

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 6, 2007/Agrahayana 15, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Azmi Saheb, what do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You never observe silence.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me hear Mr. Ramdas Athawale.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, today is the martyrdom day of the Babri Mosque. ...(Interruptions). The tenure of the Librahan Commission has been extended 42 times and even after the submission of its report; it has not been presented to the House...(Interruptions) Action should be taken against the people found guilty of demolishing the Babri Mosque...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The people who demolished the Babri Mosque should be punished... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Action should be taken against people who demolished the Babri Mosque... (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Terms for Allotment of Kiosks at the Railway Stations

*301. SHRI BHAILAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present criteria and the terms and conditions laid down by the Railways for allotting kiosks at the railway stations;

(b) whether the Railways received complaints against the allotment of kiosks at various railway stations during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against kiosks owners where complaints have been received about the violation of terms by them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) As per extant policy guidelines, contracts for un-reserved catering units, i.e., stalls/trolleys and bookstalls at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations, and Automatic Vending Machines (AVM), Fast Food Units at all categories of stations over Indian Railways are awarded by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) through two packet tender system. Catering contracts for 'D', 'E' and 'F' category stations and reserve category minor catering and other vending units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations

are awarded by Divisional Railway Managers by calling applications through press notification. Milk stalls/parlours/booths are allotted to apex co-operative societies approved by Government of Center/State/Union Territory by calling applications.

For allotment of Subscriber Trunk Dialing/Public Call Office (STD/PCO) booths at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations, two packet tender system is followed. For 'D', 'E' and 'F' category stations, the allotment is done on the basis of draw of lots by the Divisional Railway Manager by inviting applications.

(b) No separate statistics are maintained regarding complaints on allotment of kiosks at stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Actions like warning, counseling; fines etc. are taken against licensees against whom complaints are found substantiated.

Unauthorized Constructions in the Airport Areas

*302. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :
PROF. M. RAMADASS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has directed the State Governments to demolish unauthorised constructions including Jhuggi clusters around all the major airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the State Governments thereto; and

(d) the manner in which the Government proposes to rehabilitate the people living in these unauthorised constructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) regularly approaches State Governments for removal of encroachments from the areas which are required for development / expansion of airport, operational requirement or areas causing security threat to normal airport operations.

(b) Details of encroachments in respect of Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports and restructured airports are as under :

Land encroached (in acres) Mumbai - 276, Juhu - 29 and Nagpur - 13 in Maharashtra; Satna - 150 and Bhopal - 30 in Madhya Pradesh; Hyderabad - 97, Rajamundhary - 8, Tirupati - 0.3 and Visakhapatnam - 0.2 in Andhra Pradesh; Amritsar - 83 in Punjab; Kolkata - 75.7 in West Bengal; Ahmedabad - 20 and Rajkot - 1 in Gujarat; Kota - 35.32 in Rajasthan; Ranchi - 9 in Jharkhand; Gaya - 5 in Bihar; Safdarjung - 1.5 in Delhi; Lucknow - 1.7 in Uttar Pradesh; Port Blair - 1.5 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Union Territory) and Belgaum - 1 in Karnataka.

(c) State Governments are responsive to AAI request especially those which are a cause of concern from aircraft safety operations. However, due to local resistance and court cases etc., progress in removal of encroachments is slow.

(d) The State laws relating to land and policies concerning removal of encroachments differ from State to State. Keeping in view State Governments policies for removal and/or rehabilitation of encroachments, AAI takes up with concerned State Government for removal/rehabilitation of encroachment from AAI land.

[Translation]

Subsidy on LPG/Kerosene Oil

*303. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of

the Government to continue the subsidy given on LPG and kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time upto which the said subsidy will be continued?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) International oil prices have increased to record levels and are above \$86/ bbl (on 4.12.2007) currently. To protect the common man, domestic retail prices of PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased over last three years.

PDS kerosene is supplied at Rs. 9.09/litre (at Delhi) as against Rs. 24.39/Litre (based on April-November 2007 international oil prices). Similarly, domestic LPG (at Delhi) is retailed at Rs. 294.75/cylinder against its international equivalent price of Rs. 487.95/cylinder for April-November 2007. The resulting under recoveries are being shouldered by the Government and the oil PSUs.

The current projected annual under recoveries on petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are estimated to exceed Rs. 69,700 crores. Out of these under recoveries about Rs. 33,600 crores are on account of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene. 42.7% of total under recoveries will be met by the Government through oil bonds. About 1/3rd of under recoveries will be met by PSU upstream companies. The balance will be absorbed by the PSU oil marketing companies.

Government has also extended the PDS kerosene and Domestic LPG subsidy Scheme, 2002 and Freight Subsidy (for far flung areas) Scheme 2002 for a period of 3 more

years from 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010. The rate of subsidy admissible under the schemes through the Budget would be the same as applicable for the year 2006-07, i.e., Re. 0.82/litre for PDS kerosene and Rs. 22.58/cylinder for domestic LPG.

[English]

Funds from Asian Development Bank

*304. SHRI P.C. GADDIGUDAR : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to fund the construction of some railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially with reference to the state of Karnataka; and

(c) the details of the terms of assistance being extended by ADB?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is funding eight railway projects on Indian Railways involving a loan amount of US \$ 212.3 million as part of Railway Sector Improvement Project with the objective of enhancing capacity of the rail network and improving operational efficiency/safety. The projects are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways. An amount of approximately US \$ 49.688 million has been utilized from the loan so far.

The details of Railway projects for which assistance from Asian Development Bank is being received are as under:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	States	Length km.	Type of Project	Anticipated date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2nd bridge over river Mahanadi	Orissa	2	Bridge	22-04-08

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Cuttack-Barang Doubling	Orissa	14.3	Doubling	01-11-08
3.	Rajatgarh. Barang Doubling	Orissa	29.3	Doubling	01-11-08
4.	Gooty-Pullampet Doubling	A.P.	151	Doubling	29-06-09
5.	Barang-Khurda Road 3rd Line	Orissa	32.3	3rd line	01-11-08
6.	Bhatapara-Urkura 3rd Line	Chhattisgarh	60	3rd line	04-04-09
7.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd Line	U.P.	106.15	3rd line	13-07-08
8.	Thiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd Line	Tamil Nadu	28.83	3rd line	28-02-08

There is no projects being financed from Asian Development Bank in Karnataka state. The terms of the ADB Loan are as under:-

- (i) The projects are being funded partly by the ADB loan and partly by Railways own resources.
- (ii) The loan carries variable interest rate roughly equal to 6 month London Inter-bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus a spread.
- (iii) Repayment has to be made in 20 years with 5 years grace period.
- (iv) Commitment charges of 0.75% per annum is payable on the un-drawn portion of the loan as per the terms agreed to.
- (v) ADB has to be paid front end fee in an amount equal to .1% of the loan amount.

[Translation]

Major Tourist Spots

*305. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the position-wise details of the major tourist spots in the country which attracted the largest number of foreign tourists in each of the three years;

(b) the details of the names of the countries from where the tourists had arrived;

(c) the State-wise and tourist spot-wise details of assistance provided by the Union Government during each of the three years for development of these tourist spot; and

(d) the percentage of the share of tourism sector out of the total foreign exchange earned by the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) In the present system of compilation of tourism statistics, tourist-spot-wise visit figures for foreign tourists are not maintained by the Government. However, the details of foreign tourist arrivals in India from different countries during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The State-wise details of number of projects sanctioned and the amount released during 2004-05, 2005-

06 and 2006-07 for development of tourism are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The foreign exchange earned through tourism in the country contributed about 3.37%, 3.06% and 2.80% respectively out of the total foreign exchange received in the country during 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Statement-I

Country of Nationality	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India		
	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4
North America			
Canada	135884	157643	176567
U.S.A.	526120	611165	696739
Total	662004	768808	873306
Central and South America			
Argentina	2799	3313	4493
Brazil	7397	7005	9148
Mexico	4570	5398	6502
Others	16198	19870	18602
Total	28165	35586	38745
Western Europe			
Austria	21093	27187	28045
Belgium	24007	25596	29156
Denmark	15805	20170	21592
Finland	12525	16258	22860

1	2	3	4
France	131824	152258	175345
Germany	116679	120243	156808
Greece	4468	4793	5146
Ireland	8996	10052	14936
Italy	65561	67642	79978
Netherlands	51211	52755	58611
Norway	10631	11194	14216
Portugal	10648	11457	13108
Spain	42895	45247	53520
Sweden	26154	28799	36013
Switzerland	28260	34311	37446
U.K.	555907	651083	734240
Others	1633	3074	6251
Total	1128297	1282119	1487271
Eastern Europe			
Czechoslovakia	4114	4783	5760
Poland	8445	10983	14808
C.I.S.	61187	75242	87433
Others	8680	10437	13308
Total	82426	101445	121309
Africa			
Egypt	3781	4048	5528

1	2	3	4
Kenya	17538	19816	20313
Mauritius	19823	19760	20607
Nigeria	6659	10049	9348
South Africa	32148	39229	41954
Tanzania	9953	11193	11954
Others	25591	30706	33109
Total	115493	134801	142813

West Asia

Bahrain	4414	4923	4793
Israel	39083	42866	42735
Oman	14927	14979	17849
Saudi Arabia	11929	12444	14006
Turkey	7008	7906	10221
U.S.E.	22668	24560	27593
Yemen Arab Rep.	8826	9423	9573
Other	13953	16720	19923
Total	122808	133821	146693

South Asia

Afghanistan	12705	14025	18799
Iran	24733	28691	29771
Maldives	21099	33915	37652
Nepal	51534	77024	91552

1	2	3	4
Pakistan	67416	68609	63426
Bangladesh	477446	456371	484401
Sri Lanka	128711	136400	154813
Bhutan	7054	6934	8502
Total	790698	841969	908916

South East Asia

Indonesia	11408	12640	16990
Malaysia	84390	96276	107286
Myanmar	4932	5652	7734
Philippines	10492	11422	15644
Singapore	60710	68666	82574
Thailand	33442	41978	46623
Others	3736	4774	4875
Total	209110	241408	281726

East Asia

China (Main)	34100	44897	62330
China (Taiwan)	18179	18894	26503
Japan	96851	103082	119292
Korea (South)	47835	49895	70407
Others	4662	6799	4453
Total	201627	223567	282985

Australasia

Australia	81608	96258	109867
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1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
New Zealand	16762	20463	23493	Others	14471	21818	25320
Others	2574	3057	4076	Stateless	1434	13490	647
Totals	100944	119778	137436	Grand Total	3457477	3918610	4447167

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		No of Projects Sanod.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sanod.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sanod.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	2240.68	7	1700.00	3	1195.44
2.	Assam	8	766.22	10	1698.45	9	1813.21
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	927.96	10	1655.21	12	1497.24
4.	Bihar	7	1527.71	3	722.49	2	974.59
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	897.93	7	1436.54	16	2491.12
6.	Goa	3	38.00	1	8.00	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	2	111.14	5	1189.04	7	359.51
8.	Haryana	6	513.64	7	515.77	5	902.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	2161.00	6	921.00	8	1226.13
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	699.04	22	5320.31	29	3392.90
11.	Jharkhand	2	756.72	5	697.76	3	769.99
12.	Karnataka	12	1937.37	8	1001.21	4	1081.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Kerala	10	1820.30	13	3889.90	18	3441.61
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	942.21	12	2719.54	10	2797.75
15.	Maharashtra	10	925.30	9	1662.99	13	2278.46
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	2	39.84	9	649.48
17.	Meghalaya	2	807.91	1	4.00	9	1149.93
18.	Mizoram	6	382.38	10	1687.29	9	2044.80
19.	Nagaland	7	1413.40	9	1873.17	8	1862.51
20.	Orissa	8	1059.38	10	1586.44	13	1974.66
21.	Punjab	7	581.47	5	1150.13	13	1968.68
22.	Rajasthan	13	1375.07	7	2086.40	8	763.06
23.	Sikkim	8	531.33	14	2213.74	13	1647.77
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	705.83	19	3007.68	11	1496.87
25.	Tripura	1	16.00	3	569.43	4	96.01
26.	Uttarakhand	7	1750.73	13	2193.18	16	1434.34
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	831.19	18	3126.03	7	2663.24
28.	West Bengal	10	407.43	5	792.48	10	2195.35
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	1	5.00	0	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	373.60	1	13.70	2	14.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	2	25.92	0	0.00
32.	Delhi	8	511.00	2	17.00	5	1209.54
33.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	4	208.61	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34. Lakshadweep		0	0.00	0	0	1	5.60
35. Puducherry		2	360.00	2	375.51	1	400.00
Total		217	27371.97	253	45793.76	278	45797.99

Note - This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware), IT, Events, Fairs and Festivals, etc.

[English]

Permission to Private Airlines to Fly on Gulf Routes

*306. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of Ministers (GoM) is deliberating on the various issues relating to the aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has granted permission to some private airlines to fly on lucrative Gulf routes without waiting for the recommendations of the GoM;

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

(e) the financial impact on Indian Airlines and Air India due to the grant of permission to the private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to consider the draft National Civil Aviation Policy.

(c) and (d) As per the decision of the Cabinet taken on 29th December 2004, the Private Scheduled carriers having a fleet of 20 aircraft and 5 years experience of

operations in domestic sector were permitted to operate on international routes except the Gulf routes. The Gulf routes had been kept reserved for the national carriers for three years ending December, 2007. In accordance with this decision, M/s. Jet Airways have been permitted to operate on the Gulf routes w.e.f. 1st January, 2008 subject to the availability of traffic rights.

(e) In accordance with the decision of the Cabinet taken on 29th December 2004, the operational requirements of the national carrier have been duly considered, before allocating traffic rights to M/s. Jet Airways to operate on Gulf routes. With the operations of the eligible Private Scheduled airlines, there will be increased competition on the Gulf route, which will be in the passenger interest.

[Translation]

Timely Supply of Chemical Fertilizers to States

*307. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of chemical and other fertilizers imported during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government was not able to allocate the fertilizers and the vehicles for transportation of the fertilizers on time to some States including Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :

(a) The import of major fertilizers viz. urea (on Government account), Di-Ammonium - Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate Of Potash (MoP) during the last three years has been as under:-

(Quantity in Lakh MT)

Year	UREA	DAP	MOP
2004-05	6.41	6.44	34.09
2005-06	20.57*	24.38	45.78
2006-07	47.19*	28.75	34.48

*Includes import of 13.25 Lakh MT in 2005-06 and 18.37 Lakh MT in 2006-07 from Oman under Off Take Agreement.

(b) and (c) Imported fertilizers are being reached to the consuming states based on state-wise requirements, in close coordination with the Ministry of Shipping as well as the Ministry of Railways/Railway Board. Any problems arising in the discharge of fertilizers from ships and despatch to the desired destinations are resolved from time to time. This is evidenced by the increasing level of Imports of the fertilizers as indicated in (a) above. In so far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the following quantities have been made available in the last three years:-

(Quantity in Lakh MT)

Year	UREA	DAP	MOP
2004-05	11.67	6.10	0.68
2005-06	10.97	5.76	0.91
2006-07	14.07	6.35	0.76

Time Table for Goods Trains

*308. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways plan to run the goods trains according to a drawn-up time table alongwith high transport security so that goods reach in time to their destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to discourage the current practice of regulating the movement of goods trains at the interchange points to ensure smooth running of passenger trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such steps are considered necessary as passenger trains have to take preference over goods trains due to differential speeds.

[English]

Prices of Commonly Used Medicines

*309. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of commonly used medicines have gone up by nearly 10% every year for the last 10 years as reported in "The Times of India" dated November 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the ambit of price control to cover the essential medicines?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :

(a) to (d) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). In case of any overcharging, action for recovery of overcharged amount is taken by NPPA.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R and D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. Prices of these drugs are regularly monitored and corrective measures taken where public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Based on in-house data-based analysis by NPPA of ORG IMS data for the period December 1994 to July 2007, it has been observed that the prices of 15 top medicines of 15 top bulk drugs which remained under price control under DPCO, 1995, prices have gone up by 0.94% annually whereas the prices of 15 top medicines of 15 top bulk drugs which went out of price control consequent to the promulgation of DPCO, 95, have gone up by 9.65% annually.

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court in SLP No. 3668/2003 and in line with the declared objective of the Government in National Common Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor, the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 proposes, inter-alia, that the basket for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 in addition to 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GoM). The First meeting of the GoM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12-9-2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

Promotion of Rural Libraries

***310. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to take special steps to improve the rural libraries in every State through a central sector plan scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the grants given to each State during the last two years for the improvement of rural libraries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up the National Mission on Libraries as a central sector plan scheme during the 11th Plan for supporting public libraries, both in the urban and rural sectors of the country. Under the proposed scheme, the Central Government shall support libraries at the central, district and sub-district levels including rural libraries for improvement in the storage space, reading material, technological up gradation and providing access to knowledge without any bias of rural and urban locations.

(c) The Government supports public libraries including rural libraries through various schemes of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata. Details of the grants given to each State during last two year (2005-06 and 2006-07) are given in the enclosed Statement - I and II respectively. No separate record of the grants given to rural libraries is maintained.

Statement-I**State-wise and Scheme-wise Statement of Assistance Rendered during 2005-06**

Name of the State/UT	Vol. Scheme		Children Scheme		Cent. Celebration		Book Assistance	
	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	35	350000	0	47500	435	5239362
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	5	392145	0	0	0	0	240	2499999
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	52275
Gujarat	13	523245	31	305000	1	92000	804	21579666
Goa	1	20395	2	20000	0	0	90	767076
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	2932433
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	451	124200
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	4792962
Karnataka	8	690125	0	0	0	0	175	7464425
Kerala	86	5634640	25	250000	0	0	300	415739
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	5599444
Maharashtra	12	1435353	26	260000	0	0	1030	10570514
Manipur	4	287375	0	0	0	0	121	2218774
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	2	270000	0	0	0	0	421	2599989

Storage		Increasing Accom.		Computer		Seminer		Mobile	
Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
71	682464	28	5680000	0	0	2	50000	16	420000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
200	1785605	1	200000	0	0	1	50000	0	0
1	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25000	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
967	9492129	40	5395000	5	995730	0	0	0	0
100	467000	22	2900000	0	0	0	0	39	390000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	10	1983359	4	734111	4	100000	1	50000
120	1383424	0	0	0	0	3	285000	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	3	6000000	0	0	2	75000	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nagaland	1	150000	0	0	0	0	244	3497622
Orissa	13	771845	9	90000	0	0	600	7938600
Punjab	0	0	4	55000	0	0	13	2251647
Rajasthan	0	119240	0	0	0	0	7800	15336152
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	3363948
Tamil Nadu	0	0	44	440000	0	0	1910	13748208
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	233068
Uttar Pradesh	1	74455	13	130000	0	0	212	22952169
West Bengal	23	1792499	19	629619	2	224381	2432	4852894
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	1161328
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2861053
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	2813298
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	169	12161317	208	2529619	3	363881	18534	147866845

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
150	1500000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
110	1087602	1	200000	0	0	3	92989	1	30000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
102	996682	0	0	0	0	10	250000	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
663	2875308	0	0	13	2475716	16	400000	0	0
26	1282985	0	0	21	1554845	0	0	0	0
399	1765289	0	0	4	2418980	0	0	0	0
210	641576	54	9842839	0	0	38	891250	8	200000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
126	1249057	0	0	5	1524458	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3245	25219721	159	32201198	52	9703840	80		65	1090000

Statement-II**State-wise and Scheme-wise Statement of Assistance Rendered during 2006-07**

Name of the State/UT	Vol. Scheme		Children Scheme		Centenary Cel.		Book Assistance	
	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	22	775000	0	0	435	4873523
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	8	606660	0	0	0	0	240	2166667
Bihar	2	58000	0	0	0	0	200	928519
Gujarat	6	284925	39	944300	0	0	804	21378329
Goa	1	25000	2	20000	0	0	90	398884
Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	2572848
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	20	749325	0	0	53	147293
Karnataka	10	721635	0	0	0	0	175	8938527
Kerala	95	5923210	15	150000	0	0	300	9473474
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	12626093
Maharashtra	27	1503260	10	399727	1	50000	1030	224382
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	121	9741627
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	497247
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	421	5112553

Storage		Increasing Accom.		Computer		Seminer		Mobile		Children Corner	
Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount	Lib.No.	Amount
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
146	1460000	11	2628327	0	0	4	100000	3	250910	3	450000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	297000
0	0	1	200000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	150000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
409	3831388	4	797975	0	2443969	2	100000	0	0	5	700000
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25000	0	0	4	600000
24	198906	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1349550
1295	9000000	11	955000	0	0	0	0	13	130000	0	649998
179	1617005	19	3242500	0	0	0	0	22	220000	4	590000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	11	3285798	0	0	1	50000	0	0	2	300000
0	0	0	0	0	0	8	200000	0	0	0	0
4	255671	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	438414	18	6700000	0	0	8	400000	0	0	4	600000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nagaland	5	559625	0	0	0	0	244	2790829
Orissa	22	953975	5	46000	0	0	600	28575886
Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4271
Rajasthan	1	29810	1	19000	1	47500	7800	6077128
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	2377656
Tamil Nadu	2	80950	15	750000	0	0	1910	15587428
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	3133387
Uttar Pradesh	8	309930	4	35000	0	0	212	14758351
West Bengal	40	1775740	57	1829727	5	243500	2484	6080517
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	840076
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4268751
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	8112131
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	366	367045
Chhattisgarh	1	23600	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	228	3577784
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	228	12854320	196	5718079	7	341000	18714	1.76E+08

Aviation University

*311. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an aviation university of international standard in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures being taken by the Government to promote studies in the aviation sector in the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While there is no proposal for setting up of University for Aviation Studies, the Government has taken various steps to promote flying training to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity from 40 to 100 pilots per year, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra for training 100 cadets and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/ Aero Club of India.

[Translation]

New Fertilizer Projects

*312. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish new plants for the production of chemical fertilizers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other steps contemplated to promote indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :

(a) to (c) Government is working towards increasing the production capacity of chemical fertilizers, chiefly Urea, during the Eleventh Plan Period. This is sought to be done through revival of the currently closed units of Fertilizer Corporation Limited (FCIL), as well as through establishment of new plants. In so far as the closed units are concerned, M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) have shown interest in revival of 5 units, namely, Barauni, Durgapur, Gorakhpur, Talcher and Ramagundam. The companies are in discussion with Gas companies for pipeline connectivity and availability of Natural Gas.

Government is in the process of developing a New Policy for investment in the urea sector in order to promote investment in this sector and consequently, to increase the indigenous production.

In the Phosphatic sector, the indigenous production in the country is largely dependent upon imported raw materials/intermediates as Rock phosphate deposits in the country are limited. Government encourages both public and private sectors to invest in the Phosphatic sector in resource rich countries, to secure long term supplies of raw materials/intermediates, based on which indigenous production can be expanded in the country.

In the Potassic sector, the country is fully dependent on imports as there are no economically exploitable known resources of Potash in the country.

[English]

Spurious Gas Cylinders

*313. SHRI SURESH ANGADI :
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that spurious and defective gas cylinders are in circulation on a large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of such cases detected during the last three years in the country, Particularly in Delhi alongwith the action taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to check the circulation of such gas cylinders; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No information or report has been received regarding large-scale circulation of spurious and defective cylinders in the country. The year-wise details of cases of spurious cylinders detected during the last three years in the country and in Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement. Action against the erring distributors/transporters was taken as per the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(c) and (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG

cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for their quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard / crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action, which can be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines, provide inter-alia, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the 1st and 2nd offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a 3rd offence.

Statement

Year-wise Number of Spurious Cylinders Detected at the Bottling Plants During the Last Three Years in the Country by the OMCs

Year	Number of spurious Cylinders Detected
2004-05	2556
2005-06	4923
2006-07	3343

Year-wise Number of Spurious Cylinders Detected at the Bottling Plants During the Last Three Years in Delhi by the OMCs

Year	Number of spurious Cylinders Detected
2004-05	23
2005-06	18
2006-07	15

[Translation]

**Reduction in Rebate on Sale of
Products by SAIL**

*314. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has recently reduced the rate of rebate being given for the sale of products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decrease in the rebate;

(c) whether prices of its products have increased due to reduction in the rebate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of the prices of steel have been increased during the last six months in the country alongwith the details of the increase?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :

(a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) follows a system of having uniform ex-works price of different iron and mild steel products being produced at its 5 integrated

steel plants and sold through its Central Marketing Organisation (CMO). Wherever required, the prices of iron and steel products are adjusted through a rebate mechanism to make its prices competitive in tune with the market situation and competitors' prices prevailing at various locations.

During recent times, SAIL has both increased as well as reduced the rebates being given for its various products, depending on the market situation for the product which, in turn, is governed by various factors which inter-alia may include demand and supply, customer segment, competitors' prices, landed prices of imports, level of inventories, freight element, market situation for customers and products, etc. At any location. However, the details in this regard are being collected.

(c) to (e) The prices of SAIL's iron and mild steel products at a particular location depend on a combination of its ex-works prices and rebates, if any, at that location for the concerned product. Consequently, mere reduction in rebates may or may not result in increase in prices. During the last 6 months (June-November 2007) the overall price movement indicates both increase and decrease in the price of various steel products. However, SAIL has increased the listed prices of steel only once. Domestic market prices for few representative steel items at 4 metros during last 6 months are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Domestic Market Price during Last Six Months (Source JPC)

Sl. No.	Item	Region	Apr. 07	May 07	June 07	July 07	Aug. 07	Sept. 07	Oct. 07	Nov. 07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Billets 100mm	Kolkata	23600	23750	23825	22775	24450	24025	24900	24300
		Delhi	27350	25575	NA	25000	25000	25500	26500	26000
		Mumbai	25250	25000	25000	26650	26650	26250	26750	26100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Chennai	24000	NA	24000	NA	23000	25000	25000	25000
2.	Wire Rods 8mm	Kolkata	26950	28250	28000	27850	27675	27750	28150	28325
		Delhi	32025	30950	30950	NA	30000	30500	32800	33450
		Mumbai	28250	30500	30000	31000	31000	30250	30250	30300
		Chennai	31000	31000	31000	31000	31000	31500	32000	31500
3.	Rounds 12mm	Kolkata	26250	30175	27400	26950	29975	28175	27175	27235
		Delhi	31200	NA	NA	NA	30000	27000	30250	30100
		Mumbai	29500	30000	30000	30000	30000	29250	29250	29250
		Chennai	29000	29500	31000	30000	29800	29900	305500	29750
4.	Rounds 16mm	Kolkata	27850	30950	30000	30250	30350	28375	28850	29200
		Delhi	31200	31250	31250	NA	30000	27000	30250	30100
		Mumbai	29500	30500	30500	30000	30000	29250	29250	29250
		Chennai	29000	29000	31000	30500	29800	29750	30250	30500
5.	Torsteel 25mm	Kolkata	28025	28350	30400	30100	29125	27950	29250	29250
		Delhi	32025	30475	35875	30800	30900	29600	32450	31525
		Mumbai	29250	32000	32200	31500	31500	30250	31900	32000
		Chennai	31000	31500	31000	31000	31500	30750	31000	31250
6.	Angles 75x75x6mm	Kolkata	29325	29650	29750	288000	29275	28825	29525	29500
		Delhi	30050	31100	31725	NA	31000	29850	31575	31725
		Mumbai	29500	30500	30700	30000	31000	29500	30000	31000
		Chennai	32000	32500	31000	30000	30600	30150	30650	32000
7.	Joists 200x100mm	Kolkata	30700	31100	32250	31000	30900	31575	32400	31250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Delhi	33075	NA	34850	NA	33500	32250	34000	34425
		Mumbai	30500	33000	32500	32000	32000	31000	30750	32000
		Chennai	33000	32000	33000	31000	30500	30500	32250	33000
8.	Channels 75x40mm	Kolkata	29375	28900	30500	30700	31600	29725	30225	29450
		Delhi	30375	31975	32250	NA	32500	31750	32750	33100
		Mumbai	29500	30000	30000	30000	30000	30000	30500	31000
		Chennai	32000	32000	31000	30500	31400	31250	32350	33000
9.	Plates 10mm	Kolkata	34500	35600	35750	34700	34350	35225	36200	35700
		Delhi	35875	36200	36925	34300	33900	35175	34825	34775
		Mumbai	34750	34500	34500	34500	34500	33750	33750	34250
		Chennai	36500	36500	36000	36000	34000	34500	34750	35250
10.	HR Coils 3.15mm(TMQ)	Kolkata	34150	35100	35350	34600	34000	35125	35900	35450
		Delhi	34525	34325	34850	33700	33100	35250	34550	35200
		Mumbai	34500	34000	34000	35000	35000	31750	33000	34750
		Chennai	36300	36500	35000	34000	34000	33900	34250	35000
11.	CR Coils 0.63mm	Kolkata	39500	40500	40025	39425	40075	40300	41000	40400
		Delhi	39525	39825	39000	38600	36700	39550	39175	39775
		Mumbai	38500	38000	38000	38500	38500	38750	38750	37250
		Chennai	39000	39000	38000	38500	38500	38400	38750	38750
12.	CR Coils 1mm	Kolkata	39150	39750	39300	38850	39650	40025	40500	39400
		Delhi	38275	39100	38900	38000	37250	39050	40075	39275
		Mumbai	38000	37000	37000	38000	38000	35750	36000	37150
		Chennai	38000	38500	39000	38000	38000	38250	38750	38250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13.	GP Sheets	Kolkata	48450	47800	48100	46750	48400	46875	47650	47350
	0.63mm									
		Delhi	46800	46275	48050	48000	48500	46750	44075	49475
		Mumbai	41000	40000	40000	40000	40000	39250	39000	42500
		Chennai	48000	48000	47000	48000	47000	47500	47500	47000

[English]

**Upgradation of Air Services in
Winter Holiday Season**

*315. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow airlines to increase their capacity and frequency during the winter holiday season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to allow all airlines to upgrade their aircraft to any capacity level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) The Government has decided to permit all airlines to upgrade their equipment at their discretion on the existing frequencies during the period 1st December, 2007 to 31st January, 2008.

[Translation]

Purchase of New Aircraft

*316. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the aeroplanes required and available at present in the country;

(b) whether a proposal was sent to the Planning Commission for approval for purchasing some more aircrafts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the authorities concerned have approved the allocation of more funds for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) National Aviation Company of India Limited and its subsidiaries at present have 140 aircraft in their fleet, which include 69 aircraft taken on lease. The need for additional aircraft, after the delivery of the aircraft currently on order is completed by 2011, is being felt on account of growth in domestic and international traffic, addition of capacity by foreign and Indian private carriers and additional services through synergy benefits from merger. An in-house Joint Working Group has been constituted by NACIL to prepare a concept paper on strategic network and capacity deployment plan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Wine and Beer on the Domestic Flights

*317. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to serve wine and beer on the domestic flights;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the reaction of the air passengers to this proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) A proposal has been submitted by the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) and other organizations. However, Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

[Translation]

Compensation to Accident Victims

*318. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether compensation is paid to the dependents of passengers killed and injured in train accidents;
- (b) if so, the different conditions in which different quantum of compensation is paid;
- (c) the division-wise claims of compensation made during the last three years including current year;
- (d) the number of claims settled; and
- (e) the details of the claims still pending?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scale of compensation for death and injury is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal as per the Railway Accident and Untoward Incidents (Compensation) Rules, 1990 as amended in 1997 which lay down as under:-

- (i) Rs. 4 lakhs for death
- (ii) Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 4 lakhs for injuries (depending upon the gravity of injury)

(c) to (e) The position regarding number of claims of compensation in train accidents filed, settled and pending is as under:-

Railway	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08 (upto 31.10.07)		
	Claims Filed	Claims Settled*	Claims Pending*	Claims Filed	Claims Settled*	Claims Pending*	Claims Filed	Claims Settled*	Claims Pending*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Central	8	0	26	0	7	19	0	1	18
Eastern	7	14	20	30	4	46	15	2	59
Northern	34	62	53	30	23	60	2	21	41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
North Eastern	0	3	34	2	2	34	0	3	31
Northeast Frontier	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Southern	3	34	13	11	8	16	1	1	16
South Central	138	19	165	69	153	81	5	34	52
South Eastern	1	16	2	1	0	3	1	0	4
Western	62	1	80	24	50	54	2	7	49
East Central	11	4	12	0	1	11	0	0	11
East Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Central	12	0	13	19	9	23	6	1	28
North Western	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southeast Central	1	31	6	0	1	5	1	0	6
South Western	0	0	3	0	1	2	0	1	1
West Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Konkan Railway	0	23	33	9	17	25	0	12	13
Total	278	208	460	196	276	380	33	83	330

Note : The figures are maintained zonal railway-wise and not division-wise.

*The number of claims pending and settled includes cases which have been filed in the years earlier than those mentioned above.

Losses Incurred by the Oil PSUS

*319. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to grant freedom to the oil companies to fix the oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil companies are incurring heavy losses due to increasing oil prices in the global market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to make up the said losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) The global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. In view of this, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (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 OMCs are incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG due to increase in the Prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market. The gross estimated under-recoveries of OMCs on sale of these products during the period Apr-Sept'07 are given as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Under-Recovery*	Apr-Sept'07 (Provisional)
Petrol	2,638
Diesel	9,911
PDS Kerosene	8,208
Domestic LPG	5,608
Total	26,363

*Gross under-recoveries without considering oil bonds, upstream assistance and refinery discounts.

The Government has adopted the principal of equitable burden sharing between the Government and the oil PSUs to protect the interests of common man, vulnerable sections of society and also the financial health of OMCs. In this

context, the Government has approved the following measures to partially compensate the OMCs for their under-recoveries for the year 2007-08:

- (a) Issuance of Oil Bonds to the tune of 42.7% of the total estimated under-recoveries; and
- (b) The Upstream Oil Companies to bear approximately 1/3rd of the under-recoveries by offering discounts on crude oil and petroleum products.

Royalty on Gas and Oil

*320. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

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

- (a) whether there exists any provision stipulation determination of royalty on Gas and Oil after every three years;
- (b) if so, the date on which royalty was fixed last time alongwith amount thereof;
- (c) the time by which royalty is scheduled to be refixed;
- (d) whether it was considered to pay the said royalty directly to the district administration; and
- (e) if so, the date on which it was considered?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) Royalty rates are governed by the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948. Government can review the royalty rates from time to time and shall not fix the royalty rate in respect of any mineral oil so as to exceed 20% of sale price of the mineral oil at the oilfields or the oil well-head as the case may be. After dismantling administered price mechanism w.e.f. 1.4.2002, royalty rate regime was modified in consultation with stakeholders vide notification no. 11011/1/97-ONG-IV of 16th December 2004 as follows:

(i) Royalty on crude oil production from areas awarded on nomination basis to National Oil Companies (NOCs), exploration blocks awarded to Private/Joint Venture contractors prior to New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and onland discovered fields awarded to Private/Joint venture contractors:

- (a) Onland areas @ 20% of Well Head Price.
- (b) Shallow water offshore areas (upto 400 metres water depth) @ 10% of Well Head Price.
- (c) Deep water offshore areas (>400 metres Water depth) @ 5% of well head price during first 7 years after commercial production and normal rates as applicable to Shallow water areas (upto 400 metres water depth) during other periods.
- (d) Heavier Crude Oils of 25° API and less: 2.5% lesser than the applicable rates as above.

(ii) Royalty on crude oil production from offshore discovered fields awarded to Private/Joint venture contractors is at the rates as specified in respective Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs).

(iii) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas production from areas under Production Sharing regime is determined in accordance with the provisions of respective Production Sharing Contracts. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), royalty on crude oil in onland areas is 12.5% of well head price and 10% in offshore areas. Royalty on natural gas is 10% of well head price.

(iv) Royalty on natural gas production is 10% of the natural gas obtained at well head.

The royalty received on crude oil and natural gas production from onland is paid to State Government exchequer from the date of oil and gas production. Royalty received from offshore areas is paid to the Central Government.

Airports in Himachal Pradesh

2885. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is huge potential of tourism in Himachal Pradesh and lakhs of foreign tourists visit Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Chamba and Kinnaur towns in Himachal Pradesh each year;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the air fare to the said towns is comparatively very high because only small planes can land at airports located in Himachal Pradesh which is adversely affecting the tourism in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the expansion of airstrips and upgradation of the airports in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to bring down the air fare for Himachal Pradesh on the lines of North-Eastern States;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (e) to (g) After the repeal of Air Corporations Act in 1994, the Government do not regulate air fares. Airlines are free to determine fares in their commercial judgment based upon demand, competition, seasonalities etc.

(c) and (d) Airport-wise position in respect of the airports in Himachal Pradesh is as under:-

- (i) Kangra airport—The airport has been upgraded to cater for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft. (ii) Kullu airport—There is a plan for upgradation of the airport to cater for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft. (iii) Shimla airport—Further expansion of the airport does not appear to be feasible due to terrain difficulties.

Sale of Commercial LPG by Distributors

2886. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any monthly quota for the sale of commercial LPG by each distributor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether any demand letter is taken from each of the distributor for sanctioning commercial LPG cylinders to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any information is obtained from the consumers about the type of cylinder they are using; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported that LPG distributors send indents for supply of commercial LPG cylinders based on their floor stock of LPG cylinders and demand of the market.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, as per the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order 2000, the non-domestic category consumers can use only 19 kg. and 47.5 kg. cylinders.

[English]

Investment in Petrochemical Sector

2887. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to invest 36,000 crore rupees in the petrochemical sector during the next five year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the ethane capacity would be increased from the existing 2.7 million tones; and
- (d) the expected increase in the consumption of polymers in the country in next five years?

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) : (a) to (d) Petrochemical Sector is de-licensed and de-regulated. The Investment which are under planning in the Petrochemical Sector are by Private Sector and by Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. As per the Report of the Working Group on Chemicals & Petrochemicals for the 11th Plan, the demand for petrochemical (polymers) has been projected to have a potential to reach 12.5 million metric tonnes by the end of 11th Five Year Plan. Further, it has been projected that ethylene production will reach about 8.6 million MT by 2012. So far the capacity expansion and new addition to the tune of 3.2 MT of additional ethylene capacity have been announced, which are likely to incur an estimated investments of Rs. 36,000 crores. The details are as follows:-

Investments in Naphtha and Gas Cracker Plants

(In Million Tonnes)

Company	Feed Stock	2005-06 Ethylene Capacity	Proposed Ethylene Capacity	Likely Investment
GAIL, Pata	Gas	0.3	0.4 (0.1)*	Rs. 650 Cr.
HPL, Haldia	Naphtha	0.52	0.67 (0.15)*	Rs. 650 Cr.
IOC, Panipat	Naphtha	0	0.8	Rs. 16,000 Cr.
GAIL, Assam	Gas/Naphtha	0	0.22	Rs. 5460 Cr.
RIL, Jamnagar	Refinery off Gases	0	2.0	Rs. 13,500 Cr.
Total			3.27	Rs. 36,260 Cr.

*Additional Capacity.

[Translation]

Magazines Provided During Flight

2888. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passengers in Indian private airlines are not being provided Hindi language Magazines, newspapers and other literary materials in the flights;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote use of Hindi in Airlines by issuing instructions to keep compulsorily Hindi language Magazines, newspapers and literary materials in the airlines;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) Thought Newspapers/magazines including regional papers/ magazines are provided in aircraft by the private airlines, the decision to provide newspapers/magazines on board is taken by the concerned airlines keeping in view their business strategy.

As regards promoting the use of Hindi in airlines by the Government, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has given instructions to all the private airlines should make available Hindi newspapers/magazines alongwith newspapers/magazines of other languages.

[English]

Issue of Senior Citizen Identity Card

2889. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to

issue directives to all Government of India offices and other concerned offices to issue 'Senior Citizenship Identity Card' alongwith the facilities extended by the Union Government in their favour;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government would also like to extend the facilities in the transport, railways, air services by issuing special cards in favour of senior citizens: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Providing Amenities by Industrialists on the Railway Stations

2890. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of industrialists have come forward to adopt railway stations for providing all amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly for the State of Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether some of the industrialists have come forward to sponsor just a few amenities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Industrialists have come forward to develop passenger amenities at two stations in Tamil Nadu. The details are as under:

(i) M/s. Mahindra World City Developers Limited, Chennai have come forward for Paranur railway station; and

(ii) M/s. Frontier Life Line, Chennai have come forward for Elavur railway station.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Mobile Exhibition Train

2891. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced "AZADI EXPRESS" the new mobile exhibition train celebrating the 150 the year of the First War of Independence and the centenary celebrations of Shaheed Bhagat Singh chugged out for its maiden ride from the Capital on 28th September, 2007;

(b) if so, the aim and purpose of this project;

(c) the total duration of the Project and the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this Project;

(d) whether any role has been assigned to the M/o Railways and DAVP; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The train has been flagged off on 28.9.07 from Delhi.

The mobile exhibition on train will enable large number of people to visit the exhibition at their doorstep, touch their imagination and revive memories of the historic events, personalities and of the sacrifices made by a large number of freedom fighters known and unknown for attaining the freedom. The exhibition also shows the achievements of independent India in various fields.

The total duration of the exhibition is approximately for 9 months and the total expenditure is Rs. 9.27 crore (approximately).

Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity, Ministry of I and B is the implementing agency for the Project. Ministry of Railways has also provided the special coaches and also made arrangements for running and maintenance at concessional charges.

Import of SKO/Kerosene

2892. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the needy bulk consumers/customers cannot get free sale of SKO/Kerosene easily from the open market because of revision of import policy of SKO/Kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning for arranging separate Marketing channel in the State for making availability of adequate quantity of white SKO/Kerosene;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) This Ministry had introduced Parallel Marketing System (PMS) for kerosene vide Notification dated 2.9.1993 allowing the private agencies to import and market kerosene at market prices in the country. Subsequently, on the recommendation of this Ministry, Deptt. of Commerce vide Notification dated 25.11.2003 canalized the import of kerosene through State Trading Enterprises such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for all purposes and also through the State Trading Corporation

by Advance License Holders. SKO Control Order, 1993 has now been amended on 06.07.2006 allowing parallel marketers to source their requirements from indigenous sources also.

(c) to (e) IOCL, BPCL and HPCL are marketing non-PDS kerosene in the open market. As per the existing system of marketing of non-PDS kerosene followed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the genuine industrial and non-domestic customers having requirement of more than one Tank Lorry load at a time are being supplied directly and the requirement of small customers having requirement less than full Tank Lorry load is being met through the existing SKO-LDO dealership network at the non-subsidized rate.

Under the provisions of Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, Government have permitted Oil Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (MRPL) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to market their indigenously produced kerosene, after meeting the demand of PDS kerosene in full, to non-PDS customers. Oil companies sell free sale Kerosene at market prices as per the requirements.

It was planned to introduce sale of kerosene in small packs of 1 liters on trial basis initially, to assess the acceptability of product in small packs to customers who are not covered under the Public Distribution System. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has set up a pilot plant at Rewari (Haryana) for marketing kerosene in 1 litre glass bottle on a trial basis. The production has started with effect from 17.10.2007. The product is now being test marketed in the districts of Faridabad and Gurgaon in Haryana.

Unknown Drugs

2893. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has attempted to reduce prices of 886 brands mostly unknown and hardly used, instead of regulating the prices of life saving drugs as directed by the Supreme Court;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) : (a) to (c) As a result of Government's efforts the pharmaceutical industry has voluntarily agreed to reduce price of 886 generic formulation packs.

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court in SLP No. 3668/2003 and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor, the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 proposes, inter alia, that the basket for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 in addition to 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GoM). The First meeting of the GoM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12.9.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Railway Land

2894. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that encroachment has been done by demolishing the wall exactly under the railway pole No. 1529/9 at outer signal at Nizamuddin Railway Station of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to remove the encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some building material was stacked unauthorisedly at the location.

(c) The encroachment has since been removed.

[English]

Bids for Sale of Natural Gas

2895. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Panna, Mukta and Tapti (PMT) joint venture partners invited the bids for sale of natural gas upto 4 MMSCMD from April 1, 2006 from various companies;

(b) if so, whether Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) offered the highest price for gas amongst the bidders;

(c) if so, the reasons for not allocating the gas to GSPC;

(d) whether the State of Gujarat has represented to follow the rules of Tender procedures and offer gas to GSPC, since their bid was the highest; and

(e) if so, the steps taken on the representation so far by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Utilisation of Funds for ILS

2896. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has spent about Rs. 55 crore for installing the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, whether this money is well spent considering that only a few airlines use the newly installed Instrument Landing System;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) have spent Rs. 43 crore on installation of CAT-III-A Instrument Landing System including Ground Lighting System and Rs. 12 crore on installation of ASMGCS for upgradation of operation of CAT-III-B level.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. These systems are gainfully utilised to handle aircraft movements during low visibility periods. Airlines are being regularly advised to induct more CAT compliant aircraft and train more pilots for CAT III A/B operations so that disruptions on account of low visibility/fog could be minimised.

[Translation]

Ram Setu Stones

2897. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that ancient stones of the Ram Setu are available in many States of the country, especially in Giridih district of Jharkhand and these stones float on water like a paper boat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the experts the aforesaid ancient stones were part of the Ram Setu till 1480 (B.C.) and British expert C.D. Maclin has mentioned this in his book 'Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency' published in 1903; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) The 'Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency' edited by C.D. Maclean and first published in 1885 makes a mention of Ram Sethu and the line of rocks which were carried from Himalayas.

However, Archaeological Survey of India is not aware of any expert opinion or evidence linking the Giridih or any other ancient stones with Ram Setu.

[English]

Kannur Airport

2898. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has completed the procedures in connection with the final approval of Kannur Airport in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formalities are pending with the State Government for the final decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts made by the Union Government to

clear all the formalities for the construction of the said airport in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) The State Government of Kerala has sought 'in principle' approval for setting up of a Greenfield airport at Kannur. Ministry of Defence has given their clearance to the project. State Government is required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. After the Project is firmed up, the proposal would be considered by the Government for approval.

PNG as Domestic Fuel

2899. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of consumers who were earlier using LPG connections have switched over to PNG as domestic fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PNG consumer can retain their LPG connection for its use while shifting from PNG supply area to LPG supply area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the arrangements made or options available to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they do not maintain data of consumers who have switched from LPG to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as domestic fuel.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no restriction on retaining LPG connection after acquiring PNG connection. However, consumers, in the interest of safety, can surrender their

LPG connection against the Termination Voucher which may subsequently be used on shifting/relocating from PNG location to non-PNG location.

[Translation]

Food Processing Industries in Gujarat

2900. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of food processing industries and cold storages in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the proposed locations for food processing industries alongwith the products to be processed there; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for this purpose alongwith the funds spent thereon during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Units and for Setting up of Infrastructure Projects such as Food Parks, Cold Chains, etc. In various States in the country, including Gujarat. The Food Processing Industries are both in organised and unorganised sectors and as such data on food processing units in the country is not centrally maintained. However, the Ministry has received 56 applications for Setting UP/Expansion/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries and 9 applications for setting up of Cold Storages in Gujarat since 1997-98. These units are spread over various districts of Gujarat namely Ahmedabad, Valsad, Surat, Bhavnagar, Anand, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Morbi, Rajkot,

Baroda, Kutch, Sabarkantha, Navsari, Gandhidham, Porbandar, etc. The products processed in these units cover fruits and vegetables, edible oil refinery, solvent extraction, seafood, spices, rice, flour, pulses, potato chips, bakery and confectionery items, biscuits, ready-to-eat snack foods and other consumer items. The cold storages are used for storage of post harvest horticultural items

such as fresh fruits and vegetables as well as frozen foods, etc.

(c) The funds allocated for the above Schemes and the expenditure thereon during the last three years namely, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and till date during the current year are as follows:-

(Rupees Crores)

Year	Scheme for Setting Up, etc.		Scheme for Infrastructure Development*	
	Funds allocated	Actual Expenditure	Funds allocated	Actual Expenditure
2004-05	48.50	51.14	10.00	11.82
2005-06	68.40	69.81	10.00	15.65
2006-07	79.70	82.19	13.60	13.21
2007-08 (till 3.12.2007)	80.00	63.66	100.00	07.37

*The allocation of funds and expenditure indicated are for the entire scheme covering various components including cold storages. Further, the above allocation/expenditure are for the whole scheme covering all the States/UTs in the country. The expenditure on two cold storages sanctioned during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is Rs. 44.20 lakhs.

[English]

**Non-availability of Food Items at Old Delhi
Railway Station**

2901. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the non-availability of tea, milk, puri and other food items at Old Delhi railways station due to indefinite strike called by the vendors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for strike called by the vendors;

and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Uninterrupted catering services were ensured through the catering units other than those operated by Commission Vendors. Commission Vendors at Delhi Junction were on strike from 10.11.2007 to 21.11.2007 in protest against the order to stop cooking at platform of Delhi Junction Railways Station and the improvements initiated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation of Indian (IRCTC) to provide high quality catering services through the concept of pre-cooked food items dispensed through bain-maries, microwave ovens etc.

[English]

Agreement by ONGC with a Norwegian Company

2902. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an agreement with Norwegian State run Norsk Hydro Production for exploring gas blocks in Krishna-Godavari basin off the Andhra Coast;

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

(c) the total investment being made by the company in this project;

(d) whether there is any other proposal for entering into a long term agreement with this company;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the benefits which are likely to accrue to the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has signed a Development and Cooperation Agreement with Norsk Hydro Produksjon of Norway, on 2nd July 2007 for cooperation in exploration and development of certain offshore areas of India in which ONGC has agreed to assign 10% Participating Interest in Block KG-DWN-98/2 to Norsk Hydro Produksjon of Norway. Norsk Hydro Produksjon, after merger with State owned company now renamed as Statoil Hydro.

The Broad areas of Cooperation are:

- Knowledge and Competence Transfer
- Vasai East Services
- Participating Interest in Block KG-DWN-98/2 as well as possible cooperation in other NELP blocks.

(c) The company shall share the costs in proportion to its participating interest in the project.

(d) and (e) The possibility of joint participation in other blocks under NELP is also being explored.

(f) StatoilHydro has special expertise and technology for deep water development and production. The alliance will help development of offshore discoveries and would also lead to transfer of deep water exploration/exploration technology.

The benefits likely to accrue to ONGC include:

- Building up of knowledge base and competence to produce from deep water and Ultra Deep Water with application of sophisticated and latest state of art technologies.
- To development the knowledge of personnel engaged in offshore exploration, development and operations.
- Exploration of future NELP Blocks and their development through joint cooperation.
- The participating interest of Statoil Hydro will help in accelerating the development of Deep Water blocks in KG Basin.

[Translation]

New Train between Nangal and Haridwar

2903. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce any new train between Nangal and Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to extend the train running between Nangal and Saharanpur upto Haridwar; and

- (d) If so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Kerosene in Maharashtra

2904. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is shortage of Kerosene in Maharashtra;
 (b) the response of the Government thereto; and
 (c) the steps taken to increase the allocation of kerosene to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) PDS kerosene is an allocated product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States/Union Territories for further distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS SKO or distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Government/UT and the same varies from State to State.

As per provisional figures available on upliftment of PDS Kerosene in State of Maharashtra during April to October, 2007, the State Government has uplifted 741.6 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMTs) of PDS SKO as against allocation of 744.8 TMT. There is no shortage of kerosene reported in the State of Maharashtra. As of 03.12.07, the public sector oil marketing companies had overall Kerosene stocks at their supply locations in the State of Maharashtra which would last for 24 days of supplies.

(c) Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/Union Territories (UTs) for distribution under the PDS on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for first three quarter for 2007-08 have been maintained at the level of 2006-07.

In view of requests received from various State Governments including Maharashtra for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its reports in October 2005. NCAER has inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has also inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS kerosene is limited to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation

of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

[English]

Control Charting System

2905. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has launched Control Charting System (CCS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to all divisions in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Computerization of Control Charting has been undertaken at Trivandarum and Madurai division of Southern Railway.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A project for computerization of Control Charting on Indian Railways has been sanctioned in 2006-07 at a cost of Rs. 86.03 crores. It will be implemented in a phased manner and it is expected that by December 2008 all the divisions of Indian Railways will be covered by this system.

[Translation]

National Centres and Model Schools for Disabled Persons

2906. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is running national centres and model schools in Uttar Pradesh and other States for blinds, deaf, dumb and other disabled persons;

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

(c) the number of persons studying in such centres and model schools, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) The National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad runs a Special Education Centres (Model School) as a part of its activities in Hyderabad and a Model Special Education Centre in New Delhi. 219 persons are studying in the centers.

[English]

Eve-teasing and Manhandling with Women in Passenger Trains

2907. SHRI KIREN RIJUJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of eve-teasing and manhandling with women in the passenger trains have been on rise particularly in the recent past in the national capital region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of cases reported in this regard during the current year;

(c) the details of action taken by the Railways in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways are contemplating to ply 'Special trains' for the daily women passengers;

(e) if so, whether the Railways have received any proposal in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a slight increase in the cases of eve-teasing and manhandling with women passengers in trains over Indian Railways. But there is no rise in the cases of eve-teasing and manhandling

with women passengers in trains in the National Capital Region.

(b) In the current year, 57 cases of eve-teasing and manhandling with women passengers have been registered over Indian Railways and 21 cases have been registered in the National Capital Region under the provisions of Indian Penal Code during 2007 (upto September).

(c) Railway Protection Force is escorting about 1400 trains daily on an average to provide better security to the travelling passengers including the women passengers. During the current year (upto September) Railway Protection Force has detected 17 cases of offences against women passengers and arrested 11 offenders who were forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police for further legal action. During the same period, the Railway Protection Force has also apprehended 42,249 male persons who were travelling in the ladies compartment and prosecuted them under section 162 of the Railways Act.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) A representation from Shri Deependera Singh Hudda, Member of Parliament was received. Introduction of Special Train for daily women passengers is not feasible at present.

[Translation]

Crisis Management Committee

2908. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of inspection carried out by the Crisis Management Committee at Jabalpur Satation under the West Central Railway;

(b) whether any irregularities have been noticed during the said inspection; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Railways in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No inspection has been carried out by the Crisis Management Committee at Jabalpur station under the West Central Railway in the recent past.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of ROB in Ajmer and Jaipur

2909. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of work on Road-over-under Bridge (RoBs) under construction in Ajmer Division and Jaipur Division (NW Railway) separately;

(b) the details of amount sanctioned for each RoBs separately alongwith the norms/procedure followed in this regard for early completion of the said work; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c)

S. No.	Name of the work	Latest Status	Amount sanctioned in 2007-08 (Rs. In Crore)
1	2	3	4
Jaipur Division			
1.	Road over bridge (ROB) in lieu of level Crossing (LC) No 28 near Kishangarh.	General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved. Tender have been opened on 14/11/07.	0.01

1	2	3	4
2.	ROB in lieu of LC No 181 near Dausa	GAD has been approved. Detailed Estimate for Railway portion of work has also been sanctioned and tender opened.	0.01
Ajmer Division			
1.	ROB in lieu of LC No 134-B near Abu Road	GAD have been approved. Estimate will be Prepared after height of ROB's are decided in view of proposed double stack freight Corridor.	0.01-for each works
2.	ROB in lieu of LC No 63-C near Mandal		
3.	ROB in lieu of LC No 5-A/2 on Ajmer-Saradhana Section		

[English]

Appointment of Dealers by Fertilizers Companies

2910. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Rules/Procedure to be followed by fertilizer companies for appointment of dealers;

(b) whether some fertilizer companies, particularly those in Punjab have violated these provisions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to conduct any enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of action to be taken against the officers found responsible in this matter?

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) : (a) There are no guidelines issued by the Government for appointment of dealers which

is done by the respective fertilizer manufacturing/trading company looking to its commercial requirement and marketing needs in different States of the country. The licence for distributorship is given by the respective State Government.

(b) to (e) National Fertilisers limited (NFL) is the major fertilizer unit in Punjab. NFL has appointed the dealers as per the procedure laid down by the company in various States including Punjab and there is no violation in this regard.

Blockage of Nagaon-Juria-Balikatia Road

2911. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nagaon-Juria-Balikatia PWD road near Hariborgaon Railway Station of N.F. Railway blocked temporarily in 1995 to facilitate gauge conversion and wagons unloading is yet to be opened for public use;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay and time set for its opening;

(c) whether the existing wagon unloading facility at

Hariborgaon are creating inconvenience to the educational institutions and local population;

(d) if so, whether the Railway will propose to shift the unloading yard to a suitable location;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Use of Saline Land by the Railways

2912. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways and Public Sector Undertakings under it have evinced interest in the saline land in the country;

(b) if so, whether saline land can be effectively used for the expansion, development of railways and shifting of slums; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways for acquiring the said land alongwith the upto date status of the study conducted in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Poisonous Chemicals in Water

2913. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some poisonous chemicals has been found in the water of the nearby area of Union Carbide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the information in this regard was not revealed by the Madhya Pradesh Environment Board and people of that area were kept in dark;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the action taken by the union Government in this regard?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the State Government has got some samples tested and found that some of the tube wells and hand pumps of some of the localities contain pesticides.

(c) to (e) No Sir, the Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 7th May, 2004 directed the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to ensure safe drinking water supply to the 14 gas affected bastis situated near the union Carbide Plant at Bhopal. The Government of Madhya Pradesh, in compliance with the orders of Supreme Court, took action and installed 98 water tanks at different places in the said bastis. During the initial stage, these tanks were filled up by transportation of water through private and Corporation tankers. As an interim measure, four tubewells were drilled at Raslakhedi, which is 5 kms. away from these bastis and two 50,000 gallon capacity sumps were constructed at Bhanpur and Blue Moon Colony. Remaining tanks are still being filled by transportation of water through tankers. Water is being chlorinated and is potable and quality testing carried out regularly.

Based on the sanction by Government of India in April, 2006 for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), The Government of Madhya Pradesh had Sanctioned Rs. 14.18 crore to Bhopal, Municipal Corporation under this project for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The work orders

amounting to Rs. 10.55 crores for laying and joining of the D.I pipes had been issued on 20.7.2007 and Rs. 2.74 crores for construction of R.C.C. overhead tanks issued on 6.11.2007. Work related to these activities is under progress. Completion time of these works, as informed by the State Government, is one year from the date of issue of work orders. A Consultant has also been appointed for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for distribution of water in Bhopal city, including the 14 bastis

Rail Museums

2914. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to open Rail Museum in each State particularly in Maharashtra on the pattern of 'Rail Museum in Delhi' as it has become a popular tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of visited the Rail Museum, Delhi and amount collected from sale of tickets during the last three years;

(e) whether the Railways proposes to add more people to the Museum; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. The Rail Museum in Delhi is the National Rail Museum. However, Regional Rail Museums are in existence.

(b) Regional Rail Museums exist at Chennai, Mysore, Kolkata and Nagpur. Feasibility of setting up a Regional Rail Museum in western region is being studied.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) (i) Number of visitors:

2004-05	2,97,231
2005-06	2,99,491
2006-07	3,21,598

(ii) Amount collected from sale of tickets:

2004-05	Rs. 15,46,436
2005-06	Rs. 13,56,062
2006-07	Rs. 14,75,136

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Adding features is a continual process. Recently, a Multimedia Kiosk, digitization of archival photographs, installation of a water fountain, and some sheds for protection of exhibits has been accomplished in the last three years.

[Translation]

Outstanding Funds of Jharkhand Towards the Railways

2915. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) total outstanding amount of Jharkhand State towards the Railways as on date on account of expenses made by the State on Government Railway Police;

(b) the reasons for non-payment of the dues so far; and

(c) the time by when the entire outstanding amount is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) It has to be ascertained from Jharkhand State as the Bill is submitted by the concerned State Government.

(b) Non-submission of details of the Bills alongwith the Accountant General's certificate.

(c) On Receipt of details of the Bills alongwith the Accountant General's certificate.

[English]

Investment of Money

2916. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case of fraudulent investment of money of Airports Authority of India (AAI) staff in junk bonds and shares come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the money involved and action taken against the guilty officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Employees Contributing Provident Fund (ECPF) Trusts of Airports Authority of India (AAI) had made investment in certain state level public enterprises, which have defaulted in payment of interest. However, ECPF Trusts have not made any investment in the Shares. These defaults have occurred in the following cases:

- (i) Assam Financial Corporation - (Rs. 5.30 Crores),
- (ii) Orissa State Financial Corporation - (Rs. 21.30 Crores),
- (iii) MP State Transport Corporation - (Rs. 19.90 Crores),
- (iv) Jammu and Kishmir Financial Corporation - (Rs. 12.50 Crores) and
- (v) PICUP - (Rs. 3.10 Crores).

The matter of defaults is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Bonus Points on Air-Mileage

2917. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain airlines, including Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) are offering bonus points on air-mileage in respect of the journeys performed by their respective airlines;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the amount spent by IA and AI during the last three years on such schemes alone year-wise;

(c) whether certain officers whose air journeys are paid for by their respective departments, are separately redeeming the mileage-points accrued to them under the scheme by virtue of their official air travels for free gifts and personal air journeys or trading the benefits with others for some consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the rules under which it is permissible; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against officials violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Passengers can earn bonus/additional points on air mileage through short term promotional bonus schemes launched from time to time (on specific Sectors/Flights) on becoming members of the premium club i.e. Golden Edge Club and Silver Edge Club on specific NACIL-I/A designated flights and one time bonus of 500 mileage points on registering for e-mileage statement. The details of bonus points offered on air-mileage during the past three years are:- (i) Double Bonus points for travel between 1.8.07 and 30.11.07 travelling on the non-stop flight on sector Mumbai-New York-Mumbai; (ii) Bonus and discounted redemption on select sectors for members of the US, Gulf and SEA Programme from 15.9.07 to 30.11.07; (iii) Silver Edge Club/Golden Edge Club - 10%/25% extra mileage point bonus over and above normal accruals (depending on the class of travel) on Air India-Indian Airlines designated flights on domestic and SAARC sectors; (iv) Opting for membership for Airlines-AMEX Gold Co-Brand Card and one time clock bonus. The accounts are

credited with the additional bonus mileage points, which the members can exchange for award tickets only after crossing a prescribed threshold limit. The crediting of bonus mileage points into members account is done without any additional expenses.

(c) to (e) Government servants are permitted to accept benefits of 'Frequent Flier Programme and Flying Returns Programmes' of all Airlines and 'Free Companion Tickets' or variations thereof, on travel with National Carriers as per instructions contained in Government of India OM No. 11013/2/99-Estt.(A) dated 05.03.97, OM No.11013/2/97-Estt.(A) dated 19.8.97 and OM No. 11013/2/97-Estt.(A) dated 15.9.98 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training.

Cultural Hubs

2918. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create more multi-cultural hubs like India International Centre, India Habitat Center in different parts of the country to promote the cultural diversity of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Documents of Mahatma Gandhi in Custody of Private TV Production Company

2919. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that original documents, manuscripts, photographs and audio-video tapes of Mahatma Gandhi of about 47 hours duration were left with a little known private TV production company for at least two days without a legal undertaking or the

Government's permission to guard against its damage or duplication;

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Only copies of video tapes (not original) were given by Director, National Gandhi Museum to M/s. CML Multi Media Pvt. Ltd. to prepare a 28 minutes DVD on Mahatma Gandhi's life for their Museum after due approvals from competent authority. The tapes made available to the company were copies and not original archival material.

[Translation]

Status of Scheduled Castes to Scheduled Tribes

2920. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government or according the status of Scheduled Castes to the Kol Kharwar, Gond and Mushar originally belonging to Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether the said people would be ousted from the forests after granting the status of SCs to them and they would not have any right on the forests;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to maintain their status of Scheduled Tribes and formulate any scheme for their development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Discontinuation of AD Valorem Duty

2921. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to discontinue the ad valorem duty to control prices of petrol and diesel;

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

(c) whether attention has also been drawn to restructure the custom duties and excise duties to protect consumer from onslaught of unstable international prices; and

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

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

Missing of Tagore's Noble Medal

2922. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the missing of Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Medal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Tagore's Nobel medallion may be lost forever;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Centre implements any plan to

protect artifacts scattered in museums across the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The medal was stolen from R.N. Memorial Museum, Bichitra, under Bishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan, on 25.03.2004.

(c) and (d) A case has been registered with the Bolpur Police Station and subsequently it has been transferred to CBI for investigation.

(e) and (f) Protected monuments and site museums under ASI and museums directly under the Ministry of Culture and its autonomous bodies have adopted measures for adequate protection by way of deploying CISF and Private Security Agencies, installation of CCTV, metal detector, fire smokers etc., wherever necessary.

PRBS Scheme of ONGC

2923. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Board is responsible and accountable for Post-Retirement and Death in Service (PRBS) Benefit Scheme of ONGC;

(b) if so, the name of trustees of PRBS trust of ONGC and the capacity in which they are member of the trust;

(c) the number of times deductions from individuals and accrual benefits have been changed during the last three years;

(d) if so, whether written consent from each member was obtained before giving effect to above changes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Post-Retirement and Death in Service Benefit Scheme (PRBS) is a self contributory pension scheme where contribution of ONGC is limited to Rs. 100/- per annum. The scheme is managed by a trust consisting of seven trustees nominated by Chairman and Managing Director, ONGC and collective representatives, three each nominated by Association of Scientific and Technical Officers (ASTO) (Officers Association) and of recognized Unions. ONGC Board is not responsible and accountable for PRB Scheme of ONGC. However, manpower, infrastructure and administrative expenditure to run PRBS Trust are provided by ONGC. The trust follows the Government guidelines for investment of funds and functioning/performance is periodically presented to Human Resources sub-committee of the Board.

(c) The rates of contribution as percentage of salary/notional salary have been changed twice in case of executives since inception of the scheme i.e. 01.04.1990 and in case of non-executives it is once since inception of the scheme i.e. 16.11.1995.

(d) and (e) The PRB Scheme was formulated and implemented based on the discussions with ASTO (Officers Association) and recognized Unions. Any changes therein are further discussed and agreed in the form of understanding before implementation.

Agreement between GMR and AAI

2924. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the GMR has sought advance payment from developers for commercial space in the Delhi Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a part of the agreement between GMR and AAI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has sought legal view on the issue while signing deal document in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) has sought from prospective developers a minimum of Rs. 63 crore per acre as refundable security deposit as advance payment. The Government is examining the matter.

(e) to (g) M/s. Amarchand Mangaldas and Suresh a Shroff (AMSS) were retained by Airports Authority of India (AAI) as legal advisors for drafting various transaction documents relating to this project.

Publishing of Papers and Patents through NIPER

2925. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the papers and patents published through National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) are not in line with requirements of Small Scale Pharma Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the selection Committee and other related Committees do not have any representative of Small Scale Pharma Industry; and

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

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) : (a) and (b) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research carries out research in the area of pharmaceutical sciences and technology. Research findings published in the form of papers and patents can be used by any pharma industry irrespective of these being in the small or large pharma unit sectors.

(c) Selection Committee and other related committee are constituted strictly as per the provisions laid down in the Statutes which have been formulated in accordance to the NIPER Act.

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

Expenditure on Advertisement

2926 SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

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

(a) whether the petroleum products especially diesel and petrol are facing difficulty in finding the consumers;

(b) if not, the rationale behind posting costly ads on the electronic media at prime times about these products particularly of power/speed petrol and diesel;

(c) the details of expenditure on advertisement during the last three years PSU-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to rationalize the policy of advertising the petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) The petroleum products like petrol and diesel are essential requirements for motor vehicles as fuels; there is generally no difficulty in finding the consumers for these products.

(b) and (c) Power and Speed are the branded petrol marketed by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) respectively. Only branded premium fuels are being advertised and not the normal petrol and diesel. The benefits of branded fuels need to be communicated to customers and for that reason the advertising is carried out in various forms of media. These benefits include better maintenance of their vehicles, lesser emission and better performance. Details of expenditure incurred on advertisement in the electronic media for the branded fuels during the last three years is as under:-

(Figures in Crores)

Year	IOCL	HPCL	BPCL
2004-05	46.00	11.71	7.73
2005-06	34.62	7.88	13.23
2006-07	21.81	13.83	12.64

(d) The decision to promote sale of petroleum products through advertisement is a commercial decision taken by the oil marketing companies, keeping in view the market conditions and competition from the private players.

[Translation]

Revenue Policy of AAI for DIAL

2927. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions of the contract entered into with Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL);

(b) whether any violation thereof has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the revenue policy of the Airports Authority of India for DIAL;

(e) the percentage of revenue paid by DIAL to the Airports Authority of India during the financial year 2005-06 and 2006-07 and till September, 30, 2007;

(f) whether audit has been conducted by C and AG of the said revenue; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into an agreement viz. Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) with Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) for operating, financing developing, designing, constructing, upgrading, financing and managing of Delhi airport for a period of 30 years (further extendable to 30 years) with effect from 03.05.2006. The Government has directed AAI to ensure that the terms and conditions of the OMDA are not violated.

(d) and (e) DIAL has to pay monthly annual fee of 45.99% of projected revenue to AAI in advance on or before prior to 7th day of each month.

(f) and (g) In terms of OMDA, Independent Auditor is required to certify the revenue. The share of revenue from DIAL forms part of total revenue of AAI. The AAI's accounts are subject to audit by C and AG.

[English]

Threatening of Railway Officials

2928. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Officials who are deployed in Jirbam - Tupul Project are getting threats from some regional outfits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of security measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One incident of threat has so far been reported. On 9.3.2007 at about 07.30 hrs, an extortion notice of Rs. 5 lakhs was served to Shri Himanshu Das, Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction)/ Silchar working in Jirbam-Tupul Project through a vehicle driver by N.S.C.L.-K (National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang). Later, the suspected extremist contacted Shri Das through phone and demanded the money. But no payment has been made.

(c) FIR has been lodged with local police Silchar on 15.03.2007. A co-ordination meeting with Superintendent of Police/Silchar, Army Officials of Jirbam and Para Military Forces deployed at Jirbam was organized by Railway Protection Force/Lumding. No further report of any threat has been received. Regular liaison with local police, Army, Para Military Forces and Civil Authority is being maintained to ensure security of Railway employees engaged in Jirbam-Tupul Project.

Distribution of Kerosene

2929. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether a large quantum of kerosene assured by the Government to the registered consumer at subsidized rates under the Public Distribution System every month is not going into the right hands in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of incidents come into the notice of the Government during the recent past;

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allow public sector oil companies to take up a parallel survey to eliminate the ineligible persons; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene (SKO) is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS. Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs.

SKO distributed under PDS is a heavily subsidized product. Unscrupulous elements indulge in black marketing of PDS SKO for pecuniary gains. With a view to assessing the genuine demand/requirement of SKO in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December 2004, a study through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER in its report, submitted in October 2005, has estimated the total leakage/diversion of SKO meant for distribution under PDS at 38.6% of total sale of PDS SKO in 2004. NCAER has also estimated diversion of PDS SKO to open market (black marketing) at 17.9% of total sale of PDS SKO in 2004.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that 11 cases of black marketing of kerosene oil have come to light since December 2006 to October 2007. Details of action taken in the above mentioned cases are as under:-

Action Taken	Number of cases
1	2
Terminated	04

1	2
After suspension of sales and supplies, supplies yet to resume	04
After suspension of sales and supplies, wholesale licence restored	03

(e) and (f) There is no proposal for conducting parallel survey by the public sector oil companies to eliminate the ineligible persons from PDS network. NCAER in its reports has also inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum products has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only.

Kerosene for Printing Press

2930. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any special quota of Kerosene for printing industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) PDS kerosene is an allocated and subsidized product. Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only as provided under SKO Control Order, 1993. Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. There is no separate SKO allocation for the printing industries.

Memorials for Freedom Fighters

2931. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a memorials for the freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has proposed setting up of a memorial for late V.K. Krishna Menon at Thiruvananthapuram in connection with his birth centenary celebrations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Government of India has constituted a National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to chalk out the programmes for celebration of 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence, 1857; 60th Anniversary of Indian Independence; Centenary of Adoption of Vande Mataram as National Song; and 75th Anniversary of the martyrdom and birth centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. A National Implementation Committee has also been constituted for implementation of programmes and activities in commemoration of these events. The National Implementation Committee has approved a proposal that a Memorial for Shaheeds/Shahed Minar be established in Delhi.

(c) and (d) At present no such proposal is under consideration in Ministry of Culture.

Air Fare for Haj Pilgrims

2932. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to hike the airfare for Haj pilgrims this year but the same has been declined by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present fare per person for Haj pilgrims with the break up of actual fare and subsidy and since when it has remained unchanged;

(d) the number of the devotees expected to undertake the pilgrimage from India this year and the details of the assistance being provided by the Union Government;

(e) whether airport tax of 50 Saudi Riyals, imposed for the first time by the Saudi authorities, would also be met by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the total amount that the Union Government will have to entail on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) The airfare per pilgrim for Haj 2007 has increased to approximately Rs. 46,000. The amount paid by the pilgrim is Rs. 12,000/- and the balance amount of approximately Rs. 34,000/- is the subsidy. The amount charged from the pilgrims has remained unchanged since 1994.

(d) The number of devotees expected to undertake the pilgrimage from India this year through the Central Haj Committee is approximately 1,10,000. These pilgrims are provided subsidy in airfare by the Government.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Airport Tax of 50 Saudi Riyals would be recovered from Haj pilgrims.

Coal Gasification

2933. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) :

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

(a) whether Government propose to promote coal gasification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent such a technology is commercially viable;

(d) whether some foreign companies have sought permission to start their businesses in the country by using the technique of changing coal into oil;

(e) if so, the details of such proposals; and

(f) the level at which these proposals are being considered at present?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has signed an Agreement of Collaboration, (AOC) with Skochinsky Institute of Mining (SIM-NMRC), Moscow, Russia to develop Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) technology in India on 25th November, 2004. After studying eleven sites, one site namely Vastan Mine block belonging to Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd., (GIPCL) in Surat Gujarat has been found most suitable for UCG.

(c) Commercial application of UCG technology has taken place only in erstwhile Soviet Union. A UCG asked power plant station is still operative in Uzbekistan and is producing approx. 25 MW electricity. UCG is also being produced on pilot level in Australia and South Africa. The commercial viability of underground coal gasification in Indian condition could only be assessed after taking up pilot scale studies.

(d) to (f) In so far as Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is concerned no approval has been given to any foreign company to start its business in the country by using the technique of changing coal into oil. However, foreign companies are free to collaborate with Indian companies in this regard.

Revenues Earned from the Tourist Spots In Andhra Pradesh

2934. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign tourists visited Andhra Pradesh during the last three years till date;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government in Andhra Pradesh during the said period;

(c) percentage of such revenue spent for renovation, repair and provisions of facilities to the tourist visited Andhra Pradesh during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has implemented any special package providing world-class facilities to the International tourists in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The number of foreign tourist visits to Andhra Pradesh during 2004, 2005 and 2006 were 501019, 560024 and 668617 respectively.

(b) and (c) The revenue earned by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation and expenditure incurred by them on repairs and maintenance of properties during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	2005-06	2006-07
Revenue Earned	5917.57	7660.37
Expenditure on repairs and maintenance of properties	131.24	233.68
Expenditure as % of Earnings	2.2%	3.0%

(d) to (f) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits, Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects, etc.

The amount of financial assistance released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were Rs. 2240.68 lakh, Rs. 1700.00 lakh and Rs. 1195.44 lakh respectively.

[Translation]

**Foreign Tours by Officials of GAIL
(India) Ltd.**

2935. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of official foreign tours undertaken by the senior officials of GAIL India Limited during the last three years;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred on these foreign tours;
- (c) achievements made through these tours;
- (d) whether absence of officials due to foreign tours affected the functioning of the organisation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) 68 official foreign tours have been undertaken by senior officials i.e. functional Directors, of GAIL (India) Limited from April 1, 2005 till date.

- (b) An expenditure of US\$ 1,82,383 in foreign

exchange and Rs. 88,00,615/- in Indian rupees has been incurred on these foreign tours.

(c) These visits were undertaken in connection with business meetings with several international companies associated with GAIL's business, as also for attending trainings, workshops, exhibitions, etc., which have contributed to the growth of GAIL during the period under reference.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

**Missing Files Pertaining to Overcharging of
Prices of Medicines**

2936. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the files pertaining to over charging of prices of medicines by the major drugs producers in relation to legislation 1987 are missing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reason therefor;
- (c) the amount balance in DPEA when DPLR Committee was formed and the balance amount when the committee was wound up;
- (d) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

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) : (a) No, Sir.

(b), (d) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) as above.

(c) The amount of balance is DPEA when DPLR Committee was formed was Rs. 1,29,258/- and the balance amount when the Committee was wound up was Rs. 29,293/-.

Airports in the NE Region

2937. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of airports are to be covered under the Greenfield Airports and the latest progress of such airports in the North Eastern (NE) Region;

(b) whether Planning Commission has granted in principle approval for Pasighat and Tezu airports in Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details and the progress of work in these two Airports;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) There are proposals for establishment of Greenfield Airports at Pakyong in Sikkim, Chiethu (Kohima) in Nagaland, Itanagar and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Kokrajhar in Assam, in North Eastern Region. On the basis of 'in-principle' approval of Planning Commission, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued press advertisement for prequalification of bidders in respect of Pakyong Airport. As far as Itanagar and Chiethu Airports are concerned, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are under preparation by AAI. A pre-feasibility study has been conducted by an AAI team in respect of proposed Tawang Airports in Arunachal Pradesh. In respect of Kokrajhar Airport, Bodoland

Territorial Council has identified a site. Team of AAI will conduct a pre-feasibility study shortly.

(b) to (e) Planning Commission has granted 'in-principle' approval for operationalisation of Pasighat and Tezu Airports in Arunachal Pradesh for ATR-42 operations. Accordingly, AAI has initiated action for preparation of DPR in respect of these airports.

Welfare Schemes for Disabled Persons

2938. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds allocated/released by the Government to Non-Governmental Organizations/implementing agencies under various schemes for the welfare of disabled persons alongwith details of proposals received in this regard during 2007-08 State/UT-wise, NGO-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the details of utilization of funds by each NGO/implementing agency during 2006-07, scheme-wise;

(c) whether some NGOs have been found misusing funds on a large scale;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received against the NGOs for mis-utilisation of funds and the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of funds by NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) For the welfare of disabled persons, Rs. 143.00 Crores have been allocated for the year 2007-08. Till 01.12.2007, 927 proposals have been received and Rs. 9.60 Crore to 26 NGOs/

implementing agencies; Rs. 21.93 Crore to 394 NGOs; and Rs. 12.14 lakhs to one NGO in different States/UTs have been released under the Schemes of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP); Deendayal Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS); and District Disability Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) respectively.

(b) During the year 2006-07, Rs. 54.60 Crore to 742 NGOs, Rs. 60.19 Crore to 88 NGOs/implementing agencies and Rs. 1.21 Crore to NGOs were released as grants-in-aid for utilization under the Schemes of DDRS, ADIP and DDRC respectively.

(c) to (e) Ten Non-Governmental Organisations have been blacklisted when they were found misusing the funds. Enquiries in eight other complaints against NGOs were initiated. In two of these cases, complaints were found baseless and grants-in-aid have been resumed. For checking mis-utilization of the funds by the NGOs, several measures are in Place, including inspection by the State Government/Government of India representatives and scrutiny of periodic progress reports, audited accounts and utilization certificates.

Rail Connectivity of Mysore

2939. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways plan to provide rail connectivity between Mysore and pilgrimage of Theerthodbhava and Triveni Sangam including the foot hill of Brahmagiri and Bangardeshwara temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) On the suggested alignment area, an updating survey for Thalasserry (Tellicherry) - Mysore new line has been taken up in the budget 2007-06.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies in Chhattisgarh

2940. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps and diesel-pumps running in Chhattisgarh at present;

(b) the number of educated unemployed youths belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes and the dependants of freedom fighters who have been allotted LPG agencies and petrol pumps during the last three years in the State;

(c) the number of distributorships proposed to be allotted during the current year; and

(d) the details of the districts likely to be covered under such districts likely to be covered under such distributorship in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) As on 1.11.2007, 503 retail outlet (RO) dealerships belonging to public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) are in operation in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(b) During the last three years, i.e., 2004-05 to 2006-07, OMCs have allotted 81 RO dealerships and 6 LPG distributorships to Scheduled Castes (SC) / Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates. There is no separate category for allotment of RO dealerships and LPG distributorships to other backward classes or dependants of Freedom Fighters.

(c) and (d) OMCs propose to allot 22 LPG distributorships during the current year in the State of

Chhattisgarh in various Districts, namely Bilaspur, Raigarh, Raipur, Sarguja, Bastar, Dhamtari, Durg, Janjgir Champa, Kanker, Kawardha, Korba, Rajnandgaon and Jashpur.

[English]

**New Train between Nasik and
Pune via Kalyan**

2941. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to start new train between Nasik and Pune via Kalyan in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether there has been a continuous demand of the people of the Jalgaon District in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(c) Introduction of 1025/1026 Nasik-Pune Express (Daily) has been announced in the Railway Budget 2007-08.

[Translation]

**Setting up of New Steel Plant in
Maharashtra**

2942. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to set up a new Steel Plant in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) to (c) Formal prior clearance from the Union Government is not required for setting up steel plants in the States. According to the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been delicensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the Public Sector, subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgment. The Government does not directly intervene in setting up of such steel plants. The Government plays the role of a facilitator and provides an enabling environment through policy initiatives to foster the growth of the steel industry.

[English]

Selling of Sub-Standard Fertilizers

2943. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sub-standard fertilizers are being sold in the markets with branded names in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Union Government proposes to make available better quality of fertilizers in various States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) to (d) The sale, manufacturing etc. of fertilizers are regulated under the provisions of Fertiliser (Control) Order, (FCO) 1985, an order under the

Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The specifications of various fertilizers have been laid down in Schedule of FCO, 1985. The Order prohibits manufacture and sale of fertilizers, which are not of prescribed standard.

The inspection of quality is a continuous process. There are 68 fertiliser quality control laboratories in the country to test the quality of fertilizers including the four laboratories of the Government of India namely Central Fertiliser Quality Control and Training Institute at Faridabad and three regional laboratories at Bombay, Kalyani and Chennai. The State Government are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders in terms of provisions contained in FCO, 1985 including for violation, if any in the quality of fertilizers.

No complaints of manufacturing of sub-standard fertilizers have been reported to the Government of India in the Department of Fertilizers (DOF) in the recent past.

Setting up of Petrochemicals Refinery Complex at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

2944. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil PSUs in partnership with some private companies have recently entered into an agreement for setting up of petrochemical refinery complex at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government have given its approval for the said project;

(d) the total investment required for the project; and

(e) the time by which the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) Hindustan

Petroleum Corporation Limited has recently entered into an Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with M/s. GAIL (India) Limited, Oil India Limited, Mittal Energy Investments Pte Limited and TOTAL France S.A. For studying and evaluating the feasibility of setting up a Refinery cum Petrochemicals Complex at Vishakhapatnam. The cost estimate, completion schedule and the approvals required, would be based on the feasibility studies.

Production of Steel

2945. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the actual steel production is abysmally short of targets laid in successive Five Year Plans;

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

(c) whether China's steel production has reached a level of about 460 MT while India is still struggling with a level of 45 MT;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Government of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa have signed large number of MOUs with entrepreneurs for setting up of steel plants in their States in the last two years and none has materialised on the ground of non-availability of raw material namely iron ore blocks;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Five Year Plans did not lay down any target of steel production.

(c) and (d) In 2006, the crude steel production of China and India was 423 MT and 49 MT respectively. A rapid

growth in infrastructure development and indigenous capacity for production supported by strong and sustained growth in demand of steel, sustained GDP growth rate, availability of iron ore resource base, a very good reserve of low ash metallurgical coal and cheap capital funds provided by the State-owned banking sector has led the steel production in China to rise phenomenally. On the other hand, moderate growth in GDP, low investment rate, slow demand and restricted availability of cheap credit led Indian steel industry to lag behind the Chinese steel industry in spite of having resource base of iron ore and coal.

(e) and (f) State Governments of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa have signed a large number of MOUs with entrepreneurs for setting up of steel plants in the State in the last two years. The projects are at different stages of progress.

(g) After de-regulation of steel industry in 1992, no industrial license is required for setting up a steel plant. Government does not directly intervene in setting up of a steel plant. However, Government plays the role of the facilitator and provides enabling environment through policy initiatives to foster growth of steel industry.

Production of Ammonium Sulphate

2946. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ammonium Sulphate is being produced by some of the public sector fertilizers companies;

(b) if so, the details of production of Ammonium Sulphate during each of the last three years, Unit-wise;

(c) the cost of production of Ammonium Sulphate, Unit-wise;

(d) the comparative data of cost of production of each major product being produced in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) and other fertilizer PSUs in the country;

(e) the reasons for heavy cost of production in FACT; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce the cost of production of major products in FACT?

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) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ammonium Sulphate is produced by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT), which is a central public sector enterprise. Another producer of Ammonium Sulphate is Gujarat State Fertilizers Corporation Limited (GSFC), in which the share holding of the State Government of Gujarat is 38.4%.

(b) The details of production of Ammonium Sulphate by FACT during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Production
2004-05	200564 MT
2005-06	172986 MT
2006-07	183490 MT

(c) Cost of Production per MT of Ammonium Sulphate by FACT is around Rs. 9100/-.

(d) The major products being produced in FACT are Factamfos 20:20 (NPKS : 20:20:0:13) and Ammonium Sulphate which are fertilizers and Caprolactam which is an industrial chemical. There is no other central PSU in the country producing these products. However, GSFC also produces Ammonium Sulphate and Caprolactam.

For FACT, the approximate costs of production per MT, for Ammonium Sulphate is Rs. 9100/-, for Factamfos Rs. 12400 and for Caprolactam Rs. 1.03 lakh. For GSFC the approximate costs of production per MT, of Ammonium Sulphate is Rs. 7500/- and for Caprolactam, Rs. 86000/-.

(e) and (f) The heavy cost of production in FACT can be attributed to use of costlier inputs like naphtha as feedstock which is about five times costlier than natural gas, since natural gas is not available at Cochin. Besides, in the past few months there has been a steep rise in the input costs of other raw materials, such as sulphur and rock phosphate.

With a view to reducing the cost of production, FACT has implemented a scheme for low load operation of ammonia plant at their Udyogmandal Division, producing only synthesis gas required for Caprolactam plant, besides, using imported ammonia whenever it is economically viable.

Closure of Unmanned Level Crossings

2947. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings which have been identified for closure in the country, as on date State-wise; and

(b) the number of crossings closed down during the year 2007 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Zone-wise (as details are maintained Zone-wise not State-wise) number of unmanned level crossings identified for closure and those closed, is as under:-

S. No.	Zone	No. of unmanned Level Crossings identified for closure	Number of unmanned Level Crossings closed in the year 2007 so far
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	16	22
2.	Eastern	45	00

1	2	3	4
3.	East Central	38	08
4.	East Coast	98	01
5.	Northern	40	06
6.	North Eastern	88	16
7.	Northeast Frontier	22	00
8.	North Central	45	00
9.	North Western	288	33
10.	Southern	15	00
11.	South Central	72	08
12.	South Eastern	19	00
13.	South East Central	54	00
14.	South Western	190	02
15.	Western	183	12
16.	West Central	72	05
Total		1,285	113

Congestion Charges from Air Travellers

2948. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether airlines are charging congestion charges from air-travellers;

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

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

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

Sir. Some Airlines are levying congestion surcharge. However, domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per their commercial judgement.

(c) Various steps are being taken to improve the infrastructure at airports and air space management, so that the incidence of congestion itself is substantially reduced. These inter-alia include construction of runways, more apron area to park aircrafts, increase in the number of traffic controllers etc.

**Demand of Petroleum Products/
Natural Gas**

2949. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the consumption of petroleum products and

natural gas each year during the last five years;

(b) the projected demand of these by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the imports and domestic production worked out for the same period;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy and provide guidelines to ensure construction of cross border gas pipelines to ensure country's energy security through uninterrupted import of oil and natural gas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Consumption of Petroleum products (POL) and natural gas (NG):-

Item	Unit	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
POL**	TMT	104126	107751	111634	113213	119845
NG	MMSCM	29963	30906	30775	31325	30791
R-LNG	MMSCM	NIL	NIL	3189	6454	8585

TMT : Thousand Metric Tons.

MMSCM : Million Standard Cubic Metre.

R-LNG : Re-gasified LNG.

* Provisional.

** Includes consumption through private imports.

(b) The projected demand for POL and gas by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan (2011-12) is given below:

(i)	POL Consumption	(Thousand Metric Ton)
	Base Case	131767
	Upper Case	141793
(ii)	Gas Demand	: 279.43 MMSCM

(c) Imports and domestic production for the 10th Plan period is given below:-

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	1	2	3	4	5
Domestic					
POL*	33.043	33.373	33.980	32.191	33.98

	1	2	3	4	5
LNG**	86	87.3	87	88.2	86
Imports					
POL*	81.989	90.434	95.861	99.409	111.502
LNG**	NIL	NIL	3274	6575	8987

* Figures in TNT.

** Figures in MMSCM.

(d) and (e) For ensuring the country's energy security, the Government is actively pursuing the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas pipeline project and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Pipeline project. In the Oil Sector, Government is taking the under-mentioned steps:-

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.
- (viii) Diversification of the sources for procurement of

crude. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now importing crude oil from about 25 countries either on term contract or through spot purchase.

- (ix) Government has taken a decision to construct a Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur for meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions, natural calamities, etc.

[Translation]

Production of Steel in Chhattisgarh

2950. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) the target fixed for increasing the production of steel in Chhattisgarh during the next five years;
- (b) the policy of the Government to make available required iron-ore for this purpose;
- (c) whether any proposal has been received from Steel Authority of India Limited in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) Bhilai Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has planned for production of 7 million tonnes crude steel by 2011-12. Government has not fixed any production target for the private steel plants.

(b) The present policy of Government for allocation of iron ore mines is governed as per the Mines and Minerals (Development and regulation) Act 1957, read with rule 35 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

(c) Ministry of Mines, Government of India, has reserved entire Deposit-F of Rowghat in Kanker/Narainpur districts of Chhattisgarh for Steel Authority of India Limited.

(d) SAIL has submitted proposals for forest and environmental clearances for Rowghat iron ore mines to Ministry of Environment and Forests.

[English]

Misuse of Passenger Train Service

2951. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Domakal Passenger train and Kakatiya Passenger train under South Central Railway are being used for the purpose of prostitution; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Status of Deemed University to CIBS, Leh

2952. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal has been received by the Government to accord status of Deemed University to the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS), Choglavisar, Leh, Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Institute fulfills all the essential requirements necessary for according status of a Deemed University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per University Grants Commission (UGC)

norms, an Institute should have a core academic staff of atleast 1 Professor, 2 Readers and adequate number of Lecturers in atleast 5 teaching departments to be considered for a Deemed University Status. The Institute does not presently have the requisite academic staff.

Discount to Physically Challenged Passengers

2953. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector airlines are providing discount in fares to physically challenged passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) National Aviation Company of India Limited offers discount on the normal economy class fare on domestic sectors only to physically challenged persons. Persons suffering from Loco Motor disability to the extent of 80% and above are offered 50% discount on furnishing a Certificate from the Chief Medical Officer. Visually impaired persons are offered discount of 55% on the basic fare for domestic travel.

Re-naming of a Train between Hubli and Bangalore

2954. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any specific appeals from the public of Hubli-Dharwad to name one of the express trains or passengers trains running between Hubli-Bangalore to be named after the noted Saint Shri Shiddaroodha; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railway thereon?

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

(b) As per extant policy, trains are not named after personalities, deities or with religious connotation. Hence, the name Saint Sri Shiddaroodha cannot be considered.

Expenditure on Refreshment

2955. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred during the last three years by different airlines both inland and foreign bound flights on refreshment served while on board;

(b) whether quality standards is the same in all sectors; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure similar standards of quality and quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The expenditure incurred by National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) (for Air India and Indian Airlines) on food served to passengers on board, for the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2004-05	393.73
2005-06	409.23
2006-07	445.75

(b) Yes, Sir. The quality of meal uplifted by NACIL is standardized and maintained at all times.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance from China for the Railways

2956. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China has offered financial and technical co-operation to modernize Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects selected for upgradation?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hospitality Institute

2957. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish Hospitality Institute in various States in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) There are already twenty one Central and five State Institutes of Hotel Management established in various States/UT's. Six more state Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) have already been sanctioned and are at various stages of completion at Kurukshetra, Jamshedpur, Raipur, Silvassa, Kozhikode and Aizwal.

Doubling of Jalgaon and Udhana Rail-Line

2958. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have completed survey of track doubling of the Jalgaon, Udhana on the Jalgaon-Surat line of Western Railways;

(b) if so, the current status of this proposal; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken for completion by the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) On this alignment, a double broad gauge line already exists between Surat-Udhana section. Further, a survey for doubling of Udhana-Jaigaon section with electrification has also been completed as per which the cost of doubling 306.93 Kms. long line with electrification has been assessed as Rs. 714.60 crore with the rate of return of 13.71%. The proposal has been processed for obtaining the requisite clearances of the Government. The work would be taken up as and when requisite approvals are received.

[Translation]

Smoking in Bogies

2959. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether smoking is being done in most of the bogies of trains causing inconvenience to other passengers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Railways to check it;

(c) whether it is proposed to give more powers to T.T., GRP and RPF to stop it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Some cases of passengers smoking in trains have come to notice.

(b) Smoking in trains and railway premises has been made a punishable offence under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989 and the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Product (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003. Public are educated not to smoke in railway premises as well as railway coaches through various media available with the railways and by displaying notices at prominent places at stations and inside the coaches.

(c) and (d) Ticket Checking agencies i.e. Commercial, Operating, Vigilance and Security staff have already been empowered to take action against the offenders as per law.

[English]

Post Matric Scholarship for VJNTs, OBCs

2960. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals sent by government of Maharashtra for Post Matric Scholarship for Vimut Jati Notified Tribes (VJNTs), OBCs during the last three years till date;

(b) the total amount sanctioned under the Scholarship Scheme during the said period and the actual amount demanded by the State Government;

(c) whether it is true that a large amount is still pending for release with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the pending amount is likely to be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) Government of India has no separate scheme for Post Matric Scholarship for Vimut Jati Notified Tribes (VJNTs).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of Vacancies for Persons with Disabilities

2961. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies created by the

Government during the last five years in the Government and public sector organisations for persons with disabilities;

(b) the extent of vacancies filled so far; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government for providing employment to the persons with disabilities in other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) According to the existing provisions three per cent reservation in the vacancies of identified posts is provided to persons with disabilities. As per information received from 47 Ministries/ Departments during 2005, 5600 direct recruitments were made out of which 389 vacancies were provided to the persons with disabilities. This works out to 6.94% of the total recruitments.

(c) During the budget speech 2007-08, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme to incentivize employers in private sector for employment of persons with disabilities.

Development of Tourism

2962. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBHA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourism plays an important role in the economy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether United Nations World Tourism Organisation has encouraged the use of environmental conditionality as barriers to international tourism, particularly in the developing countries;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote sustainable development of tourism to make India an ecologically and socially sensitive tourism destination?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) According to the Tourism Satellite Account for India, tourism contributed about 5.83% of total Gross Domestic Product and 8.27% of total employment in the country during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In the session on the subject of 'Tourism and Climate Change' of the General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) held on November 29th, 2007 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia it was resolved that there should not be any discrimination against developing countries by creating obstacles to their economic development and in particular of those developing countries located at long distance from tourist generating markets.

(e) The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for development of tourist circuits/ destinations including eco tourism and rural tourism sites under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

Concession Scheme on Sale of De-controlled Fertilizers

2963. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has extended concession scheme on sale of de-controlled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers; and

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

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) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has extended the Concession Scheme on decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers with effect from 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008. As in the past, the manufacturers/importers shall be released payment of concession on the sale of DAP, NPK complexes, MOP and MAP as per the methodology recommended by the Tariff Commission. The concession on SSP is on ad-hoc basis and additional inland freight of Rs. 150/- per MT due to increase in other cost on account of freight has also been announced. Freight for DAP, NPK complexes and MOP has also been increased the restriction on Concession for indigenous DAP Group I which was earlier capped by the Concession payable to Group-II has been removed with effect from 1st April 2007, thereby allowing DAP Group I industry to be fully compensated for escalation in the cost of raw materials like Rock Phosphate and Sulphur.

[Translation]

Setting up of Zonal Offices

2964. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan for the setting up of four zonal offices to bring improvement in coordination among the working of Railway Divisions and Railway Board has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the zonal offices assisting in the operation of East Coast of Railways; and

(d) the extent of improvement likely to be achieved in the quality of passenger facilities and transportation of goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There has not been any plan as such.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Routes of Low Cost Domestic Airlines

2965. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Run Low Cost Domestic Airlines-Air India Express has started its operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the routes where the operation has started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Air India Express currently operates 22 flights a week on Domestic sectors as follows:-

Mumbai-Kozhikode	—	3 flights
Mumbai-Kochi	—	3 flights
Mumbai-Chennai	—	3 flights
Mumbai-Delhi	—	1 flight
Mumbai-Nagpur	—	3 flights
Delhi-Jaipur	—	3 flights
Delhi-Lucknow	—	3 flights
Chennai-Trichy	—	3 flights

[Translation]

Bhiradi-Delhi-Ahmedabad Railway Line into Broadgauge

2966. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is important to join Bhiradi-Delhi-Ahmedabad with a broad-gauge line to promote industry in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have asked the State Governments to bear the cost of this project themselves;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are going to approve this project in view of its importance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) A survey for construction of a new broad gauge line between Rewari-Bhiwadi was completed in 2003-04. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of 24.87 kms. long line had been assessed as Rs. 105.04 crore with a Rate of Return as (-) 8.56%. The State Government of Rajasthan expressed their willingness to take up this project under National Capital Region Plan and Assistance to the State for Infrastructure Development for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The matter was referred to the State Government for bearing the cost of the project by there was no positive response in this regard. In view of this, the proposed new line was not taken up due to its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

**Expenditure incurred on GRP
(Railway Police)**

2967. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways contributes 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred on GRP (Railway Police);

(b) if so, whether the Railways have still to pay a sum of Rs. 18,78,23,934/- to the Government of Madhya Pradesh pending or recovery as on March 2005;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-payment of this amount; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be paid?

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

(b) This is the due claimed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, it is disputed by the Railways.

(c) The reasons of non-payment of this amount are as under:-

(1) Non-receipt of Accountant General's certificate.

(2) Excess operation of Government Railway Police posts without approval of the Railway Administration.

(3) Part of amount of bills not covered in the Accountant General's certificate.

(d) The Government Railway Police Authorities of Madhya Pradesh have been advised of the above position for taking necessary action. The pending amount will be paid on receipt of Accountant General's certificate/supplementary certificates from the State Government. The amount kept pending for excess operation of Government Railway Police posts can be released only on receipt of post facto sanction of the Ministry of Railways for the same.

[English]

**Setting up of Institutional Mechanism to
Procure International Energy Deals**

2968. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up an institutional mechanism to improve coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to Procure international energy deals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the China is aggressively tapping markets in Latin America and Africa and the recent loss of gas blocks in Myanmar to China, the Government has decided to make a concerted and coordinated effort to help private and public companies to bag international deals; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the proposed mechanism will help procuring the international energy deals by Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) The institutional mechanism between Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is in the form of Inter-Ministerial consultations as well as through Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECS) for acquisition of high value equity oil stakes abroad.

The composition of ECS to consider and recommend directly to Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) in regard to project involving financial decisions exceeding Rs. 300 crore is as follows:-

Secretary (P and NG)	—	Chairman
Secretary (Finance)	—	Member
Secretary (MEA)	—	Member
Secretary (Law)	—	Member
Secretary (DPE)	—	Member
Secretary (Planning Commission)	—	Member

In addition to this, there is a Monitoring Committee for projects of ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) comprising representatives of Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas, External Affairs, Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Public Enterprises, Planning Commission.

Award of oil & Gas blocks in Latin America, Africa and other countries is based on International competitive bidding system. Accordingly, Indian companies bid based on their assessment of prospectivity and commercial

consideration. The existing institutional mechanism has helped in procuring equity oil abroad in more than 20 countries by Indian companies.

Grants for Old Aged Homes

2969. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government extends cooperation in favour of States in granting financial aid for operating old age homes;

(b) if so, the details of grants is being given to Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has approached the Union Government for enhancing the grants-in-aid in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) Ministry is providing grants-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations to establish and maintain old age homes, day care centres and mobile medicare units throughout the country.

(b) In Madhya Pradesh, in the year 2006-07, a sum of Rs. 2,76,000/- was provided for running Old Age Home.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Bio-Diesel Units

2970. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank team has visited bio-diesel production units in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to go in for blending of bio-diesel with diesel in all the vehicles in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development, the nodal Ministry for bio-diesel production in the country, has informed that it has neither coordinated nor involved in any visit of World Bank team to bio-diesel production units in Tami Nadu.

(c) and (d) In order to promote the use of Bio-diesel, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced a Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy with effect from 1.1.2006. As per the policy, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) shall purchase Bio-diesel for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at 20 identified purchase centres across the country. OMCs have conducted field trials on buses and locomotive diesel engines which were run on diesel blended with bio-diesel.

ROB/RUB In Karnataka

2971. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ROB/RUB projects under consideration, state-wise, particularly in the State of Karnataka including Road Under Bridge (RUB) near Ashoka Theatre in Davangere;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have considered the proposal; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Only 62 proposals of Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUB) from Zonal Railways as sponsored by State Govts. Have been received for inclusion in the ensuing Works Programme of 2008-09.

From Karnataka only 2 proposals one for ROB in lieu of LC No. 62, 64 and 66 on Gadag Jn.-Bellary Jn. and another for RUB near Somanahalli Railway Gate have been received. No firm proposal has been received from State Govt. for ROB at Ashok Theatre in Devangare. However a RUB in lieu of LC No 199 had already been provided there, but LC was not closed at State Govt.'s request.

(b) and (c) Proposals are being examined and if found feasible, will be included in the ensuing Railway Budget of 2008-09. If sanctioned, further action of construction will be taken.

Reservation in Jobs for Minorities

2972. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce reservation in jobs for minorities on the basis of caste/religion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compulsory Security Checks in the Trains

2973. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to make the security check compulsory in general compartments of the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Incidents of Looting of Passengers
in the Trains**

2974. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the incidents of looting of passengers in the trains by offering them poisonous items;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(c) the preventive measures taken/being taken by the Railways to check such incidents;

(d) whether the Railways have also sought the assistance from State Governments to combat such crimes; and

(e) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

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

(b) A zone-wise statement showing the number of drugging cases reported in trains over Indian Railways during the year 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto September) is as under:-

Railways	Number of cases reported			
	2004	2005	2006	2007 (upto Sept.)
1	2	3	4	5
Central	106	45	56	59

	1	2	3	4	5
Eastern	—	23	51	23	
East Central	39	24	49	17	
East Coast	10	6	11	19	
Northern	90	60	47	52	
North Central	55	42	24	35	
North Eastern	13	6	7	41	
Northeast Frontier	32	37	46	58	
North Western	—	—	—	—	
Southern	16	28	17	20	
South Central	25	37	72	28	
South Eastern	62	81	77	71	
South East Central	4	6	7	7	
South Western	2	5	5	13	
Western	54	29	28	40	
West Central	53	10	10	8	
Total	561	439	507	491	

(c) Following preventive measures are being taken to prevent incidents of drugging cases:-

1. All Thana In-charges have been instructed to conduct drives against persons indulging in drugging offences in trains, platforms and passenger areas.
2. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains in the affected stations/sections.
3. Ass out efforts are being made in coordination

with GRP/City Police to collect and share criminal intelligence for the apprehension of the offenders.

4. Regular announcements are being made through Public Address System and use of loud hailers at the general coaches of the trains and during line bandobast to sensitize passengers to avoid purchasing/accepting eatables from unauthorized hawkers and unknown persons while traveling by train or at the platform.
5. Posters/pamphlets with cautionary indication against the menace of drugging are being circulated and pasted at prominent places at the station and in the trains to create awareness amongst the traveling passengers.
6. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with local police and GRP for better exchange of intelligence and formulation of joint strategy to contain the menace.
7. Videography of persons standing in queue for boarding general coaches are being done to identify the offenders in cases of such incidents.
8. Dossiers of culprits involved in the drugging cases have been circulated to all Thanas are provided with escorting staff.
9. Affected/vulnerable stations and trains are being identified and special attention is being paid in the identified trains/stations to avoid recurrence of such cases.

Specific guidelines have also been issued by the DG/RPF for preparation of appropriate plans to effectively control the incidents of drugging on Railways. Anti drugging cells are being set up at each Zonal Railways Hqrs. Under the command of a Gazetted Officer, which will examine in details each and every case of drugging reported and take all preventive measures.

(d) and (e) The maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. Prevention and detection of crime is constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. Accordingly, drugging cases are registered by the Government Railway Police for investigation and prosecution and the Railways have to largely depend on them for control of this crime. However, to provide better security to the traveling commuters, women and general passengers in trains and passenger areas, Railways is supplementing the efforts of the State Government in controlling crime on Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort about 1400 trains and by taking preventive measures as stated in reply to (c).

As and when requisitioned, necessary assistance is also being given to the State authorities by the Railway Authorities.

Compensation to the Dependents of Deceased Pilots

2975. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of air crashes that have taken place during the last decade;
- (b) the number of pilots expired in the said accidents;
- (c) whether the compensation has been given to family members of those pilots;
- (d) if so, the number of families which have been provided the compensation;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of cases of compensation lying pending and the time by which these cases likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) During the

year 1997-2007 (till date) 54 accidents occurred to Indian civil registered aircraft and helicopters.

(b) 43 Pilots and Co-pilots have been killed due to the above accidents.

(c) to (f) Compensation, if any, is paid by Airlines/Private Operators.

[English]

Crimes in the Trains

2976. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the increasing crimes in the trains particularly in the suburban trains in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has roped in regular train commuters to assist the police in protecting fellow passengers (Commuter Cops) to reduce the crimes and also to bridge the meager people-police ratio;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the positive results achieved as a result thereof;

(d) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme in all suburban sections in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) There is a decrease in the cases of offences against passengers over Indian Railways including the suburban trains during the year 2006 in comparison to year 2005.

(b) to (e) A scheme called "RPF Mitra Yojana" which aims to strengthen contact and information network between Railways Protection Force and such Railway passengers/public who have been helped by RPF at some point of time has been introduced over all Zonal Railways

including suburban sections w.e.f. 16.08.2007 to control crimes over Indian Railways. Lists of beneficiary passengers have been prepared and they are being contacted and meetings are being organized at various levels to make a bridge between public and Railway Protection Force. A positive response is being received from various places.

[Translation]

Tourist Places in Uttar Pradesh

2977. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State of Uttar Pradesh Government for development of certain tourist places in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance given by the Government in this regard project/proposal-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respects are examined on the basis of scheme guidelines and inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective heads.

Following projects have been sanctioned to the State of Uttar Pradesh in the current financial year:-

		(Rs. in lakh)
S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Development of Jaunpur as a Tourist destination	440.10
2.	Development of Barsana in district-Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	319.37
3.	Rural Tourism at village Bhaguwala	50.00
4.	Development and Beautification of Siddeshwar Nath Dham, Sant Kabimagar, Uttar Pradesh	141.96
Total		951.43

Representations on Projects for Handicapped Persons

2978. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations received directly from the handicapped persons and through the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Public Representatives for the projects related to handicapped persons;

(b) the main issues raised in these representations;

(c) the number of representations accepted and pending alongwith the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether any time limit has been fixed for disposal of the cases in order to meet the objectives of the schemes and maintain transparency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (e) A total number 14319 representations have been received so far by the office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities raising inter-alia, the issues of employment, education, service matters, barrier free environment, relaxation and concessions, disability certificate, disability pension, aids and appliances, harassment etc. Out of these by October, 2007, 13460 representations have been disposed of and 859 are in different stages of processing.

According to existing provisions, a complaint has to be disposed of within three months as far as possible.

[English]

Computerised Rail Ticket Counters

2979. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has spread its computerized rail ticket counters network in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such counters State-wise, region-wise;

(c) whether certain railway stations are still to be computerized in the country; and

(d) if so, the details and target fixed for their computerization particularly in the State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State-wise list of computerized reservation centres is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 138 computerized reservation centers are functional in Maharashtra State. In addition to this, 1175 Computerized Reservation Centres for all Indian Railways including 71 for Maharashtra are also sanctioned and these will be commissioned in due course.

Statement**Computerised Rail Ticket Counters**

S.No.	State	No. of Locations
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	121
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	34
4.	Bihar	128
5.	Chhattisgarh	29
6.	Delhi	33
7.	Goa	4
8.	Gujarat	63
9.	Haryana	24
10.	Himachal Pradesh	17
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	23
12.	Jharkhand	50
13.	Karnataka	58
14.	Kerala	44
15.	Madhya Pradesh	72
16.	Maharashtra	138
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	3
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	3

1	2	3
21.	Orissa	49
22.	Punjab	42
23.	Rajasthan	73
24.	Sikkim	6
25.	Tamil Nadu	99
26.	Tripura	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	162
28.	Uttaranchal	27
29.	West Bengal	117

[Translation]

Booking of Railway Tickets on Internet

2980. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to start booking of Railway tickets on internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism evolved for it so far;

(c) whether booking of reservation in trains for all the classes is proposed to be made available on internet;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have taken into consideration in the interest of those rural people who have least access to internet and computer; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Online booking of

reserved Railway tickets through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has already started in August 2002. The intending passenger has to access the site of IRCTC i.e. www.irctc.co.in, register himself/herself and book the ticket for any class and for any train defined on the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) of Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) For serving the interest of rural people more and more computerised PRS centres and PRS-cum-Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) centres and PRS at Post Offices are being opened.

[English]

Appointment of Foreign Nationals by the Domestic Airlines

2981. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has framed any policy relating to appointment of foreign nationals by the domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether security clearance of foreign nationals is mandatory before they are appointed by domestic airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of foreign nationals appointed so far in different capacities in the domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 7 Series G Part II on the subject.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The above mentioned CAR stipulates that the security clearance from the concerned Government agencies has to be taken before the validation of foreign licences by DGCA.

(e) Appointment of foreign pilots is done by the concerned airlines asked on their need. So far, Directorate General of Civil Aviation has cleared 804 foreign pilots. The airline-wise break up is Indigo-66, Paramount Airways-21, Blue Dart-10, Spice Jet-42, Air Deccan-149, Alliance Air-20, Go Air-13, Kingfisher Airlines-95, Jet Airways-271 and Air India-117.

[Translation]

Accidents Due to Rail Fracture in Winter

2982. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have taken prospective steps in view of increase in the number of accidents due to rail fracture in winter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain modern techniques are used/available to get rid of this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The consequential train accidents due to rail fracture including weld fractures have reduced during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06. Rail and welds are examined by Ultrasonic Flaw Detection at regular frequency. Patrolling is also introduced in winter as per requirement to detect the fractures in advance to avert accident.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Production of Gas in Assam

2983. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total volume of associated gas produced and volume flared annually during the last three years in Assam indicating value of such gas flared;

(b) utility pattern of such associated gas including production of CNG/cooking gas and other petrochemical products;

(c) the present percentage of utilization of the unflared gas component-wise;

(d) plan of the Government, if any, for productive utilization of this national asset including investment proposals made by the Ministry; and

(e) quantum of carbon emitted to the environment by the flared gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) Total volume of associated gas produced, flared and value of the flared gas in Assam during last three years is as under:-

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gas Production (MMSCM)	1735.46	1670.33	1688.42
Gas Flared (MMSCM)	197.56	168.25	203.24
Value Flared Gas (Rs. in Crores)	35.6	41.43	52.6

Natural gas utility pattern is in LPG extraction, power generation, industrial fuel, fertilizers use, petrochemicals, tea gardens and other industries. 0.65% is for internal use by ONGC and remaining part of gas is being flared for technical reasons and sometimes due to less gas offtake by buyers. In case of Oil India Limited, internal use of gas is about 17% of the production.

For maximum utilization of gas several steps are being taken, including agreement to supply gas to Assam Gas Company Limited under direct marketing in Assam,

installation of hired gas compressors at Geleki Group Gathering Station (GGG)-III, Lakwa GGS-II and RDS GGS-I. One compressor at Geleki is already commissioned and integration of Geleki, Lakwa and Rudrasagar gas compressor plants under revamping project.

Government is conscious of the carbon emitted by the flared gas.

Increase in the Share Capital of NMDFC

2984. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has given its approval for increasing the share capital of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas on which NMDFC would like to utilize the funds for the benefits of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Increasing the authorized share capital of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) from Rs. 650 Crores to Rs. 750 Crores has been approved.

(c) NMDFC would utilize the funds for increasing its coverage under its various schemes viz. term-loan, micro-loan, micro-finance, educational loans etc.

Sonpur-Canning Track Doubling Project

2985. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the second phase of Sonpur-Canning track doubling project has not yet been started inspite of completion of the first phase;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not starting the second phase so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the first phase of this project;

(d) the estimated expenditure for the second phase and the budgetary allocations made for this purpose during current year; and

(e) the time by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (e) The doubling of Ghutiari Sharif-Canning section (14.05 km.) as Phase-II of doubling of Sonarpur-Canning line has not yet been sanctioned. An amount of about Rs. 42 crore has been spent till 31.10.2007 on doubling of Sonarpur-Ghutiari Sharif section as Phase I of doubling of Sonarpur-Canning line.

[Translation]

Imposition of Excise Duty on Naphtha

2986. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

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

(a) whether imposition of excise duty on has resulted in a rise in the price of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the effect thereof on the industrial sector;

(c) whether discussions have been held with the concerned Departments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Naphtha is a deregulated product and its prices are determined by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in line with price movements in international market. At present 16%

excise duty is levied on Naphtha with 3% Education Cess (NIL for fertilizer) thereon, which is recovered from the customers.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Iran Gas Pipeline Project

2987. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the current position in respect of Iran Gas Pipeline Project;

(b) whether Pakistan is also seeking a similar project from Iran;

(c) if so, whether the terms offered to Pakistan are more favourable than what have been offered to India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) India and Pakistan have been pursuing import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. Various important issues, including agreements related to the project, are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

[Translation]

Development of Amarnath Caves

2988. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to extend the period of Amarnath

Pilgrimage for some more months to make it convenient and secured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is also under consideration by the Government for constitution of one Board on the lines of Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the development of Amarnath Cave;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) "Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board" has been established on the lines of Shri Mata Vaishno Deviji Shrine Board by way of an Act passed by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature on 15.11.2000. The objective of this Board is the better management of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, Upgradation of facilities for holy pilgrims and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

Supply of Gas to Gas Based Projects

2989. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has signed ministerial MOU to ensure smooth supply of gas to run gas based projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved by the said MOU to meet the requirements of Gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Grant for Railway Project

2990. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has sought special grant in order to expeditiously completion of certain important projects;

(b) if so, the names of such projects;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to sanction the said grant; and

(d) the outcome of the steps in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Signals which have Outlived Their Lives

2991. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :
PROF. M. RAMADASS :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the signaling gear of the signals have outlived their lives at more than 1500 railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of accidents that have taken place

on account of faulty signals in the country during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to replace these defective signals; and

(e) the time by which the said signals are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) 1448 stations where Signalling gears had outlived their lives as on 1.4.2001, have been sanctioned for replacement under Special Railway Safety Fund. Fresh accruals are also being progressively sanctioned.

(c) Accidents taken place on account of faulty Signaling equipment is as under:-

Year	No. of accidents
2004-05	NIL
2005-06	1
2006-07	NIL

(d) and (e) The replacement of signaling gears at 1191 stations out of 1448 stations have been completed as on 30.9.2007 and balance stations are targeted for completion by the year 2008.

Mini Aerodrum at Badami

2992. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Badami, Thole, Pattada Kallu, Mahakoota Banashankari are tourist spots and have old monuments attracting many Indian and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to make a mini aerodrum at Badami in the interest of tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the alternative arrangements made/proposed to be made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) At present, Government has no plan to make mini aerodrome at Badami.

(d) and (e) No such proposal has been recieved from State Government of Kamataka and airlines for having operation to/from Badami.

City Gas Distribution Networks

2993. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

(a) whether the Petroleum and Natural Gas Board issues draft guidelines to select public and private entities for developing city gas distribution networks in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of city gas distribution networks in different parts of the country in a systematic manner?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has placed draft regulations for authorizing development of city or local distribution networks on the web site www.engineersindia.com on 15th November 2007. The draft regulations inter alia contain the procedure and the criteria for selection of an entity for developing city or local natural

gas distribution project. Comments of stakeholders, experts and general public on the draft regulations have been sought upto 21st December 2007. The draft regulations shall be finalized after taking into account the comments received.

(c) GAIL has formed 8 Joint Venture Companies with leading OMCs or with strategic partners to implement city gas distribution projects.

In order to encourage investment from both public and private sector, and to provide a non-discriminatory regulatory framework, Government has enacted "The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006" and notified 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

Project for Identification of Heritage Sites

2994. SHRI SURESH ANGADI :

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to implement any Project to identify heritage sites and tourist destinations in the country for revamping the centres to attract more tourists;

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

(c) whether the State Governments, particularly Kerala and Karnataka have proposed any heritage centre or tourist destination to include in the Project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Identification and development of tourism projects including heritage sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The conservation, preservation, structural repairs and environmental development and provision of visitors' facilities at protected monuments is undertaken by the Archaeological Survey

of India in accordance with the archeological norms subject to availability of resources. However, the Ministry of Tourism also extends Central Financial Assistance to all the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism including development of heritage sites under the Scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits" including Rural Tourism.

(c) During the year 2007-08, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned following projects for development of infrastructure at tourist sites including heritage centres to the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka.

Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
Kerala	
Development of Wayanad	201.72
Development of Kodungallur Heritage Circuit	361.79
Development of Pathiramanal Bio Park	499.61
Total :	1063.12
Karnataka	
Development of Bijapur Bidar Gulberg Circuit	640.97
Total :	640.97
Grand Total	1704.09

Schemes for Handicapped Orphan Children

2995. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is implementing schemes for providing protection to the handicapped orphan children and self-employment to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided to State/Non-Governmental Organisations during each of the last three years for implementing these schemes, State/UT-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted by the Government for grant for funds under these schemes;

(e) whether the fund so released has been properly used; and

(f) If not, number of cases where the funds meant for these schemes had been diverted for other purposes alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Rail Projects to Connect the North-East

2996. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of work done so far on three rail projects in the NE Region;

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of the projects; and

(c) the time by which the North-East Frontier Railway is likely to start the laying of lines to connect the State of Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Details of three works meant to improve the rail connectivity to the State of Arunachal Pradesh alongwith their status are as under:-

Project	Cost	Outlay 2007-08	Status
Rs. in Crore			
1	2	3	4
Harmuti-Itanagar new line (33 km.)	156	5	On Harmuti to Naharlagun, Final Location Survey Completed. Land plans for acquisition to State Government submitted and detailed estimate is under process of sanction. Final Location Survey for balance section has been taken up.
Rangia-Murkonselek gauge conversion alongwith linked fingers (510 km.)	915.7	22	Rangia-Murkongselek gauge conversion project has been declared as a "National Project" and mode of funding has been decided. The work has been taken up and targeted for completion in 2011-12.
Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge over river	1767.36	249.45	Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge has been declared as a National Project and mode of funding has

1

2

3

4

Brahmaputra in Assam
with linked lines
between Dibrugarh and
North Bank line (72 km.)

been decided. Collection of boulders for protection works, earthwork for embankments, bridges and station buildings for link lines etc. have been taken up and link line on south bank is targeted for completion in 2008-09. Tender for structure of main bridge is under process. The project is targeted for completion by 2011-12.

Hydrogen Blended CNG

2997. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce Hydrogen Blended CNG in the capital for vehicles;

(b) if so, to what extent Hydrogen Blended CNG will be more powerful and economical for CNG vehicle owners;

(c) whether preliminary test of Hydrogen Blended CNG have been conducted; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) The project for establishing feasibility of Hydrogen Blended CNG is at on experimental stage.

(c) and (d) Studies are being conducted on passenger cars, mini buses and 3-wheelers using 10% to 30% Hydrogen in CNG. Initial tests indicate feasibility of using H₂-CNG blends in automotive vehicles. However, for emission benefits, engine optimization would be necessary, which has been taken up with vehicle manufactures.

Bio-diesel Plant in Andhra Pradesh

2998. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether first bio-diesel plant is all set to start its production in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether all the production would be exported and not available for local consumption;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the performance of bio-diesel is not as good as gasoline; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) Bio-diesel production has started in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and other States on a small scale. No data is maintained by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on the export of bio-diesel.

(e) and (f) Bio-diesel has got distinct use as compared to gasoline. It is a replacement of diesel fuel and has equivalent properties as compared to conventional diesel. However, it cannot be used in spark ignition engine as gasoline.

Development of Airports in the Country

2999. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of airports in the country before independence;

(b) the reasons behind the closure of the said airports alongwith the steps likely to be taken by the Government to make them operational;

(c) the details of Domestic and International airports in the country as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the details of metro and non-metro airports developed and constructed during last three years, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) There were 406 airports in the country before independence.

(b) Many of these airfields were constructed during Pre-independence period for defence purposes and have since gone into disuse. Further, airline operators have not shown willingness to operate through these airports due to commercial reasons.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) makes regular efforts, with close cooperation of State Governments, to develop various airports. In this regard, AAI have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with State

Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Puducherry for development of various airports.

(c) The State-wise number of International and Domestic airports, including Civil Enclaves are as under:-

1 international and 9 domestic in Andhra Pradesh, 1 international and 5 domestic in Karnataka, 1 international and 5 domestic in Tamil Nadu, 3 international in Kerala, 1 domestic in Puducherry, 1 domestic in Lakshadweep, 2 international and 6 domestic in Maharashtra, 1 international and 10 domestic in Gujarat, 1 domestic in Chhattisgarh, 1 international in Goa, 1 domestic in Diu, 1 international in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 2 domestic in Bihar, 1 domestic in Orissa, 1 domestic in Jharkhand, 1 international and 3 domestic in West Bengal, 1 international and 5 domestic in Assam, 1 domestic in Manipur, 1 domestic in Nagaland, 1 domestic in Meghalaya, 1 domestic in Tripura, 1 domestic in Mizoram, 1 international and 1 domestic in Delhi, 3 domestic in Himachal Pradesh, 1 International and 2 domestic in Punjab, 1 domestic in Chandigarh, 1 international and 4 domestic in Rajasthan, 7 domestic in Uttar Pradesh, 1 international and 2 domestic in Jammu and Kashmir, 5 domestic in Madhya Pradesh and 2 domestic in Uttarakhand.

(d) Airport-wise details of major runway and terminal building works undertaken during last three years, by the Airports Authority of India, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Extension of Runway

S.No.	Airport/State	Existing Dimension	Proposed Extension
1	2	3	4
1.	GUJARAT		
	Surat	1400mx30m	Extension, strengthening and widening of runway to 2250mx45m for AB-320/AB-319 and expansion of apron

1	2	3	4
2.	MAHARASHTRA		
	Akola	1219mx45m	Extension and strengthening of runway to 1400mx45m for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft
	Gondia	1720mx30m	Extension, strengthening and widening of runway to 2300mx45m for AB-320/AB--319 and expansion of apron
	MADHYA PRADESH		
	Indore	2287mx45m	Extension, strengthening and widening of runway to 2750mx45m for operation B757/B767/AB-300 and expansion of apron
3.	UTTARAKHAND		
	Pantnagar	1097mx30m	Extension, strengthening and widening of runway to 1371mx45m.
4.	CHHATTISGARH		
	Raipur	1955mx45m	Extension, of runway to 2286mx45m for operation AB-320/ B737-800 type of aircraft
5.	ASSAM		
	Guwahati	2743mx45m	Extension, of runway by 360m
	Silchar	1829mx45m	Extension, of runway to 2286mx45m
6.	RAJASTHAN		
	Udaipur	2281mx45m	Strengthening and extension of runway to 2730mx45m for operation of B757/B767 type of aircraft
7.	TAMIL NADU		
	Madurai	1826mx45m	Strengthening and extension of runway to 2286mx45m for operation of B737-800/AB-320 type of aircraft
	Trichy	1862mx45m	Strengthening and extension of runway to 2441mx45m for operation of B737-800/AB-320 type of aircraft

1	2	3	4
8.	KARNATAKA		
	Mysore		Construction of new runway of dimension 1740mx30m for operation of ATR-72-500 type of aircraft
9.	WEST BENGAL		
	Kolkata	2399x45m	Extension of secondary runway by 440m

Capacity of Terminal Building

S.No.	Airport/State	Existing	Expansion	New
1	2	3	4	5
1.	TAMIL NADU	200 Domestic		300 Domestic
	Trichy	200 International		500 International
2.	Coimbatore	400 passengers	600 passengers	
3.	Chennai	2000 Domestic		2100 Domestic
		1750 International	2000 International Arrival/ Departure	Planned
4.	PUNJAB	250 Domestic		500 Passenger
	Amritsar	250 International		500 Passenger
5.	ANDHRA PRADESH	150 passengers		700 Passengers
	Visakhapatnam			
6.	GUJARAT	50 passengers		250 Passengers
	Surat			
7.	Ahmedabad	Old building demolished		
		250 passengers Domestic Departure		800 Passengers Domestic Departure

1	2	3	4	5
		600 passengers Domestic arrival		1000 Passengers International terminal
		250 passengers International		
8.	MADHYA PRADESH Khajuraho	200 passengers		500 passengers
9.	KARNATAKA Mangalore	200 passengers		800 passengers
10.	Mysore	Temporary make shift structure		100 passengers
11.	GOA	300 Domestic 300 International		600 Passengers
12.	UTTARAKHAND Dehradun	300 passengers		150 Passengers
13.	JAMMU AND KASHMIR Srinagar	400 passengers	950 Passengers	
14.	BIHAR Gaya	200 passengers		500 Passengers
15.	ASSAM Dibrugarh	200 passengers		500 Passengers
16.	RAJASTHAN Jaipur	500 Domestic 100 International		500 Passengers
17.	Udaipur	200 passengers		500 Passengers
18.	KERALA Trivandrum	500 Domestic 520 International		1000 Passengers

1	2	3	4	5
	Calicut	400 Domestic 200 International		1000 Passengers
19.	UTTAR PRADESH Lucknow	500 passengers		500 Passengers
20.	Varanasi	150 Domestic 100 International		800 Passengers
21.	MAHARASHTRA Aurangabad	200 passengers		700 Passengers
22.	Nagpur	300 passengers	475 Passengers	
23.	MEGHALAYA Shillong	50 passengers		150 Passengers

**Third Railway Terminal to Connect
Bangalore**

3000. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have finalised Byappanahalli as the site of the third railway terminal for Bangalore city of the third railway terminal for Bangalore city to boost its connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Helicopter Services for Tourists Spots

3001. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pawan Hans profit margin has come down this year as compared to preceding years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of helicopters put in service by Pawan Hans at present as Air-taxi for public in North-East region;

(d) whether helicopter services are going to be extended to other parts of the country, particularly to pilgrim centres and tourists spots which are located in different areas of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The performance of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) during the financial year 2006-07 was lower than the previous year due to lower fleet serviceability and higher number of helicopters under major structural repairs including Aviation Standard 4 fitment requirements under ONGC new contract. Further, major expenditure on account of repair and overhaul of water ingressed components damaged in the major flood in Mumbai in July, 2005 has also been accounted for during the year 2006-07. In addition the Mi-172 helicopter could not be made available as these were sent for major overhaul in Russia.

(c) At present in North Eastern Region, PHHL has provided helicopters on long term lease/wet lease to Government of Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland for regular passenger services for general public being run under the aegis of the respective State Governments as per their requirements.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. PHHL has provided helicopters on long term lease to Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Administrations for regular passenger services. Passenger services are also being provided to Kedamath during May-June and September-October and Amarnath Dham. PHHL has plans to connect important tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu- Coimbatore, Madurai Kodaikanal, Rameshwaram etc.; in Puducherry-Chennai-Karaikal-Puducherry Sector through lease of helicopter, PHHL also plans to further diversify and connect important adjoining tourist places in Uttarakhand such as Ghangharia, Hemkund Sahib etc.

[Translation]

Passengers Travelling Without Tickets and Carrying Unbooked Luggage in the Trains

3002. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a number of passengers travel without tickets and carry unbooked luggage in trains in connivance with railway officials causing loss of revenue to it;

(b) if so, whether special ticket checking teams with magistrates have carried out special ticket checking drives in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of times such drives have been conducted during the last three years and current year and number of passengers apprehended travelling without tickets and with unbooked luggage;

(d) the amount realized as fares, fines by the said teams during the said period, zone-wise;

(e) the number of passengers imprisoned for being unable to pay fare and fine, zone-wise;

(f) the actions taken against the railway officials found guilty; and

(g) the measures taken to curb such illegal activities in the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Some cases of passengers travelling without tickets and carrying unbooked luggage in trains do come to notice from time to time. Staff are also sometimes found to be involved with passengers in such irregular travel.

(b) Special ticket checking teams with railway magistrates carry out special ticket checking drives against ticketless/irregular travellers. Passengers unable to pay railway dues are produced and prosecuted by the railway magistrates.

(c) to (e) A statement is enclosed.

(f) and (g) Vigilance and Anti-Fraud Squads of Zonal Railways conduct surprise checks to curb various malpractices being indulged by railway staff including connivance with ticketless travellers. Railway staff found guilty are taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

Statement

The number of checks conducted by special ticket checking teams with magistrates, the number of persons apprehended/prosecuted, the amount of fare and fine recovered thereof and the number of persons imprisoned for non-payment of fare and fine during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto October, 2007-latest available) are as under:

Railway Zones	Number of checks conducted by special ticket checking teams with magistrates		Number of persons apprehended/prosecuted		Amount of fare and fine recovered (in lakhs)		No. of persons imprisoned for non-payment of fare and fine									
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Central	663	643	653	476	16551	15321	17748	14544	26.03	26.62	33.33	26.67	2533	2020	2517	2187
Eastern	5861	5260	7456	186	17118	17029	15753	10825	6.28	6.34	5.83	26.86	1709	1801	1555	1234
East Central	227	313	307	142	9001	10401	7870	3900	18.29	20.89	13.59	7.68	1562	1907	1854	1071
East Coast	238	200	156	106	2485	12210	10453	4644	2.74	15.15	10.2	4.28	103	1701	535	149
Northern	556	773	912	546	12181	13370	16284	8927	36.77	39.14	56.09	31.75	4226	4549	4742	2807
North Central	2114	3090	2954	1204	23063	17790	20336	12919	80.17	67.26	74.64	44.42	1094	10949	7107	4835
North Eastern	1211	1323	1406	877	14927	12329	9664	6015	28.14	23.86	29.16	14.71	8079	6652	4613	2523
Northeast Frontier	792	510	177	102	1778	1474	987	303	5.89	3.02	1.85	0.49	573	583	311	80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
North Western	1226	1220	807	589	1650	2672	3419	3674	3.17	3.83	1.58	1.01	17	59	732	1825
Southern	688	709	726	433	52897	57052	57256	30060	121.45	143.51	139.06	68.90	166	187	146	54
South Central	624	569	813	425	23413	30516	49532	24334	39.01	47.78	54.59	0.25	1135	755	563	88
South Eastern	249	359	228	151	7158	6764	7064	4381	7.77	8.12	9.45	0.06	1318	713	458	226
South East Central	52	1442	674	782	1317	1104	2540	2251	1.55	3.83	4.89	1.65	176	25	32	16
South Western	88	79	72	32	54	32	40	45	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.05	29	9	7	5
Western	3849	3896	3938	2289	7743	23891	18729	10947	7.13	25.77	17.71	9.69	510	750	684	340
West Central	1035	636	425	162	14857	8802	11049	6742	16.1	39.45	54.14	32.68	8558	5623	5297	3759
Total	19473	21022	21704	8502	206193	230757	248724	144511	400.5	474.61	506.16	271.15	31788	38283	31153	21199

[English]

**Power Saving Pilot Project in the
Railways**

3003. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a pilot project in Railways saved around 2 million kilowatt hour of power in October; and

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith the technology used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are now employing new generation electric locomotives which have a regenerative feature to generate electric power during braking by using three phase propulsion technology to convert kinetic energy as electric power during braking. Forty such locomotives are part of the fleet of Northern Railway, and work in prestigious Rajdhani/Shatabdi expresses and other important Mail/Express trains. The energy generated during braking by these locomotives was about 2 million kilowatt hours during October 2007.

**Use of Water Soluble Fertilizers by
Farmers**

3004. SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers are predominantly using water soluble fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, whether all these water soluble fertilizers are 100% imported;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to start the production of these water soluble fertilizers indigenously;

(e) if so, whether Government is considering to provide any subsidy for these types of water soluble fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) The use of the water-soluble fertilizers in the country is very small as compared to other chemical fertilizers. As per an estimate, about 27000 Metric Tonnes per annum of water soluble fertilizers are put in use in India.

(b) to (f) All the water soluble fertilizers are 100% imported, as there is no indigenous production. However, recently, M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. has taken permission from Government for manufacturing of 100% water soluble fertilizers of a few varieties. As on date, the Water soluble fertilizers are not covered under the Concession Scheme on decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers.

[Translation]

Railway Staff Quarters

3005. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that many of the railway staff quarters in the country lack basic amenities and are lying in dilapidated conditions and many of them are also vacant;

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

(c) whether any irregularities and misappropriation have been noticed in the maintenance of railway staff quarters;

(d) if so, whether any monitoring committee has been set up for this purpose;

(e) whether the Railways have any proposal to improve the basic amenities and maintenance in the staff quarters and the amount allocated for the purpose during the year;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the railway staff quarters are likely to be renovated; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Task Force for Railway Security

3006. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have proposed a task force for railway security which can be implemented uniformly throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have adopted or proposed any policy for screening of passengers before boarding the train; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Subsidy

3007. SHRI KIREN RIJU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an amount of crores of rupees of the fertilizer subsidy is outstanding against the Government;

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

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

(d) the time by which the said payment is likely to be made by the Government?

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) : (a) to (d) The release of fertilizer subsidy is a continuous process. A total of Rs. 25952 crore has been released as fertilizer subsidy in the current year till 20th November, 2007. Some claims for release of subsidy are always pending as claims under processing for release of subsidy. These are being processed and released as and when they are due.

[English]

Revision in Hostel Scheme for Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

3008. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently revised the Central Scheme for Construction of Hostels for boys and girls students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Medical Tourism

3009. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourists came to India for medical treatment during the year 2006 and in first six months of 2007 alongwith the names of countries to which they belong;

(b) the number of persons accompanied these sick tourists;

(c) the incentive scheme of the Government to encourage medical tourism and the likely increase in the medical tourism during the coming year;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for publicity of medical tourism at global level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Health has already initiated several measures to promote Medical Tourism which include promotion in overseas markets and production of publicity materials like brochure, CDs and films etc. and their distribution in target markets. Specific promotion at various international travel fairs such as World Travel Mart, London and ITB, Berlin etc. is also undertaken.

A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced for foreign tourists coming to India for medical treatment.

[English]

Collection of Tax from Domestic Air Passengers

3010. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tax collected from domestic air passengers in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the tax liability on passengers are likely to be reduced considering the increase in the number of passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Government levies only Passenger Service Fee (PSF) and no other tax, at the rate of Rs. 200 per embarking passenger, from the domestic air passengers in the country. The collection of PSF from the domestic air passengers, by the Airports Authority of India, during the last three years (Rupees in Crore), is as under:

2004-05-388.42, 2005-06-512.59 and 2006-07-44.79.

(b) to (d) The rate of PSF has remained unchanged during the last three years. 70% of the fee is used for security related expenditure whereas 30% is towards facilitation charges. In view of this, presently, there is no proposal to reduce the rate of PSF.

Rail Link between Puri and Konark

3011. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have made any survey for construction of new broad gauge rail link between Puri and Konark;

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

(c) the details of the funds so far allocated and spent till date for the said project; and

(d) the reasons for delay in execution of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) An updating survey for construction of a new road gauge railway line from Puri to Konark (35 Kms.) has been completed as per which the likely cost of this line was assessed as Rs. 99.78 crore with a negative rate of return. Further consideration of the proposal will be feasible once the survey report is finalized.

**Modernisation of Airport in
West Bengal**

3012. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is moving swiftly to modernise airports with the help of private players;
- (b) if so, the details of the airports in West Bengal identified for the modernisation;
- (c) whether the proposal has been scrutinised by the Committee on infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Committee on Infrastructure (Col) has approved city side development of 24 non metro airports through private participation on Public Private Partnership basis. While this does not include an airport in West Bengal, Col has approved the proposal of Ministry of Civil Aviation for Airports Authority of India to modernise Kolkata airport.

Private Airports in Andhra Pradesh

3013. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether seven new private airports are proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the promoters have asked for business guarantee from the Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in setting up/upgradation of airports in the said State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. Government of India has not received any new proposal for setting up of private airports in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Airports Authority of India has modernisation plans for airports at Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Tirupati, Warangal, Cuddapah and Donakonda.

Policy for Comparative Cost Advantage

3014. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate policy to ensure comparative cost advantage through production of value-added steel and steel based products and also take measures to curb exports at prices lower than the domestic prices of steel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) There is no such proposal with the Government to formulate any policy on comparative cost advantage through value added steel products as well as on export price of steel.

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

**Price Preference to Domestic Power Equipment
Manufacturing Companies**

3015. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the

Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow price preference to domestic power equipment manufacturing companies in procurement of equipments;

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

(c) whether the Government has decided to withdraw the price preference concession; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) and (b) As per the present mega power policy of the Ministry of Power, the import of capital equipment is free of customs duty for the mega power projects. In order to ensure that domestic bidders are not adversely affected, price preference of 15% is given for the projects under public sector, while deemed export benefits as per the EXIM policy are given to domestic bidders for projects both under public and private sector. The domestic bidders are allowed to quote in US Dollars or any other foreign currency of their choice.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However, a proposal to modify the existing mega power policy is under consideration of the Ministry of Power.

Introduction of Garib Rath Trains

3016. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have introduced the Garib Rath trains announced in the Railway Budget for 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of Garib Rath trains which are still to be introduced alongwith the reasons for delay?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The trains announced in the Railway Budget including Garib Rath, are introduced during the course of the financial year. The names of the Garib Rath train to be introduced are as under:-

S.No.	Train No.	From	To	Frequency
1.	2201/2202	Thiruvanthapuram	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Bi-weekly
2.	2993/2994	Jaipur	Bandra (T)	Tri-weekly
3.	2359/2360	Kolkata	Patna	Tri-weekly
4.	2735/2736	Secunderabad	Yesvantpur	Tri-weekly
5.	2205/2206	Nizamuddin	Dehradun	Tri-weekly
6.	2831/2832	Bhubaneswar	Ranchi	Tri-weekly
7.	2535/2536	Raipur	Lucknow	Bi-weekly
8.	2517/2518	Kolkata	Guwahati	Bi-weekly

[Translation]

Illegal Iron Ore in the Wagons

3017. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has recently seized illegal iron ore worth Rs. 50 lakh being carried in 16 wagons of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the authority therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, on 17.11.2007, Deputy Director of Mines/Joda/Orissa reached Juruli railway station siding and claimed that iron ore which was booked and loaded in the Railway wagon had been procured by illegal mining. In this connection, a memo was given to the on duty Assistant Station Master Juruli to detain the alleged 16 wagons. The said iron ore was not seized by the mining authority, although the rake was detained from 19.30 hrs. of 7.11.2007 to 11.00 hrs. of 8.11.2007 for necessary action by the Mining Authority. It is reported that a case under section 21 of Mining and Mineral Development Regulatory Act, 1957 against the consignee i.e. M/s. Nakoda Ispat on accounts Bandana Global has been registered for procuring and carrying illegal iron ore valued Rs. 20 lakhs.

Railway Protection Force officers and Railway staff attended and provided necessary assistance in coordination with Local Police/Joda to Deputy Director/Mines/Joda to take necessary action and to avoid any untoward incident during such action by Deputy Director/Mines/Joda.

[English]

PNG/CNG Facilities

3018. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL :

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI :

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

(a) whether Government has any proposal to open CNG distribution centres in Rajasthan and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the High Court of Rajasthan has issued any directives in this regard;

(e) if so, whether said directives are being complied with; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c), (e) and (f) GAIL's applications for implementing city gas distribution projects in Chhabra, Baran, Kota, Alwar, Dhaulpur, Kishanganj, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Ajmer, Pali, Bhilwara, Udaipur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Nagaur have been sent by Ministry to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). To implement city gas distribution projects in the state of Rajasthan, GAIL has signed Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with HPCL on 17th May, 2007. The incorporation of Joint Venture Company (JVC) is in progress.

Gas Rehabilitation and Expansion Project (GREP) Pipeline of GAIL passes through Rajasthan. GAIL has already commissioned Vijaipur-Kota Pipeline in December 2006. GAIL has been issued authorization for Chhainsa-Gurgaon-Jajhar-Hissar pipeline, passing close to Alwar in Rajasthan.

(d) The Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan, Jodhpur, in the case of Mahendra Lodha Vs. State of Rajasthan (D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 6073/1993 under Article 226 of the Constitution of India) vide order 19/02/2007 passed the judgment which stated that "the authorities concerned

should take effective steps that within a period of one year, the public vehicles use C.N.G. instead of Petrol and diesel."

Setting up of Processing Units of SAIL

3019. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up processing units of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of such units;

(d) the aim and objectives for setting up of such units in the country;

(e) the estimated unit-wise production;

(f) the estimated increase in the production of SAIL on account of such units, unit-wise; and

(g) the time by which each of these units will be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) and (b) The Steel Authority India Ltd. (SAIL) is considering setting up Steel Processing Units (SPUs) at suitable locations in the states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) to (f) The cost for setting up of the units will be known after placement of orders. The details of product mix, capacity etc. would be known after firming up of the proposals. The Steel Processing Units (SPUs) are being set upto increase the production of finished steel to meet the customer's demand for supplying sized and

finished steel as per requirement near the consumption point.

(g) Three Steel Processing Units (SPUs) at Bettiah (Bihar), Mahnar (Bihar) and Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) are expected to be set up within 24 months from the date of order placement after finalization of tenders.

Development of Group Housing and Commercial Projects by the Railways

3020. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways propose to development group housing and commercial projects throughout the country;

(b) if so, the sites identified therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have set up any statutory authority for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have set up a Statutory body called the "Rail Land Development Authority" (RLDA), through an Amendment to the Railways Act 1989 (Amendment No. 47 of 2005), primarily to develop railway land for commercial use as may be entrusted by the Ministry, for generating revenue by non-tariff measures. Such commercial use may include development of residential or commercial complexes, depending upon market study and other factors. The Authority has become functional with effect from January 2007. So far, 108 sites at various locations have been entrusted to RLDA.

**Opening of Retail Outlets of Drug
Manufacturing Companies**

3021. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on any Central law so as to legalize the bulk and retails sale of medicines;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to permit drug manufacturing companies to open their retail outlets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) The sale of drugs and their formulations in bulk (whole sale) and in retail is regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made their under:

(b) and (c) There is no restriction for drug manufacturing companies to open retail outlets for sale of drugs under the said rules.

[Translation]

**Gas Reserves Discovered at Krishna
Godavari Basin**

3022. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether the country has become self-reliant in the field of gas production after the discovery of a vast gas reserves in the Krishna Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assessment of the Government with respect to the demand and supply of gas in the country during the year 2008-09.?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) The demand of natural gas in the country is more than the availability of natural gas. The estimated demand during the year 2008-09 is about 196.64 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) and supply during 2008-09 is expected to be about 153.58 MMSCMD as per 11th Five Year Plan projection. Present natural gas production in the country is about 87 MMSCMD. In 2008-09, additional gas production of 80 MMSCMD is expected from June, 2008 onwards from Krishna Godavari Basin.

**Setting up of a Special Economic
Zone in Mangalore**

3023. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation proposes to set up a special economic zone in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment likely to be made thereon alongwith the benefits likely to be accrued in the field of oil and natural gas; and

(d) the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is one of the promoters of the Joint Venture Company, Mangalore Special Economic Zone Limited which is in the process of setting up Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mangalore with the following equity structure.

- ONGC-26%
- Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board-23%
- Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services + Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry-51%

(c) The estimated Project Cost for Mangalore SEZ (MSEZ) is approximately Rs. 1500 Crore. Further, in MSEZ, ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Limited (OMPL) is going to invest approximately Rs. 5000 Crore for setting up an Aromatics Complex.

Petrochemicals and downstream units being developed in Mangalore SEZ shall add value to the existing products stream of Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Limited.

(d) It is not possible to indicate time limit for completion of the project. However, it is likely to take a minimum of three years after all necessary approvals have been obtained.

[English]

Intercity Express between Hubli and Bangalore

3024. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a demand for introduction of

another Intercity Express Train between Hubli and Bangalore;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Introduction of additional train between Hubli-Bangalore has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Manufacturing Units under the Railways

3025. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of manufacturing units under the Railways including the goods manufactured by them and their financial performance;
(b) the total capital investment made in each of the manufacturing units by the end of last month and till date; and
(c) the annual average amount of profit earned by each of the units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) At present, there are six production units under the Ministry of Railways. Their names and the goods manufactured by them, are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Unit	Item manufactured
1	2	3
1.	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Chittaranjan, West Bengal	Electric Locomotives
2.	Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Diesel Locomotives
3.	Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Coaches

1	2	3
4.	Rail Coach Factory (ICF), Kapurthala, Punjab	Coaches
5.	Rail Wheel Factory (RWF), Bangalore, Karnataka	Wheels and Axles
6.	Diesel Loco Modernisation Works (DMW), Patiala, Punjab	Diesel locomotive rebuilding and components

These are in-house production units, operating on a "no-profit-no-loss" basis on products for the Indian Railway's use. The full cost of production is transferred to the consuming units (Zonal Railways) by way of approximately fixed transfer prices for the various items that are manufactured. The financial performance for each of the six units for the year 2007-08, is given below:-

Unit	Financial performance (Provisional figures)
CLW	Rs. 747.42 Crores (upto Nov.'07)
DLW	Rs. 855 Crores (upto Oct.'07)
ICF	Rs. 629.88 Crores (upto Nov.'07)
RCF	Rs. 801.51 Crores (upto Oct.'07)
RWF	Rs. 249.76 Crores (upto Oct.'07)
DMW	Rs. 329.41 Crores (upto Nov.'07)

(b) The total capital investment made in each of the manufacturing units by the end of last month and till date is as under:-

Unit	Capital Investment
1	2
CLW	Rs. 340.44 Crores (till Oct.'07)
DLW	Rs. 542 Crores (till Oct.'07)
ICF	Rs. 512.96 Crores (till Oct.'07)

1	2
RCF	Rs. 1044.42 Crores (till Oct.'07)
RWF	Rs. 326.97 Crores (till Nov.'07)
DMW	Rs. 284.42 Crores (till Oct.'07)

(c) The annual average amount of profit earned from sale of products to Non Railway Customers by each of the units during the last three years are as under:-

Unit	Profit earned
CLW	Nil
DLW	Rs. 13.15 Crores
ICF	Rs. 0.71 Crores
RCF	Rs. 1.28 Crores
RWF	Rs. 8.87 Crores
DMW	Nil

[Translation]

Railway Passes to Hockey Players

3026. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the free Railway Passes have not been issued to the players of the World Cup Winner Hockey Team in 1975 despite the announcement was made in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways for issue of free rail passes to the above hockey players as per the announcement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) As per extant policy, Complimentary Railways Passes are being issued by Railways to sportspersons who are Arjuna Award Winners, Olympic Medalists, Gold Medalists of Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and Dronacharya Award winners. Since the policy does not cover World Cup Winner Awardees of any sport, such sportspersons are not eligible for issue of free Railway passes.

(c) Does not arise.

Lack of High Speed Goods Trains and Wagons

3027. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are not using high speed goods train and wagons despite the availability of high speed capacity engines and tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Instructions already exist to run goods trains at the maximum permissible speeds of wagons. Container trains which run under the nomenclature CONRAJ primarily operating in the Western India Sector

run at maximum permissible speeds of 100 kilometer per hour (kmph). The Ministry of Railways has also taken a policy decision of running other empty High Speed Wagons at 100 kmph.

Restructuring of RPF/SRPF

3028. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are formulating any plan for restructuring the Railways Protection Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways have also set up any Committee in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have received its report;

(e) if so, whether the Railways have received its report; and

(f) the details of the steps taken in restructuring of RPF/RPSF keeping in view the recommendations of the committee ?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Sound and Light Shows

3029. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the forts at Bellary and Chitradurga are being considered for the sound and light programmes in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has recently constituted an 11-member high power committee including eminent personalities from diverse fields to assist the department in the implementation of sound and light programmes; and

(c) the extent to which these measures have helped in promoting the tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) The State Government has constituted a Committee for development of Sound and Light programmes in Karnataka and entrusted the following works to the Committee:-

- (i) Preparation of scripts.
- (ii) Selection of implementing agency.
- (iii) Technical scrutiny of the Project.
- (iv) Advice and directions regarding the project.
- (v) Monitoring the project till it is completed.

**Revival of Ratnagiri Gas and Power
Private Limited**

3030. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the GAIL has any proposal to infuse Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) with additional funds and to revive the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the revival plan would be taken up and the expected time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) GAIL has, subject to certain conditions, decided to provide additional equity

contribution of Rs. 475 crores to Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) to be used for completion of the LNG terminal.

(c) Out of three power blocks, two power blocks are operational. The third power block is likely to become operational by February 2008. LNG terminal is expected to be completed without breakwater by December 2008; this terminal will become fully operational after completion of breakwater facilities in March 2011.

Mandatory Fuel Efficiency Standards

3031. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has decided to set up mandatory fuel efficiency standards for all class and types of vehicles including cars, scooters, bikes, trucks, buses and three wheelers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to take any penal action against the manufacturers who fail to meet the norms fixed by the Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways have constituted a Committee to analyze the type approval and conformity of production (CoP) data on Carbon Dioxide and fuel consumption for diesel, gasoline vehicles.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Project Proposals from Rajasthan Finance and Development Corporation

3032. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation have received project proposals from Rajasthan Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and Rajasthan Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such projects proposals which have been approved by the Union Government and the amount of financial assistance allocated and released thereunder during the said period;

(d) the time by which the remaining project proposals of the State are likely to be sanctioned; and

(e) the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (e) Details of project proposals received by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) from their SCAs in Rajasthan during the last three years are as under:-

NSFDC

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	No. of Proposals		Amount	
	Received	Sanctioned	Sanctioned	Released
2004-05	20	25	1166.66	820.04
2005-06	18	19	913.00	622.70
2006-07	15	12	422.22	274.72

NSTFDC

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
2004-05	582.86	337.24
2005-06	488.74	345.42
2006-07	496.20	183.60

NMDFC

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
2004-05	150.00	150.00
2005-06	300.00	100.00
2006-07	400.00	150.00

[English]

Plantation of 'Vetiver Grass' by KRC

3033. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Konkan Railway Corporation (KRC) has planted 'Vetiver Grass' on the tracks so that their roots can bind together the loose earth and prevent soil erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for choosing the Vetiver Grass;

(c) the extent to which the system will prove to be effective in preventing the landslides;

(d) the total length will be covered by the Vetiver Grass;

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the work and time by when the entire work will be completed;

(f) the number of landslides took place during the last three years and the damages caused to the Western Railway properties; and

(g) the other steps Railways propose to take to prevent landslides?

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

(b) As per the Research, Design and Standard Organization (RDSO) guidelines issued in February 2005 on erosion control, Corporation has chosen vetiver grass plantation on Konkan Railway route at some locations to control soil erosion in soil cuttings.

(c) As per RDSO recommendations, this plantation is meant mainly for preventing soil erosion by checking percolation of water in soil cuttings and ultimately preventing slopes failure and land slides.

(d) Approximately 100 km. track length will be covered by Vetiver Plantation. So far, approximately 60 km. track length has been covered.

(e) The Corporation has spent approximately Rs. 1.30 crores towards Vetiver Plantation during the year. The proposed future expenditure towards Vetiver Plantation will be approximately Rs. 1.0 crore. Hence the total likely expenditure to be incurred on Vetiver Plantation will be about Rs. 2.30 crore. The entire work is proposed to be completed by 2009-10

(f) No landslides took place and no damages were caused due to them, to Western Railways' properties during the last three years. However, on Konkan Railway route landslides took place and damages caused to the Corporation are as under:-

Year	Number of Landslides	Cost of Damages (Rs. in crore) (approx.)
2005	4 nos.	10.00
2006	3 nos.	7.00
2007	2 nos.	7.00
Total	9 nos.	24.00

(g) Various geo-tech safety works like flattening of cutting slopes, rock-bolting and shotcreting of cuttings, micro piling, soil nailing of cuttings, construction of toe walls and lining of catch water drains are the other steps Corporation has taken to prevent landslides.

[Translation]

**Employment to the Disabled Persons
in the Railways**

3034. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by the

Railways for providing employment to the disabled persons on priority basis in the Railways; and

(b) the division-wise number of disabled persons provided employment during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Disabled persons are provided reservation to the extent of 3% against direct recruitment quota in the posts identified suitable for them in Group 'C' and Group 'D' categories as per the guidelines of Department of Personnel and Training (which is the nodal department for the purpose). Some of the concessions provided for them are age relaxation upto 10 years; exemption from the payment of application and examination fees; exempted from typing qualification for appointment on clerical posts if they are found otherwise qualified and are certified as being unable to type by the Medical Board; also a pass in matriculation is accepted in their cases (instead of insisting on minimum 50% marks as in the case of other general candidates) provided other prescribed conditions are satisfied.

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

[English]

Air Service and Training Institute in NER

3035. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a pilot training institute in North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal for introducing a regional air service in the said region;

(c) if so, the implementation status of the proposal for introducing a regional air service and a pilot training institute in the NER indicating the progress made and the target set thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for setting up a pilot training institute in the North Eastern Region under the aegis of Ministry of Civil Aviation. However, Assam Flying Club is imparting flying training upto Private Pilot Licence Level.

(b) to (d) A policy for promoting regional airlines including the NE is already in place.

Natural Gas Grids

3036. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is proposing to set up some exclusive Natural Gas Grids in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of benefits and objectives to be achieved from such Grids?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) Gas pipelines are laid according to gas availability, and location of production centres and customers. A network of trunk gas pipelines is being laid in the country by various entities connecting customers to various sources of natural gas.

Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL) and Dabhol-Panvel pipeline (DPPL) have been commissioned by GAIL on July 11, 2007. Kelaras-Malanpur, Vijaipur-Kota and Jagoti-Pitampur pipelines have been commissioned by GAIL in July 2006, January 2007 and March 2007 respectively. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL) is constructing Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad pipeline (1385 km.) for transporting gas from KG basin to consumers in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Dadri-Panipat pipeline (133 km.) is under implementation by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

GAIL has recently been issued authorizations for Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Pipeline, Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajjar-Hissar Pipeline, Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline, Dabhol-Bangalore Pipeline and Kochi-Kanjirkod-Bangalore/Mangalore Pipeline. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL) has recently been granted authorizations for Kakinada-Basudebpur-Howrah Pipeline, Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai Pipeline, Chennai-Tuticorin Pipeline and Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline.

To encourage investment in the sector and to regulate the same in a non-discriminatory manner, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

Staff Quarters of H.S.C.L.

3037. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited (HSCL) has constructed quarters for its employees;

(b) if so, whether the company proposes to lease/sell these quarters to the employees in order to check encroachment of these quarters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) Yes, Sir. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) has constructed quarters for its employees at its field units at Bokaro, Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela and Visakhapatnam Steel Plants on the land given by the respective public sector steel units.

(b) and (c) As the company does not possess the title of the land, there is no proposal to lease/sell out these quarters to its employees. However, surplus quarters are given to the interested ex-employees on the company's approved terms for shorter duration.

Development of Badami Monuments

3038. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Badami monuments dating back of 8th Century of Chalukyas period have unique rich cultural heritages to the international standards of world heritage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps for declaring it as a world heritage site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India has formulated a proposal to include the early Chalukyan cultural resources at Aihole, Badami, Mahakuta and Jalihal as an extension to the Pattadakal group of monuments, which is already inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987.

Diversion of Revenues by GMR

3039. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether GMR Limited and its subsidiary Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) are planning to spin off units handling key businesses in order to divert revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any directives to the DIAL and GMR on this move; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the DIAL and GMR thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) have set up wholly owned subsidiary companies for real estate development, cargo operations and duty free shops.

(c) and (d) DIAL has been advised to conduct its business strictly under the provisions of Operation Management and Development Agreement (OMDA).

Revival of HMT Watches Limited

3040. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is introducing Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the interested employees of HMT Chinar Watches Limited, Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned for implementing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(d) whether the Government is considering reviving all units of HMT including Chinar Watches Limited, Srinagar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved Rs. 10 crore for introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in HMT Chinar Watches Limited. Accordingly, HMT Chinar Watches have called for application for VRS from willing employees.

(d) and (e) The Government has been taking up the revival of PSEs in accordance with the policy laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). It has already approved revival packages for HMT Bearings Limited, HMT Machine Tools Limited and Praga Tools

Limited. So far as revival of HMT Limited (Holding Company), HMT Watches Limited and HMT Chinar Watches Limited is concerned, no decision has been taken. The HMT International Limited is a profit making company and, therefore, does not need any revival package.

CNG Facilities

3041. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

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

(a) the places in various States where CNG stations have been opened so far;

(b) whether there is a critical shortage of CNG in various States;

(c) if so, the details of requests made by different States/UTs demanding more CNG stations/supply at different locations;

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of States in regard to CNG; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for adequate supply of CNG for running the vehicles in cities having high vehicular pollution?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) According to information provided by various Companies, CNG stations have been opened in the following cities in the country:-

Maharashtra	Mumbai, Thane and Mira-Bhayandar
NCR of Delhi	Delhi
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada and Hyderabad
Uttar Pradesh	Noida, Kanpur, Lucknow and Agra

Tripura	Agartala
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar, Bharuch, Surat, Vadodara, Gandhinagar and Hazira

The demand of natural gas in the country is more than the availability. However, as the number of CNG vehicles is on the rise, CNG stations are being augmented to cater to the requirement of CNG fuel in all the cities, where CNG stations have been set up.

(c) to (e) Government has received requests from certain State Governments from time to time to extend CNG network in the states. As mentioned in reply to part (a), CNG outlets have been opened in many cities. GAIL (India) Limited has formed 8 Joint Venture Companies with Oil Marketing Companies and strategic partners for implementing city gas distribution networks.

The Government of India has established the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) with effect from 01.10.2007 under 'the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas. The PNGRB shall, inter alia, take up the registration and authorization of entities to lay, build, operate and expand city/local natural gas distribution networks, in accordance with the provisions of the PNGRB Act, 2006.

Tourism Development in Arunachal Pradesh

3042. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh for development of tourism related infrastructure during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of the total number and names of tourism circuits in Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government proposes to lift the Restricted Area Permit from the State of Arunachal Pradesh and the North Eastern region for foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism related projects for tourist destinations and circuits to all states including the North East Region under the schemes Product/Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuits and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The details of funds allocated to the State of Arunachal Pradesh for development of tourism related infrastructure during the last three years and till date is given below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Amount Sanctioned
2004-05	1,041.69
2005-06	1,973.56
2006-07	1,827.80
2007-08 (till date)	2,978.61

The detail pertaining to the projects sanctioned for Destinations and Circuits in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years of the Tenth Plan and the current financial year is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The review of restrictions pertaining to Restricted Area Permit for foreign tourists is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposal from the concerned States and in consultation with security agencies.

Statement

List of Projects Sanctioned to the State of Arunachal Pradesh in the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2004-05		
1.	Construction of Guest Wayside Amenities on the Bank of Sub-Ansiri River at Kuporji (Daperljo)	65.40
2.	Development of Gangalake, Itanagar.	243.00
3.	Eco-tourism Project in A.P.	83.29
4.	Destination Development of Along, West Siang	266.00
5.	Development of Zeminthang	384.00
Total		1041.69
2005-06		
1.	Destination Development of Hot Spring, Jia at Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh	262.00
2.	Destination Development of Gaera Lake at Taraso, Papam Para Distt.	373.00
3.	Circuit development of Diburgarh-Passighat-Daying Wildlife Sanctuary	299.00
4.	Integrated Development of Siang Circuit under the Scheme of Tourism Circuit in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.	778.94
5.	Rural Tourism Project at village Rengo, Distt. East Siang.	49.62
6.	Computerisation of Arunachal Pradesh under the scheme of IT	50.00
7.	Construction of Multipurpose Hall at Passighat/Tourist Lodge at Deomali/ Wayside Amenities at Deomali Entry Gate, Tirap	161.00
Total		1973.56

1	2	3
2006-07		
1.	Preservation of Heritage site (stone Rampart) at Yabgo, Dambuk, Lower Dibang Valley District	283.22
2.	CFA to Arunachal Pradesh under the schema of Information Technology	50.00
3.	Development of Tourism Circuit Dirak-Wakro-Tezu-Hayuliang-Walong in Arunachal Pradesh	772.26
4.	Development of Rural Tourism at Ligu village, Distt. Upper Subansiri	46.00
5.	Construction of Tourist Complex at Parasuram Kund	462.68
6.	Development of Tourist Resort at Hollangi in Papumpara	167.14
7.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Ego-Nikte, Distt. West Siang	46.50
Total		1827.80
2007-08		
1.	Development of Tourist Lodge at Geku in Upper Siang	133.77
2.	Development of Tourism Complex at Tuting in Upper Siang	358.51
3.	Development of Tourism Tourist Circuit Itanagar Ziro-Daporji-Basar	759.87
4.	Construction of Tourist Complex at Mayudia Lower Dibang Valley	422.23
5.	Development and Improvement of Geyakar Sinyi lake near Itanagar	426.00
6.	Development of Mechuka Tourism Destination in Arunachal Pradesh	441.56
7.	Development of Tourist Destination Jairam Pur, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh	436.67
Total		2978.61

Heritage Route Project

3043. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Monument Fund and the American Express have declared a 2 lakh Dollar grant for a heritage route project from Humayun Tomb to Red Fort; and

(b) if so, the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) No such proposal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities

3044. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned and spent in each Division/Zone under the head 'passengers and other railway users amenities' during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide microprocessor based integrated public announcement system for better and quality sound output at important stations of Bihar and Jharkhand; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Zone-wise details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under Plan Head-Passengers and other Railway Users' Amenities are shown in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Such facility exists at some railway stations of these States. Other important railway will be covered in due course as its provision like other passenger amenities is a continuous process.

Statement

Zone-wise details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under Plan Head-Passengers and other Railway Users' Amenities are as under.

(Figures in thousand of Rupees)

Railway	Passenger Amenities					
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Budget Estimate	Exp.	Budget Estimate	Exp.	Budget Estimate	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	110630	153600	107900	177800	304571	346300
Eastern	221896	124600	206500	141300	439355	379400
Northern	248660	277900	218300	281600	340500	407700
North Eastern	93002	101500	92500	104400	125723	233000
Northeast Frontier	121767	118800	125200	198500	264878	338300
Southern	217513	206900	176300	258200	267384	444600

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South Central	136608	413500	133200	341200	200900	398800
South Eastern	92236	70000	92900	102300	78476	99300
Western	262320	184200	253700	177500	253396	287700
East Central	334702	198800	319300	249800	380994	223500
East Coast	42988	41600	89600	52800	134395	114300
North Central	42495	61100	62400	45700	108000	80400
North Western	34336	67500	45800	91000	172281	213300
Southeast Central	100600	83700	122500	126200	203001	169800
South Western	44944	46700	102600	82600	121719	192300
West Central	27849	72200	38000	120200	122000	140500
Metro	17954	5000	34800	11200	14427	9900
Total	2150500	2227600	2221500	2562300	3532000	4079100

[English]

**Introduction of Electric-Cum-Diesel
Hybrid Locomotives**

3045. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the present system of diesel locos run on electricity generated by the generator to be modified to run on electricity on the electricity territory throughout the country saving diesel and also reducing pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such proposals have been recommended by RDSO under the control of Electric Engineers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to remedy the diesel/electricity system?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Development of Muslim Artisans

3046. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has recently formulated any action plan for the development of muslim artisans;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount sanctioned under the plan;
and
- (d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (d) An inter-ministerial group has been constituted to plan the implementation of a comprehensive programme for skill and entrepreneurship development amongst Muslims. The terms of reference, inter-alia, includes adopting a cluster approach for addressing the need for skill and entrepreneurship development that will benefit the largely self-employed Muslim population.

[Translation]

**Use of Subsidy by Fertilizer
Producing Units**

3047. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several fertilizer producing units are using subsidy to increase and augment their production capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

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) : (a) to (c) The subsidy on fertilizers, through is released to manufacturers/importers for sale fertilizers, it is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized selling price of the fertilizer. The fertilizer manufacturers/importers are reimbursed the difference between the normative cost of production and delivery of fertilizer at the farmgate level and the notified selling price of the fertilizer, as fertilizer subsidy, once the fertilizer reaches the districts.

Parking Facilities at the Airports

3048. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the rate of parking charges per vehicle at the various airports in the country particularly at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;
- (b) whether huge amounts have been collected as parking charges;
- (c) if so, the amount collected as parking charges during the last three years, till date;
- (d) the details of works done during the last three years and till date by utilizing the amount collected as parking charges to modernise the parking facilities; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to upgrade the parking facilities at the airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Parking charges per vehicle including service tax levied at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai airports are as follows: Car/Van – Rs. 60, Two wheelers – Rs.15, Bus/Coaches/Mini Bus/Truck/Tempo – Rs.70; Premium Car Park at Chennai Airport – Car/Van – Rs.120/Rs.100, Bus/Coaches – Rs. 225.

(b) and (c) Amount of parking charges collected by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) during the last three years are as follows (Rs. in crores) : 2004-05 – 30.62; 2005-06 – 43.99; 2006-07 – 37.84.

(d) and (e) Expansion of the car parking areas is decided keeping in view the operational requirements of the airports. During the last three years, car parking facilities at Chennai and Kolkata airports have been increased by the AAI. At Delhi and Mumbai airports also, Master Plans have been prepared for augmenting the parking facilities.

[English]

Production of Gypsum

3049. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether gypsum is a by-product of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited;
- (b) if so, production of gypsum during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether this by-product is being utilized;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any new venture is being planned for the production of gypsum; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Gypsum is a by-product of phosphoric acid being produced by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited. The production of Gypsum during each of the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantity of Gypsum produced
2004-05	4,19,000 MT
2005-06	5,05,000 MT
2006-07	4,89,000 MT

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, Gypsum is sold by FACT for agricultural and commercial purposes. Gypsum is utilized for soil conditioning and for manufacture of cement.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, FACT is exploring the possibility of manufacture of value added products by using gypsum.

**Shatabdi Express between
Puri and Paradip**

3050. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways have received any request to introduce a Shatabdi Express train between Puri and Paradip;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Railways have made any assessment for starting train between these two stations;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the train service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few requests have been received for introduction of Shatabdi Express train between Paradip and Puri.

(c) to (e) Additional trains including Shatabdi express are introduced over Indian Railways depending upon various factors like traffic pattern, operational feasibility availability of resources, commercial justification etc. Introduction of a Shatabdi Express between Paradip and Puri is not justified at present.

[Translation]

**Refining of Crude Oil by Refineries/
Oil Companies**

3051. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of crude oil refined by various refineries of various oil companies during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of capacity utilisation of refineries of various companies and whether this capacity utilisation has been as per their installed capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to ensure maximum capacity utilisation of these refineries and oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) The details of installed capacity, crude throughput and capacity utilization for various refineries during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and first half of year 2007-08 are given in the enclosed statement.

The capacity utilization of all the four North-East refineries namely Digboi, Guwahati, Numaligarh and Bongaigaon and also Narimanam refinery of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is low due to insufficient availability of indigenous crude.

In order to improve the capacity utilization of North-East Refineries, Government has allotted 1.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) of Ravva crude to Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL). Further, to boost crude oil production in the North-East region, Government has allocated new blocks for crude oil exploration and production to Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) as well as private parties under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Statement

Refineries Capacity Utilisation

Figures in million metric tonnes (MMT)

Refineries	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07			2007-08 (Apr-Sep) Prov.		
	Capa- city	Actual	Utilisa- tion %	Capa- city	Actual	Utilisa- tion %	Capa- city	Actual	Utilisa- tion %	Capa- city	Actual	Utilisa- tion %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
IOCL												
IOC-Mathura	8.00	6.39	80	8.00	7.94	99	8.00	8.88	111	4.00	3.27	82
IOC-Koyali	13.70	11.70	85	13.70	11.54	84	13.70	12.95	95	6.85	6.61	97
IOC-Haldia	6.00	5.42	90	6.00	5.50	92	6.00	5.84	97	3.00	2.88	96
IOC-Barauni	6.00	5.08	85	6.00	5.55	93	6.00	5.47	91	3.00	3.01	100
IOC-Guwahati	1.00	1.00	100	1.00	0.86	86	1.00	0.84	84	0.50	0.43	86
IOC-Digboi	0.65	0.65	100	0.65	0.81	95	0.65	0.59	90	0.33	0.27	84
IOC-Panipat	6.00	6.39	106	6.00	6.51	108	7.30	9.44	129	6.00	6.59	110
IOC-Total	41.35	36.63	89	41.35	38.52	93	42.65	44.00	103	23.68	23.06	97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HPCL												
HP-Mumbai	5.50	6.12	111	5.50	6.25	114	5.50	7.42	135	2.75	3.58	130
HP-Visakh	7.50	7.82	104	7.50	7.57	101	7.50	9.23	123	3.75	4.61	123
HPCL-Total	13.00	13.94	107	13.00	13.82	106	13.00	16.65	126	6.50	8.19	126
BPCL												
BPCL-Mumbai	6.90	9.14	133	8.16	10.28	126	12.00	12.04	100	6.00	6.63	110
BPCL-Kochi	7.50	7.72	106	7.50	6.94	93	7.50	7.74	103	3.75	4.10	109
BPCL-Total	14.40	17.07	119	15.66	17.22	110	19.50	19.78	101	9.75	10.73	110
CPCL												
CPCL-Chennai	9.50	8.18	86	9.50	9.68	102	9.50	9.78	103	4.75	5.04	106
CPCL-Narimanam	1.00	0.74	74	1.00	0.68	68	1.00	0.62	62	0.50	0.23	46
CPCL-Total	10.50	8.92	85	10.50	10.36	99	10.50	10.40	99	5.25	5.27	100
BRPL-Bongaigaon	2.35	2.31	98	2.35	2.36	100	2.35	2.07	88	1.18	1.01	86
NRL-Numaligarh	3.00	2.04	68	3.00	2.13	71	3.00	2.50	83	1.50	1.25	83
ONGC-Tatipaka	0.08	0.09	119	0.08	0.09	120	0.08	0.09	121	0.04	0.03	85
MRPL-Manglore	9.69	11.81	122	9.69	12.01	124	9.69	12.54	129	4.85	6.35	131
Sub-Total PSU Ref.	94.37	92.81	98	95.63	96.52	101	100.77	108.03	107	52.73	55.89	106
RPL-Jamnagar	33.00	31.490	95	33.00	30.47	92	33.00	31.67	96	16.50	16.12	98
EOL-Jamnagar							3.65	1.76	48	5.25	2.78	53
Sub-Total Pvt Ref.	33.00	31.49	95	33.00	30.47	92	36.65	33.43	91	21.75	18.90	87
Grand Total	127.37	124.30	98	128.63	126.99	99	137.42	141.46	103	74.48	74.78	100

Capacity during the year prorated as per the Commissioning/Expansion Schedule.

[English]

**Promotion of Culture In
West Bengal**

3052. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has made any initiatives to safeguard and promote culture of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of achievements and the amount spent during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture has taken various initiatives to safeguard and promote culture all over the country including West Bengal. These activities are carried out both through the Ministry's Schemes as well as by attached, subordinate and autonomous organizations of the Ministry.

(b) The details of activities/achievements and amounts spent by the Ministry and various organizations under the Ministry of Culture during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

*Details of grant assistance given during the last three years for
safeguard of culture in West Bengal*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No	Item	Amount spent during the last three years
1	2	3
1.	Centenaries and Memorials	
	1. Federation Hall Society, Kolkata	1.50
	2. Kaikal Rural Development Society, Hoogally	
2.	Multi Purpose Cultural Complexes	
	1. Rowdon Square	370.00
	2. Salt Lake	
	3. Jagdish Chandra Bose Road (Kolkata)	
	4. Paschimbanga Bangala (Jatra) Academy, Kolkata	
3.	Asiatic Society	
	Acquisition, publication of books, Journals, training, seminars/lectures, workshop and augumentation of Research, museum and other facilities etc.	416.86

1	2	3
4.	Centre for Cultural Resources and Training	
1.	Training programme are organized to create an awareness of India's rich natural and cultural heritage	54.07
2.	Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme.	
5.	Lalit Kala Akademi	
	Lalit Kala Akademi for Regional painters camp, residence Rabindra Nath Tagore National Memorial Lecture, Godhuli, Valedictory Function of Golden Jubilee celebration, Workshop in ceramic/Painting, Print making camp, Art Camp in Terracotta and Ceramic (Rakoo), Art Utsav Artist in Residence Programme and Wood carving camp etc.	7.56
6.	Scholarship and Fellowship	
	Soholarship, Fellowship and Seminars	65.50
7.	Sahitya Akademi	
	Eastern Regional Office, Kolkata	75.00
8.	Performing Arts.	
1.	Scheme for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal Folk Art and Culture	754.43
2.	Scheme of financial Assistance to Professional Groups and individuals for Specified Performing Arts Project	
3.	Scheme for Building and Equipment Grant to Culture organization	

**Petrochemical Research and
Development Fund**

3053. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Petrochemical Research and Development Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. For working out modalities, it has been decided to conduct a feasibility study.

Ground Handling Services at Airports

3054. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is withdrawing Ground Handling services at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Ground Handling services in Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has been outsourced to the private agencies;

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

(d) the future of the employees currently working in this area?

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

(b) to (d) The Ground handling services have not been outsourced. However, a few non-core activities have been outsourced to private agencies in line with the general commercial policies on this issue.

Delay of Air India Flights

3055. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay of Air India flight dated November 20, 2007;

(b) whether only one passenger travelled with an other airline with Air India endorsement on the ticket which is in rare case of delays;

(c) if so, whether other passengers were offered this facility; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Some Air India's flights on 20.11.2007 were delayed due to reasons such as engineering, ATC, late arrival of aircraft etc.

(b) to (d) As per normal practice, all international airlines transfer passengers from delayed flights to other carriers on request of the passengers. Two passengers from

delayed AI - 111 flight on 20.11.2007 were transferred to other airlines-one to British Airways and the other to Finnair.

Freighters of AI Cargo

3056. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the fleet of dedicated freighters of Air India (AI) Cargo;

(b) if so, the details of the cargo handled so far by the company;

(c) whether the company has tied up with Gati and other private operators;

(d) if so, the details and the terms and conditions fixed with each of such operators;

(e) the details of targets fixed by Air India Cargo for 2007-08; and

(f) the details of steps taken to achieve such targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total cargo carried by erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines during the year 2006-07 was 170,603 tons. Further, 15,582 tons of mail was also carried.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) into which Air India Limited and Indian Airlines Limited have merged, has tied up with Gati as well as Department of Post and Telegraph (DOP). NACIL signed an Agreement with Gati on 16 May, 2007 for five aircraft for a period of five years to operate freighter services on Delhi-Mumbai-Bangalore- Delhi sector and with DOP for one aircraft for one year to operate freighter service on Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala sector.

(e) The revenue target fixed for the year 2007-08 by Air India cargo is Rs. 834.32 crores.

(f) Air India cargo is taking various steps in order to achieve the above target which includes (i) after merger of erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines, Air India is able to provide combined services to their clients in a more efficient and aggressive manner; (ii) Air India is now able to extend an improved product to their customers by providing seamless connectivity for movement of cargo from interior points within the country to international destinations through gateway points; (iii) Air India is exploring the possibility of extending the service to their agents asked abroad and have commenced this process in a phased manner; and (iv) Air India is trying for the business of postal unions of various countries and is in talks with US Postal Mail so as to promote the movement of their mail on its services.

Supply of LNG for Dabhol Plant

3057. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

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

(a) whether the Government has on agreement with Qatar and Algeria Companies for supply of LNG for Dabhol plant;

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

(c) the terms and conditions for the said agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (d) Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) has signed a contract with Ras Gas, Qatar in July 2007 for supply of 1.25 MMT LNG to meet the requirement of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL). As per the contract, the duration of supply is one year starting from July 2007 and the supplies are on Cost and Freight on Receipt (CFR) basis.

New Railway Line between Satyamangla and Bangalore

3058. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Survey work for the construction of a new railways line between Satyamangala, Kollegal and Bangalore via Malavally, Sathanur, Kanakapura and Harohally has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) On Bangalore-Satyamangalam new line project, survey of the line has been conducted from Bangalore to Gattewadi (from Bangalore end) and from Satyamangalam to Bennari (from Satyamangalam end). However, survey between Gattewadi and Bennari (58 Kms.) is held up on account of non-receipt of permission from the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu. Railway has approached Central Empowered Committee, constituted under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to conduct survey. Further survey will be possible only after necessary permission is granted.

Pre-paid Cards for Fuel

3059. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IOC has issued pre-paid cards for fuel and other services used by the transporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount that it has earned through these cards since these were introduced;

(c) whether this card also provides additional services to the transporters which helps the transporters to use their fleet better; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) India Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has issued pre-paid cards known as, "XTRAPOWER" fleet cards for fuel and other services as part of loyalty program launched for transporters. These cards are issued to transporters at a nominal fee of Rs. 100/- per card to meet the expenses for making these cards. These cards were introduced in March, 2004 by IOC. Approximately 1.5 lakh KL of fuel is sold through these cards every month.

(c) and (d) Transporters can load the money on the card at a designated retail outlet which enables the driver to make purchases of fuel and lubes at designated retail outlets. These cards also provide additional services to the transporters such as cash less transactions, vehicle tracking, Management Information System (MIS) reports and insurance for transporters and their crews. IOC has reported that these cards have helped transporters in using their fleet in a better and efficient manner.

[Translation]

Opening of Gas Agencies

3060. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU :

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to open gas agencies at some places in the country under the Industry Marketing Scheme 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether applications were invited through advertisements to open gas agencies at all places under this scheme;

(d) if so, the reasons for not inviting the applications through advertisement for Udaypur in South Tripura; and

(e) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Government to open gas agency at Udaypur in South Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have finalized a common Industry Marketing Plan 2004-07 covering 841 locations in the country, including the location Udaypur in South Tripura for opening/setting up of LPG distributorships. The location-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned. The advertisement for the State of Tripura, including the location Udaypur in South Tripura is expected to be released by the 2nd week of December, 2007.

Insurance Cover to Rail Passengers and Goods

3061. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rail passengers and goods transported by Rail are insured by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of insurance done in this regard during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the mode of payment in above insurance system; and

(d) the comparative details of payment made to insurance companies and compensation made by these companies against the said insurances during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Railways provide insurance cover to passengers for death/injury resulting from railways accidents and untoward incidents. However, goods transported by railways are not insured.

(b) to (d) The information pertaining to railways passenger insurance is as under:-

Period	Insurer	Rate of premium (per passenger)	Total premium paid (Rs. in crores)	Mode of Payment	Amount reimbursed (upto 31.10.07) Rs. in cores
1.8.04-31.7.05	United India Insurance Company Ltd.	6.8 paise	37.93	Full payment made in advance from the Railway revenue.	5.34
1.8.05-31.7.06	-do-	7.2 paise	42.23	-do-	10.88
20.9.06-19.9.07	Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd.	5.29 paise	39.11	-do-	0
20.9.07-19.9.08	ICICI-Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd.	4.75 paise	34.72	-do-	0

Note:-The claims pertaining to the above mentioned policy periods are either pending or yet to be filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal, which being a Quasi-judicial Body, takes its own time in deciding such cases. Insurance Companies are bound to pay all the compensation claims arising out of accidents/untoward incidents occurring in a particular policy period as and when the decree is awarded.

[English]

**Withdrawal of LPG Suidy for
PAN Card Holders**

3062. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to withdraw LPG subsidies for PAN Card holders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its impact on the small income groups and their necessity to have PAN Cards on various transactions;

(c) wether there is any proposal to introduce Smart Cards for LPG users; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

**Setting up of Medical Evaluation
Centres**

3063. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places where Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM) is presently located and its functions thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new Medical Evaluation Centres in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) is located at Bangalore. Its functions are aeromedical evaluation and indoctrination of military and civil aircrew, training of medical graduates in aerospace medicine through short and long term courses leading to a post - graduate degree, promotion of flight safety, human factor analysis of aircraft accidents and aeromedical research. Other Air Force establishments involved in civil aircrew medical evaluation are Air Force Central Medical Establishment (AFCME) at New Delhi and Medical Evaluation Center at Air Force Hospital, Jorhat (Assam). These three establishments carry out initial issue and renewal medical examinations for issue of Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL). Nine other Boarding Centres at various locations spread across the country, carry out renewal medical examinations only.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal for setting up of new medical evaluation centres. However, one private hospital each at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai have been identified to carryout initial medical examination for issue of Class I medical for issuance of CPL under the overall supervision of officials or Air Force Central Medical Establishment. These hospitals would start functioning shortly.

Shortage of Rake Points for Fertilizers

3064. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of rake points for transportation of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to meet the requirement in this regard particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To further facilitate the supply of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh, in addition to the existing terminals, half rake handling facilities at Bhind, Ganj Basoda, Bina, Niwari and Damoh and full rake handling facilities at Nimach and Shahdol have recently been provided. A goods shed siding at Rewa has also been sanctioned and work is in progress. There is no problem in the movement of Imported or Indigenous Fertilizers to Maharashtra State.

[Translation]

Daltonganj Airport

3065. DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the airport at Daltonganj (Medini Nagar) in Jharkhand is not being used for the last thirty five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put the airport to use;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be operationalised; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Daltonganj airfield in Jharkhand belongs to the State Government. Hence, the matter is beyond the purview of the Central Government.

(c) to (e) There is no request from the State Government of Jharkhand to development this airfield through the Airports Authority of India. Hence, do not arise.

[English]

Expansion, Modernisation and Diversification of Refineries in Assam

3066. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the utilization status against the existing capacity, source of crude and financial health of the refineries operating in Assam;

(b) ongoing and future programme of expansion, modernization and diversification for these refineries indicating total outlay and utilization made;

(c) the support extended by the Government for expansion of marketing network and future viability of these refineries;

(d) whether the merger of BRPL to IOC has been delayed inordinately;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the target set by the Government to complete the formalities; and

(f) if not, the status and target set thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) The details of installed capacity, actual throughput, capacity utilization and gross refining margin for the refineries in Assam for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April-Sept., 2007) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The following projects are in progress at Bongaigaon, Numaligarh, Digboi and Guwahati refineries:-

(Rs. in crores)

Project	Estimated cost	Expenditure incurred as on 30.9.2007
Diesel Hydro Treatment Plant, Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	1431.91	161.46
Motor Spirit (MS) Maximization, BRPL	44.56	9.10
Siliguri Marketing Terminal, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL)	149.57	82.22
MS Quality improvement, Digboi, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	200.00	-Nil- (upto 31.10.07)
MS Quality improvement, Guwahati Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	200.00	3.12 (upto 31.10.07)

Steps have also been taken for implementation of Motor Spirit Quality (MSQ) project and INDMAX project by BRPL and capacity augmentation of Hydrocracker unit and Hydrogen plant by Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL) for

Diesel Quality improvement.

(c) With a view to improve the future viability of North-East refineries, the following measures have been taken by the Government:-

- Granting of 50% excise duty benefits to the products cleared from all North-East refineries w.e.f. 1.3.2002.
- Allocation of 1.5 million metric tonnes (MMT) Ravva crude oil to BRPL w.e.f. 2003-04 to improve capacity utilization of North-East refineries.

Further, as on date NRL has commissioned 42 Retail Outlets in North-Eastern region. IOC plans to commission

62 Retail Outlets including 34 Kisan Sewa Kendras during the current year in North-Eastern region.

(d) to (f) The scheme of amalgamation for merger of BRPL with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was approved by the Board of Directors of BRPL and IOC in November, 2006. No objection from stock exchanges has been obtained. BRPL and IOC have approached the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for necessary clearances. Efforts are on for completion of merger process at the earliest.

Statement

	Installed Capacity (MMTPA)	2006-07			2007-08 (April-September)		
		Throughput (MMT)	Capacity Utilisation (%)	GRM US\$/barrel	Throughput (MMT)	Capacity Utilisation (%)	GRM US\$/barrel
Digboi	0.65	0.59	90	19.10	0.27	84	12.77
Guwahati	1.00	0.84	84	10.48	0.43	86	12.70
Bongaigaon	2.35	2.07	88	13.80	1.01	86	17.00
Numaligarh	3.00	2.50	83	11.35	1.25	83	10.00

MMTPA — Million metric tonnes per annum

MMT — Million metric tonnes

GRM — Gross refinery margin

Operation of Cargo Flights

3067. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the airline sector of country are reducing the cargo carrying capacity in their flights to various countries and plans to operate separate cargo flights; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) All flights of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) carry commercial cargo and there is no reduction in the cargo capacity. At present, NACIL's two Airbus A310 and 2B737 aircraft have undergone full-cargo conversion and are operating dedicated cargo flights to France, Germany and Saudi Arabia. NACIL also proposes to convert 6 more B737s and 2 more A310s into freighters. It is also proposed to convert the six B747-400 aircraft into freighters in due course in a phased manner. Further, private scheduled airlines viz. Jet Airways and Jetlite are

operating scheduled international services and are utilising their available cargo capacity.

**Educational Institutions for Minority
Girl Students**

3063. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to start educational institutions exclusively for minority and backward community girls students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of schools proposed to be set up and the norms prescribed therefor, State and Union Territory-wise including Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Train between Bagalkot and
New Delhi**

3069. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is no train between Bagalkot to New Delhi via Solapur and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to run trains on the said routes; and

(c) if so, the details and the time frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is no train between Bagalkot-New Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**World Heritage Status to Kalka-
Shimla Rail Track**

3070. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a UNESCO heritage team has visited the Kalka-Shimla rail track in September, in connection with granting of a world heritage status to this track;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the UNESCO team alongwith the decision of the UNESCO Heritage declaration committee thereon;

(c) whether any section in the North Eastern Region, has also been under consideration of the UNESCO for grant of Heritage status; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the rail tracks which have so far been granted such status?

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

(b) The recommendations of the UNESCO team are conveyed internally. The decision, based on the recommendations, will be taken in the next session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Canada in July 2008.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Udhampur-Baramulla Rail Line

3071. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Udhampur-Katra-Qazigund-Baramulla Rail Link Project of Indian Railways in Jammu and Kashmir is getting delayed owing to the State Government's inability to acquire land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the 148 Km. Katra-Qazigund section only 44 per cent land has been acquired so far and State Forest Department has not given clearance for the land which comes under the forest area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) On Udampur-Katra section, all land has been acquired. In Katra-Qazigund-Baramulla section, the work is getting partly delayed due to problem in land acquisition and forest clearance. On Katra-Qazigund section, about 41 per cent of total land required has been acquired so far.

(d) Railway are holding meetings at various levels in the State Government to expedite land acquisition and forest clearance.

Management Strategy for Winter Fog

3072. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a meeting between GMR Group-the promoters of the Delhi International Airports Ltd. (DIAL) and all national and international airline operators alongwith other departments to chalk out a revised fog management strategy to tackle the winter fog;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by DIAL, Met Department and airlines to minimize delay of flights at airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Fog management strategy for IGI Airport, Delhi was formulated. Met Department gave presentation regarding

trends of fog in previous years and predictions for the oncoming season. The steps taken to ensure smooth operations during fog are as under:-

(i) A temporary extension of Terminal 1B has been developed to provide covered seating area for stranded passengers; (ii) There will be more food and beverage arrangements and additional seating inside terminals; (iii) A travel advisory for passengers has been prepared by DIAL for distribution; (iv) DIAL will deploy 60 specially-trained Customer Service Staff to provide assistance and information to passenger. DIAL will set up its own call centre to provide information to passengers; (v) DIAL would coordinate information from sources like the Met department, ATC, airlines and provide it to passengers; (vi) CAT-III parking bays will be allotted as per airline capability and requirements. MET Department will provide 6 hourly weather forecasts. Action plan for Airline operations are: CAT-III trained pilots will be rostered for operating during morning and late evening hours; to ensure timely information of diverted flights; to make arrangements for snacks etc. for stranded passengers in case of delayed flights; to confirm CAT-III parking bays required for night parking and to inform passengers about delay in flights. DGCA have also issued detailed guidelines.

Railway Zones

3073. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Railways are planning a major simplification of its operations with almost every State now demanding a railway zone and the railways is considering combining its freight business into four national divisions which will supersede all other administrative categories;

(b) if so, whether the existing zones would also function simultaneously and carry on with their current responsibility; and

(c) If so, the extent to which the new zones would help the railways improve the logistics of freight and train operations?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Global Carbon Trading Market

3074. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has given clearance to an Indian Railways proposal to enter the global carbon trading market;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the objective thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has signed a Letter of Intent with World Bank under Clean Development Mechanism project for adoption of three phase technology for Electric Locomotives and Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) with regenerative braking.

(c) The objective is to explore the possibility of earning carbon credits for regeneration of electrical energy in Electric Locomotives and EMUs during braking and reduction in carbon emission there from.

Sale of Haldia Unit of HFCL

3075. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to sale of Haldia Unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFCL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is making any efforts to mobilize the sale through a private entrepreneur; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

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) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal for sale of the Haldia Unit of HFCL. However, the Government is exploring all options for revival of closed Units of HFCL, including Haldia Unit, depending upon the confirmed availability of gas.

Status of Petitions Submitted by Employees of HFCL, Durgapur

3076. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the petitions in regard to claim of ex-employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (HFCL), Durgapur who were released prematurely under VSS are pending for withdrawal benefit under erstwhile Employee Pension Scheme, 1971;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency of petitions;

(c) the action taken on the petitions submitted on behalf of 58 contract workers of the unit who were terminated prematurely;

(d) whether any petition on behalf of the widows of the ex-employees of HFCL, Durgapur unit for continuation of Family Pension has been received; and

(e) if so, the actions taken by the Government thereon?

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) : (a) No, Sir. Withdrawal benefit under Family Pension 1971 stands discontinued in terms

of the judgment delivered by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 11.11.2003. Members of FPS, 71 are now covered by the Employees Pension Scheme 1995 subject to deposit of the difference amount. The claims of those employees who have submitted their claims under FPS 1995 alongwith deposit of the difference, have been forwarded by HFCL to the Provident Fund Office. There is no pending claim under EPS 1995 with HFCL.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department is not aware of any such petition.

(d) and (e) A Family Pension Scheme, separate from FPS-71, was in existence in HFCL. This scheme was withdrawn by the company w.e.f. 31.5.2003 as per the decision of the Board of Directors. Subsequently, the company, as a goodwill gesture, approved payment of a lump-sum amount equivalent to 12 months' pension to the Family Pension holders covered under HFC Family Pension Scheme, as a one time dispensation. The requests received from family pension holders, in this regard, have been settled by HFCL.

Norms for Distribution of flow of Air Traffic

3077. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the criteria/norms fixed for distribution of flow of air traffic;

(b) the year in which such criteria/norms were fixed;

(c) whether the Government proposes to change such criteria/norms in view of present situation of air traffic in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) The schedules are decided by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility, in

consultation with airport operator. These schedules are coordinated at the national level by a Committee consisting of representatives of Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Airport Operators and the airlines. The slots are allocated in terms of historicity and in line with other such internationally accepted practices, which keep evolving. However, keeping in view the limitations placed on air space and airport infrastructure due to the unprecedented growth in air traffic, in the past 3 years, specially at Delhi and Mumbai airports, the airlines are being encouraged to spread their flights beyond peak hours; operate late night and early morning flights; and use non-metro airports for night parking etc.

Railway Projects In West Bengal

3078. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of new, ongoing/pending projects, doubling of rail line, surveys for laying new rail lines and ROB/RUB in West Bengal alongwith targets fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise;

(c) whether some of these projects are behind the schedule; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Efforts are being made to generate non-budgetary resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. A number of initiatives have been taken for getting additional resources through Public/Private Partnership, cost sharing with State Governments, funding through Ministry of Defence, National Rail Vikas Yojana and

additional funds for National projects. In the case of ROBs sanctioned on cost sharing basis, the State Government of West Bengal has not provided commensurate funds to take all the sanctioned works for physical execution.

Railways are having periodical meetings with State Government officials to request for provision of sufficient funds, and give consent to take up works pending for final decisions/consent by State Government.

Statement

1. *The details of on-going New Line and Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal, alongwith Length, Anticipated cost, Expenditure upto March, 2007, Outlay for 2007-08, Present status and Target wherever fixed; is given below*

(Figures in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Project	Length (kms.)	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March 2007	Outlay 2007-08	Present status and Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Lines						
1.	Azimganj (Nasipur)-Jiyaganj upto the Ghat	6.60	51.13	21	20	
2.	Eklakhi-Balurghat and Gazol-Itahar	113.11	282.74	218.71	2	Eklakhi-Balurghat (87.11 km.) completed.
3.	Howrah-Amta	73.50	154.30	82.97	5	Howrah-Amta (43 km.) completed. Baragachia-Champadanga (32 km.) : Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition is in progress.
4.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	254.07	131	17	
5.	New Maynaguri-Jogijhopa	257	894.38	149.30	55	
6.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with extension upto Kumarkundu bypass	85	255.68	72	15	
Doubling						
1.	Adra-Joichandipahar	6	18.19	0	1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Bandel-Jirat	22.01	50.14	40.29	12	Bandel-Bansberia (4.5 km.) completed. Bansberia-Khamargachi : 2007-08
3.	Barasat-Hasanabad Doubling with electrification Phase I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	23.65	5	10	Barasat-Karea Kadambagachi (6.5 km.) : 2007-08
4.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Phase I (Baruipur-Dakshin Barasat)	17.04	31.82	16.82	13	2007-08
5.	Baruipur-Magrahat	15	30.10	2.71	10	Baruipur-Hotor (7.2 km.) : 2007-08
6.	Chandpara-Bongaon	9.77	22.23	0.30	10	
7.	Chinpai-Bongaon	32	81.80	7	30	
8.	Gokulpur-Mindnapur	2	26.64	0	1	
9.	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.88	15.61	26	Habra-Maslandpur (9.2 km.) completed. Maslandpur-Gobardanga (4 km.) : 2007-08
10.	Krishnanagar-Kalinarayanpur	22	43.39	37.59	10	Krishnanagar-Badkulla (9.9 km.) completed. Badkulla-Kalinarayanpur (12.1 km.) : 2007-08
11.	Malda-old Malda	0.38	21.17	0	2	
12.	Pandabeswar-Chinpai	21.41	69.03	11	30	
13.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli Phase I (Seoraphulli-Nalikul)	17.76	40.79	56.25	5	Sheoraphulli-Singur (11.2 km.) completed. Singur-Nalikul (6.6 km.) : 2007-08
14.	Tikiapara-Santragachi 4th line	5.60	46.79	10	8	2007-08

2. The list of on-going Surveys for construction of New Lines falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal, is given below

Sl. No.	Section	Length (km.)	Target for completion
1.	Panskura-Ghatal- Chandrakona Road	80	
2.	Digha-Jaleswar	40	31.12.2007
3.	Raniganj-Bankura	45	
4.	Gunjaria-Gazole	120	28.02.2008
5.	Jayangar-Jamtala	20	31.12.2007
6.	Teznarayanpur-Bhaluka Road	57	30.06.2009

3. At present there are 39 works of ROB/RUBs sanctioned on cost sharing basis falling in the State of West Bengal. The position is as under

(i)	Completed	—	1 Location
(ii)	Only Railways portion completed approaches started by State Govt.	—	1 Location
(iii)	State Govt. having not yet given consent to share cost of work for	—	13 Locations
(iv)	State Govt. not interested to take up work at	—	5 Locations
(v)	Works in progress at	—	8 Locations
(vi)	State Govt. yet to finalise GAD for works at	—	2 Locations

(vii) Works being deleted — 2 Locations from Works-Programme

At remaining 7 locations the works are in different stages of Planning and Designing. Railway construct bridge proper across tracks and approaches are constructed by State Govt. hence, target for completion depends upon completion of approaches by State Govt. Railway make all out efforts to complete their portion of works before or simultaneously with the work of approaches. An allocation of Rs. 38.15 Cr. has been made for execution of works falling in West Bengal during the year. Funds are no constraint for progress of these works. Railway are spending funds commensurate with physical progress.

In addition ROB's at 8 locations are also being constructed by National Highway Authority of India in West Bengal.

Casual Employees of Air India in CIAL

3079. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the daily wages of the casual employees working with Air India have been increased;

(b) if so, the rate at which wages have been hiked and the period from which it is effective;

(c) whether the similar casual employees of Air India in Cochin International Air Port Limited (CIAL) has been denied of the hiked wages;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the daily wages for CIAL's casual employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) The

casual employees working with Air India, including those working at Kochi Airport, are being paid Rs. 150/- per net 8 hours of work, effective May 01, 2001. The casual employees working at Kochi Airport were given the option to join Air India Charters Limited (AICL), a subsidiary of National Aviation Company of India Limited, and almost half of them joined AICL on three years contract and they are being paid approx. Rs. 5500/- per month.

Ban on Night Flights

3080. SHRI KISHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many foreign countries have banned night flight movements of aircrafts in their countries;

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

(c) the details of the international aviation rules/norms in this regard;

(d) whether the Government of India has raised this issue with such countries and international civil aviation organization;

(e) if so, the details and the reaction of such countries/organization in this regard; and

(f) the details of international flights of national carriers affected due to such night ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 227 airports in the world have curfews which includes a ban on all flights during the night i.e. from 1000 or 1100 hours to 0600 or 0700 hours. Out of these 227 airports, 115 are in Europe, 71 in North America and the remainder spread over other regions such as Africa, Asia and Latin America.

(c) Annex 16 to the Chicago Convention provides for a balanced approach to the noise management which

comprises of identifying the noise problem at an airport, and then analyzing the various measures available to reduce it, to address the noise problem in the most cost effective manner.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has raised the issue at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal which is the forum for raising matters of civil aviation. A Working Paper on the issue was also presented by India in the recently concluded ICAO General Assembly Session held in Montreal in September 2007. There was a general sympathy for the views expressed by India and ICAO accepted to conduct further studies on the issue.

(f) National Aviation Company of India Ltd. (NACIL) operates to various countries such as United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong and Canada where night curfew is imposed. However, the flights of NACIL are scheduled to avoid the night curfew time.

Development of Somnath and Dwarka

3081. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the development of areas surrounding Somnath and Dwarka temples;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of

project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments.

During 10th Plan period the following project proposals have been sanctioned for development of Somnath and Dwarka:-

- (1) Development of area around Somnath Temple for Rs. 500.00 lakh
- (2) Additional works around Somnath Temple for Rs. 48.81 lakh
- (3) Integrated Development of Tourist circuit on Junagadh-Veraval-Porandar-Dwarka for Rs. 329.83 lakh

Implementation and execution of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism regularly monitors the progress of projects through review meetings held from time to time.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Physically Challenged Persons in PSUs

3082. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of the physically challenged persons recruited to the public sector undertakings during the last three years, till date; and
- (b) the scheme formulated to recruit such persons to each undertaking and the target fixed in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) and (b) Directives have been issued through administrative Ministries/Departments to the CPSEs to reserve not less than 3% of vacancies for persons with

disabilities as per provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. Recruitment of persons with disabilities is done by Managements of CPSEs themselves. The details of recruitment are not maintained on a centralized basis.

[English]

Flow of Flights in Bangalore Airport

3083. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the number of domestic flights in Bangalore is proposed to be increased during this winter; and
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Government plans to maintain smooth flow of flights as Bangalore Airport is already under acute pressure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The total number of movements (Arrival and Departure) through Bangalore airport has increased from 258 per day in Summer Schedule to 310 in Winter Schedule. With the existing infrastructure available at Bangalore Airport, it can handle a maximum of 400 movements per day.

[Translation]

Use of Railway Surplus Land for Agricultural Purposes

3084. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways propose to utilize its surplus lands for agriculture purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have framed any rules in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Railways have, however, a policy to license railway land to its employees belonging to Group 'C' and 'D' under Grow More Food Scheme in identified urban areas to prevent encroachment of its valuable land.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Institutes of Hotel Management

3085. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Institutes of Hotel Management located in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing number of Institutes are not sufficient to cope with the increasing number of students aspiring for hotel management course;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which more number of institutes would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The details of Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) from the Central/ State/Private Sector which are located in various parts of the country affiliated to the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT) an autonomous body of the Ministry of Tourism is given as per the list attached as statement.

(b) to (d) Aspiring students have to qualify through a Joint Entrance Examination held every year to join the Hotel Management course in the existing Institutes of Hotel Management. New Institutes are established as per need based assessment by the States/UT's and at present six State IHMs are approved at Kurukshetra, Jamshedpur, Raipur, Silvassa, Kozhikode and Alzwal.

Statement

S.No.	State/UTs
1	2
Institutes of Hotel Management under the Control of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and affiliated to NCHMCT	
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Bihar
4.	Chhattisgarh (UT)
5.	Delhi
6.	Gujarat
7.	Goa
8.	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jammu and Kashmir
10.	Kerala
11.	Karnataka
12.	Maharashtra
13.	Meghalaya
14.	Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)
15.	Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior)

1	2
16.	Orissa
17.	Punjab
18.	Rajasthan
19.	Tamil Nadu
20.	Uttar Pradesh
21.	West Bengal
	Institutes of Hotel Management under the control of the various State Governments/ Union Territories and affiliated to NCHMCT
22.	Chandigarh (UT)
23.	Delhi
24.	Rajasthan
25.	Sikkim
26.	Uttarakhand
	Private Institutes of Hotel Management affiliated to NCHMCT
27.	Andhra Pradesh
28.	Uttar Pradesh
29.	Kerala
30.	Tamil Nadu

ONGC Projects

3086. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects completed and under execution by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during the year;

(b) whether ONGC is having shortage of staff;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to recruit more staff by ONGC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up several exploration and development and facility creation projects for augmenting the oil and gas production. Out of them two projects namely North Kadi Phase-II and Mumbai High North Redevelopment were completed during the year 2006-07. Similarly, two projects namely North Kadi Phase-I and Mumbai High South Redevelopment were completed during the current year 2007-08.

Details of completed and ongoing projects are available with ONGC.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However there has been some attrition of personnel from core disciplines.

To meet regular operational requirement as well as for diversified activities, ONGC has plans to recruit manpower both at executive and non-executive levels during the year 2008.

Achievements Reports from NELP

3087. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the achievements from all the New Exploration and Licensing Policies (NELP); and

(b) the study reports on return on investments therein?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Government of India awarded 162 exploration blocks under 6 rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far. Total 49

oil and gas discoveries have been made in NELP blocks till date. Commercial production of oil and gas has commenced from two blocks. The other discoveries are under various stages of development, appraisal and evaluation.

Total 129133 Line Kilo Metre (LKM) of 2D, 104508 Square Kilo Metre (SKM) of 3D data have been acquired till 31st March 2007 and 146 exploratory wells have been drilled. Total investment made so far is US\$ 3.17 Billion.

(b) There is no study report on return on investments in these blocks. Government has not invested in any of these blocks.

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas in Assam

3088. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) production trend of crude oil and natural gas in Assam and adjoining States of NER during each of the last five years indicating target fixed for 11th Plan period, PSUs-wise;

(b) the steps taken for enhancing the production;

(c) contribution made to the concerned States and Union Government by these PSUs by way of royalty, dividend, central cess, duties and other forms during the last five years; and

(d) the amount of profit made out of Assam fields and the share thereon in percentage utilized for various welfare activities in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) Information regarding production of crude oil and gas in Assam and adjoining states of North Eastern Region (NER) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Following steps are being taken for enhancing the oil and gas production:-

- (i) Acquiring specialized drilling techniques.
- (ii) Drilling more wells.
- (iii) Improved liquidation strategy for sick/non flowing wells.
- (iv) Fast track development of new finds.
- (v) Small/marginal field development by way of service contracts/outsourcing.
- (vi) By engaging internationally reputed service providers for field production improvement.
- (vii) By offering more and more area under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

(c) Contribution made to the concerned States and Union Government by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Ventures (Pvt/JV) by way of royalty, dividend, central cess, duties and other forms during the last five years is as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

PSU	Contribution to to States Government	Contribution to Central Government
ONGC	1959.88	25027.8
OIL	4231.50	8584.91
Pvt/JV	42.60	—

(d) The profit earned by ONGC in NER in the year 2006-07 was Rs. 344.39 crore and it spent 1.19% of the profit on various welfare activities. OIL generated a profit of Rs. 1629.18 crore in the year 2006-07 and it spent 0.78% for welfare activities.

Statement**Production of Crude oil during last 5 years**

(in MMT)

PSU	States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
ONGC	Assam	1.735	1.621	1.546	1.285	1.331
OIL	Assam	2.926	2.969	3.155	3.187	3.061
	Arunachal Pradesh	0.024	0.033	0.041	0.046	0.046
Pvt./JV	Assam	0	0	0	0.0017	0.0076
	Arunachal Pradesh	0.042	0.048	0.042	0.058	0.062
Total		4.727	4.671	4.784	4.5777	4.5076

Production of gas during last 5 years (in MMSCM)

ONGC	Assam	476	498	467	400	498
	Tripura	446	508	496	480	520
OIL	Assam	1570.53	1705.85	1780.15	2003.21	2011.18
	Arunachal Pradesh	29.23	34.99	34.59	39.9	28.44
Pvt./JV	Assam	0	0	0.868	4.413	16.425
	Arunachal Pradesh	0	8.554	5.238	7.598	6.185
Total		2521.76	2755.394	2783.846	2935.12	3080.23

Target for oil and gas production in 11th Plan period (in 2007-2012)

PSU	Target for Oil Production in MMT	Target for Gas Production in MMSCM
ONGC	9.47	8531
OIL	17.8	14925
Pvt./JV	0.616	138.57

Abbreviation :

PSU — Public Sector Undertaking

ONGC — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

OIL — Oil India Limited

Pvt./JV — Private Joint Venture

MMT — Million Metric Tonnes

MMSUM — Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre

[Translation]

**Theft of Goods During Transportation
by the Railways**

3089. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of complaints/claims of theft or loss reported during transportation by the Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether the Railways have paid such claims; and

(c) if so, division-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The number of thefts reported during transportation by the Railways for the last

three years i.e. 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto September) are as under:-

Year	Number of theft cases reported
2004	2113
2005	1725
2006	1166
2007 (upto September)	747

(b) and (c) A statement showing the details of payment made on claims, zone-wise against loss and theft of booked consignments, for the last three years including current financial year April to Sept. 07 is attached.

Statement

Railway	Period	Total No. of Claims registered on loss and theft etc.	No. of claims paid on loss and theft	Amount paid on loss and theft (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
CR	2007-08*	907	100	0.65
	2006-07	3112	604	226.49
	2005-06	3178	826	22.25
	2004-05	3519	1108	97.65
ER	2007-08*	1589	149	1.64
	2006-07	2157	1282	56.93
	2005-06	3657	1353	91.81
	2004-05	4461	1656	201.01
NR	2007-08*	2584	24	0.42

1	2	3	4	5
	2006-07	4563	749	137.97
	2005-06	6876	678	82.5
	2004-05	6164	1280	92.19
NER	2007-08*	794	133	2.97
	2006-07	1848	474	21.8
	2005-06	1949	630	10.36
	2004-05	3357	821	15.81
NFR	2007-08*	633	166	0.32
	2006-07	4599	315	49.07
	2005-06	7458	296	12.5
	2004-05	8011	569	21.48
SR	2007-08*	492	76	5.49
	2006-07	1274	223	44.01
	2005-06	1800	244	7.78
	2004-05	1749	504	29.73
SCR	2007-08*	440	130	10.49
	2006-07	1146	225	25.34
	2005-06	1245	445	177.25
	2004-05	1408	401	18.98
SER	2007-08*	1113	425	4.63
	2006-07	1676	262	6.49
	2005-06	2256	345	7.39
	2004-05	3177	1437	43.55

1	2	3	4	5
WR	2007-08*	685	181	0.84
	2006-07	1529	316	9.94
	2005-06	1375	338	11.85
	2004-05	2125	543	18.16
ECR	2007-08*	1017	0	0
	2006-07	3056	10	0.08
	2005-06	3308	0	0
	2004-05	5209	661	7.27
ECO.R	2007-08*	510	119	1.53
	2006-07	1343	193	2.74
	2005-06	1190	492	43.57
	2004-05	1474	530	5.88
NCR	2007-08*	751	314	20.74
	2006-07	2403	842	72.11
	2005-06	3184	1027	14.34
	2004-05	3835	1342	11.26
NWR	2007-08*	215	79	2.64
	2006-07	517	168	2.47
	2005-06	532	263	8.6
	2004-05	769	350	9.74
SECR	2007-08*	459	0	0
	2006-07	1070	223	2.44
	2005-06	1196	61	3.03

1	2	3	4	5
	2004-05	1631	131	1.31
SWR	2007-08*	556	15	0.55
	2006-07	1341	27	2.14
	2005-06	921	89	1.99
	2004-05	737	103	2.62
WCR	2007-08*	528	73	0.88
	2006-07	1407	936	21.64
	2005-06	1624	1191	31.3
	2004-05	2894	1448	13.18
TOTAL	2007-08*	13253	1984	53.79
	2006-07	33041	6849	681.66
	2005-06	41749	8278	526.52
	2004-05	50520	12884	589.82

*Figures upto September 2007

[English]

Railway Projects in Karnataka

3090. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR :

SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA :

SHRI SURESH ANGADI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of ongoing pending railway projects and surveys for laying new rail-lines in Karnataka;

(b) the target set for completion of each of these projects/surveys;

(c) the funds allocated and utilized on each of these projects so far;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways for timely completion of these projects; and

(e) the details of the railway stations in Karnataka being upgraded into Model Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached

Statement

Details of ongoing projects and surveys for new rail lines falling fully/partly in the State of Karnataka showing their status, target date for completion (wherever fixed), outlay provided during 2007-08 and expenditure incurred upto March, 2007 is as under

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2007	Outlay 2007-08	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
New Line					
1.	Kottur-Harihar (65 Kms.)	206.82	53.46	30.70	Kottur-Harpanahalli (30 Kms.) is targeted for completion during 2007-08. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have also been taken up on balance portion.
2.	Hubli-Ankola (167 Kms.)	997.58	34.54	5	Earthwork and ridge works were taken up on Hubli-Kirvatti section. However, this work has been stopped as per advice of Central Empowered Committee, constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
3.	Gulbarga-Bidar (106.6 Kms.)	369.70	52.17	20	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply have been taken up.
4.	Munirabad-Mahboobnagar (246 Kms.)	497.47	35.61	5	Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
5.	Bangalore-Hassan (166 Kms.)	412.91	222.77	21	Work on Hassan-Shravanabelagola (43 Kms.) and Bangalore (Chickbannaver) - Neelamangala (14 Kms.) has been completed. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on balance portion.
6.	Kadur-Chikmagalur-Sakleshpur (93 Kms.)	274.29	54.25	10	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on Kadur-Chikmagalur (45 Kms.) section.
7.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 Kms.)	901.62	0.28	1	Survey has been conducted from Bangalore to Gattewadi and from Satyamangalam to Bennari. Survey between Gattewadi and Bennari (58 Kms.) is held up on account of requisite permission.

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Rayadurg-Tumkur (213 Kms.)	887.31	0	0.01	Preliminary activities of Final Location Survey, yard plan etc. taken up.
Gauge Conversion					
1.	Kolar-Chickballapur (96.5 Kms.)	99.42	4.29	64	Earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply has been taken up.
2.	Mysore-Chamarajanagar (61 Kms.)	606.58	44.30	45	Mysore-Nanjangud Town (26 Kms.) completed and balance targeted for completion during 2007-08.
3.	Bangalore-Hubli and Shimoga Town-Talguppa (630 Kms.)	539.41	409.85	70	Main line (533 Kms.) completed and commissioned. Shimoga-Anandapuram (56 Kms.) is targeted for completion during 2007-08. Earthwork, bridge works and ballast supply has been taken up in the entire 97 Kms. length.
4.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag (300 Kms.)	357.69	347.65	65	Solapur-Hotgi-Bijapur-Bagalkot (207 Kms.) completed and commissioned and balance section i.e. Bagalkot-Gadag (93 Kms.) is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
Doubling					
1.	Arsikere-Birur (44.28 Kms.)	96.21	0	1	Preliminary activities have been taken up.
2.	Bangalore-White Field-Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram (23.08 Kms.)	84.99	0	0.10	This project is being examined to take up on cost sharing basis with the Government of Karnataka.
3.	Dharwad- Kambarganvi (26.15 Kms.)	87.48	0.06	30	Tenders for earthwork and bridge works processed.
4.	Hubli-Hebsur (18.75 Kms.)	56.99	0	18	Contracts for earthwork and bridge works awarded.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Kengeri-Ramanagaram (29.83 Kms.)	122.01	35.14	10	Kengeri-Bidadri (17 Kms.) completed and balance targeted for completion during 2007-08.
6.	Ramanagaram-Mysore (91.5 Kms.) including electrification Kengeri-Mysore	343.18	0	5.16	Preliminary activities have been taken up.
7.	Yeshwantpur- Tumkur (64 Kms.)	109.55	103.09	30	Yeshwantpur-Gollahalli (20 Kms.) commissioned and balance targeted for completion during 2007-08.
8.	Hospet-Guntakal (115.40 Kms.)	350.29	240.81	25	Entire section except Bayalavaddigeri-Hospet (18 Kms.) has been commissioned.

S. No	Survey for new line	Length (in Kms.)	Target date for completion, wherever fixed
1.	Gunji-Kulem	30	31.3.2008
2.	Bijapur to Shahbad	140	31.3.2008
3.	Almatti to Kuppal	170	31.5.2008
4.	Bagalkot-Kudachi	111	31.3.2008
5.	Kottur to Chitradurga via Jagalur	80	30.6.2008
6.	Dharwad-Bailahongal-Belgaum	97	30.6.2008
7.	Tumkur-Davengere	210	30.6.2008
8.	Prashanthinilayam-Kadiri via Nallamada	45	30.6.2008
9.	Thalassery-Mysore	298	31.3.2008
10.	Nanjangud-Nilambur	230	31.3.2008
11.	Talguppa-Honavar	82	31.8.2008
12.	Krishnarajanagar-Kushalnagar	45	Not fixed.
13.	Bangalore-Nangli	120	Not fixed.

(d) In order to expedite these projects a number of initiatives has been taken for generating additional resources through Public Private Partnership, Cost Sharing by State Governments, Funding from Ministry of Defence and through Ministry of Finance for National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through internal resources generation to expedite their completion.

(e) Zone-wise following 26 railways stations have been identified in Karnataka State for development as model stations:-

Zonal Railway	Stations
South Western	Bangalore Cantonment, Bijapur, Hospet Junction, Hubli Junction, Mysore, Shimoga, Tornagalu, Belgaum, Bellary Junction, Yeshwantpur Junction, Alwar, Bangalore City, Bangarpet Junction, Davangere, Dharwad, Gadag, Hassan, Krishnarajpuram, Londa Junction, and Tumkur.
Central	Gulbarga
Southern	Mangalore, Kankanadi
South Central	Raichur, Bidar, Yadgir

Setting up of Call Centres by the Railways

3091. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to spend Rs. 50 crores on setting up of call centres across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of such centres. State-wise; and

(c) the benefits that would accrue to the passengers from this arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Since, the call centres are being set up on Public Private Partnership model, expenditure is borne by the firm to which the contract has been awarded.

(b) The call centres are being commissioned in four metro cities i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai covering North, South, East and West regions of the country. This system has already been inaugurated for North, West and South regions for Basic Enquiry Services and the remaining East region is likely to be covered very soon. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for this service. This service has been made available on Vodafone recently in the Northern region. This service will also be available on other networks including cellphones shortly.

(c) Integrated Train Enquiry System consists of both Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and manual enquiry provisions for dissemination of information on train running status, reservation status, availability of accommodation alongwith other value added services. Passenger can dial a universal number 139 as a local call across the country for all rail related enquiries.

Neem Project

3092. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Phase II of the Neem Project has commenced in October, 2006; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Work Plans for the implementation of the project have been drawn up and memorandum of understanding (MOUs) with

the participating institutions have been signed. Various activities as per the Work Plan like field trials, laboratory testing, trainings and farmer awareness campaigns etc. have been initiated.

The total estimated outlay of the phase II of the project is Rs. 613.77 lakhs, out of which an amount of Rs. 327.21 lakhs has been released to the various participating institutions so far.

**Committee on Prices Fixation of
Petroleum Products**

3093. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI KIREN RIJJU :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

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

(a) whether the investors have to suffer losses due to lack of a fixed or long terms policy regarding price fixation of petroleum products;

(b) whether the investors are losing interest in the Government oil companies due to the above said reasons;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have constituted a Committee for making a comprehensive policy pertaining to prices of petroleum products and taxes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the Committee will submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) The global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004. As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the

consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. There has been no increase in the price of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG over the last three years.

The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of sensitive petroleum products due to increase in the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market.

The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government and the Oil PSUs to protect the interests of common man, vulnerable sections of society and also the financial health of OMCs. In this context, the Government has approved the following measures to partially compensate the OMCs for their under-recoveries for the year 2007-08:

(a) Issuance of Oil Bonds to the tune of 42.7% of the total estimated under-recoveries; and

(b) The Upstream Oil Companies to bear approximately 1/3rd of the under-recoveries by offering discounts on crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Rangarajan Committee on pricing and taxation of petroleum products was received by the Government on 17.2.2006. The recommendations made in this report can be divided broadly into three groups as under:-

1. On pricing of petrol and diesel:

(i) Shift to a trade party pricing formula for determining refinery gate as well as retail prices;

(ii) Government to keep at arms length from price determination and to allow flexibility

to oil companies to fix the retail price under the proposed formula; and

- (iii) Reduce effective protection by lowering the customs duty on petrol and diesel to 7.5%.

2. On pricing of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene:

- (i) Restrict subsidized kerosene to BPL families only;
- (ii) Raise the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 75/cylinder;
- (iii) Discontinue the practice of asking upstream companies to provide upstream assistance, but instead collect their contribution by raising the OIBD cess from the present level of Rs. 1,800/MT to Rs. 4,800/MT; and
- (iv) Government meeting the balance cost of subsidy from the budget.

3. On restructuring excise duties:

Shift from the present mix of specific and ad-valorem to a pure specific levy and calibrating the levies at Rs. 5.00/litre of diesel and Rs. 14.75/litre of petrol.

The Committee had recommended that each of the first two sets of recommendations should be implemented as integrated packages.

The Government has accepted the following recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report:

- (i) Pricing of petrol and diesel on Trade Parity basis which shall be a weighted average of Import Parity and Export Parity prices in the ratio of 80:20.

- (ii) Reduction of custom duty on petrol and diesel from 10% to 7.5%.

- (iii) In principle revision to restrict subsidized PDS Kerosene to BPL families only.

Accordingly, the pricing of petrol and diesel was changed from Import Parity to Trade Parity basis (weighted average of import and export parity price in the ratio of 80:20). The custom duty on petrol and diesel was reduced to 7.5% from 10% with effect from 16.6.06.

**Setting up of Subsidiary Companies
for Ground Handling**

3094. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated any proposal to set up subsidiary companies for ground handling by Air India Limited, Indian Airlines and Airports Authority of India;

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

(c) the time by which Government will finalise the setting up of subsidiaries companies for ground handling in the country;

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

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) As per the new ground handling policy put in place by the Government, following entities are eligible to carry out ground handling services at metropolitan airports, i.e., the airports located at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad:—1. (i) Airports Authority of India/ the airport operator itself or its Joint Venture Company; (ii) Subsidiary companies of the national carrier, that is, National Aviation Company of India Limited or its joint

ventures specialized in ground handling services on the basis of revenue sharing with airport operator subject to satisfactory observance of performance standards. (iii) Any other ground handling service provider selected through competitive bidding on revenue sharing basis, subject to security clearance by the Central Government and observance of performance standards.

2. At all other airports, in additions to the entities specified above self handling may be permitted to the airlines, excluding foreign airlines. Government have not received any proposal from NACIL and Airports Authority of India to set up subsidiary company for Ground handling after the new ground handling regulations have been issued.

Entry Fee

3095. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourist had to pay 5 dollar as entry fee to world heritage site and 2 dollar for entering protected monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has revised these rates and now foreign tourists have to pay entry fee in Indian rupee only;

(d) if so, the new rates fixed by the Government to be paid in Indian Rupee on these sites;

(e) whether any loss is likely to be suffered by the Government on the collection from entry fee from these sites;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total earning being made by the ticketed sites during the last three years, year-wise till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes,

Sir. The details of entry fee charged at the ticketed monuments are as under:

	Ticketed World Heritage Monuments	Other ticketed Monuments
(i) Citizen of India	Rs. 10/- per head	Rs. 5/- per head
(ii) Other	US \$ 5 or Rs. 250/- per head	US \$ 2 or Rs. 100/- per head

(c) and (d) In view of volatility/fluctuation in the foreign exchange rate of US dollar, a decision has been taken by the Government to charge entry fee from foreigners in Indian rupees @ Rs. 250/- per head at the ticketed World Heritage monuments and @ Rs. 100/- per head at other ticketed monuments. This decision will be implemented after notification in the Gazette.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) The total revenue collected from 116 ticketed monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India by way of entry fee during the last three years is as under:

2004-05	—	Rs. 5285.72 lakhs
2005-06	—	Rs. 5466.63 lakhs
2006-07	—	Rs. 6303.63 lakhs

Subsidy to Agro Based Industries

3096. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to give interest subsidy to the agro based industry which is seeking bank loans;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Food Processing has discussed the said proposal with other concerned Ministries;

(c) If so, the details and the reaction of each of such Ministries; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for setting up/modernization/technology upgradation of food processing industries.

The Ministry has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistance for setting up of thirty Mega Food Parks in the country during 11th Five Year Plan Period. The scheme which is project oriented, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and upto 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, has been envisaged for all implementing agencies.

In addition, assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organisations is being given under the schemes for setting up of food testing labs,

implementation of quality systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP practices, promotion of research and development, capacity building and human resource development and other promotional activities. In the 11th Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance under the above schemes with higher levels of assistance.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has no proposal to give interest subsidy to agro based industry in view of the capital subsidy in the form of grant being given to the industry under its various schemes as indicated above.

Foreign Investment in the Railways

3097. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some countries are persistently seeking to invest in Indian Railways;
- (b) If so, the routes on which they wish to invest; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steel Pricing Policy

3098. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether an independent panel has been assigned the task of formulating an adoptive model to facilitate the Government in formulating Steel pricing policy;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has already submitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the times by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) Government has not constituted any independent panel to formulate adoptive model on steel pricing policy. Ministry of Steel has constituted a Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) to monitor and discuss issues related to steel price movements in the country. The Committee is Chaired by Joint Secretary (Steel) with members from major steel producers and consumers.

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

Construction of Helipads

3099. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is now focusing on chopper operations in the country and working out plans to declare 2008 as the 'Year for the Helicopter';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether hospitals like AIIMS sought to construct a helipad to facilitate its trauma centre;

(d) if so, the reaction on the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide chopper services for certain major hospitals of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Government has planned to declare 2008 as the year of the Helicopter. The purpose is to bring awareness in the minds of public on the various uses of helicopters and to give a boost to helicopter operations in the country. During the year 2008, meetings and seminars will be organised with helicopter operators and regulatory authorities like

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI), Ministry of Defence etc., to examine and remove the obstacles in the smooth operations of helicopters in the country.

(c) and (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) requested for grant of permission for landing of helicopter on the elevated helipad at Jai Prakash Narain Apex Trauma Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi in August, 2007. AIIMS was advised to follow the guidelines for authorisation for elevated (roof top) helipad and guidelines for preparation of helipad as per Civil Aviation Requirements and prepare Standard Operating Procedures for operation of helicopters from the proposed helipads.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Incentives to National Level Artists

3100. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to support national level artists financially for their economic development;

(b) if so, the details of all the support incentives and the financial grant proposed in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) The Union Government has a scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances. This scheme has been bifurcated into two parts viz. (1) Central Quota and (2) Centre State Quota. Under the Central Quota, the beneficiary is given an allowance of Rs. 2,000/- per month i.e. Rs. 24,000/- per year. Under the Centre State Quota the allowance is shared by the Centre and State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 3:1 and the beneficiary gets an assistance of Rs. 1500/- per month from the Centre and remaining

Rs. 500/- is shared by the State Government/U.T. Administration.

SKN Boards in Different Languages

3101. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to display planks or sign boards for literate people in national, regional and English languages at Delhi and big stations and guides on platforms in the interest of the illiterate passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Instructions already exist with the Zonal Railways to display station name boards, notice boards etc. in regional, Hindi and English languages. Signages (pictograms) indicating various passenger facilities/amenities have been provided at major railway stations for the guidance of passengers including illiterate ones.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to the State Governments

3102. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided to the State Governments for the conservation of protected monuments and construction of new museums during the last three years till date, monument, museums and scheme-wise;

(b) whether the funds allocated were fully utilized for the said works during the said period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) There is no scheme to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for the conservation of state protected monuments and museums. However, the ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to state Governments/Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism heritage sites, monuments and museums under the Scheme of 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits' including Rural Tourism.

The details of the Infrastructure Projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Infrastructure Project sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism at World Heritage Sites during last three years

Year : 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	State	Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Development of Badami-Ahhole-Pattadhakal-Mahakoota circuit	Karnataka	Circuit	800.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Upgradation of Ajanta Foothills Restaurant	Madhya Pradesh	Destination	37.26
3.	Erection of signages in Mamallapuram	Tamil Nadu	Destination	5.92
4.	Destination development of Mahabalipuram (Phase II)	-do-	Destination	432.00

Year : 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	State	Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1.	Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda under the scheme of Tourist Circuit	Bihar	Circuit	768.12
2.	Integrated development of Gwalior-Orchha-Khajuraho	Madhya Pradesh	Circuit	461.09
3.	Integrated development of Sanchi-Bhopal-Bhojpur-Bhimbetaka-Pachmarhi circuit	-do-	Circuit	715.45
4.	SEL show at Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	Destination	150.00
5.	Introduction of Audio guide facility at Mamallapuram	-do-	Destination	88.04
6.	Integrated Development of Agra-Revitalization and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal Vicinity-East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal.	Uttar Pradesh	Destination	767.00

Year : 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Tourist Circuit-Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda	Bihar	Circuit	1922.42

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Development of Chennai-Kanchipuram-Thirukazhukundram-Mamallapuram	Tamil Nadu	Circuit	452.78
3.	Destination development of Thanjavur	-do-	Destination	427.46
4.	Integrated Development of Agra West Gate Entry	Uttar Pradesh	Destination	758.00

Tour Operators

3103. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the procedure for renewing the recognition for tour operators in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the tour operators and tourism in the country will be benefited by such simplification; and

(c) the manner in which it will be able to check the activities of tour operators in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Renewal of recognition to Tour Operators and other travel related service providers has been simplified under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tourism. The work has been entrusted to the Regional Directors based in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati. This would facilitate the tour operators of the respective region in renewal of their recognition.

Complaint against BPCL Officials

3104. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received complaint against company officers of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) posted Northern region for deliberately procrastinating the decisions of reconstitution proposals and allotment of COCO retail outlets against LOI's;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined all these cases;

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereon;

(e) whether the Government has given any directions of BPCL to clear all such proposals in a fixed period to sort out the grievances of dealer's concerned; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken report in each case by BPCL?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Enquiry Committee on Godhra Incident

3105. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to probe the Godhra incident through a new enquiry committee in view of the recent exposure by electronic media; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Anti-Fog Equipments and Machines
for Trains**

3106. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of works done by Indian Railways in the field of Research and Development during the last three years and the current year as on date alongwith the funds spent on it by the Railways, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any research work to find out new techniques to check delay in operation of trains ordinarily and due to fog; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The Research and Development work of Railways is carried out by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow under the Ministry of Railways. Some of the noteworthy works undertaken by RDSO in the last three years are given below:-

Safety :- Oscillation Monitoring System (OMS), Wheel Impact Load Detection (WILD) System. Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN).

Bridge and Track :- Condition Assessment of Bridges using Vibration Signature Analysis; Continuous Scour

Monitoring of Bridge Pier/Abutment Foundation using Time Domain Reflectometry, Development of the State of art Alumino-Thermic rail welding technology, Sleeper for 32.5t axle load.

Coaches :- Development of Crashworthy Design of Coaches, Coach Design with enhanced berth capacity, Fire Retardant Coaches, Design and development of Head on Generation (HOG) system for hotel load of the train.

Wagons :- Design of BOXN 25 wagon of 25t axle load, Design of BOY 25 wagon of 25t axle load, Design of BRN 25 wagon of 25t axle load, Design of BOBRN 25 wagon of 25t axle load, Double Stack Container operation with 22t axle load at speed of 100 kmph in loaded condition.

Locomotives :- Upgrading of EMD engine from 4000 to 4500 hp, Development of alternative sources for Unit Injectors of EMD Diesel Engine, Upgradation of 12 cylinder ALCO/DLW Diesel Engine from 2300 to 2700/3000 hp, Development of High Torque. Three Phase Traction Motors for WAG9/WAP7 Class of locomotives.

The funds spent on the Research and Development projects and the related establishment during the last three years and the current year by RDSO are as under:-

Year	Actual Expenditure (Figures in Crores of Rs.)
2004-05	70.85
2005-06	66.53
2006-07	96.28
2007-08 (upto Sept. '2007)	38.52

The Research and Development work of Indian Railways is not carried out in the Zonal Railways and as

such no fund allocation is made to the Zones for this purpose.

(b) "Fog Vision Instrumentation" project under the "Technology Mission on Railway Safety" is being executed jointly by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur (Coordinator), Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and industry partners.

(c) The aim of the 'Fog Vision Instrumentation' project is to develop instruments based on laser technology to help the drivers to run trains at normal speed in foggy weather. The outlay for this research project is Rs. 3 Crores.

MR SPEAKER : The House Stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

11.03 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]

...(Interruptions)

12.0½ hrs.

*(At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and
some other Hon'ble Members came and
stood on the floor near the Table)*

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I have given a notice...(Interruptions). Fifteen

years have passed since the Babri Mosque was demolished...(Interruptions). Today is its 15th anniversary...(Interruptions). These are the people who demolished the Babri Mosque...(Interruptions). The Librahan Commission was set up in the year 1993. Its report is ready...(Interruptions). The report of this commission has not been presented in the House...(Interruptions). The leader of the opposition is also accused in this case...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report of the Librahan Commission be presented in the House...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : On behalf of Shri A.R. Antulay, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of

the Central Wakf Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7787/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7788/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7789/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Duliajan, for the year 2006-07.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Duliajan, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7790/07]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investment Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7791/07]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7792/07]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7793/07]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7794/07]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7795/07]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7796/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7797/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Art, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7798/07]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7799/07]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7800/07]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7801/07]

- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006, for the year 2006-2007 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7802/07]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal,

for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 7803/07)

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 7804/07)

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7805/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7806/07]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7807/07]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for

the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7808/07]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7809/07]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7810/07]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited, Jodhpur, for the year 2006-

2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7811/07]

- (2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7812/07]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the year 2002-2003 to 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7813/07]

- (4) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, for the year 2006-2007, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7814/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : On behalf of Shri Naranbhai Rathwa, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the India Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7817/07]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7815/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : 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:-

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7818/07]

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7819/07]

...(Interruptions)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7820/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7821/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :
I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of

the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7822/07]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7823/07]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7824/07]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the

Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7825/07]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7826/07]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7827/07]

- (g) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7828/07]

- (h) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7829/07]

- (i) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7830/07]

- (j) (i) Statement regarding Reveiw by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing

Company Limited, Ootacamund, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7831/07]

(k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7832/07]

(l) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7833/07]

(m) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Lim-

ited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7834/07]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7835/07]

(3) A copy of the scrutinized Statement of Affairs (Hindi and English versions) of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited (Under liquidation) as on 31.3.2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7836/07]

(4) A copy of the Statement of Affairs (under Liquidation) (Hindi and English versions) as on 31.3.2007 showing functioning and performance of the Liquidator of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7837/07]

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the

working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7839/07]

- (ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 7838/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited and its subsidiaries, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited and its subsidiaries, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Ninth Report presented to the House on 05 December, 2007 have recommended that leave of absence and condonation of leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following members for the period mentioned against each:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Smt. Manorama Madhvaraj | 27.08.2007 to 10.09.2007 |
| 2. | Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav | 02.12.2006 to 19.12.2006
23.02.2007 to 20.03.2007 |
| | | and |
| | | 28.04.2007 to 10.05.2007 |
| 3. | Shri Anjan Kumar Yadav | 15.11.2007 to 30.11.2007 |
| 4. | Dr. Md. Shahabuddin | 07.05.2007 to 17.05.2007
10.08.2007 to 10.09.2007 |
| | | and |
| | | 15.11.2007 to 30.11.2007 |
| 5. | Smt. Priya Dutt | 15.11.2007 to 07.12.2007 |
| 6. | Shri A. Narendra | 15.11.2007 to 07.12.2007 |
| 7. | Shri Prakash Paranjpe | 15.11.2007 to 07.12.2007 |

8. Shri Atiq Ahamad 10.08.2007 to 10.09.2007

and

15.11.2007 to 07.12.2007

9. Shri Govinda (i) 17.03.2007 to 20.03.2007
26.04.2007 to 17.05.2007
10.08.2007 to 10.09.2007
15.11.2007 to 29.11.2007

Absence may be condoned

(ii) 30.11.2007 to 02.12.2007

Leave may be granted

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that leave and condonation of leave of absence as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

...(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 21st Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : In pursuance of direction 73 (A) of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7840/07.

01, 2004, I am laying this statement on the status implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-First Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined and presented its Twenty-First Report to the Lok Sabha on 26 April, 2007. The report contains 16 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to increasing the allocation of funds and utilization thereof in respect of various development and welfare schemes and intensification of existing schemes in order to increase productivity and to improve quality in various segments under the Ministry of Textiles. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in July, 2007. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

12.03½ hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Development Schemes for Handloom Sector (2005-06) pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles.***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : In pursuance of direction 73 (A) of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004, I am laying this statement on the status implementation of recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Development Schemes for Handloom Sector (2005-06) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined and presented its Ninth Report to the Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 2005. The report contains 22 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the Development of the Handlooms Sector. This was with a view to improve the implementation of the developmental and welfare schemes of Handlooms Sector, and raise productivity and quality in various segments under this Sector. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in March, 2006. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7841/07.

12.04 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 18th Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demand and availability of Petrochemicals, pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and fertilizers.***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on "Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals" of the Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) (2006-07) in pursuance of the Directions issued by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Direction No. 73A added by L.S.Bn. (ii), dated 1.9.2004, Para 456.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizer (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) for the year 2006-07 and presented their Eighteenth Report to Lok Sabha on 17.05.2007. The Report contains 10 Recommendations. The gist of the Recommendations is as follows:

- (i) The Committee strongly recommends that the Government should create conducive environment for rapid growth of the Indian Petrochemicals Industry so that it can reap the optimum benefit offered by the present global scenario.
- (ii) The Committee recommends that all necessary formalities should be completed as early as

*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7842/07.

[Shri B.K. Handique]

possible so that National Policy on Petrochemicals is finalized at the earliest.

- (iii) The Committee recommends that State Governments should be impressed upon for facilitating land transfer and providing other infrastructural facilities so as to make the PCPIR policy a big success.
- (iv) The committee desire that all out efforts should be made to make the Assam Gas Cracker Project complete and functional within the stipulated time period as it would lead to setting up of about 500 plastic processing industries and yield socio-economic benefits to the North-Eastern Region especially the State of Assam.
- (v) The Committee note that Naphtha and Natural gas are the main feedstock for the Petrochemical Industry. The production of petrochemicals from Natural gas is cheaper in comparison to Naphtha. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take adequate steps to allocate requisite gas supply to petrochemicals sector.
- (vi) The Committee observes that infrastructure facilities like ports, roads power, water, telecommunication; storage and transportation etc. are inadequate to meet the growing demand of the petrochemicals industry. The Committee, therefore, recommends that necessary steps should be taken by the Department to provide these infrastructure facilities to petrochemicals sector.
- (vii) The Committee notes that there are anomalies in the duty structure across the value addition chain resulting in instances of inverted duty structure. The Committee desire that the Union

Government should take necessary steps to rationalize the duty and tax structure.

- (viii) The Committee desire that Institutions should be strengthened to ensure that skill and trained manpower availability should not constraints to the petrochemicals sector. The Committee also recommends that the proposal of the Government to set up a new scheme of Petrochemicals Research and Development Fund should be finalized cater to the requirements of petrochemicals sector.
- (ix) The Committee desire that all formalities regarding setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee to look into the requirement of making the use of plastics in thrust areas be completed expeditiously and steps should taken to increase the consumption of plastics in order to save other vital resources.
- (x) The Committee hopes that Recycling Waste Management Centre in Guwahati would be set up at the earliest. The Committee also recommends that efforts should be made by the Department to promote research and development activities for production of cost effective bio-degradable plastics.

The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals had submitted the Action Taken Report on the above Recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on "Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals" of the Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) (2006-07) on 14th August 2007. The Standing Committee on "Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals" of the Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) as per the Twenty Third Report on Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals, tabled the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2006-07) on

"Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals, during the month of November 2007 in the Lok Sabha. I am placing before the House the status of implementation of the various recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on "Demand and Availability of Petrochemicals" of the Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals) (2006-07).

Recommendation S. No. 1/Para 7

The Committee note that the Indian Petrochemicals Industry registered rapid growth in the 1980s and 1990s, however, between 2000-2006, the growth had virtually stagnated. The Committee also that the Indian Petrochemicals Industry is small by international standards with only 2-3 per cent of the global ethylene capacity. The Committee therefore, strongly recommends that the Government should create conducive environment for rapid growth of the Indian Petrochemicals Industry so that it can reap the optimum benefit offered by the present global scenario.

Status of Implementation

Petrochemicals Industry is delicensed and deregulated. The role of the Government is as a facilitator. To create conducive environment for achieving rapid growth and new investments, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has formulated a National Policy on Petrochemicals. Further to enable the country to be a global hub in chemicals/ petrochemicals. The Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region Policy have also been gazetted.

Recommendation S.No. 2/Para 23

The Committee note that the Government of India constituted a Task Force on Petrochemicals in order to strengthen the petrochemicals industry and the Task Force and submitted its Report. In order to give concrete shape to the recommendations of the Task Force, a draft National Policy on Petrochemicals has been evolved which was considered by the Committee of Secretaries on 29th

November, 2006. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all necessary formalities should be completed as early as possible so that National Policy on Petrochemicals is finalized at the earliest.

Status of Implementation

The National Policy on Petrochemicals was approved by the Government on 12.4.2007. The Policy Resolution for Petrochemicals has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part-I-Section-I dated 30th April, 2007 vide No. 166.

Recommendation S.No. 3/Para 34

The Committee note that a Task Force on Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment region (PCPIR) was constituted in the Prime Minister's Office on 20th January, 2006, in order to enable quick and coordinated decision with an appropriate policy frame work for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors in the petroleum, chemicals and petrochemicals. While appreciating the fact that the PCPIR Policy has been launched, the Committee hope that Government would strive to implement the PCPIR Policy to achieve the desired objectives. The Committee also recommended that State Governments should be impressed upon for facilitating land transfer and providing other infrastructural facilities so as to make the PCPIR Policy a big success.

Status of Implementation

In the PCPIR Policy, the initiatives to be taken by the State Government as well as by the Central Government have been clearly elaborated. The state Government would play a lead role in setting up of the PCPIR. Further, to impress upon the States, at the level of Secretary letters have been written to all Chief Secretaries informing them of the policy. Also during the launch of the policy by the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Steel, where all State Governments were invited, some of the States like

[Shri B.K. Handique]

Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Orissa made presentations about their preparedness for hosting a PCPIR. Project proposals have been received from 4 States in the format prescribed in the Policy for setting up PCPIRs, which are under scrutiny.

Recommendation S.No. 4/Para 49

The Committee have been informed that the Gas Authority in India Limited (GAIL) has been identified as lead promoter with 70% equity participation to implement the Assam Gas Cracker Project with Oil India Limited, Numaligarh Refinery Limited and Assam participation in the project. Subsequently, Monitoring Committee and Project Steering Committee have been constituted and a Joint Venture Company, namely, 'M/s. Brahmaputra Crackers and Polymers Limited (BCPL)' has been formed and registered for implementing this project. The Committee express their satisfaction that foundation stone laying ceremony of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited has been held on 9th April, 2007. The Committee now desire that all out efforts should be made to make the project complete and functional within the stipulated time period as it would lead to setting up of about 500 plastic processing industries and yield socio-economic benefits to the North-Eastern Region especially the State of Assam.

Status of Implementation

The progress made in respect of the Assam Gas Cracker Project is as follows:-

1. An Agreement for constituting Joint Venture Company was executed on 18.10.2006, namely M/s. Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited which was incorporated on 8th January 2007.
2. The Registered Office at Guwahati and

Project Office at Dibrugarh have been made operational. Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Finance Officer (CFO) have been posted.

3. 2692 bighas (approx 890 Acres) of land, out of approx 1108 Acres needed for the project have been acquired by BCPL.
4. Feedstock Gas Supply Agreements (GSA) have been signed with M/s. Oil India Limited (OIL) and with M/s. ONGC on 19.9.2007 and 15.10.2007 respectively, and Naphtha Supply with M/s. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signed on 19.9.2007.
5. Oil Industries Development Board has agreed to offer a term loan of Rs. 327 crore.
6. M/s. Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd. (BCPL) has awarded Project Management Consultants (PMC) job to M/s. Engineers India Limited on nomination basis on reimbursable basis on 10.9.2007.
7. Necessary Environmental and Pollution clearance both from State and MoEF for the revised configuration has been obtained.
8. Rs. 30 crores has been released during the year 2007-2008, by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals Government of India towards Capital Subsidy for implementation of the project.

A Monitoring Committee has been constituted in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemical to monitor the progress of implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project. This Committee monitors and reviews the progress regularly. All necessary steps are being undertaken by the Joint Venture Company, i.e. M/s. Brahmaputra Crackers and

Polymers Limited, to implement the project in the stipulated time-frame.

Recommendation S.No. 5/Para 67

The Committee note that Naphtha and Natural gas are the main feedstocks for the Petrochemical Industry. The Committee were informed that there is surplus availability of Naphtha in the country, However, availability of Natural Gas is not sufficient to meet the demand of Petrochemical Industry whereas power and fertilizer sector receive priority in terms of gas supply. Besides, even within the available gas the obtainable fractions for use in petrochemicals are low. At the same time, production of petrochemicals from Natural gas is cheaper in comparison to Naphtha. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should take adequate steps to allocate requisite gas supply to petrochemicals sector.

Status of Implementation

A Standing Committee on Feedstock as envisaged in the National Policy of Petrochemical has been constituted with representatives from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Department of Fertilizers and Ministry of Textiles to suggest a policy framework for full utilization of available feedstock at internationally competitive prices, to suggest measures for expanding the availability of feedstock, ensuring availability to different consuming sectors and future cracker complexes and to suggest a petrochemical sector specific feedstock policy initiatives with a long term perspective for promotion of investment in Petrochemicals sector.

Recommendation S.No. 6/Para 75

The Committee observe that infrastructure facilities like ports, roads power, water, telecommunication, storage and transportation etc. are inadequate to meet the growing demand of the petrochemical industry. The Committee,

therefore, recommend that necessary steps should be taken by the Department to provide these infrastructure facilities to petrochemical sector.

Status of Implementation

Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR) Policy has been approved for promoting Investment in this sector to make the country an important hub for both domestic and international markets. Government of India will ensure the availability of external physical infrastructure linkages to the PCPIR including Rail, Road (National Highways), Ports, Airports, and Telecom, in a time bound manner. This infrastructure will be created/upgraded through Public Private Partnerships to the extent possible. Wherever necessary, requisite budgetary provisions for creation of these linkages through the public sector will also be made.

Recommendation S.No. 7/Para 82

The Committee have been informed that the Indian Petrochemical Industry has been witnessing continuous reduction in the level of protection due to accelerated customs duty reduction. The Committee note that there are also anomalies in duty structure across the value addition chain resulting in instances of inverted duty Structure. The petrochemical industry is also seriously affected by the levy of high rates of Sales Tax on both inputs and products and this problem is further compounded by wide variations from State to State and a host of State levies like turnover tax, entry tax, etc. Considering these aspects, the Committee desire that the Union Government should take necessary steps to rationalize the duty and tax structure.

Status of Implementation

The National Policy on Petrochemical envisages the need to remove anomalies in duty structure all across the value addition chain. Subject to macro economic consideration and overall revenue targets, the Government would

[Shri B.K. Handique]

strive to rationalize the duty and tax structure and remove the duty inversions in the petrochemical value addition chain to promote growth and development in the sector. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals through a consultation process with the stakeholder industry association recommends corrections in the duty/tax structure to Ministry of Finance during the pre-budget/post-budget exercise on an annual basis.

Recommendation S.No. 8/Para 95

The Committee are of the opinion that trained manpower and advanced technology are essential for any industry to grow. The Committee were informed that Petrochemicals Industry in India has been set up based on the imported that Petrochemicals Industry in India has been set up based on the imported technical know-how. While appreciating the fact that several Institutions like CIPET, IITs, ITIs, Engineering Colleges etc. are providing training and skill and institutions like Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, Regional Research Laboratories etc. are conducting R and D activities in the petrochemicals sector, the Committee desire that these institutions should be strengthened to ensure that skill and trained manpower availability should not be constraints to the petrochemicals sector. The Committee also recommends that the proposal of the Government to set up a new scheme of Petrochemical Research and Development Fund should be finalized to cater to the requirements of petrochemicals sector.

Status of Implementation

The National Policy on Petrochemicals envisages the setting up of Centres of Excellence in existing educational and research institutions working in the field of polymers like National Chemical Laboratory, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Indian Institutes of Technology,

National Institutes of Technology and others. It also envisages formulation of a new scheme of Petrochemical Research and Development Funds (PRDF) which would cater to the projects of R and D, in the field of polymers/plastics. It has been decided to conduct Feasibility Studies in this regard.

Recommendation S.No. 9/Para 107

The Committee have been informed that per capita consumption of Polymers in India is 4.0 kg. as against the global average of about 25 kgs. The Committee have been further informed that Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is considering to set up an Inter Ministerial Expert Committee to look into the requirement of making the use of plastics in the thrust areas like plastics in agriculture, water management lime plastic pipes, construction applications like door/window frame and insulation panels, electronics, electrical and telecommunication, consumer durable and non durable products and automobile. Considering the cost effectiveness and more energy efficiency of plastic product, the Committee desire that all formalities regarding setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee to look into the requirement of making the use of plastics in thrust areas be completed expeditiously and steps should be taken to increase the consumption of plastics in order to save other vital resources.

Status of Implementation

The National Policy on Petrochemicals envisages setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Which will look into the requirement of making the use of plastics in thrust areas and make recommendations to the concerned Ministries. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has constituted an Inter Ministerial Expert Committee for Development of Plastics Application in Thrust Areas. This comprises of representatives from concerned Ministries/departments.

Recommendation S.No. 10/Para 116

The Committee were informed that plastic per-se is not hazardous. It is non-management or mismanagement of the waste which is creating problems. Also, production level of bio-degradable plastics is 50 KTA vis-a-vis 160 MMT total plastics production (less than 0.1 per cent). The Committee were also informed that the Planning Commission has recently sanctioned a project worth Rs. 750 lakhs for setting up a Recycling Waste Management Centre in Guwahati. Considering these aspects, the Committee hope that Recycling Waste Management Centre in Guwahati would be setup at the earliest. The Committee also recommends that effort should be made the Department to promote research and development activities for production of cost effective bio-degradable plastics.

Status of Implementation

The estimated cost of the Plastic Recycling and Waste Management Centre at Guwahati is Rs. 7.95 crores. Land has been identified and has been handed over to CIPET in the month of November 2007. The National Policy on Petrochemicals envisages that to address the growing environmental concerns arising due to the non-degradability of plastics, particularly carry bags, there is a need to reuse and recycle the plastics as also to develop biodegradable polymers. Biodegradable polymers have also been identified as one of the core research areas under the New Millennium Initiative Technology Leadership India (NMITLI), in the Ministry of Science and Technology.

12.05 hrs.

...*(Interruptions)***MOTION RE : 44TH REPORT OF BUSINESS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I beg to move the following :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th December, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 5th December, 2007."

The motion was adopted....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 p.m.

12.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.**[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]*...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, the Shiv Sena workers are sitting on a 'Dharna' at Jantar Mantar in Delhi in support of their demand of construction of 'Ram Mandir'...*(Interruptions)*. Please give me two minutes time of speak...*(Interruptions)*.

14.01 hrs.

(i) LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2007*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No. 15A of the Supplementary List of Business.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

14.01½ hrs.

(ii) REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT
BILL, 2007*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No. 15B of the Supplementary List of Business.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 6.12.2007.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons affected by the acquisition of land for projects of public purpose or involuntary displacement due to any other reason, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and resettlement of persons affected by the acquisition of land for projects of public purpose or involuntary displacement due to any other reason, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take

*Treated as laid on the Table.

up Item No. 16. Matters under Rule 377 may please be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

(i) Need to declare the roads linking Palanpur-Kandia-Khed Braha-Shyamla and Ahmedabad-Abu road as National Highways

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha) : Sir, the headquarters of my parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha is Palanpur which is located amidst many big cities. The Palanpur city is located en route to Kandla and Shyamalaji via Ambaji, Ahmedabad and Abu Road. The road to tourist centres and religious centres of these cities passes through Palanpur. But, good road facility from Palanpur to these cities is not available. Due to it tourists and pilgrims to these tourist centres and pilgrim centres face many inconveniences. Demands to the Government in this regard is being made for the last so many years, but till date no action has been taken. The construction of this road will help in the promotion of these tourist centres and the eradication of industrial backwardness of the Northern Gujarat.

Through the House, I would like to request the Government to declare a road linking Kandia via Khed Brahma and Shyamalaji to Madhya Pradesh and Ahmedabad to Abu road as a National Highway so that tourist centres could be promoted.

(ii) Need to develop a 'Ram Path' connecting all the pilgrim places having an association with Lord Rama

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Department of Tourism, Government of India in regard to developing 'Ram Path', which was started in the presence of lakhs of people on 21st November by the Government of Madhya Pradesh from 'Chitrakut' the place of meditation of Lord Rama where

he meditated for eleven and half years, since Lord Rama reached Lanka via several States, lakhs of pilgrims across the world visit various pilgrim places associated with Lord Rama even today. Therefore, I demand that a 'Ram Path' connecting all the pilgrim places from north to south be developed with a view to promote tourism.

(iii) Need to convert N.H.-8 between New Delhi and Jaipur into six lane

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, National Highway No. 8 is proposed to be converted into six lane during the 11th Five Year Plan. There is heavy traffic on this route. Accidents are very frequent owing to heavy traffic everyday. Lots of time get wasted while going to and fro between Delhi and Jaipur. There is no separate lane for heavy and light motor vehicles. Big companies are located on either side of this national highway owing to which there is heavy traffic. Therefore, I request that in view of these problems, the Union Government should convert N.H.-8 between New Delhi and Jaipur into six lane.

(iv) Need to provide air connectivity to Sholapur, Maharashtra

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH (Sholapur) : Sir, my parliamentary constituency Sholapur, is a very big city of Maharashtra and the world famous Vitthal Rakumal temple is also located in Sholapur district. A large number of pilgrims from various countries visit this place. A demand to provide air connectivity to this city is being made for a very long time. However, this city has not been provided with air connectivity so far. If Sholapur is provided with air connectivity then it would not only facilitate the residents of the city but would also help the pilgrims across the country and foreign tourist in commuting to the world famous Vitthal Rakumal temple.

(v) Need to construct a by-pass and railway over bridge on N.H.-24 in Bareilly

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, I request the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

start the work of the following works on National Highway No. 24 pending for many years by according them priority. The formalities of the related works have been completed.

1. To start the construction of by-pass on National Highway No. 24 immediately.
2. The construction of railways over-bridge at Bhitora and Nagaria Sadat (Mirganj) on National Highway No. 24.

**(vi) Need to lift ban on production of
'khesari dal'**

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Sir, the production of foodgrains in the country is not commensurate with the proportion of population. On one hand we are talking of self-reliance in the foodgrain sector in the wake of first Green Revolution and on the other hand we are launching National Food Safety campaign. The agriculture sector is not being properly developed owing to these double standards. Today, we are importing pulses, oilseeds and several other agro products. Today, wheat is also being imported and we are paying heavy price for the import of agro products, and paradoxically the Government hesitates to provide minimum support price to the indigenous farmers. Under the National Food Safety Mission Government has a scheme to encourage the production of wheat, rice and pulses after identifying various mills in certain States. Chandrapur and Garhchiroli districts have been included under this mission, however, if Khesari (Lakhodi) dal being produced in difficult conditions had been included in pulse production then we could have become self reliant in the field of pulses. However, owing to the ban on its production by the Union Government and lackadaisical approach of the State Government the production of Khesari dal can not be reckoned officially.

Through you, I demand from the Government to remove all the obstacles in regard to lifting ban on production of khesari dal immediately and ensure its production.

**(vii) Need to expedite the construction of Quilon
(Kollam) by-pass in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : The completion of Quilon (Kollam) by-pass is a long standing demand of the people of Kerala in general and Quilon in particular. The work is supposed to be completed in four phases and the first two phases of the same are already completed. Even though the land acquisition for the third and final phase is over, the work has not started for want of approval from the Central Transport Ministry. Quilon has been upgraded into a Corporation and the traffic congestion is a constant problem which is to be addressed sooner rather than later. If the Quilon by-pass becomes a reality, the traffic problem can be solved to a greater extent. The undue delay in the construction has caused discontentment and resentment in the minds of the people. Therefore, I request the Government through you Sir, to take immediate steps for the completion of the project without anymore delay.

**(viii) Need to construct a road over-bridge at
Koshi railway crossing in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur) : Sir, owing to Koshi crossing on national highway (Delhi to Lucknow via Rampur) everyday, there is heavy traffic jam for hours together. The vehicle drivers and pedestrians have to face lots of difficulties during daily traffic jams and it also causes loss to the tune of lakhs of rupees.

Koshi crossing is closed during the day to allow the passage of train as a result of which vehicles coming from Moradabad stand in the most unsystematic manner thereby

causing traffic jam. Due to this, lines of stranded vehicles go on increasing. The condition on the other side of the road also gets worsened.

Owing to the heavy traffic pressure on NH, over-bridge is the only solution which could ease the problem of jam to some extent.

Keeping in view traffic jam on highway, the then Union Minister for Surface Transport had laid foundation stone of Koshi overbridge in Jan., 2004. Last year the bridge construction department had shown once again some interest towards its construction. The forest department deforested hundreds of trees coming in the way of this proposed overbridge, but the result of it was almost nothing. The progress of this project is same as it was at the time of laying of its foundation stone. That is to say not even a single brick has been laid for its construction and, thus, no concrete steps have been taken so far with regard to constructing this flyover at the crossing.

(ix) Need to fix remunerative price of sugarcane

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Sir, the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh as well as of the country are not getting even the production cost of their produces. Recently, the hon'ble Court on a writ filed by the sugar mill owners has passed an order fixing sugarcane price at Rs. 110 a quintal for the private sugar mill owners due to which sugar mills of both the public and cooperative sectors have been affected with this decision. This remunerative price is even less than the minimum support price. It is regretful that both the State and the Central Governments did not place the matter before the Court in favour of the farmer's interests nor did they file any appeal against this order and the last year's dues of farmers are still outstanding against the sugar mills.

The Government are, therefore, requested through the House that they may file an appeal against the order in which the remunerative price of sugarcane could be fixed

at Rs. 110 per quintal for the sugarcane growers and provide relief to the farmers.

(x) Need to expedite the construction of a bridge on river Bhutahi-balan in Bihar

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, the National Highway No. 104 is the life line for the people residing in the areas of Indo-Nepal international boarder and it is also very important from the security point of view for the nation. In this high way a high level bridge was proposed to be constructed between 194 and 195 milestone near Laukaha on river Bhutahi-balan, so a consultancy service was appointed on 8th Feb., 2007 to prepare and submit the detailed project report (DPR) to this effect within the stipulated period of four months. But, the DPR of this bridge could not be prepared even after a lapse of over ten months due to which its construction work has not been started so far. In absence of this bridge every year in rainy season many people get drowned in flood waters and fall prey to untimely death while crossing the river.

I would like to say that the Government may take steps positively to get started and expedite the construction of this sanctioned high level bridge on a river Bhutahi-balan in National Highway No. 104, as it is the work of urgent public importance required to be completed very soon in public interest.

(xi) Need to bring a legislation banning cow slaughter in the country

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Sir, cow-slaughter has met with stiff opposition from time to time in our country. People worship cows. Even the scientists consider cow's urine, cow dung etc. very useful for the treatment of many diseases. But despite all these facts, cows are transported everyday in trucks from one State to another and slaughtered very cruelly.

We had demanded earlier from the Government that

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

there should be a law banning cow slaughter, but it was not considered. Agitation to ban cow-slaughter is continuing all over the country. Last time a demonstration to ban cow slaughter was also held near the Parliament on Nov. 7, 2007. So, I urge the Government to take immediate action on this issue and bring a Legislation banning cow-slaughter in the country.

(xii) Need to review the licensing policy for allotment of shops in the 'Puja Complex', a railway property in Kharagpur, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : A large number of small businessmen and hawkers at the railway land of Kharagpur under South Eastern Railway have been evicted and their temporary structures dismantled by railway administration in the year 1989-99. An announcement and assurance was given to the affected persons that the affected hawkers and business men would be beneficial by a new market complex after its completion. Subsequently a huge market complex namely "Puja Complex" has come up in Kharagpur railway land. The affected people hold their hopes that the railway administration will provide the shops to them in the complex with a low licence fee. But the existing policy does not favour the poor and small businessmen and hawkers as the licence fee for a small room has been fixed over lakhs of rupees. It is beyond the reach of the affected persons. In such a situation, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to address the problem and review the licence policy so that the backward section of the businessmen can get the opportunity to earn their livelihood in the said Complex.

(xiii) Need to provide stoppage of Lokmánya Tilak Express (Train No. 2142) at Nasik

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SWAROOP PRASAD (Nalanda) : Sir, I

would like to draw the attention of the Government to Lokmánya Tilak Express Train No. 2142 originating from Rajendra Nagar (Patna) under East Railway. There is no stoppage of this train at Nasik Railway Station. Nasik is popular as a historical, religious and industrial city. Thousands of people from Bihar are living here and earning a livelihood for their families. Since there is no stoppage of the aforesaid train at Nasik, the people of Bihar have to face a lot of problems while going to Nasik by this train.

I urge upon the Government to provide stoppage of the aforesaid train No. 2142 at Nasik.

(xiv) Need to fix remunerative price of coconut

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, in Uddhanam area of Srikakulam district, which is my parliamentary constituency, coconut farmers are facing problems due to lack of Minimum Support Price for Copra. However, four southern states—Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh account for over 90 per cent of total coconut acreage and production in the country. The declining productivity of coconut in the past few years has become a major area of concern. Adverse weather conditions and the problem of disease infestation were the two major risk factors for the low income to farmers. The coconut plantation is a lifeline in southern states and farmers tend to lose on account of vagaries of weather, pests and diseases every year. The conditions of coconut farmers is aggravated due to falling price of coconut produce which has put the farmers in a pitiable situation.

The National Agriculture Commission headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Coconut Development Board have also recommended rejuvenation of old and senile plantation in a phased manner by replanting with quality planting materials. The project report is still under consideration of the Government of India.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) has not brought any relief to coconut farmers. The Centre has raised the Minimum Support Price for milling copra to Rs. 3,620 a quintal and ball copra to Rs. 3,870. But, no agency has commenced procurement according to raised Minimum Support Price. Non-implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for coconut after its announcement has deprived the coconut farmers of better price.

I urge upon the Government of India to raise the MSP for Coconut and implement the project report without any further delay so that coconut farmers all over the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh would get solace.

(xv) Need to review the decision regarding privatization of distribution of power for allocation to States from mega power projects

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : The Ministry of Power should urgently reconsider the decision regarding privatization of distribution for allocation of power from Mega Power Projects to States since that is an issue to be decided by SERCs in line with the policy of the State Governments. Besides the mega power policy of the Ministry confers many benefits to power projects by way of concessions in taxes, duties and other levies. It is well known that consumption of power in cities is comparatively higher than in rural areas. So the lion's share of energy from these mega and ultra mega power projects would flow to such cities. When distribution in cities is privatized, the benefit of cheaper power would be conferred on these private urban utilities and population, seriously misplacing the concession, ignoring the claims of poor millions in rural areas. I request the Ministry of Power to revise the stipulation that requires the State Governments to privatize the distribution sector and to give freedom to States to make their prudent choices in this regard.

14.02 hrs.

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL BILL, 2007

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No. 17—Shri A.K Antony.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, most of the hon. Members are of the view that this Bill may be passed without discussion. So, it may be passed without discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

...(Interruptions)

14.03 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication or trial by Armed Forces Tribunal of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and condition of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts-martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I would put the question to vote. The question:

"That the Bill to provide for the adjudication or trial by Armed Forces Tribunal of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and condition of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts-martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is:

That clauses 2 to 43 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 43 were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take

up further discussion on Internal Security raised by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, may I take one minute?...*(Interruptions)* There was a decision in the morning, where the leaders agreed before the hon. Speaker that the inclusive debate on Internal Security may resume today, and the Home Minister will reply...*(Interruptions)*

If the Members do not want that debate, then I am sorry. The debate has begun. Please allow the debate on internal security to complete today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to speak for two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Geeteji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed two minutes item to speak. I will conclude my speech in two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Geeteji, you may please speak what you want to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, Shiva Sainiks had staged a 'dhama' at Jantar-Mantar in Delhi in support of their demand of the construction of 'Shri Ram Mandir'...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed Geeteji.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : This dharna was going on peacefully. In the mean time two gundas came there and they attacked the Shiva Sainiks with swords and lathis...(Interruptions) In this attack many Shiva Saniniks were injured...(Interruptions) whereas high alert was declared in the country that some terrorists have infiltrated into Delhi...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the speech of Shri Anant Geete will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Under these circumstances, how could these people reach Jantar Mantar alongwith swords and other things while both the Central Government and Delhi police were present there. Despite the fact that high alert was declared in Delhi, attacks were made with swords in which ten to twelve Shiva Sainiks were injured. They were admitted to hospital. How could these people come there alongwith swords while high alert was declared at that time...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 7th December, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

14.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 7, 2007/ Agrahayana 16, 1929 (Saka).

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