. The details of the dead soldiers are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The area where the bodies of the deceased soldiers were found was searched and no more recoveries were made. The details of the dead soldiers are as under:-

- (a) No. 946907 Pioneer Hardas Singh Niharwal of 1452 Pioneer Company.
- (b) No.6871129 Lance Naik Kamal Singh Bhandari of 4 Mobile Laundry (Ordnance).
- (c) No.7072102 Craftsman MN Phukan of EME.

Reduction in Cultivation of Virginia Tobacco

3586. SHRI SURESH PRADESHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) or the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has given approval to health authorities for the stringent restrictions to reduce cultivation of Virginia Tobacco; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reduction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. The area of Virginia tobacco may be as per the demand in the market and farmers' choice.

Foodgrain Storage in Unhygienic Conditions

3587. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether stocks of rotten rice and wheat and open rice bags containing unhygienic material were found in the godowns of food Corporation of India (FCI), Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of bags and the time since when they were lying in such conditions;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee of FCI officers verified the entire stocks at FSD, Mysore and found 22 coal contaminated bags. Out of these 22 bags, 14 bags were received in the godowns on 5th July, 07 and remaining 8 bags of raw rice were received on 27th June, 2007.

(c) and (d) FCI has constituted a committee to investigate the matter. The investigation report has been submitted by the Committee and is being examined by FCI. In such cases stringent action is taken against the officers/officials responsible for such lapses.

[Translation]

Violation of FERA Rules

3588. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various companies, especially Motorola has been involved in violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act in the past and has failed to complete another work of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the prescribed time limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy has been framed to black list the companies, especially Motorola due to irregularities being committed by it and creating problem in Government work;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the companies, especially Motorola are doing business with other departments of the Government in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (g) As per the information provided by Directorate of Enforcement, there is no case of violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) by M/s. Motorola. It may be further mentioned that FERA has been repealed and replaced by Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

[English]

Special Agriculture and Village Industry Scheme

3589. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the special agriculture and village industry scheme;

(b) the details of the work undertaken under the said scheme so far alongwith the benefits accrued to the farmers;

(c) whether it is likely to affect the export of agro products and processed agro items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana has been introduced w.e.f. 1st April 2004.

The objective of the scheme is to promote exports of:

(i) Agricultural produce and their value added products;

(ii) Minor Forest Produce and their value added variants;

- (iii) Gram Udyog Products;
 (iv) Forest based products.

Duty credit scrip benefits are granted with the aim to compensate high transport costs. Exporters, of products notified in Appendix 37A of Hand Book of Procedures (Vol.I) shall be entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% of FOB value of exports (realized in free foreign exchange). However, where exporter has availed benefits under Chapter 4 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for import of agricultural inputs (other than catalysts, consumables and packing materials) relating to export item under this scheme, duty credit scrip benefits shall be granted at a reduced rate of 3.5% of FOB value of exports (realized in free foreign exchange). The benefits granted to the exporters under the Scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is Rs.169.74 crores and Rs.532.43 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) The scheme is intended to encourage the export of agro products and processed agro items.

Misleading Advertisement

3590. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
 DR. ARVIND SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether advertisements showing slices of fruits with 7UP beverage are running on televisions for past few months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for running such misleading advertisements for aerated water having no fruit juices; and
- (c) the steps taken to check such misleading advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir, The matter has been brought to the attention of Government.

(b) The advertisements are played on TV channels on the basis of agreements between advertisers and the respective TV channels. Monitoring of content on TV channels is normally done by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Department of Consumer Affairs initiates action only if a specific complaint is made by a consumer.

(c) As per the existing policy on misleading advertisements, complaints are referred to the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), Mumbai which takes a view whether such advertisement is misleading or whether it confirms to the ASCI code for self regulation in advertising.

The matter has already been taken up with Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Meanwhile ASCI has informed this Department that they have received another complaint from an individual consumer regarding the TV commercial of "7 Up". This commercial was examined by the Consumer Complaint Council of the ASCI at their meeting held on 24th July, 2007. As per their decision the complaint was not upheld as the advertisement was not found to be misleading since the advertisement clearly mentions "Contains no fruit. Contains added flavour."

The basic responsibility for checking misleading advertisement lies with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, who can take action under the relevant clauses of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The role of Department of Consumer Affairs is limited to making policies that safeguards the interests and welfare of the consumers, this is done through Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The Department also carries out consumer awareness programmes through multi media publicity campaigns to make consumers aware about the misleading advertisements and other issues concerning consumer protection. Department of Consumer Affairs also takes proactive steps in informing customers about their rights. Apart from the publicity through the Print and Electronic media, a series of Publication on Consumer issues have also been brought out. Monograph Series-2 is specifically on the topic 'Misleading Advertisements and Consumer' that aims at informing the customers about 'Misleading Advertisement' and redressal mechanism available to the customers.

Establishment Cost of AICL

3591. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the number of farmers paying premium for insuring their crops alongwith the number whose claim was settled during the last three years; and
- (b) the establishment cost of Agricultural Insurance Company Ltd. (AICL) indicating it as percentage of the premium paid by the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Details regarding the number of farmers paying premium for insuring their crops alongwith the number whose claims were settled during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The percentage of establishment cost of AICL to the premium for the year 2006-07 is 2.18%.

Statement**Farmers Covered and Benefited (2003-04 to 2005-06)**

Sl. No.	Season	Farmers Covered	Farmers Benefited
1	Kharif 2003	7970830	1704823
2	Rabi 2003-04	4421287	2072916
	Total 2003-04	12392117	73777739
3	Kharif 2004	12687046	2660936
4	Rabi 2004-05	3531045	772779
	Total 2004-05	16218091	433715
5	Kharif 2005	12674080	2655157
6	Rabi 2005-06	4048524	980511
	Total 2005-06	16722604	3635668
	Grand Total	45332812	10847122

[Translation]

**Mobile Sets Lying in
Sanchar Haats**

3592. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of old and new mobile sets lying with MTNL, Sanchar Haats in Delhi and Mumbai as on August 15, 2007 alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the consumers do not like these sets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which the Government is disposing of these sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) mobile sets lying with MTNL, Sanchar Haats in Delhi and Mumbai as on August 15, 2007 alongwith the value is given below:

	Number of CDMA mobile sets	Total value of mobile sets (In Rupees)
Delhi	8386	4,17,44,424
Mumbai	14228	8,89,13,530

(b) The number of old and new models of CDMA terminals are given below:

Types of sets	Delhi	Mumbai
New Sets		
K-414	1309	667
C-677	1900	561
CX-858	1434	13000
C-300	1360	Nil
Old Sets		
k-112	857	Nil
k-2235	121	Nil
Hundai-120	1405	Nil

New models are lying for a period of 1 to 6 months approximately and are being used for giving new connections. Old models are lying for a year which include some recovered sets also. These sets are being used for maintenance purposes and for replacing the faulty sets etc.

(c) Consumers like the new models of CDMA handsets presently being used by MTNL. There is a good demand for Garuda mobile services of MTNL.

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

[English]

Farming System

3593. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for a farming system orientation involving crop-livestock integrated production systems for both research and resource use; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A network project on Integrated Farming Systems for Upliftment of Marginal, Small and Medium Farm Households comprising 32 centers in different climatic zones of the country is being proposed during XIth plan. The project would develop location-specific integrated farming systems involving crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and different agri-enterprises.

[Translation]

Attack of Locusts

3594. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there was an attack of locusts in many villages of Gujarat causing huge loss to agricultural produce in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to tackle this problem and the success achieved therein;

(c) whether the Government has sounded a red alert regarding the attack by locusts in other parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Based on the FAO alert dated 27 June, 2007, surveillance activities were stepped up in Kutch District of Gujarat. The locust population found in Lakhpat Taluk of Kutch District during 3-4 July, 2007, were scattered and required no control operations. There are no reports of any locust swarm movement/settling and population development from any district of Gujarat. However, the surveillance teams are keeping watch on the areas which are prone to such incursion.

[English]

Network Centric Warfare

3595. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indonesia is approaching India to provide know-how in network centric warfare and also entering into joint production arrangements in the overall Defence domain;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to boost the defence cooperation with Indonesia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) An Agreement on Cooperative Activities in the field of Defence has been signed between India and Indonesia. The Agreement envisages defence cooperation in various fields. The Joint Defence Cooperation Committee, set up to oversee the implementation of the objectives of the Agreement, held its first meeting in June 2007 wherein various issues of bilateral interest in the field of defence including sharing of experience in natural disaster relief management, peace-keeping operations and counter terrorism, training and sharing of information and technology in electronics etc., were discussed.

Leadership Development Centre in HAL, Bangalore

3596. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a world class leadership development centre in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said centre will start functioning;

(d) whether HAL has any proposal to set up training centres in some countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Employment for Minorities

3597. DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey conducted by the Government has revealed that the people belonging to minorities in employment under various Ministries, Corporation and Department is much less as compared to other communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, Ministry, Corporation and Department-wise;

(c) the details of such persons employed in various Ministries, Corporation and Department during each of the last three years particularly under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme, Community-wise; and

(d) the details of new schemes launched for recruitment of Minorities to various Ministries, Corporation and Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Share of Government and Private Telecom Companies

3598. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the shares of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance, Bharti, Tata Tele Service, Hutch, Idea etc. in the entire telecom service network in the country separately in the terms of percentage;

(b) the growth rates of Private Sector and Public Sector Companies in the Service Sector of the country;

(c) whether the BSNL had floated the tenders for laying 45 million lines in 2006 to increase its share;

(d) if so, the Companies which had applied for tenders;

(e) whether orders for undertaking jobs as per the tenders have been issued;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the expected expansion of the telecom service has not come to a halt due to non-commencement of work so far thereby causing losses directly to the BSNL; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to make the above good at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the market share of BSNL, Reliance, Bharti, Tata Teleservices, Hutch, Idea etc. in the telephone network of the country as on 31.07.2007 is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of companies	%age market share
1.	BSNL	28.06
2.	Bharti Airtel	20.09
3.	Reliance Tele	14.43
4.	Vodafone Essar	13.94
5.	Tata Indicom	8.03
6.	Idea	7.31
7.	Aircel	2.16
8.	MTNL	2.81
9.	Spice Telecom	1.41
10.	Dishnet	0.92
11.	APL	0.47
12.	Reliable	0.14
13.	HFCL Infotel	0.14
14.	Shyam Telecom	0.11
Total		100

(b) The growth rate of telephone in respect of private sector & public sector for the last three years is given below:-

Sl. No.	Date	Total number of telephones (in lakh lines)		%age growth rate	
		Private Sector	Public Sector	Private Sector	Public Sector
1	31.03.2004	300.57	464.82		
2	31.03.2005	463.35	520.87	54.16	12.06
3	31.03.2006	764.36	610.83	64.96	17.27
4	31.03.2007	1354.36	713.91	77.19	16.88

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following five vendors had submitted their bids against the tender:

M/s Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd.

M/s Motorola India Pvt. Ltd.

M/s Nokia India Pvt. Ltd.

M/s Siemens Public Communication Network Pvt. Ltd.

M/s ZTE India Pvt. Ltd.

(e) Yes Sir. Advance Purchase Order (APO) have been placed on LI bidder which is yet to be accepted by the successful bidder. The equipment is expected to be

progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Advance Purchase Order (APO).

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) There was delay in the finalization of GSM tender due to one of the bidder approaching the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The vendor has withdrawn the case and the tender has been finalized. However, there has been a capacity constraint in the mobile network, which is affecting the growth rate of BSNL mobile subscribers.

(h) Purchase Orders have been issued on the existing vendors for supply of approximately 4.5 million GSM lines. This GSM capacity is expected to be available progressively during the next two quarters of the current year.

*[English]***Production of Rice Bran Oil**

3599. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Standard for rice bran oil is proposed to be reviewed in order to facilitate production of rice bran oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A proposal to review the limit of unsaponifiable matter and to prescribe minimum level of oryzanol for Rice Bran Oil refined through physical means is under the consideration of the Government.

Contamination of Dioxins

3600. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dioxins one of the most poisonous chemicals known to man, have entered the food chain through agriculture, poultry and meat products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been formed by the Government to study this phenomenon;

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

(e) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misappropriation of Public Distribution System Resources

3601. DR. M. JAGANNATH:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has reported gross misappropriation of resources and diversion of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in the light of findings of NSSO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has received the Report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on the Public Distribution System and other sources of household consumption based on 61st Round of National Sample Survey (2004-05). The Report contains findings of the survey regarding proportions of foodgrains in consumption of households received from the TPDS and other sources.

Strengthening of the Targeted Public Distribution System to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Based on findings of earlier studies of TPDS, a Nine-Point Action Plan is already under implementation by States and UT Governments. Implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the State/UT Governments and by Central Government Findings of the Report on 61st NSS have been discussed with the States/UT Food Secretaries on 06.08.2007 and copies of the Report have been issued to them. They have been requested to use the findings of this Report to assess critically performance of TPDS in their respective States and UTs and take action for its improvement.

*[Translation]***Opening of Telegraph Office**

3602. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open telegraph offices and install telephone exchange with STD facility in the country especially in North-Eastern States and Sikkim during the year 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to install 136 telephone exchanges in its network with STD facility during 2007-08 out of which 8 exchanges shall be opened in North-East region. There is no proposal to install exchanges in Assam and Sikkim during this financial year. Also, there is no proposal to open telegraph offices in the country.

In MTNL, no new landline exchanges are being opened except redeployment of some exchanges equipment to meet the requirement of new areas. All existing exchanges are having STD facility.

(b) Telecom circle wise details of telephone exchanges proposed to be installed in BSNL's network during 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Circle-wise details of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be installed in the BSNL's Network during 2007-08.

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Exchanges to be installed during 2007-08
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11
3.	Bihar	25
4.	Chhattisgarh	02
5.	Gujarat	3
6.	Assam	0
7.	Haryana	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6
10.	Jharkhand	0
11.	Karnataka	15
12.	Kerala	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2
14.	Maharashtra	14
15.	North East-I	4
16.	North East-II	4
17.	Orissa	4
18.	Punjab	0
19.	Rajasthan	1
20.	Tamilnadu	2
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	3
23.	Uttaranchal	8
24.	West Bengal	1
25.	Kolkatta	11
26.	Chennai	15
Total		138

Arable Land

3603. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of arable land in the country alongwith number of farmers' families subsisting thereon;

(b) whether the Union Government is mulling to provide maximum number of jobs in the service sector to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per available estimates, total arable/cultivable land is 182.57 million ha. in 2005-06 and there are 127.30 million cultivators and 106.80 million agricultural laboureres in the country.

Government of India has enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on August 25, 2005, which provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. The scheme starting from February 2, 2006 in 200 districts will cover all districts in five years. The Government announced its implementation in additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-08. Besides this, Government of India has also launched a Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, on 25th September 2001 by merging the on-going schemes of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The main objectives of the programme are to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also the food security, alongside the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas.

Government of India is also implementing various programmes namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP) for development of degraded lands, which help in generating employment opportunities in rural area in the country.

[English]

Telecome Revolution in Villages

3604. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the India's position as a global power-house in software and back-office off-shoring could be under

threat from China in the next three-five years said National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), India's software lobby group in a White Paper released recently as reported in the Mint Newspaper dated August 22, 2007.

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the software and services sectors of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per highlights of NASSCOM's Whitepaper on Tracing China's IT Software Services Industry Evolution:

"China has the potential to develop a large IT-BPO industry. Underlying this is substantial domestic market potential, a sizeable educated workforce and strong government emphasis on developing the sector.

Currently the IT-BPO industry in China is in its early phases of evolution. Frequent comparisons with India and commentary positioning China as a substitute destination is misplaced.

The current industry landscape in China bears some resemblance to earlier years of Indian IT-BPO. However, systemic weaknesses and comparatively evolved demand and competitive environments today pose some additional challenges.

The Chinese government is keen on promoting this sector. Rapid progress on the 'tangible' aspects of infrastructure and capacity creation is evident, softer aspects remain a challenge. China is unlikely to catch on India's lead in global services sourcing in any significant manner over the next 3-5 years..."

(c) Steps taken by the Government to promote the IT Sector are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the IT Sector

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
2. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Information Technology (IT) Software is exempted from Customs duty.

3. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc, Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty.
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/ Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
5. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/ DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits is available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
6. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
7. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under EOU, STP/SEZ schemes.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in house R&D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.
10. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
11. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

**NSSO Survey of Employment/
Unemployment**

3605. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates of employment and unemployment are based on the result of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and Demographic Census; and

(b) if so, the modus operandi being adopted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure that the results of such survey are accurate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) Reliable estimates of labour force are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Estimates of employment and unemployment are made using the ratios obtained through NSSO survey, to the estimated population based on inter-censal interpolations of population census or population projections prepared by the Technical Group on Population Projections of National Commission on Population. National Sample Survey Organisation in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the nodal agency for conducting this survey and the Ministry of Labour and Employment is one of the user organizations.

**Penetration of ISI Agents
into Army**

3606. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISI agents with Kathmandu base have penetrated deep into the Indian army thereby causing serious security concerns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) There has been no report of breach of security and penetration into the Indian Army linked to Kathmandu based Pakistani Intelligence Operatives during 2007. Army has an effective inbuilt Counter Intelligence mechanism in place to detect, identify and neutralize hostile intelligence efforts. Comprehensive preventive measures are being enforced and regular security review is carried out from time to time with a view to sensitize the environment for making the security apparatus foolproof.

Cancellation of Quotation

3607. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to cancel any of its quotation for SIM cards recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Death of Child Labourers

3608. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any complaint regarding death of some child labourers in an explosion in Pasta village near Nasik;

(b) if so, whether permission for recruitment of child labourers was given by the Labour Department of the Union Government;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether child labourers are working in other factories across the country;

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

(g) whether the Government proposes to take any action against those officials responsible for inaction in such cases; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 15 hazardous occupations and 57 processes. As per the Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.6 crore. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(g) and (h) As the enforcement of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 lies with the Central and the State Governments/Union Territories in the establishments falling in their sphere respectively, hence, the action if any, is taken by the respective Governments.

Statement**State-wise Distribution of Working Children according to 2001 Census in the age group 5-14 years**

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2001
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1363339
2.	Assam	351416
3.	Bihar	1117500
4.	Gujarat	485530
5.	Haryana	253491
6.	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	175630
8.	Karnataka	822615
9.	Kerala	26156
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11.	Maharashtra	764075
12.	Chhattisgarh	364572
13.	Manipur	28836
14.	Meghalaya	53940
15.	Jharkhand	407200
16.	Uttaranchal	70183
17.	Nagaland	45874
18.	Orissa	377594
19.	Punjab	177268
20.	Rajasthan	1262570
21.	Sikkim	16457
22.	Tamil Nadu	418801
23.	Tripura	21756
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25.	West Bengal	857087
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1960
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28.	Chandigarh	3779
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4274
30.	Delhi	41899
31.	Daman and Diu	729

1	2	3
32.	Goa	4138
33.	Lakshadweep	27
34.	Mizoram	26265
35.	Pondicherry	1904
Total		12666377

*[English]***Water Logging in Delhi**

3609. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roads in Delhi are water logged during rains causing inconvenience to traffic;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued guidelines to the concerned authorities to collect this water and utilise it for irrigation purposes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) There are some reports about water accumulation on roads during heavy rainfall. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has implemented demonstrative schemes for utilizing the excess rainfall for recharging the ground water and the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has advised the Government of NCT Delhi to adopt measures for rain water harvesting and ground water recharge. Ministry of Water Resources has also requested other Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control. The Government of NCT Delhi has also initiated several measures for rain water harvesting.

Regular Monitoring of Flow of Rivers

3610. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for regular monitoring of the course of river channels upstream/downstream of all Bridges, Dams, Weirs etc. which affects the natural flow of the rivers so that likely damages to pucca structures across the rivers may be remedied well in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an exercise has not been carried out in respect of a number of structures;

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Central Water Commission (CWC) carries out gauge, discharge, sediment study on important rivers on regular basis at selected locations. It also observes pre and post monsoon cross section at selected locations. These information are used in carrying out design of important structures on river course and specific study if required may be carried out with this data. Monitoring specially for the course of river channels upstream/downstream of all Bridges, Dams and Weirs etc. are not carried out by the CWC. However, Morphological study of river Gandak, Ghaghara and Sutej using remote sensing technique is in progress which includes performance evaluation of major flood control/hydraulic structures such as embankments, spurs, bridges etc. executed so far from morphological point of view as well as their effect on river behavior.

Maintenance of structures such as bridges, dams, weirs etc. is within the purview of the concerned State Governments/ project owners which is to be carried out by regular inspection of structures and by taking necessary remedial measures from time to time to ensure safety of structures from the engineering point of view. Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources provides necessary technical support if so required by the State Government/Project owners.

Turnover in Commodity Exchanges

3611. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

- (a) whether turnover in the commodity exchanges have fallen during the current fiscal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether futures market trading has also shown downtrend in the recent months;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps proposed to be taken to streamline the commodity and futures market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASILMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The value of trading in the current financial year (April, 2007 to July, 2007) at Rs. 11.8 lakh crores is lower than the value of trade during the corresponding period last year, which was Rs. 12.6 lakh crores. The reasons for decline in trading volume is delisting of some agricultural commodities, namely, wheat, rice, urad and tur.

(c) and (d) The value of trading in July 2007 (Rs. 2.82 lakh crores) is marginally lower than the value of trading in June, 2007 (2.83 lakh crores). The fall in the value of trading has been marginal and no specific reasons can be attributed to it.

(e) The Government has introduced the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 in the Parliament on 21.3.2006 which inter alia seeks to restructure and strengthen the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) in order to enable it to regulate the commodity futures market more effectively. FMC in association with Exchanges has also initiated various programmes to generate awareness amongst stakeholders and disseminate futures price on real basis to farmers and other stakeholders.

[Translation]

Exchange of Coins from Post Office

3612. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide any facility at post offices to exchange the coins of denomination of Rupee one or Rs. two soiled and mutilated currency notes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be made available; and
- (d) the names of the States in which the said facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) In order to find wider avenues for retail distribution of coins and exchange of soiled and mutilated notes the Reserve Bank of India has approached the Department of Posts to utilize the post offices in the country for distribution of coins and exchange of soiled and mutilated currency notes. This scheme has been implemented by various postal circles in limited post offices in association with their respective branches of Reserve Bank of India. The details of the same are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**Details of Postal Circles where this scheme has been implemented**

Sl. No.	Postal Circle	Stage of implementation
1.	Gujarat	Scheme implemented with effect from 01.09.2007
2.	Karnataka	Scheme implemented with effect from 16.08.2007
3.	Kerala	Scheme implemented with effect from 20.08.2007
4.	Maharashtra	Scheme implemented with effect from 06.06.2007
5.	Rajasthan	Scheme implemented with effect from 01.08.2007
6.	Uttarakhand	Scheme implemented with effect from 31.08.2007

Supply of Water in Delhi

3613. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi State Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government regarding construction of one more barrage on the Yamuna River;

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

(c) the number of colonies in Delhi where the Delhi Jal Board is not supplying water; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to deal with the water crisis in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Delhi is exploring the possibility of construction of a barrage on river Yamuna downstream of Palla in Delhi & have made a request to the Central Water Commission to carry out pre-feasibility studies for the project. The report of the same is under preparation.

(c) Based on the information provided by Delhi Jal Board, water is being supplied by pipe network to all the planned colonies and to 557 out of 567 unauthorised/regularised colonies. Pipe net work for water supply has been extended to 408 out of 1500 unauthorised colonies. In rest of the unauthorised/regularised colonies, potable water is made available through tankers and deep bore hand pumps.

(d) There is no water crisis in National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. Several measures being taken to improve the position are: Extending distributional infra-

structure from Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant (WTP), ensuring availability of full supply of raw water for Nangloi WTP, completion of parallel line channel from Munak to Haiderpur WTP and taking up of storage dams including Renuka, Kishau and Lakhwar Vyasi in Upper Yamuna basin.

Interlinking of Rivers

3614. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National River Inter-linking Project in the country;

(b) the progress of different phases of this project, location-wise, phase-wise and cost-wise;

(c) the details of rivers included in this project, phase-wise; and

(d) the reasons for slow pace of the works under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. Further, Central Government entrusted the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one of the links Viz Ken-Betwa link under Peninsular Component to NWDA.

(b) and (c) The progress of works of various links under Peninsular Component and Himalayan Component indicating the rivers and states concerned is given at Statement-I & II. As per preliminary estimate, Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) programme is estimated to cost about Rs. 5,80,000 crores at 2002 price level. At present no Interlinking project is under implementation.

The total expenditure on various studies for firming up Inter Basin Water Transfer link proposals up to FR level and also for preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link up to 31st March 2007 was Rs 201.19 crores.

(d) The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighboring countries.

Statement-I

Details of the Links under Peninsular Component showing their present status

Sl. No.	Name	States concerned	States benefited	Status of works
1	Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link	Orissa, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, & Chhattisgarh	AP & Orissa	FR completed
2	Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link #	Orissa, Maharashtra, AP, Karnataka, & Chhattisgarh	AP	FR completed
3	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link	Orissa, Maharashtra, MP, AP, Karnataka, & Chhattisgarh	-do-	FR completed
4	Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link	-do-	-do-	FR completed
5	Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link	Maharashtra, AP & Karnataka	-do-	FR completed
6	Krishna (Srisaillam) - Pennar link	-do-	-	FR completed
7	Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link	-do-	AP & Karnataka	FR completed
8	Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link	AP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Pondicherry	AP, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	FR completed
9	Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Pondicherry	Tamil Nadu	FR completed
10	Parbati-Kalisindh - Chambal link#	MP, Rajasthan & UP (UP requested to be consulted during consensus building)	MP & Rajasthan	FR completed
11	Damanganga - Pinjal link #	Maharashtra & Gujarat	Maharashtra (only water supply to Mumbai)	FR completed
12	Par-Tapi-Narmada link #	-do-	Gujarat	FR completed
13	Ken-Betwa link #	UP & MP	U.P & M.P	FR completed DPR taken up
14	Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link	Kerala & Tamil Nadu,	Tamil Nadu	FR completed
15	Bedti - Varda link	Maharashtra, AP & Karnataka	Karnataka	FR completed
16	Netravati - Hemavati link	link Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Kerala	Karnataka	PFR completed

DPR - Detailed Project Report; FR - Feasibility Report; PFR - Pre-feasibility Report.

Statement-II*Details of the Links under Himalyan Component showing their present status*

Sl.No.	Name of the Link	States concerned	States benefited	Status of works
1.	Kosi-Mechi link	Bihar & W.B	Bihar	FR taken up
2.	Kosi-Ghaghra link	Bihar & U.P	Bihar & U.P	FR taken up
3.	Gandak-Ganga link	-do-	U.P	FR taken up
4.	Ghaghra-Yamuna link	-do-	U.P	FR completed (Indian portion)
5.	Sarda-Yamuna link	Bihar, U.P, Haryana, Rajasthan & Uttaranchal	U.P & Uttaranchal	FR completed (Indian portion)
6.	Yamuna-Rajasthan link	UP, Gujarat, Haryana & Rajasthan	Haryana & Rajasthan	FR taken up
7.	Rajasthan-Sabarmati link	-do-	Rajasthan & Gujarat	FR taken up
8.	Chunar-Sone Barrage link	Bihar & U.P	Bihar & U.P	FR taken up
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	Bihar & Jharkhand	Bihar & Jharkhand	FR taken up
10.	Manas-Sankosh- Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	Assam, W.B & Bihar	Assam, W.B & Bihar	FR taken up
11.	Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka link (Alternative to M-S-T-G)	-do-	Assam, W.B & Bihar	FR taken up
12.	Farakka-Sunderbans link	W.B.	W.B.	FR taken up
13.	Ganga (Farakka)-Damodar- Subernarekha link	W.B., Orissa & Jharkhand	W.B., Orissa & Jharkhand	FR taken up
14.	Subernarekha-Mahanadi link	W.B. & Orissa	W.B. & Orissa	FR taken up

DPR - Detailed Project Report; FR- Feasibility Report; PFR - Pre-Feasibility Report.

[English]

**Implementation of Consumer Protection
Act, 1986**

3615. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact of the implementation of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof indicating the problems being faced by the consumers since the implementation of the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir. The Department of Consumer Affairs has not conducted any study to assess the impact of the implementation of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer in (a) above.

Industrial Park Ordinance

3616. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether any State Governments particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra have sent revised proposals to the

Union Government on the Industrial Park Ordinance in 2006-07 for obtaining the approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved the revised proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The State Government of Gujarat has not sent a revised proposal on Industrial Park Ordinance as suggested by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

No proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra has been received in respect of Industrial Park.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Expansion of activities of Coir Board

3617. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the activities of Coir Board in North Eastern Region including Sikkim and also upgrade the branch office at Guwahati to a full fledged Regional Office; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Some of the programmes being carried out in the North Eastern Region (NER) for development of Coir Industries by the Coir Board are as follows:

- I. Entrepreneurship Development Programme with special emphasis on marketing of coir products and exposure tour.
- II. Seminars on application of coir geo-textiles.
- III. Participation in fairs and exhibitions.
- IV. Publicity programme through electronics and print media.
- V. Demonstration of the use of new products like coirply, coir composites (wood substitute) etc. relevant to NER.
- VI. Research and Development Projects in collaboration with local institutions.
- VII. Providing Coir Matting to Schools without adequate seating facilities for children.

As compared to outlay amounting to Rs. 1 crore for 2006-2007, an amount of Rs. 1.30 crore has been provided

for the implementation of existing schemes in North Eastern Region and Sikkim in the Budget estimates for 2007-2008. As a result there would be increase in activities of Coir Board during 2007-2008 in this region.

Further, under the "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" two coir clusters [Manas (Guwahati) in Assam and Agartala in Tripura] have been identified in the NER.

There is a no proposal at present to set up Coir Board's regional office at Guwahati.

[Translation]

Increase in the Per Hectare Yield of Various Crops

3618. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable decline in the per hectare yield of the agricultural produces in the country;

(b) if so, the details of yield rates for wheat, paddy, pulses and oilseeds during the last three years and as on date; and

(c) the measures to be adopted to increase the per hectare yield of the above crops in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The per hectare yield rates of major agricultural produces in the country during the last three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07 are given in the table below:

Year	Wheat	Paddy	Food- grains	Pulses	Oil- seeds	Sugar- cane	Cotton
2004-05	2802	2976	1652	577	885	64752	318
2005-06	2619	3153	1716	597	1004	66928	362
2006-07*	2671	3191	1750	616	917	71081	422

* 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

Barring oilseeds, the per hectare of yield of all other agricultural produces shows an increasing trend from 2004-05.

(c) To increase cereals productivity, Centrally Sponsored Schemes the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals are in place from October 2000. Likewise, to increase the productivity of oilseeds, pulses and maize, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes viz. (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for increasing the productivity and production of wheat, rice and pulses, and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector which, in turn, is expected to improve the yield.

[English]

**Selection of Private T.V. Channels
by MTNL**

3619. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

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

(a) whether the private TV channels have been selected by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for advertising during 2006-2007 along with the deal value of each one of them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount paid to each of them in this regard;

(c) the names of private channels who have submitted their proposals to MTNL for media plan during 2007-08 with viewership and the amount to be paid to each such channel;

(d) whether some private prominent TV channels have not been selected; and

(e) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following nine TV channels were selected by MTNL for advertising during the year 2006-07, viz., Star Plus, Sony, Zee TV, Aaj Tak, NDTV India, Zee News, Star News, MTV, Channel V. The deal values are, however, required to be kept confidential as per terms and conditions.

(c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Some private prominent TV channels have not been selected as the selection is based on various factors like viewership pattern, target market, target audience based on variety of products needed to be marketed, cost of advertisement on each channel and availability of funds.

Statement

Names of Private Channels who have submitted their proposals to MTNL for Media Plan During 2007-08 with viewership

Name of channel	Viewership
Sony*	1,31,93,000
Zee TV*	1,25,72,000
Zee News	85,77,000
ESPN Sports	64,19,000
CNBC TV 18*	25,98,000
Sahara Samay	73,42,000
Aaj Tak/Dilli Aaj Tak/Tez/Headlines Today*	1,32,37,000
NDTV India	99,56,000
NEO Sports	39,85,000
CNN-IBN*	32,80,000
Times Now*	50,21,000
Star Plus	1,53,42,000
Discovery*	23,74,000
Star One	1,09,27,000
Music Channels, TG 15-24 AB, WK 44-49/2006, Reach in %)	
MTV*	6%
Channel V*	3%

* Channels selected by MTNL for the year 2007-08.

The deal values are, however, required to be kept confidential as per terms and conditions.

National Bamboo Mission

3620. SHRI MANI CHARENAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of implementing agencies of National Bamboo Mission;

(b) the amount released to various States and other supporting technical agencies under National Bamboo Mission during 2007-08;

(c) the details of training imparting to farmers by the technical agencies and number of farmers trained therein;

(d) the centres selected for setting up Bamboo Product Development in the North-East; and

(e) the target areas for plantation during 2007-08, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) A statement showing implementing agencies of the National Bamboo Mission as well as state-wise amount released during 2007-08 including plantation targets assigned to these States is annexed.

The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (Guwahati), a designated Bamboo Technical Support Group under the National Bamboo Mission, has imparted lead Farmer level training to 21, 27, 63 and 19 farmers of Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim and Orissa respectively.

The National Bamboo Mission has so far not selected any Centre for setting up of Bamboo Product Development in the North-Eastern Region.

Statement

Implementing Agencies of National Bamboo Mission as well as State-wise amount released during 2007-08, including plantation targets allocated under the Mission.

				(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl. No.	States/BTSGs*	Implementing Agency in the State	Amount Released during 2007-08	Plantation Targets (ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Forest Deptt.	56.40	500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-do-	-	-
3.	Assam	-do-	-	-
4.	Bihar	Horticulture Deptt.	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	Forest Deptt.	-	-
6.	Gujarat	-do-	102.49	1700
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	-do-	-	-
8.	Kerala	-do-	75.50	1000
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Agriculture Deptt.	-	-
10.	Maharashtra	Horticulture Deptt.	-	-
11.	Manipur	Forest Deptt.	-	-
12.	Meghalaya	-do-	-	-
13.	Mizoram	-do-	-	-
14.	Nagaland	-do-	-	-
15.	Orissa	-do-	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	Horticulture Deptt.	-	-
17.	Sikkim	Forest Deptt.	-	-
18.	Tamil Nadu	-do-	-	-
19.	Tripura	-do-	-	-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	-do-	-	-
21.	Uttaranchal	Forest Deptt.	-	-
22.	West Bengal	Horticulture Deptt.	-	-
23.	*BTSG (Kerala)	Forest Research Institute, Peechi	28.22	-
24.	*BTSG (Uttaranchal)	Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun	34.30	-
25.	*BTSG (Assam)	Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati	-	-

*Bamboo Technology Support Group.

[Translation]

Mobile Service in Maharashtra

3621. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether the mobile services of Bhara Sanchar Nigam Limited have not been introduced in several districts of Vidarbha zone in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the areas in the said zone where these services have been allowed;

(d) the time by which this mobile service is likely to be commenced and the permission is likely to be granted to commence this service in those States wherein it is not available at present; and

(e) the reasons for delay in granting permission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, after covering the district Headquarters as part of the roll out in the initial phase, BSNL has extended the policy to provide coverage upto sub-divisional headquarters in the next phase. It is now in the process of covering villages having population in excess of 5000 and proposes to extend coverage of village with population upto 1000 in the districts across the country including the Vidarbha zone in Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

[English]

Changes in Financial and Regulatory Levies

3622. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended major changes in financial and regulatory levies to private telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI recommended levying entry fee alongwith licence fee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Recently on 29.08.2007,

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made it's recommendation on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers" which, inter-alia, includes following recommendations:-

- any licensee who seeks to get additional spectrum beyond 10 MHz in the existing 2G bands i.e. 800, 900 and 1800 MHz after reaching the specified subscriber numbers shall have to pay a one time spectrum charge as per the table given below on prorata basis for allotment of each MHz or part thereof of spectrum beyond 10 MHz in case of Global System for Mobile (GSM) technology and beyond 5 MHz in case of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology.

Service Areas	Price (Rs. in million) for 2X5 MHz
Mumbai, Delhi and Category A	800
Chennai, Kolkata and Category B	400
Category C	150

For example for one MHz allotment in Mumbai, Delhi and Category A service areas, the service provider will have to pay Rs. 160 million as one time spectrum acquisition charge.

- The revenue share spectrum charges as given in table below may be adopted:

Spectrum	Current	Proposed
Upto 2X4.4 MHz	2%	No Change
Upto 2X6.2 MHz/2X5 MHz	3%	No Change
Upto 2X8 MHz	4%	No Change
Upto 2X10 MHz	4%	5.00%
Upto 2X12.5 MHz	5%	6.00%
Upto 2X15 MHz	6%	7.00%
Beyond 2X15 MHz		8.00%

- An existing licensee may be permitted to use alternate technology to provide wireless access service subject to payment of an upfront fee which should be, at least, equal to the entry fee for Unified Access Services (UAS) Licence in that service area.

[Translation]

Fake Warrant Orders

3623. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake warrant orders issued for travel in train has been noticed;

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

- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
(d) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) No, Sir. However, one case of purported use of unauthorized Military warrants by five persons including one serviceman and four civilians in 2779 UP Goa Express on 4th August, 2006 was reported by Railway Authorities. The accused personnel of M.H. Meerut were arrested by civil police and the case is subjudice at present. A Staff Court of enquiry has also been ordered against the erring defence personnel. To prevent recurrence of such type of incident, ticket checking and reservation staff have been instructed by Railway Board to keep strict vigil on any possible fake warrants or misuse of warrants in circulation and to conduct regular checks on military personnel traveling on such warrants.

[English]

Litigation Cases Involving Defence Lands

3624. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of litigation as well as dispute cases involving defence lands, State-wise;
(b) whether the Government proposes to appoint a committee to look into the problem in a realistic manner so as to find solution to the problems outside the courts; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Collaboration in Dairy Sector

3625. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of assistance provided to various States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, for the development and expansion of dairy industry during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether approvals have been granted for foreign collaboration in dairy sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) This Department is implementing two Centrally Sponsored schemes viz. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) and Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (CMP) and one Central Sector Scheme viz. Assistance to Cooperatives for the development and expansion of dairy industry in Cooperative setup. Under IDDP scheme, assistance is provided to State Milk Federation/District Cooperative Milk Union on 100% grant-in-aid basis, while under CMP scheme assistance is provided to State-Milk Federation/District Cooperative Milk Union through State Government on 100% grant-in-aid basis for all components except for setting up of milk chilling facilities in which 75% assistance is provided. Under Assistance to Cooperatives scheme assistance is provided for rehabilitation of State Milk Federation/District Cooperative Milk Union through National Dairy Development Board on 50:50 sharing basis between Union of India and the concerned State Government. Year-wise assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that under Indo-French protocol, State Government had approved import of certain plant & equipment for long shelf life treatment and the project is yet to be grounded. Also Visakha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited, Visakhapatnam has also acquired two machines from Australian firms for which no specific approval have been granted for foreign collaboration.

Statement

(Amount Rs in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Releases during 2004-05	Releases during 2005-06	Releases during 2006-07
(a)	Intensive Dairy Development Programme	0.00	135.00	288.45
(b)	Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production	39.37	65.50	83.75
(c)	Assistance to Cooperatives	0.00	0.00	0.00
	State total	39.37	200.50	372.20

National Hardware Development Policy

3626. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated National Hardware Development Policy to encourage global hardware major to set up manufacturing units in India;

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

(c) whether the Government has received concrete proposal from global hardware major for setting up of manufacturing units in India during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the facilities likely to be provided to attract the global businessmen to set up manufacturing units in India; and

(f) the number of the hardware manufacturing units set up in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) In the last few years, the Government has taken a number of measures to promote the growth of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing Industry, as given in the enclosed Statement-I. This is an on going process.

As a result of various steps taken by the Government on a continuing basis, India is now very high on the agenda of several leading global Electronics and IT hardware manufactures. To capitalize on the growth potential, a number of reputed companies in hardware manufacturing have either set up their units or are coming forward to invest in the country. These include world-renowned companies like Nokia, Motorola, FoxConn, Flextronics, Aspocomp, Samsung, LG, Elcoteq, Ericsson, Alcatel, Tessolve and DELL.

(e) The Special Incentive Package Scheme to encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government vide Gazette Notification No.78, Part I, Section I dated 21st March, 2007. A copy of the Notification is available on the website <http://www.mit.gov.in>.

(f) During the year 2006-2007, 3020 Hardware manufacturing units reported production to the Department of Information Technology. The State-wise breakup is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I**Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Electronics/IT Hardware Manufacturing**

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.
3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres/cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty. Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EOU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.
8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in house R&D in case of a company engaged in the

business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.

Statement-II

State	No. of Hardware manufacturing units
Andhra Pradesh	151
Assam	3
Bihar	7
Chandigarh	19
Chhattisgarh	2
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2
Daman	3
Delhi	350
Goa	12
Gujarat	227
Haryana	77
Himachal Pradesh	14
Jammu and Kashmir	2
Jharkhand	13
Karnataka	351
Kerala	83
Madhya Pradesh	36
Maharashtra	906
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	8
Pondicherry	17
Punjab	34
Rajasthan	73
Tamil Nadu	290
Uttar Pradesh	163
Uttarakhand	22
West Bengal	154
Total	3020

Supply of Defence Equipments to Sri Lanka

3627. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government is supplying defence equipment to Sri Lankan army; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Cooperation with Sri Lanka is based on our bilateral, strategic and diplomatic relations which is largely confined to training of Sri Lankan Defence personnel in India and exchange of visits. It will not be in the national interest to disclose further details.

National Policy for Agricultural Workers

3628. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a National Policy for Agricultural Workers in the country;

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

(c) the manner in which the policy proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

National Commission for Farmers

3629. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Farmers, constituted by the Government has indicated that marginal and small farmers intend to opt much profitable occupations instead of cultivation as it is not economically profitable;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for bio-conservation in the States like Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Sikkim; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers indicated that, as per National Sample Survey Organization's survey, about 40% of farmers would like to quit farming if they had the option to do so. However, as such options are little, the Commission, in its Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers, recommended several measures to enhance productivity and income of small farms and farmers and to diversify employment opportunities by strengthening production-processing-value

addition marketing-consumer chain. The Commission also recommended several methods by which small and marginal farmers can gain efficiency and economy like cooperative farming, group farming by Self-Help Groups, small holders' estates, contract farming and Farmers' Companies etc. Government is implementing several programmes which, inter alia, include National Horticulture Mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Rainfed Area Authority, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Reform and Support to Agriculture Extension Service, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to address the problems of the farmers.

(c) and (d) The existing National Agriculture Policy aims at growth that is based on efficient use of resources and conserves soil, water and bio-diversity. Government are implementing several programmes in this regard like National Project on Organic Farming, Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management, National Horticulture Mission and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

CDMA TECHNOLOGY BY MTNL/BSNL

3630. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (MTNL/BSNL) have been deprived to Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Technology;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of dividend paid by them to the Government during the last three years;

(d) whether the private telecom operators have been allowed CDMA technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. MTNL and BSNL are using both Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) and Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) technologies in their network.

(c) The amount on dividend paid by MTNL and BSNL to the Government during the last three years are as follows:

Name of the PSU	Financial year (Rs.in crores)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
MTNL	159.47	141.75	106.31
BSNL	1175.00	1175.00	1175.00*

* Dividend of Preference Share Capital of an amount of Rs. 675 crores for the Financial year 2006-07 will be paid by BSNL after approval of Shareholders in Annual General Body Meeting.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. M/s Reliance Communications Limited, Tata Teleservices Limited, Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited, HFCL Infotel Limited and Shyam Telelink Limited have been providing CDMA based services.

Use of GSM and CDMA Technology

3631. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is exploring the possibilities of using both GSM, CDMA technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) On 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license including the condition to permit service providers to offer access services using combination of technologies (CDMA, GSM and/or any other) under the same license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI has submitted its recommendation. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Narmada Water

3632. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water of Narmada river is not being utilised properly as a result of which some States are not getting complete benefit of the same;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to utilise properly the water of Narmada river; and

(d) the extent of success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) in its award has decided the allocation of utilizable quantum of water of Narmada river [(28 Million Acre Feet (MAF)) to the States of Gujarat (9 MAF), Madhya Pradesh (18.25 MAF), Maharashtra (0.25 MAF) and Rajasthan (0.5 MAF). These State Governments are planning executing various water supply, irrigation, hydro power projects etc., in their respective territories to utilize the Narmada Water so apportioned by NWDT.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have the responsibility of planning and executing water supply, irrigation, hydro power projects etc., for proper utilization of river waters. The Central Government is extending all possible technical and financial support to the State Governments.

(d) As per Annual Water Account of Narmada Control Authority for the year 2005-06, 6.43 MAF (Madhya Pradesh - 4.46 MAF, Gujarat - 1.97 MAF) of Narmada river water has been withdrawn for different uses in addition to hydro power generation.

[English]

Air Force Bases

3633. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Air Force Bases in the country;
- (b) whether all of them have night landing facilities;
- (c) if not, the number of bases without such facilities and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether these bases can be used at short notice;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether operations at several bases are obstructed and jeopardized by blue bulls and other animals straying over the runways; and
- (g) if so, the steps taken to keep the runways safe at all times?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) Majority of the Indian Air Force bases (IAF) have night landing facilities. However, even at the Air Force bases which do not have night landing facilities, emergency (portable) runway lights can be activated at appropriate notice by mobilizing the required resources from near by air bases.

(f) and (g) A few IAF airbases have faced the problem of blue bull and other animals straying over the runways. Efforts are constantly made to prevent these animals from straying towards the runway by appropriate fencing and instituting manual scaring measures prior to commencement of night operations or expected aircraft movements. Besides, liaisoning with State Government/Forest officials are also done.

[Translation]

EPF due on Member Companies of CII & ASSOCHAM

3634. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether various member companies of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) have so far not deposited their due EPF amount;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such companies and amount due against them; and

(c) the details of the action so far taken by the Government against the said companies alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) The record of establishments, which are members of the CII and ASSOCHAM is not maintained by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation separately. However, as on 31.03.2006 an amount of Rs. 2,530.07 crore was outstanding from defaulting establishments.

(c) For recovery of outstanding dues, all actions as provided under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, are taken. This includes attachment/sale of moveable/immoveable property, arrest of defaulters, etc.

[English]

Liquor Scam In Army

3635. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether liquor scam is prevalent in the defence forces;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the defence officers are involved in selling highly subsidised army liquor in the open market and misappropriating public funds;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to curb such practices?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (e) As per reports received from the Army, there were two incidents of sale of liquor by army personnel to unauthorized persons in the last seven years.

In these cases army officers involved in sale of liquor to unauthorized personnel were given exemplary punishment involving rigorous imprisonment and cashiering from service.

As and when, a case is reported, it is investigated thoroughly and strict action is taken against involved army personnel irrespective of the rank they hold. Besides this surprise checks in the canteens are carried out periodically by a board of officers. Constant vigil is also maintained by

Military Police and Military Intelligence units on unauthorized sale of liquor. Smart cards have been issued to defence personnel regulating the sale of liquor from unit run canteens as per entitlement.

Diversion of New Orders

3636. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Information Technology and outsourcing firms are diverting new orders from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of development centres likely to be set up by Indian Companies abroad; and

(d) the amount of profit to be earned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), no such incidents has been reported so far.

(c) and (d) As per Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), a large number of Indian IT companies, especially big ones are acquiring companies world over and setting their offices abroad. ESC does not have information regarding profits and number of development centers likely to be set up.

Stocks of Foodgrains

3637. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) the stocks of foodgrains in the godowns of FCI during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise, item-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains stored and lifted from said godowns during the said period, year-wise, State-wise, item-wise;

(c) whether stocks of foodgrains of five years or more are being held in these godowns;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the manner in which the said old stocks are proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Details of stock of foodgrains (rice & wheat) in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and details of offtake of foodgrains (rice & wheat) under TPDS during the last five years are given in the enclosed statements I to III.

(c) to (e) The details of the stocks of rice and wheat of five years or more presently held in FCI godowns and reasons are as under:-

State	Quantity	Reasons for non disposal so far
Punjab	310 tons of rice and 33 tons of wheat	Under litigation
Bihar	2925 tons of rice	250 tons under litigation. The rest of 2675 tons is under process of disposal under feed category as per norms of FCI.

Statement-I

Stock Position of Foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) in the Godowns of Food Corporation of India during 2002 to 2006 (As on 1st April every year)

(In lakh tonnes)

State/UT	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	19.96	3.45	16.96	0.39	7.44	0.22	12.82	0.26	11.53	0.24
Arunachal Pradesh	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00
Assam	0.51	0.16	0.23	0.32	0.10	0.03	0.70	0.08	0.91	0.04
Bihar	1.82	1.23	0.77	1.09	1.83	0.29	1.25	0.70	2.26	0.63

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
JM (PO) Chennai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
JM (PO) Kolkata	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stock in Transit	2.50	3.00	2.90	3.19	3.48	3.58	4.79	2.94	3.42	1.74
Grand Total	212.88	74.73	150.46	38.45	105.91	23.00	98.21	32.30	104.09	15.54

Statement-II*State-wise offtake of Wheat for the years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 under TPDS*

(in 000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2002-03 Offtake	2003-04 Offtake	2004-05 Offtake	2005-06 Offtake	2006-07 Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.61	15.08	35.62	50.73	55.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.68	11.07	11.11	7.40	5.14
3.	Assam	369.60	218.24	403.04	280.24	250.05
4.	Bihar	586.94	806.46	934.77	807.77	494.65
5.	Chhattisgarh	77.29	125.53	125.93	132.48	55.98
6.	Delhi	235.81	453.47	432.06	366.57	400.94
7.	Goa	2.96	3.04	0.00	3.83	5.57
8.	Gujarat	376.21	436.31	533.15	605.78	468.15
9.	Haryana	268.68	373.22	437.33	257.03	248.72
10.	Himachal Pradesh	72.56	129.40	155.79	160.77	178.17
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	156.22	183.63	210.51	223.26	228.77
12.	Jharkhand	262.98	300.09	297.48	360.74	285.97
13.	Karnataka	401.36	321.14	361.58	376.52	298.50
14.	Kerala	167.23	161.18	294.97	377.42	281.98
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1030.68	1179.42	1368.06	1554.92	1348.31
16.	Maharashtra	1117.48	1096.08	1553.82	1563.47	1381.12
17.	Manipur	9.25	17.76	16.72	18.14	8.24
18.	Meghalaya	7.22	6.29	8.19	6.97	7.29
19.	Mizoram	11.74	11.01	11.78	7.55	8.99
20.	Nagaland	32.72	52.68	91.41	63.06	34.19
21.	Orissa	62.77	141.75	153.52	108.35	132.29
22.	Punjab	112.92	153.00	157.80	95.73	118.31
23.	Rajasthan	931.82	900.18	1183.53	953.62	915.41
24.	Sikkim	2.27	2.40	4.77	4.65	5.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Tamil Nadu	21.27	47.53	59.94	77.98	90.18
26.	Tripura	7.84	15.26	21.28	29.94	21.47
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2348.26	1990.81	2240.79	1616.39	1497.25
28.	Uttaranchal	44.34	81.39	83.44	103.99	128.28
29.	West Bengal	874.34	1221.65	1701.03	1822.70	1290.94
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.76	6.46	0.89	4.31	4.70
31.	Chandigarh	1.29	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.94	0.99	0.00	0.75	0.36
33.	Daman and Diu	0.31	0.29	0.00	0.19	0.12
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.05
35.	Pondicherry	0.64	0.48	0.06	1.01	1.41
Total		9615.97	10663.87	12890.36	12044.28	10252.47

Statement-III*State-wise offtake of rice for the years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 under TPDS**(In '000 Tonnes)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03 Offtake	2003-04 Offtake	2004-05 Offtake	2005-06 Offtake	2006-07 Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2018.488	2069.101	2819.953	3166.77	3153.481
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	72.288	84.554	83.87	73.77	55.243
3.	Assam	680.725	865.807	881.03	940.91	1261.867
4.	Bihar	188.81	208.835	267.528	310.85	529.526
5.	Chhattisgarh	15.115	553.989	653.557	685.762	811.506
6.	Delhi	51.192	71.48	140.773	103.38	146.687
7.	Goa	12.39	11.286	5.04	8.521	21.44
8.	Gujarat	162.705	134.379	231.048	235.96	394.044
9.	Haryana	0	0	0	33.18	61.627
10.	Himachal Pradesh	123.405	149.868	156.518	169.46	192.327
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	341.861	374.616	361.352	422.56	430.482
12.	Jharkhand	76.497	148.107	256.712	323.96	455.179
13.	Karnataka	1433.328	1763.277	1760.63	1755.09	1786.547
14.	Kerala	430.397	533.534	619.428	584.207	744.133
15.	Madhya Pradesh	235.869	218.445	260.005	324.73	441.915
16.	Maharashtra	650.766	703.929	884.85	947.63	1124.789

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Manipur	49.82	55.74	39.251	44.64	70.13
18.	Meghalaya	77.159	94.776	90.128	93.06	108.392
19.	Mizoram	63.652	68.712	86.967	76	60.056
20.	Nagaland	44.56	65.932	72.213	83.65	113.487
21.	Orissa	543.791	849.338	1360.707	1249.321	1115.981
22.	Punjab	1.011	0.077	1.296	2.46	31.955
23.	Rajasthan	0.827	0.633	0.345	20.69	110.46
24.	Sikkim	23.903	29.039	31.842	37.76	38.807
25.	Tamil Nadu	1604.287	2275.45	2660.566	3635.047	3349.226
26.	Tripura	138.802	139.925	164.935	158.32	203.866
27.	Uttar Pradesh	731.136	948.502	1670.141	2422.328	3001.899
28.	Uttaranchal	77.041	113.489	153.65	150.228	156.153
29.	West Bengal	561.249	690.261	744.069	955.469	1107.724
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.042	14.666	2.023	13.82	12.43
31.	Chandigarh	1.098	0.888	0.361	0	0.28
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.055	3.786	0	2.53	4.08
33.	Daman and Diu	0.339	0.851	0	0.62	0.96
34.	Lakshadweep	2.65	2.85	0	3.75	3.18
35.	Pondicherry	13.96	21.151	3.885	24.63	17.13
Total		10,450.22	13,267.07	16,464.67	19,061.06	21,116.99

**Farmers Participatory Action
Research Programme**

3638. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme is supposed to be implemented in 5000 villages of the country in research-oriented mode involving specialized agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose so far;

(d) the number of villages covered under this programme so far, State-wise; and

(e) the time by which remaining villages are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no such scheme relating to Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme in 5000 villages being implemented by DARE/ICAR. However, this Department has established 554 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the rural districts of the country. The KVKs are primarily engaged in the technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of frontline technology/product. The KVKs also conduct on-farm trials to evaluate and assess the impact of agricultural technologies on location specific basis under different farming systems. During 2006-07, 4109 on-farm trails were conducted by the KVKs.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

**Release of Commemorative
Postage Stamps**

3639. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments and Organisations have requested to Union Government to release Commemorative Postage Stamps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of commemorative postage stamps released during the last three years as on date alongwith their names of titles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) List of the proposals received from State Governments and Organizations in the year 2007 is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Lists of commemorative postage stamps released during the last three years as on 31st August 2007, along with their names of titles are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Proposals received from State Governments and organisations in the year 2007 for issue of Commemorative postage stamps

Sl. No	State government/ Organization	Name of the proposal
1	2	3
1	Government of Maharashtra	Maharashtra Police Academy
2	Government of Tamil Nadu	1. Uudumalai Narayana Kavi 2. Sadavadani Sheik Thambi Pavalar 3. Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar
	Government of Puducherry	1. Sadavadani Sheik Thambi Pavalar 2. Ansari P. Duraisamy
4	Government of Mizoram	Sikulpui, Aizwal
5	Government of Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
6	Government of Karnataka	Smt. Yashodharamma Dasappa
7	Government of Himachal Pradesh	Barnes Court (Raj Bhawan, Shimla)
8	Government of Uttaranchal	1. Raj Bhawan, Nainital 2. Jayanand Bhartiya 3. Acharya Jayamalji Maharaj
9	Government of Gujarat	Golden Jubilee of the Gujarat State
10	Government of Orissa	Hirakud Dam

1	2	3
11	Government of Goa	Central Library
12	Government of Delhi	Dr. D.S. Kothari
13	Government of Bihar	Bihar Agriculture College, Sabour
14	Child Rights and You (CRY), Mumbai	Shiksha
15	Buddhadeva Bose Centenary Committee, Kolkata	Buddhadeva Bose
16	Central Chronicle, Bhopal	Central Chronicle
17	Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama, West Bengal	Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama
18	The Indian Officer's Association, Chennai	The Indian Officer's Association
19	Mapranam Holy Cross Church, Kerala	Mapranam Holy Cross Church
20	All India Association of Industries, Mumbai	All India Association of Industries
21	INTACH, New Delhi	INTACH
22	Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank Ltd., Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu State Apex Cooperative Bank
23	K.R. Narayanan Foundation, Kerala	K.R. Narayanan
24	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
25	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology
26	Life Insurance Corporation of India	Life Insurance Corporation of India
27	Delhi Development Authority, Delhi	Delhi Development Authority
28	Chennai Police	Chennai City Police

1	2	3
29	Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Patna	Eastern Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries
30	IIT, Mumbai	IIT, Mumbai
31	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	Indian Institute of Science
32	National Commission on Farmers	Dr. B.P. Paul
33	Wilson College, Mumbai	Wilson College
34	Daly College, Indore	Daly College
35	Tata Steel, Jamshedpur	Tata Steel
36	Larsen & Toubro, Mumbai	Larsen
37	Snows Basilica Church, Tamil Nadu	Snows Basilica Church
38	Such Khand Gurudwara, Nanded	Such Khand Gurudwara
39	Aga Khan Foundation in India	Aga Khan Foundation
40	Calcutta Club, Kolkata	Calcutta Club
41	Duff High School for Girls, Kolkata	Duff High School for Girls
42	Y.W.C.A, Kolkata	Y.W.C.A.

Statement-II**Stamp Issue Programme-2005**

Sl.No.	Name of the Stamp	Date of issue
1	2	3
1-4	Breeds of Dogs (in Sheetlet)	09-01-2005
5	Padampat Singhania	03-02-2005
6	Rotary International	23-02-2005
7	Krishan Kant	27-02-2005
8	Madhavarao Scindia	10-03-2005
9-12	Flora and Fauna of North East with Miniature Sheet	24-03-2005

1	2	3
13	International Year of Physics (Definitive Stamp)	31-03-2005
14-17	Dandi March with Miniature Sheet	05-04-2005
18	15 Punjab	13-04-2005
19	Bandung conference	18-04-2005
20	Narayan Meghanji Lokhande	03-05-2005
21	Cooperative Movement	08-05-2005
22	World Environment Day (Green Cities)	05-06-2005
23	Abdul Qayum Ansari	01-07-2005
24	Dheeran Chinnamalai	31-07-2005
25	State Bank of India	31-08-2005
26	International Day of Peace	21-09-2005
27	Pratap Singh Kairaoon	01-10-2005
28	A.M.M. Murugappa Chettiar	01-10-2005
29	Dr. T.S. Soundram	02-10-2005
30-33	Letter Box (with Miniature sheet)	18-10-2005
34	Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai	21-10-2005
35	Vi- Kalayanasundaranar	21-10-2005
36	Ayothidhasa Pandithar	21-10-2005
37	Prabodh Chandra	24-10-2005
38	Children's Day	14-11-2005
39	Children' Film Society (in sheetlet)	14-11-2005
40	PHD Chamber of Commerce	16-11-2005
41	World Summit on the Information Society	17-11-2005
42	Kolkata Police Commissionerate	19-11-2005
43	Newborn Health in India	24-11-2005
44	Jawaharlal Darda	02-12-2005
45	Builder's Navy	04-12-2005
46	M.S. Subbaulakshmi	18-12-2005
47	Integral Coach Factory	19-12-2005
48	Jadavpur University	21-12-2005

1	2	3
49	16 Squadron Air Force	27-12-2005
50	De Facto Transfer of Pondicherry	30-12-2005
<i>Stamp Issue Programme-2006</i>		
1	Pongal	12-01-2006
2	A.V. Meyiappan	22-01-2006
3	NMR Subbaraman	29-01-2006
4	3 Sikh (Defence Theme)	01-02-2006
5-8	President's Fleet Review (Defence Theme)	12-02-2006
9	Thirumuruga Kirubananda Vaniyar	18-02-2006
10	Deveneya Pavnar	18-02-2006
11	Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer	18-02-2006
12	Tarnilavel Umameshwarar	18-02-2006
13	St. Bede's College, Shimla	24-02-2006
14	Gemini Ganeshan	25-02-2006
15	Don Basco Seesians in India	27-02-2006
16	M. Singaravelar	02-03-2006
17	World Consumer Rights Day	15-03-2006
18	Indian Agricultural Research Institute	30-03-2006
19	62 Cavalry (Defence Theme)	01-04-2006
20-21	Indo-Cyprus Joint Issue (Sheetlet + Miniature Sheet)	12-04-2006
22	Calcutta Girls High School, Kolkata	21-04-2006
23	Panna Lal Barupal	28-04-2006
24	Kurinji with Miniature Sheet	29-04-2006
25	Rainwater Harvesting	05-06-2006
26	Sri Pratap College, Srinagar	15-06-2006
27	Indraprastha Girls School	08-07-2006
28	Voorhis College	10-07-2006
29	The Vellore Mutiny 1806	10-07-2006
30	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir	29-07-2006
31	Pankaj Kumar Mullick	04-08-2006
32	ONGC	14-08-2006
33	Ma Po Sivagrianam	15-8-2006

1	2	3
34	University of Madras	04-09-2006
35	L.V. Prasad	05-09-2006
36	Indian Merchant' Chamber	07-09-2006
37-38	Indo-Mangolia Joint Issue with Miniature Sheet	11-09-2006
39-42	Endangered Birds of India with Miniature Sheet	05-10-2006
43	Madhya Pradesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry	12-10-2006
44	Biswanath Rai	31-10-2006
45	G. Varadaraj	01-11-2006
46-50	Himaliyan Lakes Seta Lake - Arunachal Pradesh Chandra Tal - Himachal Pradesh Roop Kund Lake - Uttaranchal Changu Lake - Sikkim TSOMO RIRI - Ladakh, J&K	06-11-2006
51	Lala Deen Dayal	11-11-2006
52-53	Children's Day with Miniature Sheet	14-11-2006
54	The Tribune	21-11-2006
55	World AIDS Day, HIV	01-12-2006
56-59	150 years of Field Post Offices with Miniature Sheet	08-12-2006
60	Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg	10-12-2006
61	Sandalwood (Fragrant Stamp+ Miniature Sheet)	13-12-2006
62-65	Stop Child Labour	26-12-2006

Tentative Stamp Issue Programme for the year 2007

1	Bimal Roy	08-01-2007
2	Tamilnadu Cricket Association	26-01-2007
3-6	Fragrance of Roses (Fragrant Stamps) with miniature sheet Bhim Dehi Princess Jawahar Neelam	07-02-2007
7	Manoharbhai Patel	09-02-2007

1	2	3
8-11	Fairs of India Goa Carnival Pushkar Fair Sonapur Mela Baul Festival	27-02-2007
12-15	Women's Day with miniature sheet	08-03-2007
16	Raj Narain	23-03-2007
17	Mehboob Khan	30-03-2007
18	Dr. RM Alagappa Chettiar	06-04-2007
19-24	2550 years of Mahaparinirvana of Buddha with miniature sheet	02-05-2007
25-29	National Parks of India Mudumalai, Tamil Nadu Bandipur, Karnataka Periar, Kerala Kaziranga, Assam Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh	31-05-2007
30-31	150th Anniversary of First War of Independence with miniature sheet	09-08-2007
32	Maraimalai Adigal	17-08-2007
33	V.G. Suryanarayana Sastriar	17-08-2007
34	Saint Vallalar	17-08-2007
35-38	Landmark Bridges of India with miniature sheet Hawrah Bridge Mahatma Gandhi Setu Pamban Bridge Vidyasagar Setu	17-08-2007
39	J.P. Naik	05-09-2007
40	53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference	23-09-2007
41	S.B Chavan	To be decided
42-43	Jasmine (Fragrant Stamp)	To be decided
44	Ritwik Ghatak	To be decided
45	S.D. Burman	To be decided
46	Pramatesh Barua	To be decided
47-50	Indian Railway Stations Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai Howrah Railway station, Kolkata Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Central Station, Chennai	To be decided

1	2	3
51-54	Centenary of Satyagraha with miniature sheet	02-10-2007
55-58	Platinum Jubilee for Indian Air Force	08-10-2007
59	4th Military World Games-2007	14-10-2007
60-63	Endemic Butterflies of Andaman & Nicobars	08-10-2007
64	14-Punjab- 250 Years of Raising	24-10-2007
65	Maharashtra Police Academy	October 2007
66	Battaqh Ali Ansari	October, 2007
67	Tortoise	October 2007
68-69	Children's Day with miniature sheet	14-11-2007
70	4 GR-150 Years of Raising	27-11-2007
71	Thillaiyadi Valliammai	November 2007
72	Udumalai Narayana Kavi	November 2007
73	A.T. Paneerselvam	November 2007
74	Sadavadani Sheik Thambi Pavalar	November 2007
75	Snows Basilica Church	November 2007
76	New and Renewable Energy	November 2007
77-79	Rare Animals of North East	November 2007
80	Damodaram Sanjeevaiah	November 2007
81	International Year of Disabled Persons	03-12-2007
82	Water Year 2007	December 2007
83	Larson	December 2007
84	Wilson College, Mumbai	December 2007
85	Mahanamrata Brahmachari	December 2007
86	Daly College, Indore	December 2007
87	Maulana Atikur Rehman Arvi	December 2007
88	Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy	December 2007

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Telephone Bills

3640. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outstanding amount of telephone bills for telephone connections provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi and Mumbai is rising constantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the outstanding amount of telephone bills in the above mentioned cities till June 30, 2007;

(c) whether any special scheme has been formulated by the Government to recover this outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total outstanding amount has been reduced by 5.7% over the 12 month period upto 30.06.2007. The outstanding amount for MTNL Delhi was Rs. 786 Crores and for MTNL Mumbai it was Rs. 443 Crores as on 30 June, 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir. Vigorous and sustained efforts are being made by MTNL to recover the outstanding amount.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Various Efforts made towards the reduction of Outstanding Dues are as follows:

1. Strong monitoring of outstanding dues at the corporate level and at the units Head Quarter level as well as in the areas. High targets were set and the units were constantly placed on their toes to achieve them.
2. Private recovery agents were also employed for making recoveries.
3. A Revenue Assurance program has also been implemented in MTNL wherein efforts are being made to ensure that maximum Revenue Billing and Revenue Realization takes place to further reduce the outstanding dues.
4. Convergent Billing System is being introduced for achieving further control on realization of outstanding.
5. Automated telephonic reminders to subscribe who default in making payments of their bills.
6. Further action of disconnection of the telephone including disconnection of other working connection of the subscribers is also initiated in case payment is not received.
7. Legal notices are therefore served to those subscribers who despite the reminders fail to make the payments of the telephone bills.
8. In the events of the above efforts not yielding results, recovery suits are filed in the court of the law wherever possible.

Capacity of Telephone Exchanges

3641. CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing capacity of telephone exchanges in the country specially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the capacity utilised each year during the last three years;

(c) the total loss of revenue as a result of less capacity utilisation; and

(d) the reasons for less capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, existing capacity of telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.7.07 is 4,71,87,957 lines in the country, out of which 40,50,787 lines exist in Uttar Pradesh. Capacity utilised during the last three years by BSNL is as under:

As on	Equipped Capacity	Working Connections	Capacity utilisation in %
31.3.05	4,71,30,957	3,58,59,482	76.08
31.3.06	4,74,17,653	3,54,22,889	74.70
31.3.07	4,73,22,278	3,37,38,604	71.30

As regards MTNL, the capacity along with percentage utilization during the last three years and upto 31.7.07 is given below:

As on	Equipped Capacity	Working Connections	Capacity utilisation in %
31.3.05	59,61,477	40,75,340	68.36
31.3.06	58,53,314	38,75,772	66.21
31.3.07	55,45,662	31,01,570	68.54

(c) and (d) There is no direct loss of revenue due to less capacity utilization. Decline of capacity utilization is mainly due to migration of these subscribers to mobile technologies such as Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) & Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM). Owing to above trend, the exchanges capacity is not being increased further except in respect of unavoidable and difficult areas such as North East Region.

[English]

Depleting Water Level in Delhi

3642. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water level in most parts of Delhi is depleting at a very fast rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken/to be taken in this regard to make potable water available in the various areas, more particularly in Dwarka sub-city where water supply has reached a near-crisis level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the latest assessment of ground water resources of NCT Delhi carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the State in 2004, 7 out of 9 districts are categorized as over-exploited (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100%) and shown significant decline in ground water level. These 7 districts are South, South-west, New Delhi, North-west, West, East and North-east districts.

(c) The Government of NCT Delhi has planned to amend the Water Board Act for regulation of ground water in NCT of Delhi. Drinking water is supplied to Dwarka sub-city from the Nangloi water treatment plant which is presently working at half of its capacity i.e. producing 20 MGD (Million Gallons/Day) against the capacity of 40 MGD. The water supply to Dwarka sub-city can be improved after full commissioning of Nangloi water treatment plant. The Delhi Jal Board is also planning to construct a 50 MGD capacity water treatment plant at Dwarka.

Foodgrains for Tribals

3643. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a scheme in Nashik, Maharashtra on experimental basis to provide foodgrains to the tribal at their doorstep under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and success achieved therein alongwith the steps proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes noticed in the scheme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the said scheme to other areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No new scheme has been launched under Targeted Public Distribution System. On an experimental basis in Nashik and

Nandurbar districts, State Government of Maharashtra has started distribution of foodgrains by a new method.

(b) Under this method, with their prior consent the beneficiaries under the TPDS are distributed their quota of foodgrains for 3/6/12 months at one time during meetings of Gram Sabhas in villages.

(c) and (d) The present arrangement for distribution of foodgrains by the new method is only on an experimental basis, its detailed results are yet to be received. So there is yet no proposal to extend it to other areas.

Soldier Protection Vehicle

3644. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Defence Department has requested the Indian Government to try out a soldier protection vehicle made in India with Israeli help; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Laws for Small Scale Industries

3645. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laws related to Small Scale Enterprises are different in different States;

(b) if so, whether these laws are proposed to be amended to being uniformity and effectiveness; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government of India has commenced the implementation of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 w.e.f. 2 October 2006. This legislation provides for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The promotion and development of MSMEs is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and the Government of India supplements this effort. After the enactment of the MSMED Act, 2006, there is uniformity in the country about the methodology for filing Entrepreneurs' Memoranda by the enterprises, enabling provisions that may be utilized for promotion and assistance for MSMEs, measures to check delayed payments to Micro and Small Enterprises, enabling provision for notifying policies for

procurement preference to the products manufactured and services rendered by Micro and small Enterprises by the Departments/Public sector undertakings, etc., by the State Governments or the Government of India, etc.

[English]

Industry Specific Training Centres

3646. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote Industry Specific Training Centres to enhance skills and employability of workers particularly of weaker sections; and

(b) the extent of involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations and Trusts in setting up such training centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) is being implemented through a network of 5114 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)/ Industrial Training Centers (ITCs) imparting skill training in 110 industrial trades. Following steps have been taken by DGE&T, under the Ministry of Labour & Employment to cater to specific skill requirement of industry which also cover weaker section of the society:

1. Introduction of multi-skill courses in 20 specific Industrial sectors by upgradation of 100 Government ITIs during the year 2005-06 and further under Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP) with World Bank assistance for upgradation of another 400 Government ITIs.
2. Upgradation of remaining 1396 Government ITIs in Public-Private Partnership mode from the current financial year.

(b) Out of 5114 ITIs/ITCs, there are 3218 ITCs which are owned/managed by Non-Governmental Organizations and Trusts, etc.

Committee on Structure of Levies

3647. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has requested to the Finance Ministry that the multifarious taxes, charges and fees applicable to the Industry should be unified and a single levy on revenue may be collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to study the present structure of levies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response received by the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While presenting the Union Budget 2007-08, Union Finance Minister in Para-159 of the Budget Speech had requested the Department of Telecommunications to constitute a Committee to study the present structure of levies and make suitable recommendations to the Government. In pursuance to the same, a Committee headed by Member (Finance), Telecom Commission has been constituted to study the present structure of taxes and levies applicable in the Telecom Sector. The constitution of the Committee is as follows:

Member (F)	-	Chairperson.
Sr. DDG (LF)	-	Member
DDG (WPF)	-	Member
JS(T)	-	Member
DDG (Access Service)	-	Member

(e) The Committee is expected to submit its reports by the end of September, 2007.

Decline in Rai Production

3648. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rai produced in the country during the last three years, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of rai in the country particularly in Karnataka;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of rai in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Following table gives the total quantity of rai (rapeseed & mustard) produced in the country and in Karnataka during the last three years:

	(000 Tonnes)		
State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
All-India	7593.0	8131.0	7097.0
Karnataka	2.0	2.0	1.0

*4th advance estimates as on 19.07.2007

Decline in the production of rapeseed & mustard in the country is attributable to decline in both area coverage and yield of rapeseed & mustard in 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. The level of production of rapeseed & mustard in Karnataka is insignificant.

(d) To increase the production of rapeseed & mustard in the country, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed and minikits, infrastructure development and integrated pest management.

Over Exploitation of Sub-Soil Water

3649. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to find out the possibility of exploitation of sub-soil water;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas identified for the purpose;

(c) the manner in which the said sub-soil water reserves are proposed to be optimally exploited; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, carries out ground water surveys and exploration for assessment, monitoring and management of ground water resources in the country. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by CGWB and States, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100%) and 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100%). Extensive and productive aquifers have been identified in alluvial areas occupying in major river basins in the country. Potential aquifers have also been demarcated in semi-consolidated formations like Gondwanas, Lathis, Tipams, Cuddalore Sandstones, etc. The consolidated formations which occupy almost two-third of the country especially in peninsular region and characterized by secondary porosity have limited ground water potential that are confined to weathered and fracture zones.

(c) and (d) 'Water' being the State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take

necessary steps for regulation of ground water development and management in their respective States. However, the CGWB provides technical assistance to the State Governments on assessment of the ground water resources. The CGWB has also prepared manuals, guidelines, etc., for use by the concerned agencies.

Import of Foodgrains

3650. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Government is importing large quantity of foodgrains like pulses, peas, lentils and chick peas from USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the American Exporters have agreed to supply these foodgrains well fumigated as per the requests of the Government of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made a provision for rescinding the import contract if the suppliers do not agree to measures adopted to check import of contaminated food grains;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) to (g) The quality parameters are incorporated in the contract. The cargo is supervised and surveyed by independent Surveyor of international repute at the loan port and they certify that the cargo conforms to quality and specifications provided in the contract. In addition, the cargo is subject to clearance by Plant Health Organisation/Plant Protection Quarantine (PHO/PPQ) authority at ports.

Clusters for Small and Medium Enterprises

3651. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has proposed a five-year country strategy for India (2007-2012) with a focus on clusters for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 6, 2007;

- (b) if so, the salient features of the said proposal and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps initiated by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the focus areas under the said programme; and
- (e) the names of places identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has received a preliminary draft proposal from the Regional Office of UNIDO in India on "Integrated Programme of Cooperation between the Republic of India and UNIDO 2007-2012". The integrated programme 2007-2012 aims at raising the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises through a combination of interventions at two levels: at firm level, through technology oriented initiatives to increase productivity, quality, energy efficiency, occupational health and safety and the environmental sustainability of industrial production and at the level of individual, efficiency to develop social capital. The programme will also build on India's expertise, technology and know-how to assist other developing countries.

(c) to (e) The Government is yet to take a view on the proposal.

[Translation]

Water Level of Reservoirs

3652. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of reservoirs in the country whose water level is 133 million cubic metre separately;
- (b) whether the water level in the said reservoirs has declined over the recent years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve the water level in these reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Central Water Commission monitors storage position of 81 important reservoirs of the country. Out of these 77 reservoirs have live storage capacity more than 133 Million Cubic Metre (MCM). The list of these reservoirs is enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) From the combined live storage data of above reservoirs as on 30th August for the last five years, no

declining trend in the live storage of these reservoirs is observed.

Statement

List of Reservoirs Monitored by CWC which have Live Storage Capacity more than 133 Million Cubic Metre

S.No.	Name of Reservoir	Live Capacity	
		(State)	(Million Cubic Metre)
1	2	3	4
1	Srisallam	(A.P)	8288
2	Nagarjuna Sagar	(A.P)	6841
3	Sriramsagar	(A.P)	2300
4	Somasila	(A.P)	1994
5	Lower Manair	(A.P.)	621
6	Tenughat	(Jhar)	821
7	Maithon	(Jhar)	471
8	Panchet Hill	(Jhar)	184
9	Kcnar	(Jhar)	176
10	Tilaiya	(Jhar)	142
11	Ukai	(Guj)	6615
12	Sabarmati (Dharoi)	(Guj.)	735
13	Kadana	(Guj)	1472
14	Shetrunji	(Guj)	300
15	Bhadar	(Guj)	188
16	Damanaganga	(Guj)	502
17	Dantiwada	(Guj)	399
18	Panam	(Guj)	697
19	Gobind Sagar (Bhakra)	(H.P)	6229
20	Pong Dam	(H.P.)	6157
21	Krishnaraja Sagra	(Kar.)	1163
22	Tungabhadra	(Kar)	3276
23	Ghataprabha	(Kar)	1391
24	Bhadra	(Kar)	1785
25	Linganamakki	(Kar)	4294
26	Narayanpur	(Kar)	863
27	Malaprabha (Renuka)	(Kar)	972
28	Kabini	(Kar)	275
29	Hemavathy	(Kar)	927
30	Harangi	(Kar)	220

1	2	3	4
31	Sura	(Kar)	4120
32	Vanivilas Sagar	(Kar)	802
33	Almatti	(Kar)	3105
34	Kallada (Parappar)	(Kar)	507
35	Idamalayar	(Krl)	1018
36	Idukki	(Krl)	1460
37	Kakki	(Krl)	447
38	Periyar	(Krl)	173
39	Gandhi Sagar	(M.P.)	6827
40	Tawa	(M.P.)	1944
41	Bargi	(M.P.)	3180
42	Bansagar	(M.P.)	5410
43	Indira Sagar	(M.P.)	9745
44	Minimata Bango	(Chh.)	3046
45	Mahanadi	(Chh.)	767
46	Jayakwadi (Paithon)	(Mah)	2171
47	Koyana	(Mah)	2652
48	Bhima (Ujjani)	(Mah)	1517
49	Isapur	(Mah)	965
50	Mula	(Mah)	609
51	Yeldari	(Mah)	809
52	Girna	(Mah)	524
53	Upper Vaitarna	(Mah.)	331
54	Upper Tapi	(Mah.)	255
55	Pench (Totladoh)	(Mah.)	1091
56	Hirakud	(Ori.)	5378
57	Balimela	(Ori)	2676
58	Salanadi	(Ori)	558
59	Rengali	(Ori)	3432
60	Machkund (Jalput)	(Ori)	893
61	Upper Kolab	(Ori)	935
62	Upper Indravati	(Ori)	1456
63	Thein	(Pun)	2344
64	Mahi Bajaj Sagar	(Raj)	1711
65	Rana Pratap Sagar	(Raj)	1436

1	2	3	4
66	Lower Bhawani	(TN)	792
67	Mettur (Stanley)	(TN)	2647
68	Vaigai	(TN)	172
69	Parambikulam	(TN)	380
70	Sholayar	(TN)	143
71	Gumti	(Trp)	312
72	Matatila	(UP)	707
73	Rihand	(UP)	5649
74	Ramganga	(Utt)	2196
75	Tehri	(Utt)	2615
76	Mayurakshi	(WB)	480
77	Kangsabati	(WB)	914

[English]

Funds Provided by KVIC

3653. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSII: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and provided for economically weaker sections through Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of persons benefited during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established by Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act 1956 for the development of khadi and village industries and for matters connected therewith. Accordingly, KVIC has been implementing various programmes/schemes for the development and promotion of khadi and village industries. Though the programmes/schemes implemented by KVIC do not specifically target economically weaker sections, the beneficiaries of these programmes are khadi and rural artisans/entrepreneurs, including khadi spinners, weavers, etc., most of whom belong to economically weaker sections or below poverty line category. And also, under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), being implemented through KVIC, a higher subsidy of 30% is provided to the weaker sections of the society, including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes/ Minority/Women/ Physically Handicapped, etc. as against 25% for general category. The State/Union Territory-wise details of funds provided under KVI programme during the last 3 years for

various programmes/schemes in khadi and village industries sector are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The number of persons benefited in terms of employment during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in village industries and khadi sectors is given below:

Year	Employment (lakh persons)	
	Khadi	Village industries
2004-05	8.64	68.14
2005-06	8.68	74.09
2006-07	8.84	80.08

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise details of funds provided for various programmes/schemes in khadi and village industries during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rupees lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Khadi			Village Industries		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.95	1.38
2	Delhi	262.94	280.66	438.34	1051.10	307.58	263.73
3	Haryana	325.72	331.44	565.31	2192.81	1348.76	1579.61
4	Himachal Pradesh	142.34	131.33	268.56	697.68	833.23	1146.76
5	Jammu and Kashmir	110.30	60.65	252.32	712.96	786.43	933.59
6	Punjab	463.38	224.43	490.89	2178.85	1868.63	1743.19
7	Rajasthan	607.83	643.59	926.65	2794.05	3364.09	3415.15
8	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.09	149.78	100.25
9	Bihar	264.52	161.72	301.37	584.70	733.84	835.01
10	Jharkhand	121.95	53.47	168.73	182.79	778.86	882.10
11	Orissa	15.39	48.21	23.14	1156.83	975.20	1054.86
12	West Bengal	280.90	87.30	384.69	2606.58	2395.38	2473.26
13	Arunachal Pradesh	3.84	2.00	2.16	91.12	182.00	166.20
14	Assam	82.26	63.27	126.07	1364.83	2948.35	2250.77
15	Manipur	8.16	4.83	4.46	177.55	286.93	239.20
16	Meghalaya	3.02	3.02	1.88	299.60	420.86	370.02
17	Mizoram	2.00	2.00	3.80	454.66	1142.46	1164.66
18	Nagaland	8.11	6.00	37.06	223.71	248.75	221.90
19	Tripura	13.57	4.96	0.00	192.38	164.44	151.84
20	Sikkim	5.09	1.00	0.00	337.61	305.03	272.32
21	Andhra Pradesh	162.07	117.13	273.73	3019.60	4174.51	3951.20
22	Karnataka	196.15	435.68	916.36	1800.69	2402.23	2508.95
23	Kerala	310.88	286.62	801.25	1424.13	1735.84	1743.36
24	Tamilnadu	767.70	1687.71	0.00	1507.99	1604.00	1822.99
25	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	1317.80	12.28	5.61	54.67
26	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.66
27	Goa	6.67	5.58	6.28	279.93	179.70	369.37
28	Gujarat	619.07	554.96	604.86	767.31	1111.88	896.20
29	Maharashtra	89.35	211.20	184.58	2452.80	2516.11	2235.26
30	Chhattishgarh	27.31	54.23	55.97	1165.16	1179.46	1169.19
31	Madhya Pradesh	176.60	119.71	118.64	1710.57	1517.56	1336.49
32	Uttarakhand	230.82	405.66	353.76	695.12	675.21	738.42
33	Uttar Pradesh	3296.52	2295.04	3657.31	4494.43	4941.94	4484.12
	Total	3731.25	2874.64	4185.68	8065.28	8314.17	7728.22
34	Departmental units of KVIC	242.54	410.32	52.27	3957.68	5057.23	5764.25
	Grand Total	8847.00	8693.72	12338.24	40691.59	46344.83	46348.93

Closure of Postal Civil Division

3654. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

SHRI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

- (a) whether the Postal Civil Division at Trivandrum is being shifted in some other State;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Communication Centres

3655. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to make functional the communication centres in Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh construction of which were completed many years ago;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which these centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all communication centers (presumably customer service centers) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh are already functional and are working satisfactorily.

(b) Presently, three customer service centers, one each at District Telegraph Office, Avas Vikas and Fatehpur are functional in Barabanki.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Subsidy in Private Telecom Sector

3656. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government subsidy to the private sector for providing telecommunication facilities in rural areas is continuing;

(b) the amount of subsidy received and spent by these companies during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether all the private telecommunication provider companies are laying or have laid down lines on subsidized rates in the rural areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government has carried out any inspection of the rural circles of these companies;

(e) if so, the total number of companies found involved in the cases of irregularities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has disbursed an amount of Rs. 483.58 crore during the last three years towards subsidy support for provision of telecommunication facilities in rural areas. A statement indicating the State-wise disbursement of subsidy to the private Universal Service Providers (USPs) during the last three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07 enclosed.

(c) Successful USPs have provided rural lines in their contracted areas under various agreements entered between USOF and these USPs. Subsidy disbursement to these successful USPs is made on the Representative Rate for provision of lines as per their claim.

(d) Post payment sample size checking/ inspection are carried out by the Controller/ Jt. Controller Communication Accounts offices in the service areas in respect of the claims of all USPs.

(e) Some irregularities have been found in different Circles in case of all USPs. However, these have been acted upon as per the terms and conditions of the relevant Agreements.

(f) The claim settlement of the USPs is based on self certification and affidavit. However, irregularities noticed during sample verifications/Field inspections are taken into account and the amount of irregular claim so detected is withheld/disallowed, without prejudice to any other action as per terms and conditions of Agreement.

Statement

State-wise disbursement of Subsidy to the Private Universal Service Providers (USPs) during the last three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07

Name of State	2004-05		2004-05		2005-06		2005-06		2006-07		2006-07			
	Bharti	Reliance	Shyam	Tata	TTML*	Total	Reliance	Tata	TTML	Total	Reliance	Tata	TTML	Total
Andhra Pradesh				1.12		1.12	1.38	1.1		2.48	38.16	0.56		38.72
Assam				0		0				0				0
Bihar				0		0	1.4	0.12		1.52	4.32	19.2		23.51
Chhattisgarh	0.1			0.1		0.1				0				0
Gujarat		0.9		0.9		0.9	0.65			0.65	20.68			20.68
Haryana				0		0	0.9	0.15		1.05	2.53	15.7		18.25
Himachla Pradesh				0		0				0	6.45			6.45
Jharkhand				0		0				0				0
Karnataka				0		0	0.04	0.13		0.17	25.82	22.5		48.33
Kerala				0		0				0	15.15			15.15
Maharashtra				0.95		0.95	7.97		1.31	9.28	5.04		67.8	72.84
Madhya Pradesh	0			0		0	0.2	0.12		0.32	6.43	24		30.42
Orissa				0		0				0				0
Punjab				0		0	0.87	0.01		0.88	0.81	31.9		32.73
Rajasthan			0.1	0.1		0.1	0.43	0.51		0.94	10.42	59.9		70.36
Tamil Nadu				0		0	1.73			1.73	38.69			38.69
Uttar Pradesh (E)				0		0	1.62	0.21		1.83	3.96	13.1		17.02
Uttar Pradesh (W)				0		0	0.16			0.16	8.11	12		20.13
Uttaranchal				0		0				0				0
West Bengal				0		0	1.43			1.43	4.69			4.69
Grand Total	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.12	0.95	3.17	18.78	2.35	1.31	22.44	191.26	199	67.8	457.97

Note:- 1 For 04-05 the payment figures of Jharkhand are included in the figures of Bihar.

2 The payment figures of Maharashtra are inclusive of Goa.

3 No Private Telecom Operators in Andaman & Nicobar, J&K and North East States have been paid subsidy.

* TTML means Tata Maharashtra Limited

Ban on Export of Milk Powder

3657. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the milk powder exporting organizations have started export of casein after ban on export of milk powder; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir. The export of casein was going on even before the imposition of ban on export of milk powder by the organizations engaged in export of milk and milk products.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Transfer of Head Works to Bhakra Beas Management Board

3658. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to transfer the head works at Ropar, Harike and Ferozepur, Punjab to the control of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The matter of transfer of control of the head works at Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur, Punjab to BBMB is sub-judice. On a Special Leave Petition filed by the State of Punjab, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had stayed the operation of the order dated 02.05.05 of the Hon'ble Court of Rajasthan in Public Interest Litigation petition in the matter. The matter has not yet been adjudicated, with the next hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court scheduled for 18.09.07.

Proposals from Karnataka

3659. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance for irrigation related works and to meet the flood situation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto indicating the amount sought and disbursed alongwith the funds actually disbursed to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Irrigation and Flood management is a State subject and planning, execution, priority of execution as well as funding is within the purview of concerned State Governments. State Government of Karnataka has informed that it had sought Central Assistance to the tune of Rs.2410.75 crores during July 2006 for completion of 17 ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation projects under Prime Minister's Special rehabilitation package to mitigate distress of farmers in 6 districts of the State.

The Major and Medium Irrigation projects included in the Prime Minister's Special rehabilitation package are to be provided financial assistance under AIBP for their expeditious completion in accordance with the guidelines of the AIBP. During 2006-07, Central assistance amounting to Rs. 44.305 crores has been provided to the Government of Karnataka in respect of two ongoing projects included in the Prime Minister's package.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, financial assistance is given to States for On-Farm Development works and software activities in the command areas of irrigation projects included under the Programme. During the current financial year, Central Assistance of Rs.35.51608 crore sought by the Karnataka State has been released to the State.

For both, AIBP and CADWM, the funds are released in favour of State Government.

New Employees Pension Scheme, 1996

3660. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details and objectives of the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees Provident Fund Scheme (EPFS);

(b) whether the EPS, which was introduced in 1995, was amended by the EPS Act in 1996;

(c) if so, the salient features of the amended version of the EPS;

(d) whether there is any bar on the employees opting and contributing to the revised EPS; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard including guidelines, if any, issued by the Government in the matter and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 and the Employee Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the

Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are aimed at providing social security to the members and their families in the form of Provident Fund, pensionary benefits.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The purpose of amendment to the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 was to provide, inter-alia, option for commutation, guaranteed pensionary benefits to the members etc.

(d) and (e) The Pension Scheme does not bar any member from opting/contributing to it, subject to fulfilment of eligibility provisions of the Scheme. Appropriate guidelines/instructions have been issued in this regard by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from time to time.

Schemes for Welfare of Beedi Workers

3661. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health camps operating/organised by the Government in the country for beedi workers, State-wise;

(b) the details of additional benefits given to female beedi workers during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(c) whether Karnataka is lagging behind other States in implementation of various welfare schemes for beedi workers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve the functioning of welfare organisations engaged in helping beedi workers in the country particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Statement-I showing the detail is annexed.

(b) Statement-II showing the details is annexed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In Karnataka, during the current year (upto August, 2007), 1147 workers have been granted financial assistance @ Rs.1,000/- per worker under the maternity benefit scheme. Financial assistance to two-widow workers @ Rs.5,000/- each for marriage of their daughters has been granted. An expenditure of Rs. 11,160/- has also been incurred on treatment of gynecological diseases of three workers. However, no health camp was organized.

(e) Assistance of the State Government has been sought for conducting survey of beedi workers in Karnataka for identifying those who are not at present on the rolls. Awareness camps will be conducted to educate the workers about the facilities available under various schemes.

Statement-I

The detail of health camps organised by the Government in the country during 2006-07

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Number of camps organised
1.	Ajmer Region	
	1. Gujarat	Nil
	2. Rajasthan	04
2.	Allahabad Region	
	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	14
3.	Bangalore Region	
	1. Karnataka	Nil
	2. Kerala	Nil
4.	Bhubaneswar Region	
	Orrisa	Nil
5.	Hyderabad Region	
	1. Andhra Pradesh	28
	2. Tamil Nadu	18
6.	Jabalpur Region	
	1. Madhya Pradesh	04
	2. Chhattisgarh	Nil
7.	Karma Region	
	1. Bihar	Nil
	2. Jharkhand	02
8.	Kolkata Region	
	West Bengal, Assam & Tripura	31
9.	Nagpur Region	
	Maharashtra & Goa	32

Statement-II

Additional benefits given to female beedi workers during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Regions/States	Year	Maternity benefits	
			Number of beneficiaries	Amount (Rs. in thousand)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer			
	Rajasthan & Gujarat	2004-05	266	266
		2005-06	344	344
		2006-07	420	420
2.	Allahabad Region			
	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	2004-05	289	282
		2005-06	242	242
		2006-07	348	348

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bangalore Region			
	Karnataka & Kerala	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	1081 1375 1028	1081 1375 1028
4.	Bhubaneswar Region			
	Orrisa	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	386 227 336	355 227 336
5.	Hyderabad Region			
	Andhra Pradesh & Tamilnadu	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	318 104 228	232 97 239
6.	Jabalpur Region			
	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	348 549 409	310 577 429
7.	Karma Region			
	Bihar & Jharkhand	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	96 Nil 81	90 Nil 81
8.	Kolkata Region			
	West Bengal, Assam & Tripura	2004-05 2006-07	2704 3289	1818 3287
9.	Nagpur Region			
	Maharashtra & Goa	2004-05 2005-06 2006-07	604 244 671	558 244 671

Assistance from CRF and NCCF

3662. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) had become outdated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to suggest revision in the norms;

(d) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its Report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is concerned with matters relating to items and norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). They have informed that it has generally been a practice to review and revise the items and norms of assistance immediately, after the Award of the successive Finance Commissions is accepted by the Government. Subsequent to the Award of the 12th Finance Commission, an Expert Group was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, to review and recommend revision of the items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF.

MHA have further informed that the Government of India, considering the recommendations of the Expert Group, has approved the revision of items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF, which have been circulated by them to all the States and concerned Central Ministries on 27th June, 2007.

[Translation]

Mobile Phone Service

3663. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the population and areas in Gujarat which have been covered by mobile phone service;

(b) the details of extension and development works of mobile phone service in Gujarat which is under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the mobile phone service of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (B.S.N.L.) is functioning unsatisfactorily;

(d) if so, whether the functioning of B.S.N.L. officials have been assessed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered 70,800 sq. kms. of area and around 3,38,50,000 population by its Global System for Mobile (GSM) mobile services in the State of Gujarat.

(b) Presently the expansion work of 3.5 lakhs GSM lines is in progress and BSNL has further planned addition of 15 lakhs GSM lines progressively in the next three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Sir, functioning of BSNL officials is assessed regularly and their performance is quite satisfactory resulting in overall positive growth of BSNL's telecom network across the country.

Theft of Ammunition from HAL Factory

3664. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cartridges were stolen from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) factory of Ojhar, Maharashtra despite strict security system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to hold an inquiry into the incident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four types of items were stolen on 8.4.2007.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, departmental enquiry was conducted by HAL. On the basis of enquiry report, necessary measures are being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Artisans

3665. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is undertaking out-sourcing of its activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the KVIC has launched any scheme to provide insurance cover to the artisans;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of persons so far covered under the scheme and the amount of compensation being paid in case of any mishappenings to the artisans; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has undertaken outsourcing of its activities mainly in the following fields:

(i) **Quality and Design Development:** As an endeavour to improve the quality of khadi products, the laboratory infrastructure available with the Textiles Committee (a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963), is being out-sourced by KVIC for testing the quality of khadi. Further, services of expert textile designers from

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFTs) are being obtained for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) scheme.

(ii) **Economic Research:** KVIC has been outsourcing services of different expert organizations in order to conduct surveys and studies of various schemes/ programmes.

(iii) **Research & Development:** Due to the nature of functioning of khadi and village industries (KVI) activities, it was imperative to outsource the research and development infrastructure to reputed Research and Development (R&D) institutes for the benefit of KVI sector. Accordingly, KVIC has entered interfaces with 12 such national level reputed R&D laboratories for availing their R&D input for the benefit of KVI units.

(iv) **Publicity:** KVIC brings out various periodical publications, the printing of which is outsourced through a group of empaneled printers.

(v) **Human Resource Development:** KVIC runs 38 training centres in different parts of the country and the faculties for these training centres are outsourced from various organizations like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Banks, District Industries Centres (DICs), Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs); etc.

(c) and (d) A Group Insurance Scheme for khadi workers, namely, "Khadi Karigar Janashree Bima Yojana" (JBY) was launched through KVIC on 15th August 2003 with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as insurers. The Scheme covers spinners, weavers, pre-spinning artisans and post-weaving artisans engaged in the khadi sector.

The Shiksha Sahayog Yojana is add-on coverage under JBY, without any additional premium. The wards of the khadi artisans (benefit restricted to two children per member/family) covered under the JBY are entitled to receive upto Rs. 1200 per annum per ward towards tuition fee under the Shiksha Sahayog Yojana. This benefit is only for wards studying in classes IX to XII, including those studying in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI).

The annual premium payable for each khadi artisan insured is @Rs.100/- from the year 2005-06 onwards, which is shared as under:

Share borne by	Amount of Annual Premium (Rs.)
1	2
Artisan	12.50
Social Security Fund of Government of India	50.00

1	2
KVIC	12.50
Khadi Institution concerned (employers of khadi workers)	25.00
Total Premium	100.00

(e) and (f) The year-wise number of khadi artisans covered during X Five Year Plan are given below:

Period	Artisans covered (Number of persons)
1st year - 15.08.2003 to 14.08.2004	1,17,337
2nd year - 15.08.2004 to 14.08.2005	1,76,951
3rd year - 15.08.2005 to 14.08.2006	2,14,128
4th year - 15.08.2006 to 14.08.2007	2,25,900

This scheme provides each artisan with risk cover of upto (i) Rs. 30,000 for natural death and Rs. 75,000 for death due to accident, (ii) Rs. 75,000 for permanent disability (loss of two eyes/limbs of use) due to accident, and (iii) Rs. 37,500 for partial disability.

Simplification of Licence Norms

3666. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has simplified the National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) licence norms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has simplified the NLD and ILD Licensing norms w.e.f. 14.12.2005. The details are given below:

- (i) The entry fee for NLD Licence has been reduced from 100 crores to 2.5 crores and that for ILD Licence from 25 crores to 2.5 crores.
- (ii) The Annual Licence fee has been reduced from 15% to 6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for both NLD and ILD Licence.
- (iii) The mandatory roll out obligation for NLD Licence has been removed and that for ILD Licence has been reduced to setting up of one ILD gateway.
- (iv) The network and paid up capital requirement for NLD Licence have been reduced from Rupees 2500 crores and 250 crores to 2.5 crores each and for ILD Licence from 25 crores to 2.5 crores.

- (v) The Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. 400 crores for NLD Licence has been removed while for ILD Licence it has been reduced from 25 crores to 2.5 crores.

[Translation]

Employment Generation Rate

3667. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) the rate of increase in employment generation and unemployment in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the rate of increase in unemployment at present is higher than the rate during 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the reasons for increase in the unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour Force Surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The annual rate of increase in employment as per usual status basis was 2.95 per cent during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 whereas the annual rate of increase in unemployment was 3.7 per cent during the same period.

(b) Unemployment rate on usual status basis has marginally increased to 2.3 per cent in 2004-05 from 2.2 percent in 1999-2000. Rate of increase in unemployment during the periods 1999-2000 to 2004-05 and 1993-94 to 1999-2000 has remained almost unchanged at 3.7 percent per year.

(c) Increase in unemployment is mainly attributed to higher rate of growth in working age population than total population, increase in labour force participation rates, particularly among women and higher unemployment among educated youth.

Investment in Agriculture

3668. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to increase investment in the field of agriculture science and in the infrastructural and policy research; and

(b) if so, the details of the plans being formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has submitted Eleventh Five Year Plan Proposal amounting Rs. 12176.40 crore to Planning Commission for strengthening ongoing research and addressing the emerging issues in agricultural research and education. In addition, a proposal for "Mini Mission-1 on Wheat, Rice and Pulses" with an outlay of Rs. 1130 crore to address national food security issue has been proposed to Planning Commission. For up-gradation of infrastructure and to enhance regional research and education capabilities a proposal "Enhancing Regional Research and Educational Capabilities-Modernization of Research and Instructional Farms and Laboratories of the Agricultural Universities" with an outlay of Rs. 760 crore has also been submitted to the Planning Commission.

[English]

Scarcity of Water

3669. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received reports from States that their lakes and wells have dried and cities have been forced to ration the water supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Union Government proposes to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Urban Development have informed that no reports from States have been received that their lakes and wells have dried and that cities have been forced to ration the water supply.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Urban Development has launched the programmes of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) in December, 2005 which deal with development of urban infrastructure in an integrated manner and one of the components of these programmes is the preservation of water bodies.

Incomplete Work under SSA

3670. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the works sanctioned and undertaken under Secondary Switching Area (SSA) during the year 2006-2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrangement has been made to verify work done in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made any arrangements for early payment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Quality of the work done is verified by officer nominated for Acceptance Testing and quality of the work is verified by official / officer subordinate to the officer issuing work order.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Instructions had been issued for making timely payment in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Work Order/Agreement.

Production of KIWI Fruit

3671. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hill areas of many States in India like Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal have huge potential for the production of Kiwi fruit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to facilitate the production of Kiwi fruit in the viable areas in different parts of the country;

(d) whether the Kiwi fruit is being imported by India on large scale; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Recognising the potential for development of various horticultural crops including Kiwi fruit, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal". Under the above scheme, kiwi fruit has been identified as one of the thrust crops for increasing area under cultivation and for

enhancing productivity of kiwi in potential States like Arunachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to farmers for cultivation of kiwi and for creation of infrastructure such as establishment of nurseries, community water tanks, drip irrigation, adoption of IPM practices, etc. for production of adequate number of planting material and for improving the productivity of kiwi fruits in these state.

(d) and (e) Kiwi fruit is not being imported to India on a large scale.

Infrastructure for Horticulture Sector

3672. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor infrastructure facilities has hampered the growth of Horticulture in the country;

(b) if so, whether Indian Council for Research on International Economic Research has conducted any study in this regard;

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

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to improve infrastructure for horticulture sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations has recently done a study on "Can horticulture be a success story for India". A part of the report looks into the supply chain inefficiency and infrastructure issue. The report emphasizes investment to improve the infrastructure condition and reduce the post harvest losses in the horticulture sector to increase the per unit productivity and per capita availability of fruits and vegetables. The general constraints faced by horticulture sector is inadequate grading and packaging facilities, poor marketing infrastructure, lack of agro-processing plants, inadequate marketing credit, lack of proper market organization, proper pricing, uniform grading and standardization of weights and measures, inadequate and poor dissemination of market information, poor post harvest handling, low and declining productivity.

(d) A Central Sector Scheme for "Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" is being implemented in the country to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors to cater to the post harvest requirements of handling, value addition and marketing of surplus of various farm products including the horticultural produce. Under National Horticulture Mission, a component for setting up of modern terminal markets is

covered. The terminal markets would be linked to a number of collection centres, conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. Under the public-partnership model envisaged for the terminal market projects, the private enterprises would bring the capital and management, the State Government will provide the regulatory clearance and the Central Government would participate in partly funding the equity capital of the project. In addition to terminal markets, financial assistance is being provided for taking up various activities involving investment in infrastructure for horticulture such as setting up of seed infrastructure, disease forecasting units, plant health clinics, leaf analysis labs and infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and marketing under National Horticulture Mission as well as Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim and three Himalayan States. During the last two years (2005-06 & 2006-07) an amount of Rs.8335.54 lakhs has been released to these States under National Horticulture Mission for setting up of Horticulture Infrastructures in public and private sectors.

Besides, National Horticulture Board provides assistance for establishment of horticulture infrastructure under the schemes of development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management and capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce.

Production of Kharif Crops

3673. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of Kharif crops has increased as compared to the corresponding period of last year as reported in Financial Express dated August 23, 2007;

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

(c) the details of targets fixed by the Government in term of percentage under National Food Security Mission; and

(d) the manner in which the recent floods have affected the targets of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The news item in "Financial Express" date 123rd August, 2007 reported, inter-alia, about the Fourth Advance Estimates in Kharif 2006-07. Following table gives the production of major Kharif crops during 2006-07 vis-a-vis 2005-06:

Kharif Crop	Kharif Production (Million Tonnes)	
	2006-07*	2005-06
Rice	80.11	78.27
Coarse Cereals	25.67	26.73
Pulses	4.74	4.87
Foodgrains	110.52	109.87
Oilseeds	13.94	16.77
Sugarcane	345.31	281.17
Cotton #	22.70	18.50

* 4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

In million bales of 170 kgs each.

Kharif production of rice, foodgrains, sugarcane and cotton increased in 2006-07 compared to 2005-06 whereas that of coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds are lower.

(c) and (d) Under the National Food Security Mission, it is envisaged to enhance the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by 2011-12. These targets are set for the year 2011-12.

[Translation]

Employees Covered under Provident Fund Act and Employees Pension Scheme, 1995

3674. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 cover all the workers of organised and unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officers have been appointed to ensure proper implementation of provisions of said Acts;

(d) whether allegations have been leveled by Mada Health Sanitation Workers' Union against some officers of Jharkhand State Provident Fund for their failure to ensure implementation of such provisions;

(e) if so, whether responsibilities have been fixed in this regard;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty; and

(g) the action taken by the Government for proper implementation of said Acts for the welfare of Mada workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):
(a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, subject to provisions contained in its Section 16, applies to every establishment, which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule I to the Act or any establishment engaged in an activity notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons. Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is one of the Schemes framed under the Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) MADA (Mining Area Development Authority), Dhanbad was created by a statute enacted by the State Government and it does not fall under the purview of the Act.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Losses due to Fraud by Earthtech Enterprises

3675. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has suffered heavy losses on account of fraud by Earthtech Enterprises Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government for its recovery and against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) NAFED has reported that it has not suffered any loss, so far, on account of fraud by Earthtech Enterprises Ltd. (EEL). However, EEL has not paid its outstanding dues to NAFED fully. NAFED has further reported that it has already initiated action against its erring officials against whom prima-facie some lapses were observed in handling the business with EEL. However, further information is being obtained from NAFED and the same would be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Secret Information on Website

3676. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) whether the images of some vital installations/sensitive areas are available on the internet websites such as 'www.wikimapia.org.', 'www.googleEarth; etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to ban these websites dangerous for the safety of any country at international level;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has also any proposal to make a law to deal with such situations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of images of some vital installations/sensitive areas available on the internet through www.wikimapia.org, www.googleearth etc. and has initiated steps with reference to the matter of hosting of such images on these web sites.

(d) and (e) Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides the legal framework to deal with such situations.

[English]

Visit of Australian Defence Minister

3677. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian Defence Minister has recently visited New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Australian Defence Minister visited India from 10th to 12th July 2007. During his visit the discussions were held on the issues of bilateral interest. An Agreement for the Reciprocal Protection of Exchanged Classified Information of Defence Interest was also signed with Australia during his visit.

[Translation]

VADI Scheme

3678. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing VADI Scheme through NABARD;

(b) if so, whether the said scheme has been started in all States of the country;

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

(d) the extent to which backward people are benefited by the said scheme in the States;

(e) whether the help of private institutions, NGOs is also being taken in the implementation of the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Government of India is not implementing any VADI Scheme through NABARD.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.

3679. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether charge-sheets have been framed against some officials for committing irregularities in the implementation of public-private partnership trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss suffered by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) due to such irregularities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) NAFED has reported that draft charge sheet has been prepared in respect of Shri Homi Rajvansh belonging to Indian Revenue Service, working at that time as Additional Managing Director and has been sent to his parent Department. Also, charge sheets have been issued to its two officers namely Shri S.K. Maggu, Deputy Manager (Accounts) and Shri Donald Masih, Assistant Manager (Accounts) for various omissions and commissions in respect of Public Private Partnership (PPP) trade/Tie-up business.

NAFED has reported that it has not suffered any loss, so far, in the business under Public Private Partnership (PPP) trade. However, further information is being obtained from NAFED and the same would be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

National Fisheries Board

3680. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Fisheries Board has been constituted its head quarter at New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the functions and objectives thereof indicating the places where its Business Centres are proposed to be set up; and
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to solve the problem of unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has been registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Act, 2001 in July, 2006. The main objective of the Board is to bring major activities relating to fisheries and aquaculture for focused attention and professional management by coordinating activities pertaining to fisheries undertaken by different Ministries/Departments in the Central Government and to work in coordination with the States/Union Territories to improve production, processing, storage, transport and marketing of products of capture and culture fisheries. The Head Quarters of NFDB is at Hyderabad where the entire activities of the Board being implemented at different States are coordinated.

(c) The various activities of the Board such as Intensive Aquaculture in Ponds and Tanks, Reservoir Fisheries, Coastal Aquaculture, Deep Sea Fishing and Tuna Processing, Mariculture, Sea Ranching, Seaweed Cultivation, Infrastructure of Post-harvest Processing, Fish Dressing Centres and Solar Drying of Fish Domestic Marketing, etc. would generate considerable employment opportunities in the fisheries sector.

Scheme for Treatment and Reuse of Domestic Waste Water

3681. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes available for the treatment and reuse of domestic waste water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and implementation status of the scheme; and
- (c) the success achieved therein and the steps being taken for more effective implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have reported that Interception & Diversion (I&D) of domestic sewage and its treatment through Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are among the pollution abatement measures taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), of the Ministry of Environment & Forests to mitigate pollution in

rivers. A treatment capacity of 2924 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have further reported that while sanctioning the projects under NRCP, the State Governments and the Implementing Agencies are encouraged to recycle and reuse the treated sewage, wherever possible.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) programme two projects namely, 'Recycle and Reuse of Waste Water' for Nagpur and Conservation of drinking water by harvesting of the tertiary treated sewage for irrigation of green spaces in Chandigarh for treatment and reuse of domestic waste water have also been approved by Ministry of Urban Development.

[Translation]

Shortage of Milk in Delhi due to Floods in Gujarat

3682. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the floods in Gujarat has affected the availability of milk at Mother Dairy booths in Delhi thereby causing short supply to the consumers;
- (b) if so, the shortage of milk in percentage terms; and
- (c) the steps being taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Reduction in Government Celebrations

3683. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is shortening Republic Day and other Government functions;
- (b) if so, the comparative details thereof for the last three years; and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Defence has not taken any specific decision to shorten the duration of the Republic Day Parade and related ceremonies. However, there were some suggestions to reduce the duration of time. The duration of the national functions organized by the Ministry of Defence is determined by taking into account the time requirements for

the ceremonial, military and cultural aspects with due consideration to engaging the spectators' interest.

**Uniform Welfare Package for
War Casualties**

3684. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has sought a Uniform Welfare Package from the Government for all battle casualties on par with much higher amounts given to the next of kin of the five hundred twenty seven (527) soldiers killed and around one thousand four hundred (1400) wounded during Kargil Conflict; and

(b) if so, the reasons for distinction between casualties in war and these arising out of counter insurgency operations on the basis of different level of risk, intensity, of action and the like?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the matter of payment of ex-gratia lump sum compensation a distinction has been made between casualties in war/war like engagements and those arising out of border skirmishes and action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc. It is essential to distinguish between international war/war like engagements and border skirmishes/action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc. keeping in view the intensity of operations and the levels of risks involved. Since the rigour involved in war/war like engagements is much more severe as compared to other operations, there is a need for maintaining a differential in the matter of ex-gratia payments.

Use of IAF Aircraft

3685. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Head quarter irregularly modified eight Aircraft 'A' for VIP use during 1992-1999 and 2001-2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Communication Squadron aircraft meant for use by VIPs are mostly used by senior Air Force Officers;

(d) the total hours of flying undertaken during the last five years, by VIPs and by others including senior Air Force officers; and

(e) the steps taken to check the misuse of aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Air Headquarters (HQ) modified eight aircraft for VIP use during 1992-1999 and 2001-2003 to meet the necessary flying commitments.

The modification of aircraft for VIP role was undertaken mainly for the purpose of providing airlift to airbases in mountainous region such as Leh and Thoise and also in the Eastern region. This was also necessitated as then HS-748 fleet in Air HQ communication Squadron was not operationally suited for use in all areas.

(c) and (d) All flying in the Indian Air Force is conducted as per existing instructions and is well regulated. The civilian VIPs are flown based on their entitlement/clearance by appropriate authority. Senior service officers fly on duty related missions due to operational necessity based on existing instructions.

(e) Necessary instructions exist for regulating the use of IAF/VIP aircraft.

Fake Products

3686. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether large scale prevalence of fake goods in the country has been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years;

(c) whether some other agencies have also been involved to check sale of fake goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the success achieved in checking the sale of fake goods in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No report of large scale prevalence of fake goods in the country has been brought to the notice of the Department of Consumer Affairs recently.

(b) No such data is available with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(c) and (d) Various agencies have been empowered under existing legislations such as the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 etc., to check the sale of fake goods.

(e) The information is not available with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

[Translation]

Pension Bill for Private Sector

3687. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring a separate Bill about the Pension Fund for the private sector employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) No, Sir.

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

Telephone Connections in Naxal Affected Areas

3688. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the people in naxal affected areas in the country have refused to take telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There have been instances of refusal to accept telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in about 440 naxal affected villages in Jharkhand and 1409 villages in Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle only. However, it is not feasible to quantify such refusals, as the applicants do not communicate such reasons in writing.

(c) Every effort is being made to persuade the applicants to accept telephone connections and matter is taken up with the local administration also.

Utilisation of River Water in Tribal Areas

3689. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided funds for utilisation of river water in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY RAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Central government provides financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of irrigation projects in accordance with the guidelines of the programme on the basis of proposals submitted by the State Governments. As per prevailing guidelines of the programme, surface water minor irrigation schemes benefiting tribal area are eligible for 90% grant of project cost included in AIBP. Major and Medium Irrigation Projects benefiting tribal area are also eligible for up to 90% grant of the project cost included in AIBP depending on extent of the tribal areas benefited from the project.

5068 Surface water Minor Irrigation Schemes (SWMIS) of North Eastern States, 47 SWMIS of Himachal Pradesh and 21 SWMIS of Koraput, Bolangir, Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa together estimated to cost Rs. 1098.58 crore mostly benefiting tribal areas have been included in AIBP and Central Loan assistance/Grant amounting to Rs. 682.744 crore has been released for their expeditious completion. 42 SWMIS of Madhya Pradesh, 42 SWMIS of Chhattisgarh, 7 SWMIS of Andhra Pradesh and 19 SWMIS of Maharashtra benefiting tribal area are also included in AIBP and grant amounting to 90% of cost of the schemes included in AIBP is provided for these schemes. In addition, grant is provided to major and medium irrigation projects benefiting tribal areas up to 90% of project cost included in AIBP depending on extent of tribal areas benefited from these projects.

Export of Software and Hardware

3690. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN:

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

(a) whether hardware has been exported during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount of export made during the above period and as on date;

(c) the names of the countries which are importing software and hardware from India;

(d) the estimated amount of export likely to be made by the year 2010;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide more and more facilities to the exporters to boost the export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated export of electronics hardware during the last three years is given below:

Year	Export (Rs. in crores)	Export (US\$ million)
2004-05	8000	1781
2005-06	9625	2174
2006-07	12500	2890

Source: Electronics and Computer Software Export promotion Council (ESC)

(c) During the year 2006-07, 125 countries had imported software and 191 countries had imported hardware from India. Region-wise destination of electronics hardware

and computer software and services exports during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) As per Report of the Working Group on Information Technology for Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), the export of electronics hardware by the year 2010-2011 is estimated to be US\$5.9 billion and the export of computer software and services by the year 2010-2011 is estimated to be US\$72.1 billion.

(e) and (f) Central Government formulates the Foreign Trade Policy, incorporating therein various export promotional schemes. The policy is amended from time to time, as per needs, to provide reasonable and just facilities for boosting Foreign Trade.

Statement

Major Destinations for Electronic Hardware & Computer Software & Services Exports during 2006-2007

Value: Rs. Cr.
(US\$ Min.)

Destination	Electronic Hardware		Computer Software		Total	
	Value	%age of Sectoral Total	Value	%age of Sectoral Total	Value *	%age of Sectoral Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
North America	3410.94 (788.66)	27.29	90109.47 (20834.56)	61.72	93520.41 (21623.22)	59.00
Europe (EU Countries)	3187.82 (737.07)	25.50	39420.00 (9114.45)	27.00	42607.82 (9851.52)	26.88
Singapore, Hongkong & Other South Asian Countries	2640.86 (610.60)	21.13	4500.00 (1040.46)	3.08	7140.86 (1651.07)	4.51
Japan Korea & Other Far East Countries	710.19 (164.21)	5.68	3314.20 (766.29)	2.27	4024.39 (930.49)	2.54
Middle East Countries	1360.46 (314.56)	10.88	2259.81 (522.50)	1.55	3620.27 (837.06)	2.28
Europe (Non EU Countries)	69.39 (16.04)	0.56	2810.50 (649.83)	1.93	2879.89 (665.87)	1.82
Australia & Other Oceanic Countries	90.51 (20.93)	0.72	2460.82 (568.98)	1.69	2551.33 (589.90)	1.61
African Countries	512.42 (118.48)	4.10	710.00 (164.16)	0.49	1222.42 (282.64)	0.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Latin America	242.94 (56.17)	1.94	322.31 (74.52)	0.22	565.25 (130.69)	0.36
Russia & C.I.S. Countries	274.47 (63.46)	2.20	92.89 (21.48)	0.06	367.36 (84.94)	0.23
Total	12500.00 (2890.17)	100.00	146000.00 (33757.23)	100.00	158500.00 (36647.40)	100.00

Average Exchange Rate 1US\$ = 48.40 (43.25)

[English]

R&D Programme for E-bomb

3691. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Research and Development (R&D) Project for the development of E-bomb technology is being undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given this responsibility to IIT, Kharagpur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the cooperation being extended to the IIT in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government has not given this responsibility to IIT, Kharagpur.

[Translation]

Proposal of Bio-Control Agents Laboratories

3692. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from some of the State Governments for setting up of bio-control agents laboratories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said laboratories are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. During 8th and 10th Five Year Plan in total 38 proposals from 31 States/UTs for establishment of State Bio control Laboratories (SBCLs) have been received.

(b) and (c) Out of 38 SBCLs, construction of 30 laboratories has been completed and 26 are fully functional producing bio-control agents/bio-pesticides. The construction work of the remaining laboratory buildings is under progress and will be completed shortly as per reports received from the States.

[English]

Common Service Centres

3693. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed for setting up of Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the country by the end of the year 2007, State-wise;

(b) the number of CSCs set up till June 30, 2007, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for not achieving the target during 2007-08, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Common Service Centre Scheme was approved by the Government in September 2006. The Scheme is being implemented in a Public Private Partnership. Targets for number of CSCs to be established in each state have been fixed by the Central Government as per details given in the enclosed Statement-I. At the State level, time bound targets for implementation are assigned to the private sector implementation partner - termed the Service Centre Agency (SCA) - once the SCA has been selected by the State Government and the contract with the SCA signed. Till date SCAs have been appointed in three States and their implementation timelines is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) and (c) The number of CSCs set up as per the implementation timelines for the three States, as well as the reasons for shortfalls if any are indicated in the enclosed Statements.

Statement-I			
State/Union Territory	Number of CSCs Allocated	1	2
1	2		
Andaman	91	Kerala	3180
Andhra Pradesh	4687	Lakshadweep	4
Arunachal Pradesh	678	Madhya Pradesh	9232
Assam	4375	Maharashtra	7285
Bihar	7516	Manipur	399
Chandigarh	4	Meghalaya	1004
Chhattisgarh	3385	Mizoram	136
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	Nagaland	220
Daman and Diu	4	Orissa	8558
Delhi	28	Pondicherry	15
Goa	60	Punjab	2112
Gujarat	3090	Rajasthan	6626
Haryana	1159	Sikkim	75
Himachal Pradesh	3353	Tamil Nadu	5439
Jammu and Kashmir	1109	Tripura	145
Jharkhand	5436	Uttar Pradesh	17909
Karnataka	4901	Uttaranchal	2804
		West Bengal	6797

Statement-II*CSC Roll-Out Status as on Sep. 3, 07***Jharkhand**

MSA signed on 11th April 2007

SCAs selected (1) UTL - Orion e-Gov Services for Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Kolhan (2) Zoom Developers Pvt Ltd. for Dumka Alternatives for India for Palamu

Implementation Plan

Total CSCs: 4562 (10th July '07 - 10th April, '08)	UTL - Orion e- Gov. (2943)	Zoom Developers (1019)	Alternative of India (600)	Remarks
10% by 10th July, 2007 (Status as on date)	289	101	60	1. Zoom has completed 10% target 2. UTL-Orion e-Gov Services - not completed
	(483)	(106)	(37)	Reason: Space/premises not yet finalized- the SCA has requested for Govt. space 3. AID: Not completed due to law & order situation
25% by 10th October, 2007	725	252	150	
75% by 10th January, 2008	2174	756	450	
100% by 10th April, 2008	2943	1019	600	

West Bengal

MSAs signed on 5th April with SREI and 7th May with Reliance Communications

SCAs selected: (1) SREI Sahaj e-Village Ltd. for 14 districts including Hoogly (2) Reliance Communications

Implementation Plan

Total CSCs: 6797	SREI Sahaj e-Village (4937)	Reliance Communications (1860)	Remarks
October 2007	1919 by 16th October, '07	434 by Oct., '07	Expected to meet the targets
November 2007	1028 by 19th November, '07	Not provided	
December 2007	867 by 15th December, '07	Not provided	
February 2008	1123 by 14th February, '08	Not provided	
April 2008	4937 by April, '08	1860 by May, '08	

Haryana

MSA signed on 17th April, 2007

SCAs selected - (1) 3i Infotech Limited for Gurgaon Division (2) SARK Systems, Jak Software and Pearl Beverages Ltd. for Ambala & Hisar Division (3) Comat Technologies, Hughes Commu. Hughes Network Consortium for Rohtak Div.

Implementation Plan

Total CSCs: 1263 (1159 in Rural - 104 in Urban)	3i Infotech Ltd. (322)	SARK Systems (649)	Comat Technologies (292)	Remarks
20% by July, 2007	65	130	60	Not met the target. Expected 10 meet by Sep., '07 Reason: Connectivity/power, other infrastructure not yet ready:
40% by October, 2007	130	260	120	
70% by January, 2008	225	445	210	
100% by April, 2008	322	649	292	

Note: One CSC in Village Chikan in district Panchkula under Ambala Division has been established. Reasons for not meeting the target:

1. Identification of 100% CSC locations as per the parameters laid down in the RFP delayed the process
2. Selection of Government premises required extensive interaction with the respective Deputy Commissioners and other officials of District Administration for final approval of suitable locations. The draft of possession letter to be signed by local Administration and the respective SCAs for all the CSCs were processed which also took time.
3. Connectivity at most of the places is yet to be established.

Modernisation of Telecom Factories

3694. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of equipments/products being manufactured in all the telecom factories of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) whether any modernization programme is being proposed to implement to enable the factories to manufacture equipments/products to suit the latest technological developments in telecom sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of equipment/products being manufactured in all telecom factories of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 27.

(b) Modernization programme is being implemented to enable factories to manufacture equipments/products to suit the latest technological developments in telecom sector. Continuous efforts have been and are being made to modernize the Telecom Factories (TF) and induct new products in the product list.

(c) SIM Card Plant with latest technology imported

from Germany has been set up in Telecom Factory, Mumbai during 2006-07. There is a proposal to enhance the capacity of the Plant from present 10 million SIM cards per annum to 40 million SIM card per annum. Telecom Factories have enhanced the production of cellular tower, which is an important element in telecom network, during last five years. Telecom Factory Kolkata and Mumbai have already started production of IN Public Call Office (PCO) from the year 2004-05. Telecom Factory Kolkata has set up production facilities for Jointing Kits and commenced production from the year 2005-06. A galvanizing plant is under installation at Telecom Factory Kharagpur (under Kolkata Circle). Telecom Factory Kolkata and Mumbai have started production of CT Block (MDF type) to meet the demand of broadband. Telecom Factory Mumbai has also commenced production of FDMS and Patch Panel Antenna from 2004-05. The proposal of formation of Joint Venture for manufacturing of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Hand Held Terminals (HHTs) and Fixed Wireless Terminals (FWTs) is under consideration. Proposals for production of Scratch card and Digital Distribution Frame (DDF) are also under consideration.

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

IT Exports from Andhra Pradesh

3695. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

the details of steps taken by the Union Government in coordination with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), State Government, Software Technology Parks of India, Hyderabad to make Andhra Pradesh as the highest exporter of Information Technology exports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI):- The Government of India has launched the STP scheme with the objective of attracting investments in the IT sector and to promote exports from IT and Information Technology Enabled Services. With this objective STPI, Hyderabad was established in the year 1991 and has been playing an important role in creating right environment system in the State of Andhra Pradesh and working closely with other stake-holders such as State Government, Industry, Academic Institutions, Associations like NASSCOM and Hyderabad Software Exporters Association.

The IT Industry in the State of Andhra Pradesh is growing significantly and contributing to the extent of 13% of the National IT & ITES Exports. During the year 2006-07, the Exports from State has touched Rs. 18582 crores as against 12521 crores in the previous year 2005-06.

The Exports growth from the State of Andhra Pradesh is much higher than the national exports growth rate. Setting up of IT incubators in various Tier II cities like Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Tirupati etc. has been taken up. STPI is also creating state of art incubation in Hyderabad to further encourage more new IT companies to set up and expand their operations in the State particularly in high end services including product innovation design and engineering services etc.

[Translation]

Speed Post Agents

3696. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has formulated any scheme to employ speed post agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to grant approval to private agents for setting up of authorised outlets for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The system of outsourcing the collection of Speed Post was initiated by the Department of Posts in 1998. The details of the scheme are given below:

- Speed Post Collection agents are appointed for a particular locality or group of localities depending on the business potential in that area.
- The agent will arrange collection of articles from the customers in the localities/locations allotted to him by the Manager, Speed Post Centre.
- The agent should open a post office savings bank account and deposit Rs. 10,000, pledged to the President of India as security deposit.
- The agents should have passed the Higher Secondary School examination; and should have a very good knowledge of the local language and English.
- The agents are paid commission based on the monthly revenue.
- This scheme has been extended to all the Speed Post

Centres having revenue of Rs. One Lakh per month in 2006.

- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

**Posts Vacant in Indian Institutes
of Entrepreneurship**

3697. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of posts lying vacant at present in the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under various categories, Category-wise;
(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill the above vacant posts;
(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme/plan to make IIE one of the best National Institute in the field of entrepreneurship; and
(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The posts lying vacant in IIE, Guwahati at present are as under:-

Name of the Posts	Number of Vacancies
Accounts Officer	01
Senior Documentation Assistant	01
Librarian	01

(b) For the post of Accounts Officer, the selection has already been made and offer of appointment issued to the selected candidate. The vacancies in the grades of Senior Documentation Assistant and Librarian are required to be filled up on the basis of promotion, for which necessary action has already been initiated.

(c) and (d) Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati is one of the three national level institutions set up by the Government for promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises through training and entrepreneurship development. Some of the important schemes/projects of IIE for which Government has provided assistance are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/Project	Allocation (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Gemstone Cutting & Polishing Training Cum Demonstration with Incubation Support Centre	41.80
2.	Hosiery & Woolen Garment Manufacturing Training Cum Demonstration with Incubation Centre	47.50
3.	Business Facilitation & Development Centre	13.68
4.	Gems Studded Jewellery Designing & Marketing Training Cum Demonstration with Incubation Support Centre	36.34

Besides the above, Government is also providing grants for capital and revenue expenditure on annual basis.

Sarvapriya Scheme

3698. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the 'Sarvapriya' Scheme for distribution of select items is being operated by National Cooperative Consumer Fund (NCCF) for the benefit of common people particularly those belonging to lower income group;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the items being distributed during each of last three years alongwith their quantum and price;
(c) whether the NCCF has finalised any Programme to open consumer retail outlets in the urban and rural areas to compete with Big Private sector companies operating in wholesale and retail sector; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Sarvapriya Scheme was launched by NCCF in July, 2000 to distribute 11 selected items of daily use namely four varieties of pulses, salt, tea, toilet soap, detergent cake, exercise notebooks, edible oil and tooth paste. The Scheme did not find good response from all the States/UTs. However, some of the States like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P. & West Bengal are obtaining supplies under the Scheme from time to time. A statement showing the details of items supplied to beneficiaries during last three years under the Scheme is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement*Details of supply of selected commodities under Sarvapriya Scheme During the month of March, 2005.*

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Item	Supplies made upto February, 2005		Supplies made during March, 2005		Progressive total for the period April 04 to March, 05	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	Rajasthan	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	4128 kg.	3.97	-	-	4128 kg.	3.97
		Ex. Note Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	3.97	-	-	-	3.97
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Toilet soap	1323840 pcs	41.39	-	-	1323840 pcs	41.39
		Salt	393855.50 kg.	24.21	40000 kg.	1.30	433955.50 kg.	25.51
		Total	-	65.60	-	1.30	-	66.90
3.	Maharashtra	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Toilet soap	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Salt	1400	0.93	-	-	1400 kg.	0.93
		Tea	1000 kg.	0.74	-	-	1000 kg.	0.74
		Babool T. Paste	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain soap	42080 pcs	1.31	-	-	42080 pcs	1.31
		Total	-	2.98	-	-	-	2.98
5.	West Bengal	Tea	26473 kg.	21.43	4600 kg.	3.86	31073 kg.	25.29
		Total	-	21.43	-	3.86	-	25.29
Total		Salt	395255.50 kg.	25.14	40000 kg.	1.30	435255.50	26.44
		Tea	31601 kg.	26.14	4600 kg.	3.86	36201 kg.	30.00
		Ex. Note. Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Toilet soap	1365920 pcs	42.70	-	-	1365920 pcs	42.70
Grand Total			-	93.98	-	5.16	-	99.14

Details of supply of selected commodities under Sarvapriya Scheme During the month of March, 2006

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Item	Supplies made upto February, 2006		Supplies made during March, 2006		Progressive total for the period upto March, 06	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Rajasthan	Salt	659882 kg.	110.86	-	-	-	110.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Tea	1390 kg.	01.31	-	-	-	01.31
		Ex. Note Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	112.17	-	-	-	112.17
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Toilet soap	1377600 pcs	45.05	-	-	-	45.05
		Salt	214000 kg.	15.25	-	-	-	15.25
		Total	-	60.30	-	-	-	60.30
3.	Maharashtra	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Toilet soap	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Babool T. Paste	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain soap	16800 pcs	0.51	-	-	-	0.51
		Total	-	0.51	-	-	-	0.51
5.	West Bengal	Tea	81000 kg.	68.02	5450 kg.	4.61	86450 kg.	72.63
		Total	-	68.02	-	4.61	-	72.63
	Total	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Ex. Note. Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain soap	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Grand Total	-	-	-	-	-	245.61

Details of supply of selected commodities under Sarvapriya Scheme During the month of March, 2007

(Figures in lakhs of Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Item	Supplies made upto February, 2007		Supplies made during March, 2007		Progressive total for the period upto March, 2007	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Rajasthan	Salt	688882 kg.	111.78	-	-	688882 kg.	111.78
		Tea	1390 kg.	01.31	-	-	1390 kg.	01.31
		Ex. Note Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	113.09	-	-	-	113.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Toilet soap	1377600 pcs.	45.05	2,62,080 pcs	9.31	1639680 pcs.	54.36
		Salt	263800 kg.	23.46	-	-	263800 kg.	23.46
		Total	-	68.51	-	9.31	-	77.82
3.	Maharashtra	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Toilet soap	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Salt	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Babool T. Paste	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain soap	16800 pcs.	0.51	-	-	16800 pcs.	0.51
		Total	-	0.51	-	-	-	0.51
5.	West Bengal	Tea	147407 kg.	124.91	4425 kg.	3.74	151832 kg.	128.65
		Total	-	124.91	-	3.74	-	-128.65
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Salt	15000 kg.	0.56	-	-	15000 kg.	0.56
		Tea	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain Soap	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	0.56	-	-	-	0.56
	Total	Salt	967682 kg.	-	-	-	967682 kg.	-
		Tea	148797 kg.	-	4425 kg.	-	153222 kg.	-
		Ex. Note. Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bargain soap	1394400 pcs.	-	2,62,080 pcs	9.31	1656480 pcs	-
		Grand Total		307.58	-	13.05	-	320.63

**Skill Development Initiative
for Workers**

3699. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently approved a scheme namely Skill Development Initiative (SDI) for workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons proposed to be trained under the said scheme during the Eleventh Plan; and

(d) the total amount earmarked/sanctioned for the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Scheme "Skill Development Initiative". The scheme will be implemented over a period of 5 years (2007-12). One million persons would be trained or their existing skills would be tested and certified during 11th plan period under this scheme.

Total outlay for the scheme is Rs 550 crore.

[Translation]

Providing Grants to Farmers

3700. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision of providing grants to farmers for the growth of sugarcane production and fishery sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly with reference to the grants given for Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Cotton farmers of Maharashtra have not received their dues of last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government for ensuring speedy payment to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to sustain the growth of sugarcane production, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture is implemented in 23 States/Union Territories including Maharashtra. The scheme provides assistance for field demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, farm implements/machinery, heat treatment plants, production of planting material and drip irrigation. An amount of Rs. 1275.25 lakh have been allocated for the implementation of the scheme in Maharashtra during 2007-08.

The Government of India, through Centrally Sponsored/ Central sector schemes, provides financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territories for development of Fisheries Sector including support to the fishers. An amount of Rs. 2049.19 lakh was released to Maharashtra during tenth five year plan.

(c) There are no pending dues of cotton farmers for cotton procured by the Cotton Corporation of India and Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation Limited during last year in Maharashtra.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Restructuring of ITI

3701. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize and restructure Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) Ltd. with a view to make it efficient and competitive and capable of playing a leading role as telecom equipment manufacturer and exporter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to the rapid changes in telecom market scenario, the telecom equipment manufacturing industry need to be modernized on a continuous basis to cope up with the fast technological changes and market need. Government have been taking steps for boosting of telecom equipment manufacturing and revival of ITI.

[Translation]

Payment of Uniform Cloth

3702. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payments in lieu of uniform cloth provided to the group 'C' and 'D' employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has not been made so far during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The payments in lieu of uniform cloth provided to the group 'C' and 'D' employees of the MTNL has not been made during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the observation of Audit and the expenditure, it was decided to stop the above expenditure.

Procurement of Guns

3703. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bofors and Soltem artillery guns did not succeed in field trials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether any other alternative artillery guns are available in the international market to meet the requirements of the Army; and

(d) the time by which the tender for the said purpose is likely to be invited?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) As per the trials conducted by the Army for procurement of towed guns, neither of the guns fielded by M/s BAE Systems and Soltem has succeeded. However, General Staff Evaluation based on the trials is underway. As and when the same is finalized, appropriate decision as per

DPP 2006 would be taken in the matter. Other guns of same calibre are also available in the international market. Whether they meet our requirements, can only be confirmed after trial evaluation. No time frame can be indicated for future action.

[English]

FDI in Defence PSU

3704. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted 50 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) as per the recommendation of Kelkar Committee;

(b) if so, whether the Central Industrial Trade Union (CITU) alongwith Central Trade Unions, Defence Employees Federations, DPSU unions demanded scrapping of Kelkar Committee's recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Neither the Government has permitted 50% FDI in Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) nor has the Kelkar Committee made such a recommendation.

(b) and (c) The Defence Employees' Federations had demanded scrapping of some of the Kelkar Committee's recommendations. Government as a policy has no proposal to increase the limit of FDI in the Defence sector beyond 26%.

Illegal Capturing of Indian Fishermen

3705. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen illegally captured by Srilankan and Pakistan Navy during the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by Indian Government to get release of Indian fishermen from both the countries;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached among these countries regarding fishing, demarcation of jurisdiction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) During the last two years, i.e. 2005 and 2006, a total of 639 Indian fishermen were apprehended by the Pakistani authorities. During the same period, 13 Indian fishermen were taken in Sri Lankan custody on charges other than fishing/poaching.

(b) Cases of Indian fishermen apprehended/taken into custody by Sri Lanka and Pakistan are promptly taken up with the respective Governments.

(c) and (d) While no agreement has been signed with Pakistan in this regard, as per the bilateral agreements signed with the Sri Lankan Government in 1974 and 1976, International Maritime Boundary Line has been demarcated.

Mixed Farming

3706. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey on mixed farming; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Comprehensive survey on mixed farming, which is growing two or more crops together in the same field, has not been done. However, the Ministry of Agriculture in its study titled "State of the Indian Farmer — A Millennium Study" has identified, in its Ninth Volume, such practice in some States.

Decline in Employment in Organised Manufacturing Sector

3707. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI:

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

(a) whether the employment growth in the country has not been at par with the growth in the economy during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard indicating the employment generated during each of the last three years as a result of economic reforms;

(c) whether the employment opportunities in organised manufacturing sector has been declining during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to create more jobs in organised manufacturing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour Force Surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The Survey reports for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05 indicate that work force which was 374 million in 1993-94 increased to 459 million in 2004-2005, an increase of around 85 million which works out to 8.5 million per annum during the period. Government has been attempting employment

generation through normal growth process of the economy as well as through special employment generation programmes, in rural and urban areas, such as Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY); Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY); Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) etc.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, employment in organised manufacturing sector has declined from 60.04 lakh in 2003 to 56.19 lakh in 2005. The Approach Paper to Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million job opportunities during the 11th Five Year Plan for the economy as a whole which will include creation of jobs in organised manufacturing sector also in addition to employment generation through normal growth process of the economy.

Changes in Defence Policy

3708. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any changes in its Defence Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed changes would result in heavy expenditure on the Defence purchases in the next two decades; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (d) India's defence policy includes defence of our national territory, including island territories, off shore resources and assets, maritime trade routes and airspace and whenever required, securing an internal environment whereby nation is insured against any threat to its unity, core values and peaceful development. There is no change contemplated in this regard. Defence forces are structured, equipped and trained to carry out the task assigned to them to defend the country. The security scenario, technological environment and threat perceptions are reviewed from time to time and depending on the changing scenario, the forces are augmented/restructured and modernized on need basis: This is an ongoing process. Funds commensurate with the requirement as assessed by the Government are provided in Defence budget.

National Agricultural Innovation Project

3709. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a World Bank Financed Scheme on the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) is under implementation at present;

(b) if so, the details of the States in which the scheme is being implemented;

(c) the detail of the area in Maharashtra where the scheme is being implemented;

(d) whether any targets have been fixed for poverty alleviation and income generation through public organization in partnership with farmers groups and private sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far, 4 projects have been sanctioned for implementation under the component on research on sustainable livelihood security covering backward districts identified by the Planning Commission. The districts covered in these 4 projects lie in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

(c) to (e) In Maharashtra, the project covers the areas in the districts of Ahemadnagar, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal and Nandurbar. The targets fixed include, increased farm productivity of participating farmers by 75 percent, increased milk production of small and large ruminants per lactation and increased local employment opportunity by 60 percent in on-farm and off-farm activities, and higher realization of price of farm products through post harvest management, value addition and market linkages by 20 percent. However, these targets are state specific.

Revamping of Animal Genetics and Breeding

3710. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds for revamping the area of animal genetics and breeding during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also reviewed the progress achieved in such areas so far during the Tenth Plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated to various States for such purposes during 2006-07 and 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The genetic

improvement is a long term activity and the Government has initiated a major programme. National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) from October 2000 over a period of ten years, in two phases each of five years, with an allocation of Rs.402 crore for Phase-I as 100 per cent grant-in-aid to the participating States/UTs. In order to consolidate the gains made during Phase-I and enhance the coverage under organized breeding, Phase-II of the project has been initiated from December 2006 for further five years, with an approved allocation of Rs.775.87 crore. At present 28 States and one UT are participating under the project.

(c) and (d) The progress of the scheme is monitored and reviewed from time to time by the Government. For impact analysis of the Phase-I an independent agency National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was engaged. The agency conducted impact analysis in 12 States which completed 2 years of the implementation of NPCBB and on the basis of major findings (Statement-I) of the evaluating agency, proposal for Phase-II was prepared.

(e) State-wise allocation of funds is not made under the project. Funds requirement under the project is assessed on the basis of breeding network, breedable bovine population and strengthening required in existing breeding infrastructure of the State as envisaged under the project. Details of funds released under the project during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 (up to August 2007) are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Major findings of evaluating agency (NABARD) on National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

- i) There should not be any break in release of funds as most of the activities are sequential in nature.
- ii) State implementing agencies (SIAs) constituted under the project are not viable through collection of Artificial Insemination (AI) fees, as full cost recovery is yet to be introduced especially in view of free service provision in most of the States.
- iii) Most of the semen stations were established in between 1970's and 1980's don't have bull sheds and equipments as per MSP (as most of the States converted liquid semen collection centre into frozen semen bull stations) thus, affecting the quality of semen production and finally the breeding programme.
- iv) Private AI workers established under the project are not viable in the three months time in which tapering grant is provided at present. Thus long term performance linked assistance as tapering grant may be provided to the private AI workers to ensure them time to establish them and their viability.
- v) Sourcing and use of quality breeding bulls needs emphasis and for this there must be identification of some agencies to take up bull production programme.

- vi) Supplementation of the fund flow for NPCBB must be enhanced through pooling of resources available in multidisciplinary schemes having livestock components.
- vii) Mechanism for monitoring of focal points (AI centres, sperm stations, farms and breeding programmes) must be strengthened to ensure timely monitoring and action for removal of deficiencies.
- viii) Establishment of Central Monitoring Cell for certification of semen, semen stations and AI bulls so as to ensure quality of breeding inputs.
- ix) The R&D backstopping, networking and qualitative improvement in R&D support in hi-tech areas (e.g. embryo technology, marker assisted selection etc.) and identification of researchable issues by involving NGO's, NDDDB and Universities.

Statement-II

State-wise funds released under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding during 2006-07 and 2007-08

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No	State/UT	2006-07*	2007-08*	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	3575.57	1100.00	4675.57
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
3	Assam	319.50	-	319.50
4	Bihar	499.80	-	499.80
5	Chhattisgarh	250.00	175.42	425.42
6	Gujarat	100.00	-	100.00
7	Goa	-	-	-
8	Haryana	200.00	-	200.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-
10	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-
11	Jharkhand	200.00	-	200.00
12	Karnataka	903.04	-	903.04
13	Kerala	1277.07	100.00	1377.07
14	Madhya Pradesh	711.00	-	711.00
15	Maharashtra	1523.63	300.00	1823.63
16	Manipur	-	-	-
17	Meghalaya	-	-	-
18	Mizoram	30.00	-	30.00
19	Nagaland	80.00	40.00	120.00

1	2	3	4	5
20	Orissa	740.20	-	740.20
21	Punjab	350.00	100.00	450.00
22	Rajasthan	-	-	-
23	Sikkim	51.32	-	51.32
24	Tamil Nadu	400.00	-	400.00
25	Tripura	53.20	-	53.20
26	Uttar Pradesh	100.00	-	100.00
27	Uttarakhand	300.00	100.00	400.00
28	West Bengal	265.00	135.00	400.00
29	Puducherry	-	-	-
Total		11929.33	2050.42	13979.75

* Includes fund released under the special package for suicide prone districts.

[Translation]

Second Green Revolution

3711. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Region including Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has the potential of becoming the centre of the second green revolution as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran', dated August 8, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Science and Technology has recently assured to extend its cooperation for agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as other Eastern States characterized by good soil, adequate rainfall and favourable hydrological profile and water resources and congenial temperature regime has tremendous prospects of making new gains in agricultural production. To harness the potential of these States and to enhance the foodgrain production, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Food Security Mission' has been approved to be launched from 2007-08 in 16 States of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other Eastern States.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Science & Technology will be extending its cooperation to the agriculture sector. The Ministry of Science & Technology is working with the Ministry

of Agriculture for developing a system for monitoring the health of crop, provide detailed information on the state of agriculture at village level using satellite technology and more accurate meso-scale forecasts. The Ministry will also extend its support to disseminating improved quality of agriculture implements and planting material for different crops.

[English]

Agricultural Crisis

3712. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert panel, set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Radhakrishna on agricultural crisis has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of its findings and recommendations alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Expert Group constituted by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai to look into the problems of agricultural indebtedness has submitted its report to the Government. Details of its findings and major recommendations are given in the enclosed Statement. The Government has initiated the process of consultation on the recommendations made by the Expert Group.

Statement

The Report of the Expert Group focuses on institutions and instruments that would strengthen the credit delivery mechanism for the farm community in particular and for rural India in general. While doing so, it takes cognizance of the imperatives of addressing the credit absorption and demand-side issues. Policy interventions and institutional reforms essential for resolving the farm crisis, which go beyond the credit delivery system, also form part of this Report. In the long-term interest of the financial system, a positive repayment culture for bank loans deserves to be actively promoted.

The Report recommends as under:

1. Immediate Credit Measures Include:

Implementation of the Prime Minister's Relief Package: The needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility. Rescheduling of loan of farmers affected by natural calamities. Credit for Rainfed Areas; Formalisation of informal credit; Inclusion of financially excluded; Project-Based Lending;

2. **Financial Architecture include:**

Agency and Mobile Banking; System of Bharat Kisan Credit Card; Reforming Lead Bank Scheme; Credit Counseling for Farmers, Simplifying the Procedure for Mortgages, Simplifying procedure to Reduce Transaction Costs; Computerization of Records; Integration of Micro Finance Institutions with the Mainstream banking, Improved Deployment of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (REDF).

3. **Institutional Architecture include:**

Federations of Farmers – Self Help Groups (SHGs)

4. **Risk Mitigation Measures include:** Crop Insurance, Weather Insurance, Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.

5. **Other Measures include:** Expanding Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.

Vacation of Defence Spectrum

3713. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the valuable spectrum has been occupied by the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, whether its vacation of its spectrum is key to network extension;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry of Communications and IT have written to defence Ministry over the non availability of spectrum and its effect on future of Indian telecommunication; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Defence services have some of their operations in the frequency bands which are used for mobile telecommunication services. Some spectrum had been coordinated/released by defence services.

Defence services have been requested to coordinate and release more spectrum for unimpeded growth of mobile telecommunication services by shifting of certain Defence wireless links between fixed locations to alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC).

[Translation]

Instructions by TRAI

3714. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued such instructions last year which have caused losses to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and benefits to the private companies;

(b) if so, the total number of instructions TRAI has issued to BSNL last year and the areas to which these instructions are related to;

(c) the number of instructions out of them likely to cause loss to BSNL alongwith the estimated value of loss BSNL is likely to suffer due to such instructions;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the loss; and

(e) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. TRAI's endeavour is to ensure that the interest of the consumers are protected and at the same time to nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications in the country. While issuing any instructions in the form of Regulation, Direction, Order etc., TRAI's focus is on promoting level playing field and fair competition among service providers, providing consumer with adequate choice, affordable tariffs etc. in the overall interest of the consumers and the telecom industry.

(b) and (c) During the last financial year i.e. 2006-07 following Regulations/orders were issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) which have caused losses to BSNL:

(i) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Eighth Amendment) Regulation 2007 (2 of 2007) dated 21st March 2007 vide which Access Deficit Amount (ADC) payable to BSNL has been reduced from Rs. 3200 crores to Rs. 2000 crores for the year 2007-08. The loss to BSNL on this account is Rs. 1200 crores.

(ii) The Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) Amendment Regulation 2007 (1 of 2007) dated 2nd February 2007 vide which port charges have been reduced. The annual loss on this account is approximately Rs. 100 crores per annum.

(iii) TRAI's order No. 409-4/2007-FN dated 11th September 2006 regarding Admissibility of Revenue Sharing between Visiting Network and Terminating Network for Roaming calls vide which the claims of BSNL for revenue sharing with private mobile operators has been denied by TRAI. This will affect the revenue loss to BSNL @ Rs. 0.30 per minute for national roaming subscriber and @ 3.25 per minute for International Roaming subscriber.

(iv) TRAI's order No. 409-4/2006-FN dated 17th May 2006 regarding applicability of carriage charges for traffic handed over by mobile operators at level-II TAX for terminating in the SDCA. As per this BSNL will make loss of Rs. 0.10 per minutes on intra circle cellular call handed over at terminating LDCC TAXs of BSNL. The estimated loss on this account is approximately Rs. 264 crores per annum.

(d) and (e) TRAI is an autonomous body formed by act of Parliament to ensure level playing field and proper growth of telecom network. TRAI Act provides for notification of regulations by TRAI under Section 36 of TRAI Act and also empowered to issue directions under Section 13 of the Act. In these matters, Government has no power to interfere except to lay the regulations notified by TRAI in both the Houses of Parliament.

[English]

Children Engaged in Small Scale Industries

3715. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labour engaged in Small Scale Industries (SSIs) on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of child labour rescued during each of the last three years from SSIs;

(c) whether any legal action has been taken against the guilty in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitation and subsistence of child labour after their disengagement from occupations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):

(a) to (d) As per the Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore. Specific data on children engaged or rescued from Small Scale Industries is not maintained by the Government. As per Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. Under the Act, during the period 1997-98 to 2005-06, 3877383 inspections were carried out resulting in 87360 Prosecutions.

(e) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. These children are put into special schools being run under the scheme, where they are

provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc.

[Translation]

National Centre for Agricultural Training

3716. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a national center to provide agriculture training to the women in Maharashtra, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Ground Water Exploration

3717. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government to take up ground water exploration in the hilly areas of Jammu & Kashmir;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to deploy more truck mounted drilling rigs in the area which can negotiate hilly roads and go into the interiors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, finalizes its Annual Action Plan for ground water exploration in consultation with the concerned State agencies and keeping in view the requirements of exploratory data. During 2007-08, the CGWB has planned ground water exploration in Kandi areas of Jammu and bouldery formations of Kashmir valley in the State of J&K.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The CGWB has originally deployed two truck mounted rigs in Jammu & Kashmir. Two additional truck mounted rigs have also been deployed to negotiate hilly areas of the State and interior parts of Kashmir valley.

Suicide by Cotton Growers

3718. SHRI AJJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton growers have committed suicide to escape from money lenders due to the cheaper imported cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The suicide committed by farmers is mainly reported from the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka and the most common reason for committing suicide as reported by the State Governments is indebtedness of farmers. There is no report from any of the State Government reporting import of cheaper cotton as a cause of suicide by cotton growers.

To ameliorate the conditions of the farmers, the Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs. 16978.69 crore, for 31 districts in September 2006, consisting of short term and long term measures. The Package is being implemented over a period of three years. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities. For alleviating the hardship faced by the debt stressed families of the deceased farmers, an ex-gratia assistance is being provided @ Rs.50 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to each district covered by the Package. With effect from Kharif 2006-07 crop loan upto a principal amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh at interest rate of 7% per annum is being made available to the farmers and the Government provides necessary interest subvention for this purpose.

To assist the cotton growers, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), is being implemented by Govt. of India with the objective to increase production, productivity and to improve the quality of cotton.

Hand Rickshaw Puller

3719. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rickshaw pullers still pulling hand rickshaws to carry people, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to replace these rickshaws by better mechanized cycle-rickshaws or auto-rickshaws; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to abolish this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The number of rickshaw pullers still pulling hand rickshaws to carry people, State-wise, is not maintained at Central level.

Limit in Postal FDI Investment

3720. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restrict Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in postal services at the risk of impacting FDI flow into the country and employment opportunities in the sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The proposal inter alia envisages allowing registered service providers to enter mail sector. However, the proposal has not been finalized.

Physical Fitness of Armed Force Personnel

3721. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is concerned over mites and ticks threatening the health of troops deployed over a vast stretch of the subcontinent in diverse terrain and the ecological conditions that made the soldiers susceptible to various diseases particularly in Jammu and North-East Region;

(b) if so, whether the Army has started providing training to the doctors and paramedics at the Armed Forces Medical College to identify and prevent the disease;

(c) if so, the steps being considered by the Government to meet the situation in the sub-Himalayan belt from Jammu to Nagaland; and

(d) the details on the overall physical fitness of the troops?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The incidence of mites and ticks borne diseases has been insignificant in the Armed Forces during the last six years. There is, therefore, no undue concern over mites and ticks threatening the health of troops. Training for prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of mites and ticks borne illnesses is already included in the curriculum for Doctors

and Paramedics at the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. Precautionary measures taken to avoid transmission of mites and ticks borne diseases include, spreading awareness of the symptomatology of the mites and ticks borne diseases, avoiding camping of troops in areas which are likely to have mites and ticks colonies, provision of insect repellents etc.

The over all physical fitness of the troops is upto the desired standards.

Strategy for Labour Reforms

3722. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy with regard to the labour reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which new reforms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Review/update of labour laws, by way of labour reforms, is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. It is undertaken in consultation with all stakeholders.

Light Combat Helicopter

3723. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) plans to build a Light Combat Helicopter; and
- (b) if so, the details of the Project and the likely date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The government has accorded sanction in October, 2006 for the design and development of Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) to meet the need of combat helicopter of Indian Air Force (IAF). Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has undertaken the design and development programme of the Project. The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for service deployment by IAF is planned by November, 2010.

Increase in Salary Limit for Bonus

3724. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received representations from Trade Unions to raise the salary limit for bonus;

and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The increase in eligibility limit and calculation ceiling under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is under consideration of the Government.

Subsidy for Fishermen

3725. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARDGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the utilization certificate for Centrally Sponsored Scheme for reimbursement of fishermen development rebate on HSD oil for 2005-06 has been submitted by government of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount of central share out of the above pending as on date;
- (d) the reasons for the delay in release of central share; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has submitted utilization certificate for the entire amount of Rs.600 lakhs released to them by Central Government during 2005-06 for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries component Fishermen Development Rebate on HSD oil in that State.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

3726. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the backward Districts in the field of agriculture in the country have been identified;
- (b) if so, the details of the such backward districts, State-wise; and
- (c) the criteria on which such backward districts have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Under the recently proposed National Food Security Mission (NFSM), 133 districts for NFSM-rice, 138 districts for NFSM-wheat and 168 districts for NFSM-Pulses are identified in the States of the country. The lists of districts State-wise are enclosed as Statement-I, II and III. The criteria for identification of districts in respect of rice are districts having greater than fifty thousand hectare area under rice and productivity less than State average productivity. For wheat, the criteria are districts where irrigation coverage under wheat is more than fifty per cent and productivity is less than State average productivity. For pulses, districts have been selected based on existing larger area under pulses, potential for expansion through inter cropping with widely spaced crops like coarse cereals, cotton, soyabean and replacement of rainfed upland paddy and rice fallow as also the irrigated area under crops.

Statement-I*Identified Districts for the implementation of NFSM-Rice during XI Plan*

State	District
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
	1 Adilabad
	2 Gunlur
	3 Khammam
	4 Krishna
	5 Mahaboobnagar
	6 Medak
	7 Nalgonda
	8 Nellore
	9 Srikakulam
	10 Visakhapatnam
	11 Vizianagarm
Assam	
	1 Barpeta
	2 Bongaigaon
	3 Darrang

1	2
	4 Dhemaji
	5 Goai para
	6 Karbi-Anglong
	7 Kokrajhar
	8 Lakhimpur
	9 Morigon
	10 Nalbari
	11 Sonitpur
	12 Nagaon
	13 Tinsukia
Bihar	
	1 Araria
	2 Bhanka
	3 Champaran (East)
	4 Champaran (West)
	5 Darbhanga
	6 Gaya
	7 Katihar
	8 Kishanganj
	9 Madhubani
	10 Madhepura
	11 Muzaffarpur
	12 Nalanda
	13 Saharsa
	14 Samastipur
	15 Sitamarhi
	16 Siwan
	17 Supaul
	18 Zamui
Chhattisgarh	
	1 Dantewara
	2 Janjgir-Champa
	3 Jashpur
	4 Kawardha
	5 Korba

1	2
	6 Koriya
	7 Raigarh
	8 Raipur
	9 Raj Nandgaon
	10 Sarguja
Jharkhand	
	1 Simdega
	2 Singhbhum (W)
	3 Ranchi
	4 Gumla
	5 Hazaribagh
Karnataka	
	1 Belgaum
	2 Shimoga
	3 Uttarakannada
	4 Dakshin Kannada
	5 Udupi
	6 Hassan
	7 Raichur
Madhya Pradesh	
	1 Anuppur
	2 Damoh
	3 Dindori
	4 Katni
	5 Mandla
	6 Panna
	7 Rewa
	8 Satna
	9 Shahdol
Maharashtra	
	1 Bhandara
	2 Chandrapur
	3 Gadchiroli
	4 Gondia
	5 Nasik
	6 Pune

1	2
Orissa	
	1 Bolangir
	2 Jajpur
	3 Dhenkanal
	4 Angul
	5 Kalahandi
	6 Nawapara
	7 Keonjhar
	8 Malkangiri
	9 Nawarangpur
	10 Phulbani
	11 Boudha
	12 Nayagarh
	13 Deoghar
	14 Jharsuguda
	15 Sundargarh
Tamil Nadu	
	1 Nagapattinam
	2 Pudukkottai
	3 Ramanathapuram
	4 Sivagangai
	5 Thiruvarur
Uttar Pradesh	
	1 Azamgarh
	2 Badaun
	3 Bahraich
	4 Ballia
	5 Balrampur
	6 Banda
	7 Bareilly
	8 Basti
	9 Deoria
	10 Fatehpur
	11 Gonda
	12 Gorakhpur

1	2
	13 Ghazipur
	14 Hardoi
	15 Mainpuri
	16 Mau
	17 Mirzapur
	18 Raebareli
	19 Rampur
	20 Saharanpur
	21 Shivasti
	22 Siddharthnagar
	23 Sitapur
	24 Sorbhadra
	25 Sultanpur
	26 Unnaa

West Bengal

1	24 Parganas (South)
2	Cooch-Bihar
3	Dinajpur (North)
4	Howrah
5	Jatpaiguri
6	Midnapur (East)
7	Midnapur (West)
8	Purulia

Selection: Districts having 50000 ha area under rice and productivity less than State average productivity have been identified.

Statement-II

Identified Districts for the implementation of NFSM-Wheat during XI Plan

State	District
1	2
Bihar (25)	
	1 Araia
	2 Bhagalpur
	3 Banka
	4 Bhabua
	5 Champaran (E)

1	2
	6 Champaran (W)
	7 Darbhanga
	8 Jamui
	9 Katihar
	10 Khagaria
	11 Kishanganj
	12 Madhubani
	13 Madhepura
	14 Muzaffarpur
	15 Nalanda
	16 Purnia
	17 Rohtas
	18 Samastipur
	19 Saran
	20 Sitamarhi
	21 Supaul
	22 Vaishali
	23 Monghyr
	24 Nawada
	25 Sekhpura

West Bengal (4)

1	Jalpaiguri
2	Cooch-behar
3	Dinajpur (N)
4	Dinajpur (S)

Madhya Pradesh (30)

1	Betul
2	Bhind
3	Chattarpur
4	Damoh
5	Dewas
6	East Nimar
7	Guna
8	Harda
9	Indore

1	2
	10 Jabalpur
	11 Katni
	12 Raisen
	13 Rajgarh
	14 Rewa
	15 Sagar
	16 Satna
	17 Sehore
	18 Seoni
	19 Shivpuri
	20 Sidhi
	21 Tikamgarh
	22 Ujjain
	23 Vidisha
	24 Balaghat
	25 Dhaar
	26 Dindori
	27 Jhabua
	28 Mandla
	29 Panna
	30 Shahdol
Punjab (7)	
	1 Hoshiarpur
	2 Ferozpur
	3 Bhatinda
	4 Rupnagar
	5 Amritsar
	6 Sangrur
	7 Gurdaspur
Haryana (7)	
	1 Bhiwani
	2 Ambala
	3 Gurgaon
	4 Jamnanagar
	5 Rohtak

1	2
	6 Jhajjar
	7 Mahendergarh
Uttar Pradesh (38)	
	1 Allahabad
	2 Ambedkar Nagar
	3 Azamgarh
	4 Bahraich
	5 Ballia
	6 Balrampur
	7 Bareilly
	8 Basti
	9 Chandauli
	10 Chitrakoot
	11 Deoria
	12 Faizabad
	13 Fatehpur
	14 Gazipur
	15 Gonda
	16 Gorakhpur
	17 Hamirpur
	18 Hardoi
	19 Jaunpur
	20 Jhansi
	21 Kaushambi
	22 Lalitpur
	23 Lucknow
	24 Maharajganj
	25 Mahoba
	26 Mau
	27 Mirzapur
	28 Pratapgarh
	29 Raebareli
	30 Ravidasnagar
	31 Santkabir Nagar
	32 Shravasti

1	2
	33 Siddharthnagar
	34 Sitapur
	35 Sultanpur
	36 Unnao
	37 Sonbhadra
	38 Varanasi
Rajasthan (15)	
1	Ajmer
2	Banswara
3	Bhilwara
4	Bikaner
5	Jaipur
6	Jalore
7	Jhalawar
8	Kota
9	Nagore
10	Pali
11	S. Medhopur
12	Sikar
13	Sirohi
14	Tonk
15	Udaipur
Maharashtra (8)	
1	Ahmednagar
2	Aurangabad
3	Dhule
4	Nagpur
5	Nasik
6	Parbhani
7	Pune
8	Solapur
Gujarat (4)	
1	Ahmedabad
2	Sabarkantha
3	Banaskantha
4	Mehsana

Statement-III**Identified Districts for the implementation of NFSM-Pulses during XI Plan**

State	District
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
	Adilabad
	Anantpur
	Cuddapah
	East Godavari
	Guntur
	Khammam
	Krishna
	Kumool
	Mahaboobnagar
	Nalgonda
	Nizamabad
	Prakasam
	Srikakulam
	Warangal
Total	14 districts
Uttar Pradesh	
	Jhansi
	Jalaun
	Hamirpur
	Sitapur
	Banda
	Chitrakut
	Mahoba
	Bahraich
	Barabanki
	Kheri
	Lalitpur
	Kanpur (dehat)
	Kaushambi
	Mirzapur

Selection criteria: Districts where irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State average productivity have been identified.

1	2
	Badaun
	Ballia
	Fatepur
	Balarampur
	Chandausi
Total	19 districts
Karnataka	
	Bagaikot
	Belgaum
	Bellary
	Bidar
	Bijapur
	Chitradurga
	Dharwad
	Gadag
	Gulburga
	Koppal
	Mysore
	Raichur
	Tumkur
Total	13 districts
Tamil Nadu	
	Coimbatore
	Cuddalore
	Erode
	Nagapattinam
	Namakkal
	Thiruvallur
	Thiruvallur
	Thoothukudi
	Tiruvannmalai
	Vellore
	Villupuram
	Virudunagar
Total	12 districts

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	
	Chhatarpur
	Chindwara
	Damoh
	Dewas
	Guna
	Rewa
	Raisen
	Satna
	Tikamgarh
	Sagar
	Vidisha
	Ujjain
	Jabalpur
	Narasimhpur
	Shivpuri
	Panna
	Rajgarh
	Seoni
	Shajapur
	Jhabua
Total	20 districts
Haryana	
	Rohtak
	Sonepat
	Bhiwani
	Hissar
	Sirsa
Total	5 districts
Maharashtra	
	Ahmednagar
	Akola
	Amravati
	Aurangabad
	Buldhana

1	2
	Chandrapur
	Hingoli
	Jalgaon
	Jalana
	Latur
	Nagpur
	Nanded
	Nasik
	Osmanabad
	Parbhani
	Wardha
	Washim
	Yavatmal
Total	18 districts
Rajasthan	
	Ajmer
	Bikaner
	Barmer
	Chittorgarh
	Churu
	Dausa
	Ganganagar
	Hanumangarh
	Jaipur
	Jhunjhunu
	Jodhpur
	Kota
	Nagaur
	Sikar
	Tonk
Total	15 districts
	Gujarat
	Banaskantha
	Broach
	Dohad

1	2
	Jamnagar
	Kutch
	Narmada
	Panch Mahals
	Patan
	Sabarkantha
	Surat
	Vadodara
Total	11 districts
Orissa	
	Bolangir
	Baragarh
	Cuttack
	Ganjam
	Kalahandi
	Keonjhar
	Khurda
	Nayagarh
	Puri
	Rayagada
Total	10 districts
West Bengal	
	Birbhum
	Malda
	Murshidabad
	Nadia
	Purulia
Total	5 districts
Punjab	
	Ludhiana
	Sangrur
	Ferozpur
	Gurdaspur
	Amritsar
Total	5 districts

1	2
Bihar	Araria
	Aurangabad
	Bhojpur
	Bhabhua
	Madhubani
	Madhepura
	Muzaffarpur
	Nalanda
	Patna
	Purnia
	Saharsa
	Samastipur
	Supaul
Total	13 districts
Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
	Durg
	Jashpur
	Kawardha
	Raigarh
	Raipur
	Rajnandgaon
	Sarguja
Total	8 districts
Total	168 districts

Selection criteria: The districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses have been selected based on existing larger area under pulses, potential for area expansion through intercropping with widely spaced crops like coarse cereals, cotton, soybean and replacement of rainfed upland paddy and rice fallow as also the irrigated area under crops.

[English]

Farmers Below BPL

3727. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income of the farmers who are living below the poverty line, and how it compares with the per capita income of the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to ameliorate the pitiable plight of these poorest of the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) 59th Round Survey on 'Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers' conducted in January – December 2003, (Report No 497 (59/33)5) the average monthly income from wages, farm business and non-farm business per farmer household is Rs. 2115 per month at all-India level. The average per capita income in the country, measured in terms of Net National Product at factor cost as published by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is Rs. 20,936 annually during the year 2003-04 (or, Rs.1745 per month).

(b) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers including small and marginal farmers. These, inter-alia, include the announcement of a credit policy in the year 2004 to double the flow of credit to the agriculture sector in three years. From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are being provided crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh at 7 percent rate of interest. Other initiatives taken by Government include expanding the area under irrigation, improved water management with watershed development and rain harvesting and establishment of National Rain-fed Area Authority.

[Translation]

Construction of Building

3728. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited proposes to construct building by Private Building Construction companies at its vacant lands in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Private Building Construction Companies have been identified for the said construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating their names and locations;

(e) the type of construction MTNL wants to be made at its lands alongwith the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of said buildings alongwith the amount of profit expected to be earned consequent to the said construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has entered into a Joint Development Partnership with one company on a Build, Operate and Transfer basis for a plot in Noida. Depending upon requirement MTNL, may enter into more such projects.

(c) and (d) The company identified for the above plot in Noida is M/S IDEB.

(e) The construction in MTNL is normally reinforced concrete framed structure type. The time line for completion of above Noida Plot is December, 2008 as per bylaws.

(f) The likely expenditure and profit expected to be earned is yet to be firmed up.

Decline In Employment Opportunities

3729. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports regarding decline in employment opportunities issued by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Economic Advisory Council under the caption 'Economic Outlook for 2007-08' vary greatly;

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

(c) whether unemployment problem in the country has been almost controlled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to completely control the problem of unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) (a) and (b) The Report by Economic Advisory Council (EAC), has analysed the results of Employment & Unemployment Surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation, and it states that an emerging challenge is improving productivity of employment in the informal sector and in agriculture so that there is a significant improvement in the quality of employment. While press statement issued by ASSOCHAM states that Indian women have outshone men in terms of employment, growth rate with a 3.35% rise in employment between 1998 and 2004 against a fall of about 8% in case of males. It also says that the public sector has been hiring women more aggressively than the private sector.

(c) and (d) As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the total estimated employment has gone up from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459 million in 2004-05. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages creation of 70 million new work opportunities. It aims at making

employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid and contains important policy initiatives for generation of employment. Besides, Government of India continues to implement various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in both rural and urban areas to increase employment opportunities. Some of these are: Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana; Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; Rural Employment Generation Programme, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Crude Oil

3730. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in crude oil prices has led to rise in price of essential commodities in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that local traders do not take undue advantage of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004 onwards. The steep increase in oil prices is having major impact on the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the Indian economy. The level of prices of essential commodities is determined largely by a variety of factors operating on the demand and supply side. These include domestic production, arrivals in the market, quantity of imports, international prices, consumption requirements, expectations regarding behaviour of prices etc. Increase in international prices of crude oil has also an impact on prices of essential commodities as commodities like edible oils are being diverted towards generation of bio-fuels at the cost of food. Secondly, it also led to increase in transport cost resulting in rise in prices of essential commodities.

(c) In view of the steep rise in international oil prices of sensitive petroleum products, OMCs are modulating the price increase in petrol and diesel besides maintaining the prices of subsidized products like domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government. The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the Government, the PSU oil companies and the consumer's to protect the interest of common man and vulnerable sections of society.

The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Rate of Agricultural Produce

3731. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government in fixing the rates of agricultural produce to reduce the burden on persons engaged in Food Processing Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interest of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy also seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. The Government fixes the rates of agricultural produce by way of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for specified agricultural produces on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other factors considered important for fixation of support prices. The CACP, while formulating its recommendations on price policy considers important factors like cost of production, changes in input prices, productivity of different crops across States, demand - supply situation, domestic and international price trends, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, need for crop diversification, resource use efficiency and food security.

Consumption of Fertilizers

3732. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether stagnation in fertilizer industry and lower pesticide use by farmers has resulted a huge crop loss in 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a huge gap in consumption of fertilizers and use of pesticides in India as compared to other countries like China, Japan, Brazil etc.;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the failure of crops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been no problem with the availability of fertilizers and pesticides during 2007.

(c) and (d) The consumption of fertilizers has been 104.5 Kg./ha. in the country during 2005-06 compared to other countries like China, Japan, Brazil, which consumed fertilizers @ 275.1, 292.7 and 171.9 Kg./ha. respectively. Similarly, consumption of pesticides including herbicides in India is about 570 gms/ha compare to 11 Kg./ha. in Japan, 17 Kg./ha. in Taiwan and 2.25 Kg./ha. in USA. The consumption of fertilizers and pesticides depends upon factors such as irrigation facilities, purchasing capacity of farmers, availability of credit and extension network.

(e) To check failure of crops due to pests/diseases, Government is implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) besides advising the farmers for judicious use of pesticides.

[Translation]

Misuse of Telephone Directory

3733. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the various banks after taking the number from the telephone directory pester people to opt for credit cards; and
- (b) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, a number of complaints regarding the receipt of Unwanted Commercial Calls from banks, credit card companies etc. have been received by the Government/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time.

TRAI has issued a Regulation titled "The Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007" for putting in place a mechanism called "National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry" for curbing the unwanted telemarketing calls/messages. In addition, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued guidelines for registration of telemarketers. These steps have been taken by TRAI and DoT to curb the menace of unsolicited telemarketing calls/messages.

Agreements with Private Telecom Companies

3734. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG PATIL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the private telecom companies had made some commitments while entering into certain agreements with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private telecom companies have not honoured their commitments made in the agreements and the Government has not taken any action in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make them honour their commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the signed Access Service Licence Agreements, the various private operators have the roll-out obligations in terms of covering of 10 percent of District Headquarters within one year and 50 percent of District Headquarters within three years of the effective date of the Licence Agreement/date of migration to Unified Access Service Licence.

(c) to (e) Show Cause Notices have been issued in June, 2007 to levy Liquidated Damage Charges of Rs. 400.15 crores on eight Unified Access Service Licensees as per terms and conditions of the respective License Agreements, who failed to fulfil the roll-out obligations of covering 10% of District Headquarters within one year from the effective date of the licences.

Amendment in Labour Laws

3735. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the labour laws currently operating in the country have become obsolete due to changing scenario in various fields in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make suitable amendments in labour laws to bring it in tune with the changing conditions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the laws to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. Accordingly, amendments to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 have been enforced w.e.f. 09.11.2005. Amendment proposals in respect of the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establish-

ments) Act, 1988, the Apprentices Act, 1961 and the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961 have been introduced in the Parliament.

[English]

Extension of BSNL Service

3736. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has proposed to extend its services in Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, BSNL had applied to the Government for grant of Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence for operating fixed and mobile service in Delhi & Mumbai Metro service areas.

The Government has informed BSNL that as per the existing guidelines for issue of UAS, BSNL cannot be granted UAS License for Mumbai and Delhi Service areas.

Defence School for Navy

3737. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy is planning to set up a Defence School on the lines of Maritime University at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether taking over of HSL by Navy is a part of its plan to set up Defence School;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the aims and objectives of the said Defence School?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There is no plan to set up a Defence School at HSL, Vishakhapatnam on the lines of Maritime University.

[Translation]

Rent for Hiring Offices

3738. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plots of land belonging to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) lying vacant, as on date; and

(b) the total amount being paid as rent by MTNL for hiring offices in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 38 numbers of plots of land in Delhi and 12 numbers in Mumbai belonging to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are lying vacant as on date.

(b) An amount of Rs. 29,47,470.99 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy and Ninety Nine Paise) per month is being paid by MTNL for hiring offices in Delhi.

[English]

Brahmaputra Board

3739. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent devastating flood in North Eastern Region particularly Assam has exposed the failure of Brahmaputra Board in controlling floods;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering any plan to re-activate and revitalise the Board to make it more effective in controlling floods;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon; and

(d) the number of posts lying vacant in the Brahmaputra Board alongwith the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Flood management is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The question of failure of Brahmaputra Board, therefore, does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There are 30 vacant posts in Brahmaputra Board at present. These posts are in the process of filling up at different stages. The completion of the process however depends upon the availability of suitable and eligible candidates.

[Translation]

Cattle Trafficking

3740. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of the cases registered regarding cattle trafficking by the Animal Welfare Board and the Government during the last three years;

(b) the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to keep check on the Cattle Trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The appropriate law enforcement machinery for registering cases of cattle trafficking are State Governments. The Animal Welfare Board of India periodically addresses all the State Governments to enforce the provisions regarding 'cruelties to animals' during transportation and to book the offenders suitably under provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Border Security Force has seized 63955, 129617 and 83354 cattle during the year 2005, 2006 and up to July 2007. Necessary steps have been taken/are being taken by Border Security Force to check on cattle trafficking on Indo-Bangladesh Border include: increase of vigil, up-gradations of intelligence network, flood lighting, construction of border roads, conducting special operations, introductions of night vision devices, erection of fencing, establishing additional observation posts, round the clock surveillance by patrolling on foot, vehicles and watercrafts of water wing.

[English]

Irregularities in Defence Purchases

3741. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has appointed independent monitors to ensure companies bidding for defence contracts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAG report on irregularities in defence purchases worth Rs.2000 crores during the Kargil war is pending for final action; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Independent monitors have been appointed after consultation with the Central Vigilance Commissioner, as required under the provisions of the Pre-Contract Integrity Pact to be signed with bidders in defence procurement cases of estimated value exceeding Rs.100 crore. The independent monitors so appointed are S/Shri T.R. Prasad, former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, P.C. Rawal, former Secretary,

Government of India, and Hemendra Kumar, former Special Secretary, Government of India.

(c) and (d) The report No. 7A of 2001 of Comptroller & Auditor General of India, pertaining to Kargil War purchases has been acted upon and action in 28 cases covered in the report has been finalized. Out of the cases referred to CBI for scrutiny, CBI has registered 2 regular cases.

[Translation]

Foreign Companies in Futures Market

3742. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed a ban on the Foreign Companies from operating in the commodities Futures Market in the country;

(b) if so, whether some foreign companies continue to operate in the Futures Market defying the ban imposed by the Government;

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

(d) whether the Government is considering any proposal to strengthen the Forward Markets Commission to check illegal trading by Foreign Companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government to check operation of Foreign Companies in Futures Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Foreign Companies cannot participate in the commodity futures Markets directly. Foreign Companies through their Indian subsidiaries, however, can participate through registered brokers of the Commodity Exchanges subject to necessary approval/guidelines for foreign investment.

(b) There are no foreign companies operating directly in the futures market.

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

(d) to (f) No Sir. The existing provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 are adequate to deal with any kind of illegal trading including by Foreign Companies.

[English]

Committee on Expanding Financial Services

3743. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any high power committee to prepare a strategy for expanding financial services to vulnerable groups, including marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a "Committee on Financial Inclusion" under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, ex-Governor, Reserve Bank of India to, inter alia, suggest strategy to extend financial services to small and marginal farmers and other vulnerable groups, including measures to streamline and simplify procedures, reduce transaction costs and make the operations transparent.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendations contained in the Interim Report submitted by the Committee, Government has decided to constitute two Funds. The first is to establish a "Financial Inclusion Fund" with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for meeting the cost of developmental and promotional interventions. The second is to establish a "Financial Inclusion Technology Fund" to meet the costs of technology adoption. Each Fund will have an overall corpus of Rs.500 crore, with initial funding to be contributed by the Central Government, Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Review of PDS

3744. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to review the Public Distribution Systems (PDS) throughout the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to distribute grains to poor people through some new system;

(d) if so, the details of the proposed system;

(e) whether the Government has developed techniques in the new system to prevent the present malpractices; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Review of functioning of Targetted Public Distribution System is a continuously on-going process. The Ministry reviews its various aspects with representatives of State/UT Governments. The latest review meetings of State and UT Food Secretaries have been held on 11.4.2007 and 6.8.2007, in which the State/UT Governments were requested once again to take necessary measures for curbing leakages and diversion of foodgrains meant for TPDS and to implement the nine point action plan, formulated by the Central Government in 2006 for strengthening of TPDS. Details of this action plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

In the review meeting of State/UT Food Secretaries held on 6.8.2007, the findings of the report on 61st Round of NSS survey 2004-05 were also discussed and copies of the report have been issued to State/UT Governments. They have been requested to use the findings of this report to assess critically performance of TPDS in their respective States and UTs and take action for this improvement.

Additionally, a revised Citizen's Charter has been issued recently for adoption and implementation by State/UT Governments for facilitating use by citizens of provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 in relation to functioning of TPDS.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Action Plan for Strengthening of TPDS

- (i) Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.
- (ii) Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.
- (iii) Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations - PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.
- (iv) Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.
- (v) Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shop-wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

- (vi) Carryout door-step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.
- (vii) Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.
- (viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.
- (ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities – allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Development of Cruise Missile

3745. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has developed or is developing a cruise missile; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) India, jointly with Russia, has developed BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which is being inducted in the Indian Navy and Army. This multi-platform missile system with high performance is in production using a number of industries from India and Russia. The development of air version of this missile has been taken up.

Telephone Directory

3746. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telephone directories have not been updated so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the time by which these directories are likely to be updated; and
- (d) the last telephone directories issued in respect of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In spite of best efforts, there have been some delays in bringing out new directories in some SSAs/Telephone Districts. The delay in printing of telephone directory is mainly due to:-

- (i) Non-availability of contractors for printing directories on reasonable terms.
- (ii) Disputes on tenders.
- (iii) Court/Arbitration cases.
- (iv) Non supply/delay in supply by the printer as per schedule given in the contract.

(c) The likely date of printing of updated Telephone Directory in various SSAs/Telephone Districts of BSNL is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Last telephone directory in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata was issued in the year 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2006 respectively.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Likely date of updated telephone directory
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar		
1	Andaman and Nicobar	Oct. 07
Andhra Pradesh		
1	Adilabad	Mar. 08
2	Ananthapur	Oct. 07
3	Chittoor	Dec. 07
4	Cuddapah	Mar. 08
5	East Godavari	Dec. 07
6	Guntur	Dec. 07
7	Hyderabad Telecom District	Dec. 07
8	Karimnagar	Dec. 07
9	Khammam	Dec. 07
10	Krishna	Dec. 07
11	Kurnool	Pending due to Court case
12	Mahabubnagar	Dec. 07
13	Medak	Dec. 07
14	Nalgonda	Dec. 07
15	Nellore	Dec. 07
16	Nizamabad	Dec. 07
17	Prakasam	Dec. 07
18	Srikakulam	Dec. 07
19	Visakhapatnam	Oct. 07
20	Vijyanagram	Oct. 07
21	Warangal	Jan. 08
22	West Godavari	Dec. 07
Assam		
1	Bongaigaon	Mar. 08

1	2	3
2	Dibrugarh	Mar. 08
3	Guwahati (Kamrup)	Mar. 08
4	Jorhat	Mar. 08
5	Nagaon	Mar. 08
6	Silchar	Mar. 08
7	Tezpur	Mar. 08
Bihar		
1	Ara	Sept. 07
2	Bagusrai	Oct. 07
3	Chhapra	Dec. 07
4	Darbhanga	Dec. 07
5	Gaya	Dec. 07
6	Katihar	Sept. 07
7	Motihari	Sept. 07
8	Muzaffarpur	Sept. 07
9	Munger	Sept. 07
10	Patna	Dec. 06
11	Sasaram	Sept. 07
12	Saharsa	Dec. 07
13	Hazipur	Dec. 07
14	Khagaria	Dec. 07
15	Betia	Oct. 07
16	KSNG	Oct. 07
17	SAM	Sept. 07
18	Bhagalpur	Dec. 07
Jharkhand		
1	Ranchi	Dec. 07
2	Dhanbad	Oct. 08
3	Jamshedpur	Jan. 09
4	Hazaribagh	Mar. 08
5	Daltonganj	Oct. 07
6	Dumka	Dec. 07
Gujarat		
1	Ahmedabad	Dec. 07
2	Amreli	Mar. 08

1	2	3	1	2	3
3	Bharuch	Dec. 07	3	Rajouri	Nov. 07
4	Bhavnagar	Sept. 07	4	Srinagar	Dec. 07
5	Bhuj	Sept. 07	5	Udhampur	Dec. 07
6	Godhra	Nov. 07	Karnataka		
7	Himatnagar	Dec. 07	1	Bangalore	Mar. 08
8	Jamnagar	Mar. 08	2	Hubli	Oct. 07
9	Junagadh	Pending due to Arbitration case	3	Madikeri	Sep. 07
10	Mehsana	Oct. 07	4	Mandya	Mar. 08
11	Nadiad	Sep. 07	5	Mangalore	Sept. 07
12	Palanpur	Sep. 07	6	Mysore	Sept. 07
13	Rajkot	Dec. 07	7	Shimoga	Sept. 07
14	Surat	Sept. 07	8	Kolar	Oct. 07
15	Surendranagar	Dec. 07	9	Bellary	Jul. 08
16	Vadodara	Dec. 07	10	Bidar	Dec. 07
17	Valsad	Dec. 07	11	Bijapur	Dec. 07
Haryana			12	Chikmagalur	Sept. 07
1	Ambala	Dec. 07	13	Davangere	Feb. 08
2	Faridabad	Oct. 07	14	Gulbarga	Dec. 07
3	Hissar	Dec. 07	15	Hassan	Sept. 07
4	Jind	Nov. 07	16	Raichur	Dec. 07
5	Karnal	Dec. 07	17	Tumkur	Jan. 08
6	Rewari	Mar. 08	18	Karwar	Sept. 07
7	Rohtak	Mar. 08	19	Belgaum	Pending due to Arbitration Case
8	Sonepat	Dec. 07	Kerala		
9	Gurgoan	Oct. 07	1	Alleppey	Jun. 08
Himachal Pradesh			2	Calicut	Dec. 07
1	Dharamshala	Dec. 07	3	Ernakulam	Mar. 08
2	Hamirpur	Sept. 07	4	Kannur	Dec. 07
3	Kullu	Oct. 07	5	Kollam	Mar. 08
4	Mandi	Dec. 07	6	Kottayam	Dec. 07
5	Shimla	Dec. 07	7	Paighat	Mar. 08
6	Solan	Sept. 07	8	Pathanamthitta	Sept. 07
Jammu & Kashmir			9	Thrichur	Dec. 07
1	Jammu	Sept. 07	10	Trivandrum	Pending due to Court case
2	Leh	Mar. 08	11	Malappuram	Dec. 07

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh		
1	Balaghat	Oct. 07
2	Betul	Dec. 07
3	Bhopal	Dec. 07
4	Chhatarpur	Oct. 07
5	Chhindawara	Dec. 07
6	Damoh	Sept. 07
7	Dewas	Nov. 07
8	Dhar	Sept. 07
9	Guna	Dec. 07
10	Gwallor	Dec. 07
11	Hoshangabad	Dec. 07
12	Indore	Dec. 07
13	Jabalpur	Dec. 07
14	Jhabua	Dec. 07
15	Khandwa	Mar. 08
16	Khargone	Sept. 07
17	Mandla	Dec. 07
18	Mandsaur	Dec. 07
19	Morena	Oct. 07
20	Narsinghpur	Mar. 08
21	Panna	Dec. 07
22	Raisen	Dec. 07
23	Rajgarh	Dec. 07
24	Ratlam	Dec. 07
25	Rewa	Dec. 07
26	Sagar	Dec. 07
27	Satna	Nov. 07
28	Seoni	Dec. 07
29	Shahdol	Dec. 07
30	Shajapur	Dec. 07
31	Shivpuri	Dec. 07
32	Sidhi	Dec. 07
33	Ujjain	Sept. 07
34	Vidisha	Dec. 07

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh		
1	Bastar (Jagdalpur)	Sept. 07
2	Bilaspur	Dec. 07
3	Durg	Dec. 07
4	Surguja	Dec. 07
5	Raigarh	Dec. 07
6	Raipur	Dec. 07
Maharashtra		
1	Ahmednagar	Dec. 07
2	Akola	Dec. 07
3	Amravati	Sept. 07
4	Aurangabad	Dec. 07
5	Beed	Dec. 07
6	Bhandara	Dec. 07
7	Buldhana	Dec. 07
8	Chandrapur	Dec. 07
9	Dhule	Sept. 07
10	Goa	Dec. 07
11	Jalgaon	Dec. 07
12	Jalna	Dec. 07
13	Kalyan	Dec. 07
14	Kolhapur	Dec. 07
15	Latur	Dec. 07
16	Nagpur	Dec. 07
17	Nanded	Dec. 07
18	Nasik	Dec. 07
19	Osmanabad	Oct. 07
20	Parbhani	Mar. 08
21	Pune	Sept. 07
22	Raigad	Mar. 08
23	Ratnagiri	Mar. 08
24	Sangli	Dec. 07
25	Satara	Dec. 07
26	Sindhudurg	Dec. 07
27	Solapur	Dec. 07

1	2	3	1	2	3
28	Wardha	Dec. 07	8	Patiala	Nov. 07
29	Yavatmal	Oct. 07	9	Pathankot	Dec. 07
North Eastern-I			10	Ropar	Dec. 07
1	Meghalaya	Dec. 07	11	Sangrur	Dec. 07
2	Mizoram	Dec. 07	Rajasthan		
3	Tripura	Dec. 07	1	Ajmer	Mar. 08
North Eastern-II			2	Alwar	Mar. 08
1	ARP	Dec. 07	3	Banswara	Mar. 08
2	MNP	Oct. 07	4	Barmer	Pending due to Audit Para
3	NLD	Dec. 07	5	Bharatpur	Mar. 08
Orissa			6	Bhilwara	Mar. 08
1	Balasore	Dec. 07	7	Bikaner	Mar. 08
2	Baripada (Mayurbhanj)	Dec. 07	8	Bundi	Mar. 08
3	Berhampur (Ganjam)	Dec. 07	9	Chittorgarh	Mar. 08
4	Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi)	Dec. 07	10	Churu	Mar. 08
5	Bhubaneswar (Puri)	Sept. 07	11	Jaipur	Mar. 08
6	Bolangir	Dec. 07	12	Jaisalmer	Mar. 08
7	Cuttack	Dec. 07	13	Jhalawar	Mar. 08
8	Dhenkanal	Jun. 08	14	Jhunjhunu	Mar. 08
9	Koraput	Dec. 07	15	Jodhpur	Mar. 08
10	Rourkela (Sundergarh)	Dec. 07	16	Kota	Mar. 08
11	Sambalpur	Jan. 08	17	Nagaur	Mar. 08
12	Phulbani	Dec. 07	18	Pali Marwar	Mar. 08
13	Keonjhar	Jul. 08	19	Sawai Madhopur	Mar. 08
Punjab			20	Sikar	Mar. 08
1	Amritsar	Dec. 07	21	Sirohi	Mar. 08
2	Bhatinda	Dec. 07	22	Sri Ganganagar	Mar. 08
3	Chandigarh	Nov. 07	23	Tonk	Mar. 08
4	Ferozepur	Dec. 07	24	Udaipur	Mar. 08
5	Hoshiarpur	Dec. 07	Tamil Nadu		
6	Jalandhar	Dec. 07	1	Coimbatore	Pending due to Court case
7	Ludhiana	Dec. 07	2	Cuddalore	Oct. 07
			3	Dharmapuri	Sept. 07
			4	Erode	Nov. 07
			5	Karaikudi	Dec. 07

1	2	3
6	Kumbakonam	Sept. 07
7	Madurai	Sept. 07
8	Nagercoil	Oct. 07
9	Nilgris	Dec. 07
10	Pondicherry	Sept. 07
11	Salem	Oct. 07
12	Thanjavur	Sept. 07
13	Tirunelveli	Sept. 07
14	Trichy	Dec. 07
15	Tuticorin	Oct. 07
16	Vellore	Dec. 07
17	Virudhunagar	Jun. 08
Uttar Pradesh (East)		
1	Allahabad	Dec. 07
2	Azamgarh	Dec. 07
3	Bahraich	Dec. 07
4	Ballia	Dec. 07
5	Banda	Dec. 07
6	Barabanki	Dec. 07
7	Basti	Dec. 07
8	Etawah	Dec. 07
9	Faizabad	Dec. 07
10	Farrukhabad	Dec. 07
11	Fatehpur	Dec. 07
12	Ghazipur	Dec. 07
13	Gonda	Dec. 07
14	Gorakhpur	Dec. 07
15	Hamirpur	Dec. 07
16	Hardoi	Dec. 07
17	Jaunpur	Dec. 07
18	Jhansi	Dec. 07
19	Kanpur	Dec. 07
20	Lakhimpur	Dec. 07
21	Lucknow	Dec. 07
22	Mainpuri	Dec. 07

1	2	3
23	Mau	Dec. 07
24	Mirzapur	Dec. 07
25	Orai	Dec. 07
26	Pratapgarh	Dec. 07
27	Raibareli	Dec. 07
28	Shahjahanpur	Dec. 07
29	Sitapur	Dec. 07
30	Sultanpur	Dec. 07
31	Unnao	Dec. 07
32	Varanasi	Dec. 07
33	Deoria	Dec. 07
Uttar Pradesh (West)		
1	Agra	Dec. 07
2	Aligarh	Dec. 07
3	Bareilly	Dec. 07
4	Bijnore	Mar. 08
5	Bulandshahar	Jan. 08
6	Ghaziabad	Sept. 07
7	Mathura	Sept. 07
8	Meerut	Mar. 08
9	Moradabad	Oct. 07
10	Muzaffamagar	Dec. 07
11	Noida	Sept. 07
12	Saharanpur	Sept. 07
13	Badaun	Dec. 07
14	Etah	Sept. 07
15	Pilibhit	Sept. 07
16	Rampur	Oct. 07
Uttaranchal		
1	Almora	Sept. 07
2	Dehradun	Dec. 07
3	Nainital	Mar. 08
4	Srinagar Gwl	Mar. 08
5	New Tehri	Dec. 07
6	Haridwar	Dec. 07

1	2	3
West Bengal		
1	Asansol	Dec. 07
2	Bankura	Dec. 07
3	Berhampore	Dec. 07
4	Calcutta	Dec. 07
5	Coochbehar	Dec. 07
6	Gangtok	Dec. 07
7	Jaipauri	Dec. 07
8	Kharagpur	Dec. 07
9	Krishnagar	Dec. 07
10	Malda	Dec. 07
11	Purulia	Dec. 07
12	Raiganj	Dec. 07
13	Siliguri	Dec. 07
14	Suri	Dec. 07
Chennai Telephones		
1	Chennai	Sept. 07
2	Chengalpet	Dec. 07
Calcutta Telephones		
1	Calcutta (on papers)	Dec. 07

Crop Cutting Experiments

3747. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several crop cutting experiments are being used to estimate the losses of the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) State Governments conduct requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) under the programme of General Crop Estimation Surveys (GCES) to obtain estimates of yield rates at district level and above. These are conducted in notified area for notified crops, which are considered for assessing the crop losses for payment of claims by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., New Delhi under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

As per the provisions of the NAIS, the minimum number

of experiments to be undertaken per unit area/crop on a sliding scale is as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Unit Area	Minimum number of CCEs required to be done
1	Taluka/Tehsil/Block	16
2	Mandal/Phirka/any other smaller unit area comprising 8-10 villages	10
3	Gram Panchayat comprising 4-5 villages	08

Mustard Oil

3748. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the production and consumption of mustard oil in the country during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the production as well as the demand of mustard oil has increased in the country during the said period;

(c) if so, whether the country imports mustard oil to meet the-shortfall; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of mustard oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The details regarding estimated production, import and consumption of mustard oil registered in the country during the last three years and the current year are as under:-

(in lakh tonnes)

Oil Year	Domestic Production of Mustard Oil	Import of Mustard Oil	Consumption/ Demand* of Mustard Oil
2003-2004	19.50	0.00024	19.21
2004-2005	23.54	0.00019	25.90
2005-2006	25.21	0.00103	25.21
2006-2007	22.00	0.00013**	22.00

* Consumption/Demand of Mustard oil has been estimated on the basis of domestic production plus imports.

** Upto February, 2007

Precise figures about State-wise production and consumption data not available.

- (d) Some of the steps taken to meet the demand of edible oils including mustard oil in the country are as under:-
- (i) Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).
 - (ii) Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in certain States, financial assistance for Oil Palm Development, assistance provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, Integrated Pest Management, etc.
 - (iii) Enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.
 - (iv) Crude and refined edible grade vegetable oils have been exempted from 4% SAD w.e.f. 1.3.2007.
 - (v) In order to harmonize the interests of farmers, processors and consumers, the import duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

[Translation]

Shortage of Telephone Cables

3749. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of telephone-cable for laying it underground particularly in backward and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem; and
- (d) the time by which the work is likely to be finished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No Sir, there is no shortage. Each telecom circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is having balance stock of cable and about 60 Lakh Conductor Kilo Meter (LCKM) cable was available in all on 1.4.2007. Scattered demand of telephone connections is being met by providing wireless technology such as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and GSM mobile including in backward and rural areas of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Artificial Recharge of Ground Water in J&K

3750. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the current implementation status of the project launched by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Water Board, Jammu for the artificial recharge of ground water in the dry areas of Jammu and Kashmir a few years back;
- (b) the reasons for delay in implementation of said project;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to speed up the implementation of the said project; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has implemented a Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water' during the IX Five Year Plan with an objective to develop model recharge structures suitable to different hydrological setups. Under this scheme, all 8 demonstrative recharge projects were completed in water scarcity areas in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. As regards Central Water Commission (CWC), funds have been released to State Government for 5 storage schemes in Jammu region and 22 water tanks & 2 storage tanks in Kashmir region. However, compliance to the technical comments for 7 storage schemes and one artificial recharge structure in Jammu region, 57 water tanks & 7 storage tanks in Kashmir region and one artificial recharge structure of ground water in Ladakh region is still awaited from the State Government project authorities. The Government is making all out efforts to speed up the implementation of the projects. However, there is delay in some projects due to non-receipt of technical comments from the J&K Government project authorities.

Repair of Embankment of Bagmati River in Bihar

3751. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the repair and strengthening of embankment of Bagmati river has been undertaken by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints regarding use of inferior quality material in the said repairs has been received by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government to ensure good construction material used in such repairs; and
- (e) the action taken against guilty persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As a follow up of the understanding reached between Hon'ble Prime Ministers of India and Nepal, in 1991, the extension of embankment on rivers Laibakeye, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando were undertaken and an amount of Rs. 1.50 crore was released to Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar during IX plan for river Bagmati. This central plan scheme namely "Raising, Strengthening & Extension of Existing Embankments on Laibakeya, Kamla Bagmati & Khando rivers" was continued in X Plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 46.00 crore. From this scheme, central funds amounting to Rs.9.93 crore were released to the State Government for river Bagmati in X Plan.

(c) As reported by the Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna, which is a subordinate organization under the Ministry of Water Resources looking after Flood management works in Ganga Basin states; no complaint was received by them regarding inferior quality material used in the works. As per the approved scheme, the execution of works is done by the State Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Amount of Rent paid by MTNL/BSNL

3752. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of rent incurred on office and residential buildings by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years and thereafter till-date, State-wise and Year-wise;

(b) the details of the buildings taken on rent/owned by the officials of MTNL/BSNL;

(c) whether a decision was taken to vacate the buildings taken on rent as per the agreement signed by the recognised union in the MTNL;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the saving of the Nigam, year-wise;

(e) whether serious irregularities have taken place particularly in taking the buildings on rent and vacating them in Delhi and again taking the same building on rent such as DTO, Telegraph Office, Nehru Place by the MTNL and BSNL;

(f) whether the Government proposes to take concrete action the whole episode; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is given in the enclosed Statement-I and II. The amount of rent incurred on office and residential buildings by MTNL, during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)		
Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2004-05	18.95	23.68
2005-06	19.53	20.82
2006-07	15.51	15.90
2007-08	3.31 up to June, 2007	5.35 up to July, 2007

In MTNL no building has been taken on rent owned by the Officer/Staff of the Nigam or their relatives.

(c) In MTNL buildings taken on rent are vacated progressively to reduce the expenditure.

(d) Few rented buildings in MTNL have been vacated, resulting in substantial savings. The year-wise savings details for the last three years is as below:

(Amount in Rupees)		
Year	Delhi	Mumbai
2004-05	74,71,633	-
2005-06	35,70,753	2,86,38,722
2006-07	2,47,88,671	4,92,44,049

(e) No, Sir. The building where DTO, Nehru Place is functioning has not been taken on rent after vacation.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement-I

Rent Incurred on Office and Residential Buildings by BSNL during the last three years and thereafter till date

(Amount in Rupees)					
Sl. No.	Name of the State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-till date
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1536091	1739729	2231036	723578
2.	Assam	42098391	50805044	56413679	7811253

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Andhra Pradesh	112495179	116743828	114860814	32367360
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1036047	1282179	1302652	542770
5.	Bihar	4388167	5677706	6732944	2745756
6.	Chhattisgarh	96000	96000	96000	Nil
7.	Delhi	14823308	14015520	5795186	4285992
8.	Goa	425268	425268	431508	143836
9.	Gujarat	25493292	23547205	19623732	6034575
10.	Himachal Pradesh	20699570	20377958	21542549	7134272
11.	Haryana	3914300	3709757	3764137	1135027
12.	Jharkhand	6098563	5687327	7198102	1654086
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	15192607	13948992	14819472	6117182
14.	Karnataka	101566400	92187400	83593400	36317600
15.	Kerala	118400000	142000000	144100000	404500000
16.	Maharashtra	164867372	174968898	195487880	64820564
17.	Manipur	100694	2353700	2800200	934300
18.	Meghalaya	537186	546766	547282	136537
19.	Mizoram	1042490	988185	1099560	129100
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4942523	5591416	5393483	2071042
21.	Nagaland	1138548	1138548	1230396	511292
22.	Orissa	16886000	16470319	13265148	4417399
23.	Pondicherry	1810100	1850984	1809776	663584
24.	Punjab	9212431	6128645	8185435	1878423
25.	Rajasthan	10941536	9756931	10063178	4177993
26.	Tamil Nadu	220866056	255350166	263372441	85309218
27.	Tripura	339600	339600	339600	306439
28.	Uttar Pradesh	123805182	156065060	162798687	57085307
29.	Uttarakhand	14503154	21829418	22620688	7782827
30.	West Bengal	81676099	94227421	99959557	25037971
Grand Total		1120932154	1239759970	1271478522	766775283

Statement-II*Buildings taken on rent and owned by the Officials of BSNL*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Buildings
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19
2.	Gujarat	01

1	2	3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	02
4.	Maharashtra	05
5.	Orissa	13
6.	Rajasthan	01
7.	Uttaranchal	08

1	2	3
8.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	05
9.	Madhya Pradesh	02
10.	Karnataka	03

Violation of Rules by Private Companies

3753. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has no control over private mobile phone companies and these companies are getting licences renewed and other tax rebates inspite of fines imposed on them;

(b) if so, whether these companies are violating security rules and committing gross revenue irregularities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of the private mobile phone companies, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) alongwith the amount of penalty imposed on them for violating the rules;

(e) the number of times the number of private mobile companies having shares in the Government exchequer has increased during April 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007, giving Name-wise and Serial-wise details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to include the condition of audit by Auditor-General in the licence conditions; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In the course of offering services by private mobile phone companies, there has been instances of violation of terms and conditions of the licence agreement including security conditions and other irregularities. Whenever such violations are noticed/reported, show cause notice is issued after following the due procedure as per the provisions of the respective licence agreement. Based on the nature of violation and the reply to the show cause notice, action is taken against the licensees as per the provision in the licence agreement which include imposing financial penalties.

The names of the private mobile phone companies, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) alongwith the amount of penalty imposed on them for violating the conditions of the licence are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The details of access telecom services licensee private companies who are to pay licence fee to Government as Revenue Share, company wise and service area wise, as on 01.04.2004 and 30.06.2007 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) and (g) There are provision for audit by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in Rule 5 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Service Providers (Maintenance of Books of Accounts and other Documents) Rules, 2002 and CAG has performed such audit in some cases.

Statement-I

Names of the Private Mobile Phone Companies, Internet Service providers (ISPS) against whom Financial Penalty has been imposed

S.No.	Name of Private Company	Type of Licence	Amount of Financial Penalty Imposed
1.	M/s. Reliance Communications Limited	Unified Access Services (3 licences for Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata service areas)	Rs. 1,50,00,00,000/-
2.	M/s. Primus Telecommunications India Ltd.	Internet Service Provider	Rs.8,78,036/-
3	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Internet Service Provider	Rs. 16,94,288/-

Statement-II

Name of Licenced Private Companies providing Mobile Telecom Services who have to pay licence fee

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee Company	Name of Service Area where the Company is licenced to provide access services as on 31.03.2004	Name of Service Area where the Company is licenced to provide access services as on 30.06.2007
1	2	3	4
1	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	Mumbai	Mumbai
2	Shyarn Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
3	Aircel Cellular Limited	Chennai	Chennai

1	2	3	4
4	Aircel Ltd.		Andhra Pradesh
5	Aircel Ltd.		Delhi
6	Aircel Ltd.		Gujarat
7	Aircel Ltd.		Karnataka
8	Aircel Ltd.		Maharashtra
9	Aircel Ltd.		Mumbai
10	Aircel Ltd.		Rajasthan
11	Aircel Ltd.	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)
12	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Assam
13	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Bihar
14	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Haryana
15	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Himachal Pradesh
16	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Jammu & Kashmir
17	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Kerala
18	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Kolkata
19	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Madhya Pradesh
20	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		North East
21	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Orissa
22	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Punjab
23	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Uttar Pradesh (East)
24	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		Uttar Pradesh (West)
25	Dishnet Wireless Ltd.		West Bengal
26	Bharti Airtel Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
27	Bharti Airtel Limited		Assam
28	Bharti Airtel Limited	Bihar	Bihar
29	Bharti Airtel Limited	Delhi	Delhi
30	Bharti Airtel Limited	Gujarat	Gujarat
31	Bharti Airtel Limited	Haryana	Haryana
32	Bharti Airtel Limited	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
33	Bharti Airtel Limited	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir
34	Bharti Airtel Limited	Karnataka	Karnataka
35	Bharti Airtel Limited	Kerala	Kerala
36	Bharti Airtel Limited	Kolkata	Kolkata
37	Bharti Airtel Limited	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4
38	Bharti Airtel Limited	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
39	Bharti Airtel Limited	Mumbai	Mumbai
40	Bharti Airtel Limited	Orissa	Orissa
41	Bharti Airtel Limited	Punjab	Punjab
42	Bharti Airtel Limited	Chennai	
43	Bharti Airtel Limited	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)	
44	Bharti Airtel Limited		Tamilnadu (Including Chennai Service Area)
45	Bharti Airtel Limited	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Uttar Pradesh (East)
46	Bharti Airtel Limited	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Uttar Pradesh (West)
47	Bharti Airtel Limited	West Bengal	West Bengal
48	Bharti Hexacom Ltd.	North East	North East
49	Bharti Hexacom Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
50	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	Punjab
51	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana	Haryana
52	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
53	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Uttar Pradesh (East)
54	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		Assam
55	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		Bihar
56	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		Himachal Pradesh
57	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		Jammu & Kashmir
58	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		North East
59	Essar Spacetel Ltd.		Orissa
60	Fascel Ltd.	Gujarat	Gujarat
61	Hutchinson Telecom East Ltd.	Kolkata	Kolkata
62	Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.	Kerala	Kerala
63	Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
64	Hutchison Essar Cellular Ltd.	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)
65	Hutchison Essar Ltd.	Mumbai	Mumbai
66	Hutchison Essar Mobile Services Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi
67	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
68	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Chennai	Chennai

1	2	3	4
69	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Karnataka	Karnataka
70	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Punjab	Punjab
71	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Uttar Pradesh (West)
72	Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	West Bengal	West Bengal
73	Aditya Birla Telecom Ltd.		Bihar
74	BTA Cellcom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
75	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
76	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi
77	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Gujarat	Gujarat
78	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
79	Idea Cellular Ltd.		Mumbai
80	Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.	Haryana	Haryana
81	Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.	Kerala	Kerala
82	Idea Mobile Communications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Uttar Pradesh (West)
83	Idea Telecommunications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
84	Idea Telecommunications Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
85	Idea Telecommunications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Uttar Pradesh (East)
86	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
87	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Bihar	Bihar
88	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi
89	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Gujarat	Gujarat
90	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Haryana	Haryana
91	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
92	Reliance Communications Ltd.		Jammu & Kashmir
93	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Karnataka	Karnataka
94	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Kerala	Kerala
95	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Kolkata	Kolkata
96	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
97	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
98	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Mumbai	Mumbai
99	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Orissa	Orissa
100	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Punjab	Punjab
101	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
102	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Chennai	
103	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)	
104	Reliance Communications Ltd.		Tamilnadu (Including Chennai Service Area)

1	2	3	4
105	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Uttar Pradesh (East)
106	Reliance Communications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Uttar Pradesh (West)
107	Reliance Communications Ltd.	West Bengal	West Bengal
108	Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	Kolkata	Kolkata
109	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	Bihar
110	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
111	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
112	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	North East	North East
113	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Orissa	Orissa
114	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	West Bengal	West Bengal
115	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Assam	Assam
116	Spice Communications Ltd.	Karnataka	Karnataka
117	Spice Communications Ltd.	Punjab	Punjab
118	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra
119	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Mumbai	Mumbai
120	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
121	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Bihar	Bihar
122	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Chennai	Chennai
123	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Delhi	Delhi
124	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat	Gujarat
125	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Haryana	Haryana
126	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh
127	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Karnataka	Karnataka
128	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Kerala	Kerala
129	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Kolkata	Kolkata
130	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
131	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Orissa	Orissa
132	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Punjab	Punjab
133	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan
134	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)	Tamilnadu (Excluding Chennai Service Area)
135	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Uttar Pradesh (East)
136	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Uttar Pradesh (West)
137	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	West Bengal	West Bengal
Total Number of Licences		104	133

Net Increase in number of Licences of Private Companies

29

Note: In addition to above, 21 Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) Licences have been granted to M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for all service areas except Delhi & Mumbai service areas and 2 CMTS Licences have been granted to M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Delhi & Mumbai service areas.

[English]

Indo-China Water Disputes

3754. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a senior official of Chinese Government has been appointed to interact with Indian Official to activate the joint mechanism for resolution of Water Dispute, set up earlier after the visit of Chinese President last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues to be resolved thereunder;

(c) whether an Indian delegation from the Ministry recently visited China for holding discussions on water related issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the issues discussed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Presently, there is no water dispute between India and China. However, after the visit of Hon'ble Chinese President during Nov, 2006, a Joint Expert Level Mechanism has been set up between both the countries to discuss interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers as agreed between them. Both the countries have constituted their expert groups. The leader of the Chinese expert group is the Director General, Water Resources and Hydropower Planning design Institute of the Ministry of Water Resources of people's Republic of China.

(c) No Indian delegation from the Ministry of Water Resources visited China recently, in last three months for holding discussions on water related issues.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Women Terrorists on Border

3755. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any activity regarding emergence of women terrorist groups on the borders of the country has been noticed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken to counter it;

(c) whether the Army is imparting any fire-arm training to the local women in the border areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The army has been training women of the Village Defence Committee of Naushera area in firearms for self defence against terrorists. Local women have been trained on small arms.

[English]

Krishna Drinking Water Supply Projects

3756. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project (KDWS) Phase-II for clearance;

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

(c) the amount released for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development have reported that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a project "Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project Phase-II" with an estimated cost of Rs.830 crores. The project is under consideration of Ministry of Urban Development.

Sale of Faulty Fans

3757. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of sale of faulty fans of Bajaj Brand of Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts has been reported recently;

(b) if so, whether the said company refused to replace the faulty fans;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken to punish the guilty;

(d) whether the said company has been importing electrical goods without any quality control and subsequently harass consumers by refusing to replace the faulty products; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to check the harassment of consumers by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (e) No such complaint of this nature has been reported to Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) and Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) or Consumer Online Resource & Empowerment Centre (CORE).

Armed Forces Tribunal

3758. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a forum to appeal against a Court Martial Order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to constitute an Armed Forces Tribunal keeping in view the increasing number of Army Officers approaching Civil Courts for redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) The Government has decided to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal to provide an appellate forum against the decisions and orders of courts martial and also to decide disputes on some service matters like grant of commission, appointment, enrolment, conditions of service, termination etc. in respect of persons subject to the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts. A Bill was introduced in the Parliament in this regard. The Standing Committee of Parliament on Defence has examined the provisions of the Bill and submitted its report to the Parliament. After considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Defence, the Government will move an official Amendment to the Bill.

Military School in Haryana

3759. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up a Military school in Jhajjar District of Haryana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status of the said school; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Bunkers and Mobile Towers on Indian Borders

3760. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Pakistan and Bangladesh have constructed several bunkers near the Indian border during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Pakistan and Bangladesh have also erected several mobile towers near the Indian borders, whose network can be heard 15-20 kilometres/upto several kilometers within the Indian territory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) As per Ministry of Home Affairs, Pakistan has constructed 128 bunkers on the Indo-Pakistan International Border since August, 2006. However, there is no report of construction of bunkers on Indo-Bangladesh border by Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) Pakistan has constructed mobile towers near the Indian border. On Indo-Bangladesh border also several mobile towers of Grameen Phone of Bangladesh have been erected and it has been experienced that depending upon the topography-of the area, Grameen Phone network of Bangladesh can be used upto 5-7 Km inside India without any interference of other networks.

[English]

Price Under PDS

3761. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

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

(a) the changes made in the quota of foodgrains allocated for Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and the prices fixed for distribution under various foodgrains based welfare schemes during the last three years;

(b) whether foodgrains were exported at prices matching BPL prices during the said period;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to introduce universal Public Distribution System (PDS) to ensure food security to all; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the last three years, allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been revised as under:

- (i) the allocation of wheat was rationalized from June, 2006 on the basis of the average monthly offtake of previous three years for all the States/UTs. While for the BPL and AAY families, the scale of 35 kg. of foodgrains per family per month has been retained, only the inter se ratio of

rice and wheat has changed. The allocation of wheat for the APL category has been made more realistic linking it with offtake of earlier years;

- (ii) the allocation of rice has been rationalized for the APL category w.e.f. April, 2007 on the basis of the offtake figures of earlier three years; and
- (iii) keeping in view the requests received from the North Eastern States & Sikkim, with special reference to their particular position, the Government has enhanced w.e.f. July, 2007, the allocation of rice for the APL category by 1.5 times of their existing allocation, subject to their entitlement.

The details of the Central issue price of foodgrains (Rice & wheat) distributed under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), i.e. APL & BPL and other welfare schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) No fresh allocations of foodgrains for exports have been made since 11.08.2003. After meeting the pending commitments of exports, sale of foodgrains for commercial exports have been stopped from 01.10.2004 except as need based assistance on humanitarian grounds to certain countries.

(d) The Government does not propose to introduce Universal Public Distribution System in place of the existing Targeted Public Distribution System.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

Central Issue Price of wheat and rice for TPDS (APL & BPL)

(Rs per quintal)			
Years	Commodity	APL	BPL
1.7.2002 onwards till date	Wheat	610	415
	Rice	830	565

(Rs per quintal)		
Years	Commodity	Economic Cost
2004-05	Wheat	1019.01
	Rice	1303.59
2005-06	Wheat	1031.51
	Rice	1350.67
2006-07	Wheat	1232.58
	Rice	1385.92

Rates applicable for foodgrains released under Welfare Schemes (other than TPDS):

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Applicable rate
1	Annapurna	BPL rate
2	Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM)	BPL rate
3	Wheat Based Nutrition Programme (WBNP)	BPL rate
4	Welfare Institutions/Hostels	BPL rate
5	Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY)	Economic Cost
6	Special Component of SGRY	Economic Cost
7	Village Grain Bank Scheme	Economic Cost
8	Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)	BPL rate
9	Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP)	BPL rate
10	SC/ST/OBC Hostels	BPL rate

Infiltration through Sea Routes

3762. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any plan to check infiltration of terrorists through sea-routes and sea-attacks etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) and (b) India's coastal waters and coastal areas are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard in coordination with the State Police and the Indian Navy. Surveillance and maritime patrolling along the coast are regularly done by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard. The measures that have been taken and planned to ensure the security of areas and establishments located on the coasts include regular aerial surveillance, establishment of coastal police stations in the littoral States, vessel monitoring system, etc.

Representations for Extension of Telephone Connections

3763. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom has rejected representations for extension of some private telecom

operators for providing telephone connections to every rural household in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) and Tata Teleservices Limited (Maharashtra) (TTL-MH) for provision of Individual Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country during the period 01.04.2005 and 31.03.2007. The request of the service providers for extension of time for installation of RDELs beyond 31.03.2007 was not accepted in view of the terms and conditions of RDELs agreements and the forthcoming scheme of shared infrastructure.

Export of Foodgrains

3764. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total import and export of foodgrains during the year 2006-07;

(b) whether the Government is formulating any policy regarding export and import of foodgrains in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Flood Control

3765. SHRI MOHAN JENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a revised proposal from Government of Orissa on "Brahmani-Birupa-Kelua Doab" flood protection project in the Jajpur district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be approved along with the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Central Water Commission (CWC) had received the proposal from Government of Orissa on "Brahmani-Birupa-Kelua Doab" protection project with an estimated cost of Rs.35.45 crore, in October, 2006. The proposal was examined in CWC and Ministry of Water Resources and observations have been sent to Government of Orissa for their compliance. The revised proposal after compliance has not been received from the State Government of Orissa.

Army Nurse Corps

3766. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute a separate Army Nurse Corps for the military nurses in the army as followed in some foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute a separate Army Nurse Corps.

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

[Translation]

Palm Starian Oil

3767. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some importers are importing palm starian oil in the name of mixed acid oil and fatty acid oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against such importers;

(c) whether these oils were found to be used for mixing in edible oils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to check such adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Cases of import of Palm Stearin Oil in the name of mixed acid oil and fatty acid have been booked by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(b) The details of the cases are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Importer	Qty. in MT	Value in (Rs. Crore)	Date of SCN issued	Duty if any (in Crores)	Action taken
1.	M/s Bobby Soap Industries	178.948	0.38	26.06.2007	0.15	Show Cause Notice (SCN) issued
2.	M/s Khanna Soap Factory	18.13	0.04	26.06.2007	0.01	SCN issued
3.	Tara Enterprises	181.3	33.68	-	0.13 out of which 0.06 recovered by DRI	Case transferred to Customs House Pipavav for final assessment.
4.	Gokul Enterprises	126.910	27.92	09.05.07	0.28	Pending adjudication
5.	Bhai Gehla Singh Jaswant Singh	164.66	0.30	21.05.07	0.055	Pending adjudication

(c) The said oil being used for mixing with the edible oil has not come to the notice of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Submarine INS Sindhuvijay

3768. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upgraded submarine INS Sindhuvijay had been handed over to Indian Navy by Russia for sea trials;

(b) if so, the salient features of the above submarines;

(c) whether the above submarine has been equipped with Russian Club-S missile complex; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) The modernization of the Indian Navy with a view to provide it with the state of art platforms, weapons and equipment is an ongoing process. The refit of existing platforms with a view to modernize the same is also undertaken on need basis. The selection of platforms, weapons and equipment is done based on threat perception and requirement of Navy as projected in the Plans. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details.

Facilities to War Widows

3769. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of widows of war martyrs in Haryana;

(b) the number of the families/widows of martyrs who have been provided assistance under the various schemes;

(c) whether some families/widows of martyrs are still running around for Government assistance like Government Service etc.;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The number of widows of war martyrs in Haryana is 1355.

(b) (i) The wards of all battle casualties are being provided educational scholarships which include complete re-imbusement of tuition fee, transportation charges, hostel charges less mess charges, cost of books, uniform, etc. upto and inclusive of the first degree course.

(ii) 46 widows of war martyrs of Operation Vijay, Kargil were provided financial assistance under National Defence Fund and the package included Rs.5 lakhs for a dwelling unit and Rs.2 lakhs each for parental assistance and children allowance.

(iii) 94 war widows of Haryana have been provided flats by Delhi Development Authority under 'Vijay Veer Awas Yojna' at concessional rates in Delhi.

- (c) No, Sir.
 (d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Foreign Visits of Army Chief

3770. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
 DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
 SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
 SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff has visited China, France and England in recent months;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the details of the talks held with the said countries and the agreement reached in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief of Army Staff visited China from 21-25 May, 2007, France from 25-27 June, 2007 and England from 28th June to 2nd July, 2007.

(c) During the above visits, the Chief of Army Staff had interaction with senior officers in the Defence Ministry and Armed Forces in the respective countries. The discussions during the meeting focused on enhancement of on-going military-to-military cooperation. Views were also exchanged on areas of common concern such as international terrorism. No agreements were concluded during these visits.

Imported Wheat

3771. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
 SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
 SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
 SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the early issue of tenders for import of wheat led to rise in prices of wheat in the country;
 (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the price of wheat in Delhi before and after the issue of tenders;
 (c) the reasons for placing orders for import of wheat before commencement of season in Europe and Russia; and
 (d) the action proposed to be taken against officials responsible for the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No,

Sir. Retail prices have remained steady at Rs.12 per kg. in Delhi for the last six months.

(c) Since the procurement was expected to fall short of the requirements for Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Welfare Schemes and to take care of natural calamities etc. it was decided to import wheat in suitable tranches.

- (d) The question of loss does not arise.

[Translation]

Espionage Cases in Armed Forces

3772. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
 SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
 SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of jawans suspected to be found involved in spying cases in Armed Forces and the details of the administrative action taken against them during the last three years;
 (b) whether increasing number of cases of spying by army jawans has caused flaws in the security system; and
 (c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) During the last three years, 17 Armed Forces personnel were found to be involved in spying cases. Appropriate action have been initiated/taken as per rules, regulations and 14 persons have been awarded stringent punishment.

(b) and (c) There has been no increase in number of spying cases by army jawans which have caused flaws in the security system. An effective inbuilt Counter Intelligence mechanism is in place to detect, identify and neutralize hostile intelligence efforts.

[English]

Import of Pulses

3773. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has imported pulses at higher prices causing substantial loss to the Government and has taken the form of a scam;
 (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the losses suffered;
 (c) whether the Government has constituted any inquiry in this regard;

- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
 (e) the action taken against those held guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Purchase of pulses were finalized on the basis of a global tender and orders were placed on the basis of lowest offers received in the tender. The import prices were competitive with the prices prevailing at international market. The STC stated that there was no loss suffered in that import.

(c) to (e) A complaint received from the Finance Ministry alleging irregularities in the import of pulses by STC was referred to the Chief Vigilance officer (CVO), STC. Upon a report of the CVO, the allegation was referred to the CBI for investigation. Report of the CBI is awaited.

[Translation]

Universal Social Security System for Farmers

3774. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
 SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
 SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for enterprises in the organized sector has submitted a report regarding welfare and social security system for farmers,

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the main recommendations regarding social security system for farmers and credit flow to the farmers particularly the small and medium farmers; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no such Commission under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Wheat

3775. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and the United States on market access for U.S. wheat have failed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A delegation of officials from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as part of ongoing bi-lateral negotiations on plant health held discussions with U.S. authorities in May, 2007. The request of the USA for relaxation of Phytosanitary norms regarding tolerance levels of quarantine weed seeds in wheat consignments was not accepted by India, in view of likely threat of entry of quarantine weeds into the country, which do not exist presently in India. No import consignments, not conforming to the Phytosanitary specifications prescribed under Plant Quarantine (regulation of import into India) Order, 2003, will be permitted entry into the country.

Violation of Ceasefire Agreement

3776. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times violation of ceasefire agreement has been reported in the last three years;

(b) the number of soldiers and civilians killed/injured during the said firing;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the dependents of deceased soldiers and civilians;

(d) the outcome of flag meeting held with Pakistani counterpart to resolve the issue; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure peace on the LoC/border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The ceasefire was declared in November, 2003 on the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan, which has been upheld except for some aberrations.

Strong protests have been lodged by the Indian side with their Pakistani counterparts about the incident of ceasefire violation through military and diplomatic channels. While reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to uphold the situation, the Pakistani authorities have denied complicity of Pakistani troops in these incidents. One Junior Commissioned Officer and three other ranks of the Indian Army have been injured in the ceasefire violations.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to War Widows

3777. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widows of the deceased soldiers of Kargil War were offered Petrol Pump and a lump-sum amount; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparison to the benefits to casualties of other operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Widows/next of kin of Kargil Martyrs were allotted oil product agencies under a special scheme under which Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had earmarked 500 agencies for them. The dependents of martyrs of other operations are eligible for allotment of oil product agencies under 8% defence quota scheme.

According to the policy, Operation Vijay was treated as a war-like engagement and a special welfare package including enhanced ex-gratia compensation of Rs.10 lakhs to the next of kin of the Battle casualties was provided. The ex-gratia amount admissible to the next of kin of defence personnel martyred in other operations is Rs.7.5 lakhs. However, no distinction has been made between Operation Vijay and post Operation Vijay casualties, in so far as the Pensionary benefits are concerned. All war widows are entitled to liberalised family pension.

[Translation]

Hike in Pensionary Benefits to Personnel

3778. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to provide pension at increased rates to the soldiers who had retired before the year 1996;

(b) if so, the reason for not providing pension to them at the increased rates even after the passage of one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide pension at the increased rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary instructions have been issued to all Pension Disbursement Authorities (PDAs) to revise the pension based on the tables provided on the website of Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension), Allahabad, followed by a printed booklet. Revision of pension of about 12 lakh pensioners through a net work of 45,000 branches of Public Sector Banks, 633 branches of 4 Private Sector Banks, 640 treasuries, 5 Pay and Account Offices and 2 Post Offices is an enormous task, undertaken on a continuous basis.

(c) All Pension Disbursement Authorities have been advised to make payment of pension at the revised rates shown in the tables circulated for the purpose without calling for any application from the pensioners. Controller General of Defence Accounts has approached the Chairmen cum

Managing Directors of the Public Sector Banks to instruct the paying Branches for expeditious revision and implementation of the Government decision. Reserve Bank of India has also written to the Banks in this regard. The Secretary, Department of Financial Services has also been requested to have the process expedited. The position is being closely monitored.

Employment to Agricultural Labourers

3779. SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for providing jobs to the agricultural labourers through cooperative movement is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Postal Estates

3780. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of plots of land belonging to Postal Department lying vacant and the number of sites in which Post Office building has been completed as on 31st August, 2007 in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes any action plan for development of postal estates in the country;

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

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government for optimum utilisation of various postal estates in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Posts has 1871 plots of land lying vacant in the country and as on 31st August, 2007 the Department has 4018 completed buildings for the Post Offices.

(b) State-wise number of Departmental plots of land lying vacant is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Postal Circle-wise number of Post Office buildings is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a wholly owned Company with limited

liability, for optimum Development and management of Postal Estates. A draft Cabinet Note on the proposal has been circulated to Planning Commission and various Nodal Ministries/Departments for their views/comments.

(e) Construction on vacant plots is taken up as per the departmental norms and availability of funds.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Plots of Land Lying Vacant

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of Plots
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	229
2.	Assam	33
3.	Bihar	86
4.	Chhattisgarh	8
5.	Delhi	20
6.	Gujarat	112
7.	Haryana	19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9
10.	Jharkhand	65
11.	Karnataka	364
12.	Kerala	145
13.	Maharashtra	87
14.	Goa	4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	26
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
17.	Tripura	2
18.	Meghalaya	3
19.	Manipur	3
20.	Nagaland	7
21.	Mizoram	10
22.	Orissa	42
23.	Punjab	17
24.	Rajasthan	200
25.	Tamil Nadu	154
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80
27.	Uttaranchal	20

1	2	3
28.	West Bengal	87
29.	Sikkim	1
Total		1871

Statement-II

The Postal Circle-wise Number of Post Office Buildings completed as on 31-08-2007

Sl. No.	Name of Postal Circle	No. of Post Office Building
1	Andhra Pradesh	300
2	Assam	158
3	Bihar	178
4	Chhattisgarh	38
5	Delhi	113
6	Gujarat	233
7	Haryana	75
8	Himachal Pradesh	73
9	Jammu and Kashmir	33
10	Jharkhand	69
11	Karnataka	371
12	Kerala	249
13	Maharashtra	355
14	Madhya Pradesh	195
15	North East	90
16	Orissa	142
17	Punjab	135
18	Rajasthan	288
19	Tamil Nadu	272
20	Uttar Pradesh	334
21	Uttarakhand	50
22	West Bengal	267
Total		4018

Women Engaged in Agriculture

3781. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women engaged in agriculture and agri-related business activities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of women holding agricultural property in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact a law empowering women to ownership of agricultural land, priority access to agri-credit and infrastructural support and technical knowledge to ensure dignity and economic development of women in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The number of total women workers (cultivators and agricultural labourers) engaged in agriculture and agri-related activities in the country as per 2001 population Census is 91,342,583. Data on agricultural property held by women are not available. State-wise figures are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Statement

The number of total women workers (cultivators and agricultural labourers) engaged in agriculture and agri-related activities in the country as per 2001 population Census

SI.No.	State/UTs	No. of women in agriculture
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	643061
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1159071
3.	Punjab	687919
4.	Chandigarh	556
5.	Uttarakhand	954883
6.	Haryana	1724155
7.	Delhi	15140
8.	Rajasthan	7545727
9.	Uttar Pradesh	9842987
10.	Bihar	6423849
11.	Sikkim	69389
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	151475
13.	Nagaland	292840
14.	Manipur	229125
15.	Mizoram	139843
16.	Tripura	205830

1	2	3
17.	Meghalaya	292798
18.	Assam	1527729
19.	West Bengal	3281433
20.	Jharkhand	2850110
21.	Orissa	3311878
22.	Chhattisgarh	3673453
23.	Madhya Pradesh	8037432
24.	Gujarat	4547991
25.	Daman and Diu	3002
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30684
27.	Maharashtra	11023807
28.	Andhra Pradesh	10036381
29.	Karnataka	5657031
30.	Goa	44523
31.	Kerala	664614
32.	Tamil Nadu	6234820
33.	Puducherry	31397
34.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7650
Total		9,13,42,583

Source: Census of India, 2001

[Translation]

Holding of Elections in Cantonment Areas

3782. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether civil complaints have been received regarding not holding of elections in the cantonment areas by the cantonment council for the last few years resulting in development of the cantonment areas being put on hold;

(b) if so, the names of the cities and the States from where such complaints have been received;

(c) the time by which the said elections are likely to be held;

(d) whether these elections were not held due to the obstinacy of the concerned officials; and

(e) if so, the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Representations have been received regarding holding of elections to Cantonment Boards, from various

Cantonments like Pune, Deolali (Maharashtra), Jhansi, Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Delhi (NCT of Delhi), Amritsar (Punjab) and Barrackpore (West Bengal) etc.

(c) For holding elections to the Cantonment Boards in accordance with the provisions of Cantonments Act, 2006, Cantonments Electoral Rules, 2007 have been notified. The legal and statutory process has to be completed before elections are held.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair)

REFERENCES BY THE SPEAKER

Observance of International Literacy Day And Congratulating Indian Hockey Team on winning Asia Cup Hockey Championship

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, 8 September, 2007 was observed as International Literacy Day, a practice which is being followed since 1965 when this day was so designated by the UNESCO. Concerted efforts are being made in our country to achieve full literacy but still there is concern that the female literacy rate is yet to achieve the target and the gap should be bridged and women's literacy has to be accorded priority.

Let us resolve to step up the efforts for spread of literacy in the country.

Hon. Members, it is a matter of great pride that India has won the Asia Cup Hockey Championship by registering a resounding victory, defeating South Korea by a margin of seven goals to two at the finals held at Chennai yesterday.

The Team has done us proud and I am sure the House would join me in congratulating the Indian Hockey team and wish them glorious success in their future tournaments.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Hockey Team did well,

the Football Team did well, yet hockey and football are kept out of the priority list. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, they should be given first priority and more money. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am so happy that there is unanimity on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, hockey has been removed from our priority list. ...*(Interruptions)* It should be included in the priority list. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Archery also should be given priority.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, on every issue there is unanimity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you not wait for five minutes?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, on every issue there is unanimity. Why can there not be unanimity on the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement? ...*(Interruptions)*

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except papers being laid on the Table.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): 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) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2005-2006.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts

*Treated as laid on the Table.

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7003/2007]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) relating to Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 94th Session, Geneva, February 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7004/2007]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2005-2006.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7005/2007]

- (4) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) (1st amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 465(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7006/2007]

- (5) A copy of the Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 2006. (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.3 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2006, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7007/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Dr. Suresh Pachouri, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Information Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, under sub-section (4) of section 25 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reason for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7008/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898:-
- (i) The Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R.511(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2007.
- (ii) The Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R.420(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2007.
- (iii) The Indian Post Office (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007, published in Notification No. G.S.R.532(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7009/2007]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:-
- (i) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. F.No.409-2/2007-FN in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007.
- (ii) The Telecom Consumers Protection and Redressal of Grievances Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. F.No. 303-10/2006-QOS in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2007.
- (iii) The Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007

- published in Notification No. 101-60/2006-MN in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2007.
- (iv) The International Telecommunication Access to Essential Facilities at Cable Landing Stations Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. File No.416-1/2007-F.N. in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2007.
- (v) The Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 322/4/2006-QOS (CA) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2007.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) of (2) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7010/2007]
- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.477(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27 June, 2007 containing corrigendum to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Amendment Rules, 2006 dated the 20th April 2006 issued under Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7011/2007]
- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7012/2007]
- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7013/2007]
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7014/2007]
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7015/2007]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7016/2007]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2005-2006.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the U.P. Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7017/2007]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EP36(2)/99 in Gazette of India dated the 15th May 2007 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7018/2007]

- (2) A copy of the Sugarcane (Control) (Amendment) Order, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.1309(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 2007 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7019/2007]

- (3) A copy of the Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.423(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 41 of the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7020/2007]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the

following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 6th September, 2007 agreed without any amendment to the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 2007."

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Carriage by Road Bill, 2007 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th September, 2007."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Carriage by Road Bill, 2007 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 7th September 2007.

12.03 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Statement

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the statement showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 15th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Passenger Amenities'.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demand for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distributions*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay the

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7021/2007

statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. Department of Food and Public Distribution in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The statement indicating the action taken/status of all the recommendations contained in respect of the above report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution is annexed separately. These recommendations of the Committee have been examined carefully by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of Food and Public Distribution. It may please be noted that the Eighteenth Report contains 43 recommendations out of which 30 recommendations have been accepted. The details of recommendations which have been accepted/partially accepted/not accepted/ not accepted for the time being/under examination/no specific recommendation are given as under: -

Total No. of recommendation	Accepted	Partially Accepted	Not Accepted/not Accepted for the time being	Under Examination	No. of specific recommendation
43	30	6	5	1	1

The reason(s) for non acceptance of 5 recommendations and partial acceptance of 6 recommendations have been explained in the statement.

The action taken replies in respect of this report have been sent to the Committee on 20.08.2007.

...(Interruptions)

12.04½ hrs.

[English]

(ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st, 5th and 14th Reports of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on Demands for Grants (2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07), pertaining to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions***

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): Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Shri

Suresh Pachouri, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Department-Related Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 25 recommendations in its First Report on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. We had informed this hon. House on 13.12.2006, that out of the above 25 recommendations, 19 recommendations had already been implemented or no further action remains to be taken on them. In regard to the remaining 6 recommendations, Sir, with your permission, I lay two Statements on the Table of the House which indicate the status as on 30.4.2007 on these recommendations. Statement No. 1 indicates the position regarding one of these recommendations which has since been implemented. Statement No. 2 lists the status of remaining 5 recommendations which are at various stages of implementation. The progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

Sir, with your kind permission I further state that the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 32 recommendations in its 5th Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. We had informed this hon. House on 13.12.2006 that out of these, 28 recommendations had already been implemented or no further action remained to be taken on them. In regard to the remaining recommendations, Sir, with your permission, I lay two more Statements on the Table of the House, i.e. Statement No.3 and Statement No.4 which indicate status as on 30.4.2007 on the remaining recommendations. The Statement No. 3 indicates 3 recommendations which have either been implemented or no further action remains to be taken. Statement No. 4 lists the status of the remaining 1 recommendation which is being implemented. The progress of implementation of the recommendation of the Committee is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

Sir, with your kind permission I further state that the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had made 48 recommendations in its 14th Report on the Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. Sir, with your permission, I lay two more Statements on the Table of the House, i.e. Statement No.5 and Statement No.6 which indicate status as on 30.4.2007 on these recommendations. The Statement No. 5 indicates the status of 31 recommendations which have either been implemented or no further action is envisaged on the same. Statement No. 6 lists the status of the remaining 17 recommendations which are being

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7022/2007

implemented. The progress of implementation of the recommendation of the Committee is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want Matters under Rule 377?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to expedite the implementation of project for protection & rehabilitation of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve, Alwar, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sariska in my parliamentary constituency, Alwar has been declared a project tiger reserve. A National debate is on in the country about the disappearance of tigers from Sariska. The hon'ble Prime Minister has given an assurance in the House about the rehabilitation and resettlement of tigers in Sariska. A project has been prepared with the technical assistance of Indian wildlife institute, Dehradun for the rehabilitation of tigers in Sariska. An amended scheme worth Rs. 4.60 crore is under the consideration of forest and environment department of the Government. My request to the hon'ble Prime Minister is that the work relating to the rehabilitation of the tigers be carried out expeditiously so that the number of tourists visiting Alwar could increase.

- (ii) **Need to construct gates and install water-pumping machines along the barbed-wire fencing on Indo-Bangladesh border in Karimganj (Assam)**

[English]

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA (Karimganj): I wish to draw attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by a large number of people living within Barbed Wire Fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Border including the ones on the bank of the river Kushiara in Karimganj Assam due to absence of gates at suitable places. People are having difficulties as they do not have easy access to their paddy fields outside the fencing as they have to walk long distances with all implements and cattle to reach their paddy fields. On the other hand, those living on the bank of river Kushiara who are traditionally accustomed to use river water for all purposes, such as, bathing, washing, cultivation and even drinking etc. have to toil to fetch water from the river on the other side of the fencing. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take suitable action in (i) providing gates at 500 metre distance all along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in this area and (ii) installing pumping machines at suitable places to bring in river water in order to meet the daily needs of this large number of households inside the barbed wire fencing.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1056 DATED AUGUST 20, 2007 REGARDING 'OUTSOURCING OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION SYSTEM'

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay a statement correcting the reply given on 20th August, 2007 to unstarred Question No. 1056 by Shri Rasheed Masood and Shri Mohd. Tahir, MPs regarding the outsourcing of defence production system.

I had answered in parts (a) & (b) of the above Lok Sabha Unstarred Question that 30% of the indicative cost of Capital acquisitions categorized as 'Buy Global' and 30% of the foreign exchange component in 'Buy & Make' category acquisitions will be the minimum required offset. The indicative cost of Capital acquisitions to which the offset provision is applicable, which was left out inadvertently in the reply, is "Rs.300 crore or more".

As soon as the error has come to my notice, action has been taken to rectify the same.

The correcting statement is now being laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

12.05½ hrs.

(At this stage Shri Subhash Maharia, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 **

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are some very important matters which the hon. Members want to raise.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Can matters under Rule 377 be laid on the Table of the House?

**Treated as laid on the Table.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7023/2007.

- (iii) **Need to include the Anglo-Indian community in the proposed Central Scheme for development of minority concentration districts in the country**

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): I learn that the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs is in the process of formulating a multisectoral Central scheme that will target the 90 Minority Concentration Districts (MCD) in the country and is being envisaged as a 100 percent centrally funded scheme. The scheme, once in place, is expected to give a push to the prime minister's new 15 point programme for the welfare of minorities. The ambitious programme is aimed at improving the condition of minorities by locating certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration area. Among the areas that will receive particular attention in the minority districts are education, housing, water supply, electricity and nutrition. The aim of the scheme is also to create income-generating activities for the minority communities. This is a welcome step.

In this context, I would like the government to spell the criteria proposed to be adopted for identifying minorities whether they would be religious minorities, or linguistic minorities or any other special criteria will be evolved. From the initial reports, it appears that the prime consideration would be religious criterion. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister if the Anglo-Indian community is also considered to receive the benefits spelled out in the multisectoral central scheme.

- (iv) **Need to implement potable water-schemes in Mehsana Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat under Swajaldhara scheme.**

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is scarcity of potable water in my parliamentary constituency, Mehsana. People are forced to fetch water by covering long distances and by digging of petroleum oil wells and by the process of extraction of gas and oil, Fouride contents have got mixed with water due to the consumption of which people are falling ill and are becoming handicapped. The Ministry of rural development has stated that 37 Swajaldhara schemes have been implemented in my parliamentary constituency. If these schemes have been completed, people should have got water but even after the implementation of the said schemes water crisis is still continuing. Had these 37 schemes been completed, the situation of availability of potable water in my parliamentary constituency Mehsana would have improved.

Through the House, I urge the Government to implement Swajaldhara schemes of the Ministry of Rural development to redress the serious crisis of potable water being faced by the people of my parliamentary constituency, Mehsana.

- (v) **Need to release funds for repair & maintenance of existing water system in Darjeeling, West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): I thank Central Government for sanctioning for Drinking Water Project in Darjeeling. About 100 years ago the British had constructed two lakes-the North Senchal lake in 1905 and the South Senchal lake in 1932. Rain water or spring water are stored to supply drinking water to the entire population of Darjeeling throughout the year. Besides the rainwater there are as many as 23 springs from where water is being brought to these two lakes through conduit lines. These conduit lines were also constructed by the British, which are not maintained properly, and therefore these conduit lines are in a very deplorable condition. The pipes which were laid down by the British to carry water from these two lakes to the Filter House at Jorebunglow is also in a dilapidated condition which also needs either to be replaced or to be repaired thoroughly.

The Darjeeling drinking water project of the Central Government will take more than two years to be completed. The crises of drinking water in Darjeeling during this period can be sorted out by repairing these conduit lines and by replacing the old pipes from Senchal Lakes to the filter house at Jorebunglow for which an additional amount is required. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to sanction an additional sum of Rupees five crores for the maintenance of those springs, conduit lines and the pipelines which will help to solve the drinking water crisis of the people of Darjeeling till this Central Government project is completed.

- (vi) **Need to announce a comprehensive package for all round development of the Anglo-Indian Community in the country**

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problems being faced by the Anglo-Indian Community in the Country. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has the mandate to address prevailing and emerging concerns but no scheme for the community has been prepared as yet. Due to lack of access to loans from the Minorities Development Financial Corporation, the Community is unable to set up small units. There are no scholarship facilities for professional and higher education and the Government does not facilitate accreditation/affiliation of education institutions. The job opportunities earlier prevailing were withdrawn and no alternatives created. Consequently, the economic condition of community is extremely pathetic. As a micro ethnic and linguistic minority in the country which has contributed far in excess of its population, there needs to be enabling avenues to participate and contribute to the gross national good.

The Government is requested to announce a compre-

hensive package including financial support by way of access to a dedicated fund for loans, at least 20 scholarships for higher and professional education in different areas, job opportunities on priority basis in certain sectors, like, Railways, Customs, Armed forces and Post & Telegraph and facilitate affiliation and recognition of institutions for vocational, professional and higher education.

(vii) Need to provide a rail link between Ajmer and Pushkar Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pushkar is one of the most famous pilgrimage centres of the country situated in Ajmer district of Rajasthan. It has a great mythological importance. Many large temples and Pushkar lake is located here where every year lakhs of devout followers and reverents pay obeisance and take a holy dip and receive their share of spiritual rewards. Large number of foreign tourists also come here due to the temperate climate and religious background. Owing to the absence of direct rail route, travellers are forced to alight at Ajmer and take recourse to bus services etc. to reach Pushkar which causes great inconveniences.

Few years back, Government of India had taken a decision to directly connect this important pilgrim centre with the rest of the country through the laying of a broad-gauge railway line; however even after a passage of 3-4 years, work related to the linking of Ajmer with Pushkar has not yet been completed. The work is progressing at snail's pace and due to the fact that a very meagre amount has been allocated for this purpose in the budget, the cost of the scheme is also increasing. After constructing the railway line upto Pushkar, work should be done to extend it upto Medtha also so that Ajmer could be directly linked with eastern Rajasthan and areas along the Pakistan border.

Therefore, I urge Government of India to make special provisions in the railway budget for directly linking Pushkar for the convenience of lakhs of passengers visiting this pilgrimage and tourist centre and run trains directly to Pushkar by completing the work relating to the laying of railway lines on a warfooting within a stipulated time.

(viii) Need to set up more Primary Health Centres under Rural Health Mission in the remote and far-flung areas of the country.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a view to making available good health facilities to rural areas also, primary health centres in large numbers were set up in various States with the assistance of the Union Government, however due to the absence of continuity in the implementation of the said scheme, some areas were benefited generally but in some other remote areas located in hilly regions these facilities could not be made available. Along with this, due to the non-appointment

of doctors and attendants as per the prescribed norms or because of the fact that posts are lying vacant at these health centres, benefits of the said scheme have not reached the common man. The maintenance of instruments in the absence of sufficient funds and the condition of the vehicles and buildings due to lack of sufficient funds is getting worsened which is a matter of serious concern.

Hence keeping in view the utility of the primary health centres under rural health mission, primary health centres be made more and more useful and new centres set up for the benefits of deprived States.

I desire that a time bound action plan be formulated by the hon'ble health minister in this regard so that the absence of health services in the rural areas could be addressed and this will enable us to pave the way for the creation of a healthy India.

(ix) Need to enhance the special financial package for over all development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities in the country.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lagging behind even after the 60 years of independence. A special campaign should be launched by the Union Government for their social, academic and economic upliftment including provision of healthcare facilities, roads, electricity, drinking water, housing facilities and vocational training, TRYSEM Schemes, schemes regarding drug rehabilitation, marriage of girls, prevention of child marriages, prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Tribes schemes, Ambedkar Awas Yojana, Valmiki Awas Yojana, scheme for providing treatment to sick persons from the downtrodden section, developing religious places as tourist places, and schemes of cultural development, hostel accommodations for students, covering metric and pre-matric level, providing employment to unemployed people and filling up posts of Grade-I to Grade-IV within six months should also be included in the special package. The overall development is minimal despite implementation of various schemes for SCs/STs. The amount provided for their development is nominal. There is no change in their condition even in the 21st century. The amount allocated for development has been mostly used for Government machinery.

I would like to request the Union Government that an additional special package worth Rs. 300 crore may be given to the SC/ST dominating States viz. Chhattisgarh and other States such as Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and a special campaign should be launched for their overall development.

(x) Need to enhance the quota of power from Central Pool to Rajasthan.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): The cases regarding the share of the States of Rajasthan and Haryana in various water projects and Anandpur Sahib Hydro-electric project, Mukerian Hydro Project, The Dam Project, UVGC 2nd phase Project and Shahpur Kandi Project which were earmarked under the agreement of 1984 have not been forwarded to the Supreme Court for its opinion. Rajasthan has not been given any compensation for loss.

I would like to request the Government that the quota of power of the State from Central Pool should be increased to 40 percent which was initially the State's share in 1996.

(xi) Need to provide broad-gauge railway link to minor ports of Gujarat

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal on 04.07.2006 to the Department of Shipping Government of India, regarding broad gauge railway linkage to minor ports of Gujarat to connect Gujarat ports with the dedicated railway freight corridor connecting Mumbai to Delhi Approved by Government of India.

I urge the Railway Ministry/Central Government for the speedy implementation of the above proposal.

(xii) Need to implement the recommendation of Task Force for Keleghai Kopaleswari-Baghai Basin drainage and Tamluk Drainage, District Midnapur, West Bengal

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Tamluk Parliamentary Constituency from where I am elected is surrounded by rivers in four sides namely Ganges in East, Rupnarayan in North, Kangsabati and Keleghai in West and Haldi in South. Due to heavy concentration of silt in river bed, drainage system provided by irrigation Department, Government of West Bengal have become non functional. River bed have become higher than that of agricultural land as a result rain water is not being drained out causing flood every year in all these areas.

I may mention that in ancient time river Rupnarayan was navigable for transportation of cargo. Later, port in the name of Tamralipta Bandar came into existence. Due to heavy siltation the said port ceased to exist.

In reference to my letter dated 15-12-2005 Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of India assured that recommendation of Task Force for two schemes i.e. (1) Keleghai Kopaleswari-Baghai Basin drainage with estimated cost of Rs. 32.75 crores (2) Tamluk Drainage with estimated cost of Rs. 20.51 crores will be implemented in Eleventh Plan.

Hon'ble Minister of Water Resource also informed that Task Force has recommended various measures for flood management including flood protection schemes on River Haldi, Rupnarayan, Ganga, Kopaleswari, Chandia and Hoogly. This recommendation needs implementation immediately.

Further, desiltation schemes in all these rivers which will help flood control and navigation of cargo vessels has not been taken up. So, I would also request Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Water Resource for implementation of aforesaid schemes recommended by Task Force besides taking up desiltation work in Rupnarayan and Haldi.

(xiii) Need to provide uniform welfare package to all the soldiers who laid their lives for the country

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The 1.13 million Army has sought a uniform welfare package from the government for all battle casualties on a par with the much higher amounts given to the next of kin of the 527 soldiers killed and around 1,400 wounded during the Kargil conflict.

The army has raised this issue in the past also but to no avail, with the government drawing a distinction between casualties in war and those arising out of counter-insurgency operations on the basis of 'different levels of risk' and "intensity of action".

The family of a soldier killed during Kargil got around Rs. 19.30 lakh, which included a Rs. 10 lakh ex gratia amount from the Union Government and other special benefits, but in other operations including the relentless counter-insurgency ones in J&K and the north-east, the amount for 'fatal' cases roughly works out to be around Rs. 8 lakh.

The soldiers injured during the Kargil operations got Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh, as ex gratia payment, depending on the percentage of disability, which further went up with special benefits. In other operations, the ex gratia figure stands at Rs. 1 lakh.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to give order for 'uniform welfare package' to all patriotic soldiers who laid down their lives.

(xiv) Need to address the problem of contaminated groundwater under centrally sponsored scheme in Kheri Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the contaminated ground water. About 15 States are facing this problem in the country and Uttar Pradesh is one of them. It is adversely affecting the health of the people. People are compelled to drink contaminated

water, as a result of which they are falling victims of fatal diseases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency is also grappling with this problem. People's health is at stake. I would like to request the Government to take necessary action on priority basis under a centrally sponsored scheme so that the poor may get pure drinking water.

(xv) Need to install India Mark hand-pumps in Chail Parliamentary Constituency under Rashtriya Swajaldhara Scheme.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the level of the ground water in my parliamentary constituency, Chail which consists of three districts, viz. Allahabad, Kaushambi and Fatehpur is decreasing day-by-day. Though proposals have been submitted in this regard by the district and States planning department yet India Mark hand pumps are not being installed as per the verbal order of hon'ble Rural Development Minister despite the fact that problem regarding drinking water in all the three districts is rather severe.

I would again like to submit to the Ministry of Rural Development that the situation is really critical after the closure of Rashtriya Swajaldhara Scheme. In view of the foregoing 5000 hand pumps may be installed immediately.

(xvi) Need to develop Thabe in district Gopalganj, Bihar as a tourist place

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an ancient temple of Goddess Bhawani in Thabe, Gopalganj, Bihar. Thousands of pilgrims from the State within and from various parts of the country visit the place throughout the year. People have deep faith in this temple. There are no special facilities there even though the temple is ancient and famous. If Thabe is developed as a tourist place it would not only facilitate the pilgrims but the Government would also earn more revenue.

I, therefore, would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Tourism through this House and request that Thabe, Gopalganj, be developed as a tourist spot and the Government provide special financial assistance for this purpose.

(xvii) Need to sanction the construction of a dam on river Ghaghra, in Faizabad Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayodhya, falling in Parliamentary Constituency Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh and situated on the bank of river Ghaghra is a pilgrimage of national importance. Every year river Ghaghra plays havoc in the region claiming lakhs of lives and ruining property worth crores of rupees. The dam which has been constructed from Ayodhya to Bilhar ghat at Dashrath Samadhi

prevents large scale loss of lives and property. If the dam from Dashrath Samadhi Bilhar Ghat is extended to 'Dilasigang' then it would not only benefit lakhs of commuters but also protect them from massive floods in Ghaghra and subsequently crores of rupees which are distributed for relief and rehabilitation of flood hit people could be saved.

Lacs of people and property worth crores of rupees can be saved from the devastating floods in the river Ghaghra by constructing this dam.

I request the Government to give its approval for the construction of this important dam.

(xviii) Need to set up a Food Processing Industry in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu accounts for maximum mango production in the country with nearly 36,000 hectares coming under it. This District contributes more than 60% of the total mango production in the State. Out of the mango production from Krishnagiri district, major portion goes to the pulp processing units.

The pulp production in the district has increased over the years and it is estimated to touch 75,000 tonnes by 2010. There are roughly 25 processing units of fruit pulp in private sector in Krishnagiri District. Also, 35,000 tonnes of fruit juice is extracted every year. About 30 to 40 thousand people are employed in mango cultivation. Apart from these, there are about 150 private mango nursery units producing saplings are located in and around Krishnagiri. Krishnagiri district exports mango based products worth Rs. 1,000 million.

As a result of inadequate storage facilities and due to unscientific handling, the fruits are often loaded and unloaded in an unscientific manner. Further, to protect the mangoes from being getting rotten and also to fetch adequate revenue to the farmers and to the Government through export of mango products, there is an urgent need for setting up of a Food Processing Industry in the Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu with the assistance of the Union Government. Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to kindly consider and do that needful.

(xix) Need to expedite rural electrification schemes in Santhal Parganas, Jharkhand under Rajeev Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Santhal Parganas, Jharkhand is facing serious problem of power generation and supply. The work of electrification of 8,727 villages and 14,69,520 rural houses (including 9,42,319 BPL houses) is still incomplete. The work of electrification in Sahibganj, Pakud, Godda and Dumka

districts of my Parliamentary Constituency under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana is not satisfactory. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards launching a hydro electric project and setting up of a power grid in Santhal Parganas district but the outcome is not satisfactory. Rural Electrification Authority has not been successful in the work of rural electrification. No expediency is being shown in getting approval for CCEA for electrification of several villages under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana and continuation of the scheme.

I, therefore, request the Government to expedite the remaining works of rural electrification and process of setting up power grid in Sahibganj, Godda, Pakud and Dumka in Santhal Parganas.

(xx) Need to Improve and augment telecommunication services in Ladakh, J & K

[English]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): The telecommunication services in the sensitive border region of Ladakh is going from bad to worse. Both BSNL mobile service and land line services have not been functioning properly. Ladakh has received maximum number of foreign and domestic tourists this year but due to poor services of the telecommunication system there have been lots of complaints from tourists as well as local consumers. The upgradation process of mobile and land line system, laying of OFC and installation of WLL are getting delayed. The telecommunication department in Ladakh is functioning with less than 50% of staff as no fresh recruitment are being made nor official are being posted there. There is urgent need to fill up all the vacant post and create sufficient posts to improve services. Locating main switching system at Leh from Jammu is needed to be approved on priority. Also upgradation of BSNL mobile in relaxation of norms needs to be approved. I request Hon'ble Minister to address the grievances on priority and also depute team of senior officials to assess the problems and suggest remedial measures.

12.07 hrs.

AIRCRAFT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Item 15. Shri Praful Patel.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 14 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 2, --

for "2006", substitute "2007". (2)

(Shri Praful Patel)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, --

for "Fifty-seventh", substitute "Fifty-eighth". (1)

(Shri Praful Patel)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting-Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, why the Bill is being passed without any debate or discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 4 p.m.

12.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Sixteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

CARRIAGE BY ROAD BILL, 2007

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 15 A – Shri T.R. Baalu.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of common carriers, limiting their liability and declaration of value of goods delivered to them to determine their liability for loss of, or damage to, such goods occasioned by the negligence or criminal acts of themselves, their servants or agents and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of common carriers, limiting their liability and declaration of value of goods delivered to them to determine their liability for loss of, or damage to, such goods occasioned by the negligence or criminal acts of themselves, their servants or agents and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 22 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 22 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 17 – Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I stand here to initiate the discussion regarding Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the United States. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this happening? ... (Interruptions)

16.02 hrs.

(At this state, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 5.00 p.m.

16.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Seventeen of the Clock.

17.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Seventeen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it appears that on an issue on which I have no control, it is not possible to conduct this House in a proper manner.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, B.J.P. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please; enough is enough. Please go and sit on your seat.

Hon. Members, the Eleventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 10th August, 2007 is coming to an end today, although it was decided earlier that the Session would conclude on 14th September, 2007.

Seventeen sittings spreading 64 hours and 24 minutes could be held during the Session.

Discussions on the voting of Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and (Railways) for 2007-08 lasting for five hours and 33 minutes, and six hours and 40 minutes respectively, were held before passing the related Appropriation Bills.

One Adjournment Motion regarding "the failure of the Government to contain terrorist violence in the country as is evidenced by a series of recent events, the latest being the twin blasts in Hyderabad in which 42 innocent citizens lost their lives and 50 were injured" was discussed in the House. The motion was negatived after a debate lasting over four hours and 21 minutes.

During the Session, the House passed 10 Bills. Some of the important Bills passed were the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007. Four Bills were passed by the House without discussion due to interruptions.

The House had a fruitful debate lasting over 10 hours on short duration discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of the floods in various parts of the country.

During the current Session, two important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. In response to another Calling Attention, the Minister concerned laid the statement but no discussion could be held due to interruptions. One Calling Attention on continued rise in the prices of essential commodities was converted into a short duration discussion under Rule 193 but the same could not be taken up for discussion. As many as 36 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 22 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill,

namely, the Promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006 was negatived by the House after a fruitful debate. Another Bill, namely, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to provide gainful employment to every able bodied citizen who has attained eighteen years of age remained inconclusive.

A Private Members' Resolution urging the Government for formulation and implementation of a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country was discussed for about two hours and 40 minutes before being withdrawn by the leave of the House. Another Private Members' Resolution urging the Government for free and compulsory education up to higher secondary level, remained part discussed.

During the Session, 380 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 35 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 2.05 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to 3,776 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. One Short Notice Question was also admitted.

In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 26 Reports.

About 131 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and after the day's proceedings, before the House rose for the day. Hon. Members also raised 197 matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, we have lost over 42 hours of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments.

I once again take this opportunity to reiterate that Parliamentary democracy can function only when there is active participation of all sections of the House in the debates and discussions on matters of national and international importance and when the House functions with decorum and dignity. In order to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the business of the House and to provide opportunities to discuss matters of urgent importance concerning the common man, I had, on several occasions, convened meetings with the Leaders, Chief Whips/Whips of Parties in Lok Sabha and Members of the Panel of Chairmen. However, in spite of my repeated earnest requests and efforts, some of the very important legislative business before the House had to be completed without discussion; and some matters of great public importance like need for harmonious functioning of three organs of the State, that is, Legislature, Judiciary and Executive and another discussion on the statement made by the Prime Minister on the civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States, problems faced by farmers, the discussion on continued rise in the price of essential commodities and the Sachar Committee Report could not even be taken up, although I had admitted them because the House could not function properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Everyone should introspect. I am not specifying any section of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Chakraborty, it is very unbecoming. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on here? It amounts to insulting the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. This is a disease now. It has become a disease. Even when the Speaker is speaking, you are interrupting.

I may submit that as people's representatives, the Members can serve their constituents only by participating in structured discussion on the floor of the House within the parameters of the Rules of Procedure. It is extremely disturbing that the highest public forum in this country has almost come to a standstill which has raised questions about the future of our system of Parliamentary democracy.

I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in conducting the business before the House. I once again appeal to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation. That is my earnest appeal. I would like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

17.09 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now stand up as Vande Mataram would be played.

(The National Song was played.)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

17.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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